119 MINISTRIES

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Learning Biblical Hebrew
Lesson 9

Welcome back to Learn Biblical Hebrew with 119 Ministries! This is lesson 9. You can find a written summary of this lesson at the link in the description below.

In our last lesson, we learned our first Hebrew sentence, and we learned about nouns and verbs, and that every sentence needs to have a verb and a subject. In this lesson, we're going to start adding some tools that we can use to make more complex sentences.



First, here is a new word: it is spelled Kaf, Lamed, Bet. Notice the Kaf has a Dagesh, so it makes the K sound, while the Bet does not have a Dagesh, so it makes a V sound.

This word is pronounced Kelev.

Kelev is a noun, it means *dog*. Just as a side note, this word is where the name *Caleb* comes from.

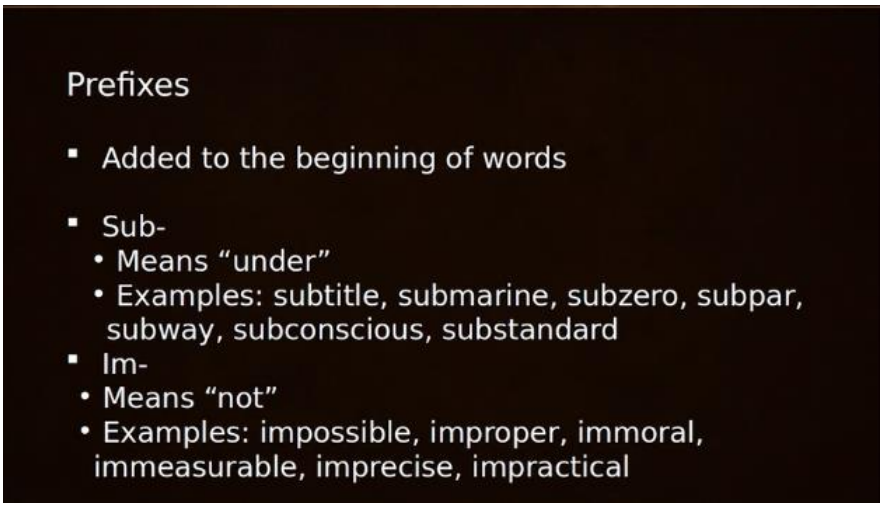


Here we have our next sentence. The first word is Kelev, which we just learned means dog. The second word is Ba, which we saw in the last lesson. Ba means coming.

This sentence is translated “A dog is coming.” Notice in our translation that we have added two words in English, the word “is,” which I explained in the last lesson, and we’ve also added the word “a.”

Hebrew does not have a word for “a,” like the word “is,” the word “a” is implied in many Hebrew sentences. In a moment, I will explain when the word “a” is implied and when it isn’t, but first, we’re going to introduce a new concept.

A *prefix* is a short word, or even a single letter, that we can attach directly to the beginning of another word. The prefix has a meaning of its own, and that meaning will add to the meaning of the word that it is attached to.



Here we can see some common examples of English prefixes. One very common prefix is *sub*, which means *under.* So, when we add the prefix *sub* before a word like *title,* we get the full word *subtitle,* which means a phrase that is written underneath of a title. There are many more examples of the prefix *sub-:* a *submarine* travels under the water, a *subzero* temperature is below zero, *subpar* means *below average*, and there are many more examples. Another common prefix is *im-*, which means *not.* So

impossible means not possible, improper means not proper, immoral means not moral, and there are many more examples.

