

Hebrew Parsing Guide

Parsing involves breaking a word down into its component grammatical parts. In dealing with Hebrew this is very important since a single Hebrew word may contain a variety of elements that could correspond to a number of words in English. At the same time, the ability to strip away added elements will help you identify the root word, which is necessary in order to find it in the lexicon and determine the meaning.

Nouns:

If the root is a noun, the following elements *may* be present:

1. The *waw* conjunction.
2. A preposition, which may or may not be inseparable.
3. The article, sometimes only indicated by a vowel (e.g., if there is an inseparable preposition).
4. The noun must be classified according to: (a) gender
(b) number
5. A substantive (includes nouns, adjectives, participles) will be either: (a) bound
(b) free
(c) suffixed
6. The root will be the form found in the lexicon (usually masculine singular).
7. A suffixed pronoun, which must be classified according to its: (a) person
(b) gender
(c) number

Verbs:

If the root is a verb, the following elements *may* be present:

1. The *waw* conjunction.
2. The verb must be identified in terms of: (a) person
(b) gender
(c) number
(d) aspect (perfect, imperfect, imperative, jussive)
or tense (preterite)
(e) binyan (qal, niphil, hiphil, etc.)
3. The root should be cited according to the 3 ms qal perfect.
4. A suffixed pronoun must be classified according to its: (a) person
(b) gender
(c) number