

- לְדָוִד אֵת אֲשֶׁר-עָשָׂתָהּ נִגְדָה *What she did* was told to David.
she did what to David was told 2 Sam 21:11

B Circumstantial Clauses⁶³⁰

- A **circumstantial clause** describes the manner, circumstances, or conditions under which the main clause occurs. For example, in the sentence ‘I slept *while the sun was shining*’ the circumstantial clause ‘while the sun was shining’ indicates the conditions under which ‘I slept’ occurred. Such clauses can often be translated beginning with ‘while,’ ‘with,’ ‘inasmuch as,’ ‘since,’ ‘seeing that,’ or ‘now that.’
- It can be difficult to decide if a clause is circumstantial (§494–5), temporal (§496–510), or causal (§533–5). The difference is a matter of emphasis. In the example ‘I slept *while the sun was shining*,’ if the time is emphasized, then the ‘while’ clause is temporal, whereas if the weather is emphasized, then the ‘while’ clause is circumstantial.
- Circumstantial clauses usually begin with ׀ (׀ of accompaniment, §436), then the subject, then the predicate (§582).

494 A **concomitant circumstantial clause**⁶³¹ occurs at the same time as the main clause. Its predicate may be a participle (§219), a predicate adjective (§75), a prepositional phrase, or a copulative demonstrative (§115).

- בָּאֵשׁ בֵּעֵר וְהָהָר *while the mountain WAS BURNING with fire*
with (the) fire BURNING and the mountain Deut 5:23 (participle)
- בְּשָׂמְרוֹן הַזֶּקֶב וְהָרָעָב *while the famine WAS SEVERE in Samaria*
in Samaria SEVERE and the famine 1 Kgs 18:2 (predicate adjective)
- לְפָנָיו הַצִּנָּה נֹשֵׂא וְהָאִישׁ *with his shield bearer BEFORE HIM*
BEFORE HIM the shield carrying and the man 1 Sam 17:41 (prepositional phrase)
- לִיהוָה הוּא פֶסַח *since IT IS YHWH's Passover*
to YHWH (IT) Passover Exod 12:11 (anaphoric demonstrative pronoun)
 - This circumstantial clause is unusual because it does not begin with ׀.
- Other examples include Gen 11:4; Exod 22:9 (no ׀); 2 Kgs 8:7.

495a An **antecedent circumstantial clause**⁶³² explains circumstances that precede the main clause. Its predicate is a perfect verb.

⁶³⁰ Cf. GBHS §5.2.11; GKC §156; JM §159; Driver 1892, 211; Gibson 1995.

⁶³¹ Cf. GBHS §5.2.11; GKC §141e, 142d–e, 156; JM §159; Steiner 2000.

⁶³² Cf. GBHS §5.2.11.

- אֲלֹ-הַתְּאַחֲרוּ אֹתִי וַיְהִיָּה הַצְּלִיחַ הַדְּרָכִי
my way MADE SUCCESSFUL *and YHWH* me (you) delay not Gen 24:56
 Do not delay me, *now that YHWH HAS MADE my trip* SUCCESSFUL.
- וַאֲבִימֶלֶךְ לֹא קָרַב אֵלֶיהָ וַיֹּאמֶר
 he said *to her* APPROACHED *not and Abimelech* Gen 20:4
Now Abimelech HAD not APPROACHED her, and he said ...
- Other possible examples include Gen 1:2, 26:27; 2 Kgs 3:22.

495b A subsequent circumstantial clause⁶³³ explains circumstances that occur after the main clause. Its predicate is an imperfect verb.

- הַמְכֹסֶה אֲנִי מֵאַבְרָהָם אֲשֶׁר אֲנִי עֹשֶׂה
 doing I what from Abraham I hiding? Gen 18:17–18
 וַאֲבְרָהָם הָיָה יְהִיָּה לְגוֹי גָדוֹל וְעָצוּם
and mighty great (to) nation WILL BECOME (to be) *and Abraham* (cont.)
 Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do,
since Abraham WILL certainly BECOME *a great and mighty nation?*

C Temporal Clauses⁶³⁴

- A temporal clause indicates the time when another clause occurs.

496 Temporal clause beginning with an imperfect waw consecutive (when).⁶³⁵ Such temporal clauses are often used in past time narratives.

- A clause beginning with an imperfect waw consecutive (§178) can have a variety of functions. Only the context indicates when such a clause is temporal.
- וַתִּשְׁקָה וַתִּתֵּן לְהַשְׁקֵתוֹ וַתֵּכֵל
 and she said *to give him a drink* SHE FINISHED Gen 24:19
 WHEN SHE FINISHED *giving him a drink*, she said ...

497 Temporal clause beginning with כִּי (when). See §445.

- וַיִּהְיֶה כִּי אָרְכוּ לֹ-שָׁם הַיָּמִים וַיִּשְׁקָךְ
 he looked down *the days there to him were long* WHEN (it was) Gen 26:8
 WHEN *he had been there a long time*, he looked down.

498 Temporal clause beginning with a preposition.⁶³⁶ §499–502 describe how a variety of prepositions are used to form temporal clauses.

⁶³³ Cf. GBHS §5.2.11.

⁶³⁴ Cf. GBHS §5.2.4; GKC §164; IBHS §38.7; JM §166; Van der Merwe 1996; Van der Merwe 1997.

⁶³⁵ Cf. GBHS §5.2.4b; GKC §111d, 164b; JM §166a–i, 167f–g.