

Introductory Biblical Hebrew I
Definitions of Terms for Grammar and Linguistics

- Active:** the **subject** is the agent of the sentence. (example: The man turned in his homework.)
- Adjective:** a word or phrase that modifies a noun by adding specificity
- Adverb:** a word or phrase that modifies a verb
- Allophone:** a pair of letters that represent the same **phoneme**, but articulated differently depending on their placement in the word (ex: כ and ך)
- Binyan:** when parsing verbs, it refers to the kind of verb (qal, niph'al, piel, hiph'il, hithpa'el, etc.); it literally means "building/structure." see also: **stem**
- Clause:** a unit of grammatical organization, smaller than (and within) a sentence and usually containing a **subject** and a **predicate**
- Conjunction:** a word used to connect clauses, sentences, or to coordinate words in the same clause
- Direct Object:** the element upon which the action is performed (often part of the **predicate** of the sentence)
- Indirect Object:** requires a **direct object** in the sentence, and is the element that receives the direct object, or is affected by the direct object
- Intransitive:** a verb that cannot take objects
- Letter:** a written symbol
- Morphology:** the identification, analysis and description of the structure of a given language's morphemes [smallest grammatical unit in a language] and other linguistic units such as root words, affixes, parts of speech, intonations and stresses, or implied context. ALSO: this refers to the study of the form of words
- Noun:** a word used to identify a person, place, thing, or idea; a proper noun names an individual person, place, or organization whereas a common noun denotes a class of objects or a concept
- Orthography:** a set of conventions for how to write a language. It includes rules of spelling, hyphenation, capitalization, word breaks, emphasis, and punctuation.

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Passive: the **subject** is the thing acted upon (example: The homework was turned in.)

Passive with Agent: same as **passive** but with the agent specified in a **prepositional phrase**.
(example: The homework was turned in by the man.)

Phoneme: a sound that is significant in terms of distinguishing the meaning of one word from another (ex: v and v)

Predicate: what the **subject** did/is doing

Preposition: a word governing, and usually preceding, a noun or pronoun that expresses a relation to another word or element in the clause. (example: The book on the table)

Prepositional Phrase: a modifying phrase in a sentence consisting of a **preposition** and its object

Pronoun: a word that takes the place of a noun

Reflexive: a verb whose action is directed back onto its **subject**. (example: he washed himself)

Root: the three consonants that make up the core of a biblical Hebrew word

Stem: when parsing verbs, it refers to the kind of verb (qal, niphal, piel, hiphil, hithpaal, etc.); see also: **binyan**

Subject: the element which performs the action

Transitive: a verb that can take objects

Verb: a word used to describe an action, state, or occurrence that forms the main part of the **predicate** of the sentence.