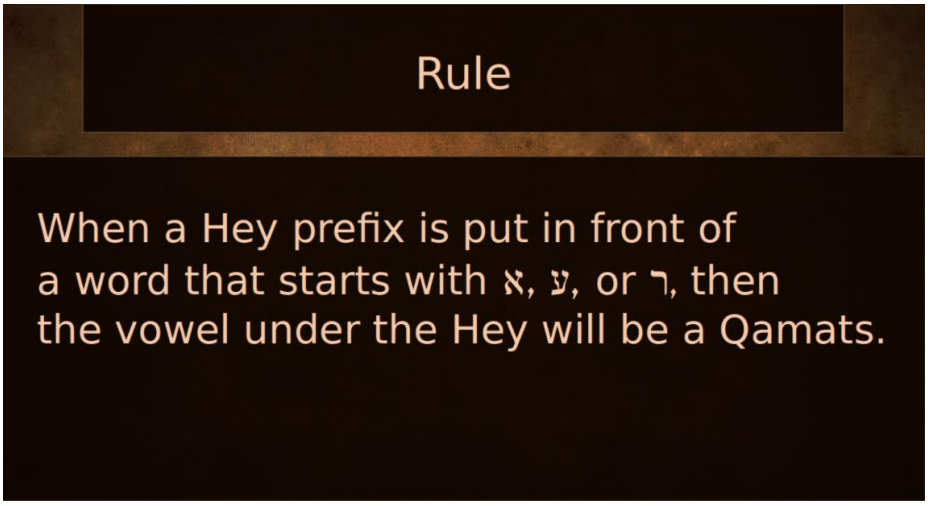
So, these prefixes are not words that can be written all by themselves. Sub- and im- are not words of themselves, but instead they are added to the front of another word, and then their meaning is added to that word. And, just like English has prefixes, Hebrew has prefixes also. We're going to learn a few of them today.



Here is our first Hebrew prefix. It is a letter Hey with a Patach underneath the Hey. This prefix is pronounced "Ha". When this prefix is added to the front of a noun, it adds the meaning of the word "the."



Here is an example. This word is Kelev, which we just learned. Kelev means "a dog." However, if we add the Hey-Patach prefix to the front of Kelev, it is then pronounced Hakelev, and now it means *the* dog. This Hey prefix is sometimes referred to as the *definite article,* because it makes a word definite or specific. So if I say Kelev, I could be referring to any dog, but if I say Hakelev, I am referring to one specific dog.



This Hey prefix usually has a Patach underneath it, but when it appears before a word that starts with Aleph, Ayin, or Resh, then it will have a Qamats underneath it instead of a Patach.



Here we can see an example of the different vowels that can go under the Hey prefix. On the left, we see Hakelev, which means *the dog,* and the vowel underneath the Hey prefix is a Patach. On the right, we see Ha'av, which means *the father,* and since Av starts with an Aleph, the vowel under the Hey prefix is a Qamats.



So, we can add this definite article to our sentences now. Before, we had the sentence Kelev Ba, which means *a dog is coming.* Here we have Hakelev Ba, which means, *The dog is coming*.



Here is another word. It is spelled Bet, Yod, Tav.

This word is pronounced Bayit.

Bayit means *house.*



Here is another prefix. Again, it is just a single letter, a Bet, and it has a Sh’vah vowel underneath it. So, this prefix is pronounced “B-”. This prefix means in or with.



Here is an example of this prefix in action. Bayit means *house*, and if we add a Bet with a Sh’vah in front of this word, then we get Bevayit, which means *in a house.* As a side note, you can see in the example on the left that the Bet in Bayit has lost its Dagesh, but that doesn’t affect the meaning of the word at all, only the pronunciation.



Now, we can put this prefix into a sentence. Our example here is Adam Bebayit. Adam means *Adam*, and Bebayit means *in a house*, so this sentence would mean *Adam is in a house.*



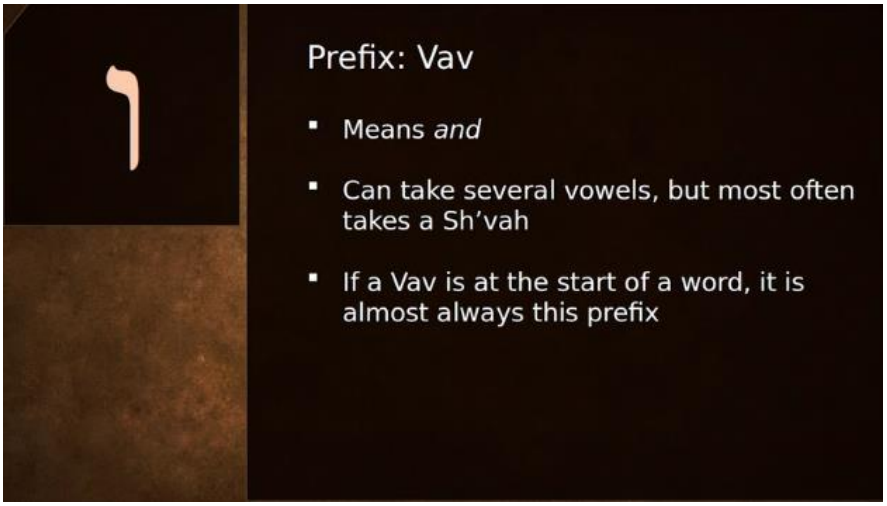
Here is another example: this is Hakelev Bebayit. Hakelev means *the dog,* and Bebayit means *in a house*, so this sentence would mean *the dog is in a house.*



Here is one more word. This is spelled Dalet, Vav, Dalet.

