

29a A word in the construct state very rarely has the article.³⁶ Normally, the only word in a construct chain that can have the article is the last word in the chain.³⁷ Nevertheless, a few construct chains in the Bible break this rule by putting the article on a word in the construct state.

- וְאֵת כָּל-הַמְּמַלְכוֹת הָאָרֶץ and all *the* kingdoms of the earth
the earth *the* kingdoms of all of and Jer 25:26
 - The word מְמַלְכוֹת ‘kingdoms of’ is in the construct state, so it is expected to lack the article. The fact that it has the article (אֵת ‘the’) is very unusual.
- Words in the construct state that have the article occur in Gen 31:13; Exod 9:18; Judg 8:11; Josh 3:14; 1 Kgs 14:24; 2 Kgs 23:17 (twice), 25:19; Isa 36:16; Ezek 46:19.

29b A genitive phrase may modify a construct term.³⁸ A construct term normally has only one genitive, the word that immediately follows it. If two genitives are closely related, however, they may form a **genitive phrase** that modifies the construct term.

- אִם יַעֲקֹב וְעֵשָׂו the mother of *Jacob and Esau*
and Esau *Jacob* mother of Gen 28:5
 - אִם יַעֲקֹב וְעֵשָׂו ‘the mother of Jacob and Esau’ is a construct chain. The construct noun אִם ‘mother of’ is modified by the genitive phrase יַעֲקֹב וְעֵשָׂו ‘Jacob and Esau.’ Both יַעֲקֹב and עֵשָׂו are in the absolute state.
- Other examples of genitive phrases include Gen 14:19 and Deut 10:18.

29c Construct override.³⁹ The word that immediately precedes a genitive is normally the only construct term that a genitive modifies. Occasionally, however, two or more words in the construct state can be modified by the same genitive. This is sometimes referred to as a **construct override**. It occurs more often in late texts than in early texts.

- כְּשָׂדִים וּלְשׁוֹן סַפֵּר the *literature and language* of the Chaldeans
Chaldeans *and language of* *writing of* Dan 1:4

³⁶ Cf. BHRG §25.3.1(ii); GKC §127f–h; IBHS §9.7a, 13.6b; JM §140c.

³⁷ If the last word in a construct chain is indefinite, then the entire chain is indefinite (e.g., ‘a throne of a king’). If the last word is definite, then the entire chain is definite (e.g., ‘the throne of David’). The last word in a construct chain is definite if it is a proper noun (e.g., ‘David’), has the article (‘the book’), or has a pronominal suffix (‘his book’). See BHRG §24.4; GKC §127a. See GKC §127e; JM §139b–c, 140a for exceptions.

³⁸ Cf. BHRG §25.3.1(iv)b; IBHS §9.3b; JM §129a–b; Denio 1885; Verheij 1989.

³⁹ Cf. BHRG §25.3.1(iv)a; IBHS §9.3b; JM §129a.

- Both סִפָּר ‘writing of’ and לְשׁוֹן ‘language of’ are in the construct state. Both are modified by the genitive כְּשָׂדִים ‘Chaldeans.’ Normally the genitive would be written twice, once after each construct noun (i.e., סִפָּר כְּשָׂדִים וְלְשׁוֹן כְּשָׂדִים ‘the writing of the Chaldeans and the language of the Chaldeans’), but in Dan 1:4 the genitive כְּשָׂדִים ‘Chaldeans’ is written only once.
- Another example of a construct override is Ezek 31:16.

30a A construct term may have the directive suffix הַֿ ‘toward,’ even though this separates the construct term from its genitive.⁴⁰

- יוֹסֵף בֵּיתָהּ יוֹסֵף *into* Joseph’s house
Joseph *toward* house of Gen 43:17
- דַּמָּשְׁקִי מִדְּבָרָה דַּמָּשְׁקִי *toward* the wilderness of Damascus
Damascus *toward* wilderness of 1 Kgs 19:15
 - בֵּיתָהּ יוֹסֵף ‘into Joseph’s house’ and מִדְּבָרָה דַּמָּשְׁקִי ‘towards the wilderness of Damascus’ are both construct chains. בֵּיתָהּ ‘toward house of’ and מִדְּבָרָה ‘toward wilderness of’ are both in the construct state, yet they both have the directive suffix הַֿ, which indicates the direction of movement.

30b Broken construct chain.⁴¹ On rare occasions, a word separates a construct noun from its genitive.

- כָּל-עוֹד נַפְשִׁי בִּי *all of my life is still in me*
in me my life *still* all of 2 Sam 1:9
 - The word עוֹד ‘still’ separates the construct term כָּל ‘all of’ from its genitive נַפְשִׁי ‘my life.’ Normal word order would be כָּל-נַפְשִׁי עוֹד בִּי ‘all of *my life* is *still* in me.’ Perhaps the unusual word order emphasizes עוֹד ‘still,’ drawing attention to the fact that the speaker had expected himself to have already died.
- Other examples include Job 27:3; Isa 19:8; Hos 14:3.

30c Construct chain with a genitive prepositional phrase.⁴² Although the genitive in a construct chain is typically a noun or pronoun, a prepositional phrase can act as the genitive.

- בַּבֶּקֶר מְשַׁבְּרֵי מִי *early morning risers*
in the morning early risers of Isa 5:11

⁴⁰ Cf. BHRG §25.3.1(ii)a; IBHS §9.3d; JM §129a note 3; JM93 §129a note 4.

⁴¹ Cf. Freedman 1972; Blommerde 1974; Frendo 1981. Prior editions of this textbook referred to this switch in word order as **hypallage**. GKC §128e states that the construct terms in these examples should be understood to be adverbs rather than construct terms.

⁴² Cf. BHRG §25.3.1(ii)b, 25.3.1(iv)c; GKC §130a; IBHS §9.6b; JM §129l–o; Grossberg 1979–80.