This word is pronounced David.

David means beloved, and it is also the name we know as David.



There is one more prefix to learn this lesson, and that is the Vav prefix. This prefix can take a number of different vowels underneath it; the most common vowel to use is the Sh'vah, but you can see a number of other vowels depending on the specific situation. No matter what vowel it has, the Vav prefix means "and." As a side note, there are very few words that start with a Vav. So if you see a Vav at the beginning of a word, it is extremely likely that it is serving as a prefix.



So, with our new prefix and our new word in mind, let's read this new sentence. The first word is Adam, which is the name Adam. The second word is Vedavid, so this is the name David with the Vav prefix in front of it, so it would mean "and David." The last word is Bevayit. Again, this is the word Bayit with the Bet prefix in front of it, so that would mean "in a house." All together, this sentence would read *Adam and David are in a house.*

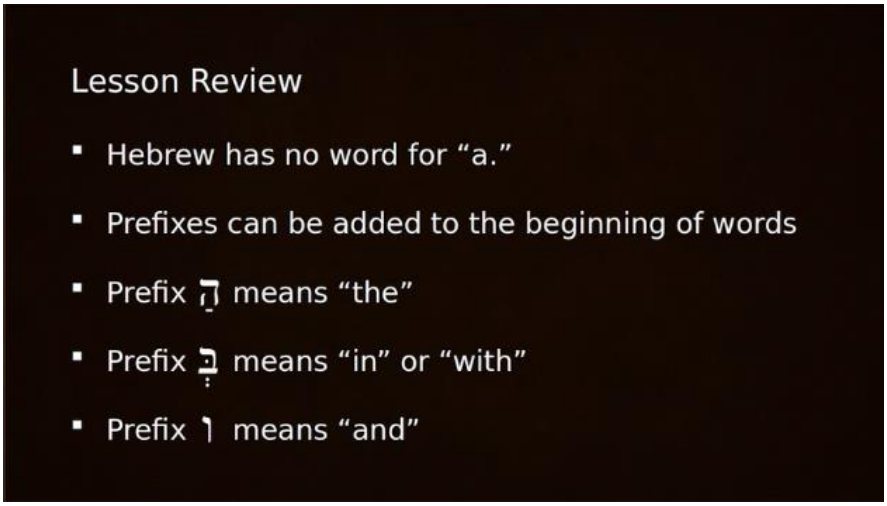
One last thing to know before we wrap up is that sometimes when a prefix is added to a word, it will change the other vowels that are in the word.

Here is an example: the word *Erets,* which means *land,* has a Segol under the Aleph and a Segol under the Resh. However, when we add the Hey prefix to this word,



notice that the Segol under the Aleph actually changes to a Qamets. This can be confusing; you might see a word that you recognize, and the letters all look right, but it has different vowels.

There are specific rules about how and when these vowel changes happen, but we are not going to concern ourselves with those rules here. For our purposes, just know that the vowels in a word can and do sometimes change. So, if you see a word that has the same letters as another word that you recognize, but different vowels, then it's probably the same word.



Let's review what we've learned today. First, we learned that Hebrew has no word for "a."

We learned that we can add prefixes to the front of words, and those prefixes add extra meaning to those words.

We learned three specific examples of prefixes:

Hey with Patach means *the,* or, Hey with Qametz when the word starts with an Aleph, Ayin, or Resh;

Bet with Sh'vah means *in* or *with;*

And, Vav with a vowel, usually a Sh'vah, means *and.*

That concludes lesson 9. As usual, you can find the exercises for this lesson at the link in the description. We're just two lessons away from translating our first Bible verse, so I encourage you to do the exercises and review everything we've learned up to this point, because we'll be putting all of that knowledge to use very soon. I'll see you again next time. Shalom!

We pray you have been blessed by this teaching. Remember, continue to test everything. Shalom! For more on this and other teachings, please visit us at www.testeverything.net

Shalom, and may Yahweh bless you in walking in the whole Word of God.

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