

LESSON IX

23. Independent Personal Pronouns (Subject Pronouns)

23.1 Independent personal pronouns are written as separate forms and may be used as subject pronouns but not as direct objects of a verb or as objects of a preposition. Special pronominal suffixes must be added to verbs, prepositions, and nouns to indicate pronominal relationships other than that of subject. These suffix forms will be introduced in later lessons.

23.2 The forms of the independent personal pronouns are as follows:

אֲנִי, אֲנִי	I	(1 cs)	אֲנֵנוּ, נַחֲנוּ, אֲנֵנוּ	we	(1 cp)
אַתָּה	you	(2 ms)	אַתֶּם	you	(2 mp)
אַתְּ	you	(2 fs)	אַתֶּן, אַתְּנָה	you	(2 fp)
הוא	he/it	(3 ms)	הֵם, הֵמָּה	they	(3 mp)
היא	she/it	(3 fs)	הֵן, הֵנָּה	they	(3 fp)

(a) Note: 3 fs = הוא throughout the books of the Pentateuch.

(b) Note: The (c) in (1 cs) and (1 cp) indicates "common" gender, covering both masculine and feminine subjects.

23.3 Sentences that employ independent personal pronouns as subjects will often be verbless sentences (with the verb "to be" understood).

Examples:

אֲנִי יְהוָה	I (am) the LORD. (Gen. 28:13)
אַתָּה הָאִישׁ	You (are) the man. (2 Sam. 12:7)
כִּי־עָפָר אַתָּה	For you (are) dust. (Gen. 3:19)
יְהוָה הוּא הָאֱלֹהִים	The LORD, he (is) God. (1 Kgs. 18:39)
אֲחִים אֲנֵנוּ	We (are) brothers. (Gen. 13:8)
וְאֲנֵנוּ רַבִּים	And we (are) many. (Ezek. 33:24)
וְהֵמָּה חֲכָמִים	And they (are) wise. (Prov. 30:24)

24. Demonstrative Pronouns

24.1 A demonstrative pronoun is one that indicates something or someone being singled out for attention, as in the case of "this man," or "This is the man."

24.2 The forms of the demonstrative pronouns are as follows:

Singular			Plural		
masc.	זֶה	this	masc.	אֵלֶּה	these
fem.	זֹאת	this	fem.	אֵלֶּה	these
masc.	הוּא	that	masc.	הֵמָּה (הֵם)	those
fem.	הִיא	that	fem.	הֵנָּה (הֵן)	those

24.3 The demonstrative pronouns have a function in Hebrew parallel to that of adjectives.

(1) *Like adjectives, they may be used attributively. In this case, they agree in gender, number, and definiteness with the nouns to which they refer.*

Examples:

הַמָּקוֹם הַזֶּה	this place (Gen. 28:17)
הָאָרֶץ הַזֹּאת	this land (Gen. 15:7)
בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא	on that day (Gen. 15:18)
בְּעִיר הַהִיא	in that city (Josh. 20:6)
הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה	these words (Gen. 29:13)
הָעָרִים הָאֵלֶּה	these cities (Num. 21:25)
בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם	in those days (Gen. 6:4)

If a noun is modified by an adjective, the demonstrative pronoun will usually stand after the adjective.

Examples:

הַדָּבָר הַגָּדוֹל הַזֶּה	this great thing (1 Sam. 12:16)
הָאָרֶץ הַטוֹבָה הַזֹּאת	this good land (Deut. 4:22)
הַמִּדְבָּר הַגָּדוֹל הַהוּא	that great wilderness (Deut. 1:19)
הַשָּׁנִים הַטֹּבֹת הָאֵלֶּה	these good years (Gen. 41:35)

Demonstrative pronouns regularly take the definite article when used attributively. Independent personal pronouns, on the other hand, may only be used as subject pronouns, and therefore never take the definite article.

(2) *Demonstrative pronouns may also be used predicatively. Like predicative adjectives, they agree in gender and number with the nouns to which they are linked, but they never take the article.*

Examples:

זֶה הַיּוֹם	This (is) the day. (Judg. 4:14)
זֹאת הָאָרֶץ	This (is) the land. (Num. 34:2)
הוּא הַדָּבָר	That (is) the word. (Gen. 41:28)
הוּא הָעִיר הַגְּדוֹלָה	That (is) the great city. (Gen. 10:12)
אֵלֶּה הַדְּבָרִים	These (are) the words. (Deut. 1:1)

EXERCISES

1. Complete the translation of the following entries by filling in the blanks.

- (1) הַשָּׁנִים הַטּוֹבוֹת הָאֵלֶּה _____ good years (Gen. 41:35)
- (2) צְדִיק אֵתָּה _____ are righteous. (Jer. 12:1)
- (3) כִּי מֶלֶךְ גָּדוֹל אֲנִי For _____ (am) a great King. (Mal. 1:14)
- (4) לְעִיר הַגְּדוֹלָה הַזֹּאת to _____ great city (Jer. 22:8)
- (5) כִּי־חֲזָקִים הֵמָּה For _____ (are) strong. (Judg. 18:26)
- (6) חֲכָמִים אֲנַחְנוּ _____ (are) wise. (Jer. 8:8)
- (7) כִּי־חֲזָק הוּא For _____ (is) strong. (Num. 13:31)
- (8) כִּי מְרִים הֵם For _____ (were) bitter. (Exod. 15:23)
- (9) הָעִיר הַזֹּאת קְרִיבָה _____ city (is) near. (Gen. 19:20)
- (10) וְאֲנֹכִי נֶעֱר קָטָן And _____ (am) a little child. (1 Kgs. 3:7)

2. Underscore the correct pronominal form in the following entries.

- (1) (הוּא / הִיא) כִּי קָטָן For he (is) small. (Amos 7:2)
- (2) (אַתָּה / אַתָּה) כִּי קָשָׁה that you (are) stubborn (Isa. 48:4)
- (3) (הוּא / הִיא) כִּי־יָפָה For she (was) very beautiful. (Gen. 12:14)
- (4) (אַתָּה / אַתָּה) יָפָה You (are) lovely. (Song of Sol. 6:4)
- (5) (אַתָּה / אַתָּה) תָּמִים You (were) perfect (blameless). (Ezek. 28:15)

- (6) הַדְּבָר הָרָע (הַזֶּה / הַזֹּאת) this evil word (Exod. 33:4)
- (7) נֶעַר (וְהוּא / וְהוּא) And he (was) a lad. (Gen. 37:2)
- (8) הַדְּבָר (זֶה / זֹאת) This (is) the word. (Num. 30:2)
- (9) בַּיּוֹם (הַהוּא / הַהוּא) on that day (Gen. 15:18)
- (10) בַּיּוֹם (הַזֶּה / הַזֹּאת) on this day (Gen. 7:11)
- (11) כִּי (זֶה / זֹאת) הוּא For this (is) he. (1 Sam. 16:12)
- (12) הָעִיר הַגְּדוֹלָה (הוּא / הוּא) That (is) the great (chief) city. (Gen. 10:12)

3. Each of the following entries contains either a personal or a demonstrative pronoun. In the space marked (a) indicate whether the pronoun is to be classified as personal (P) or as demonstrative (D). In the space marked (b), give the gender of the pronoun, and in (c) its number.

Example:

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|---|--------------------------|
| יְהוָה הוּא הָאֱלֹהִים | (a) <u> P </u> |
| The LORD, he (is) God. (1 Kgs. 18:39) | (b) <u> masc. </u> |
| | (c) <u> sing. </u> |
| (1) לֹא בַשָּׁמַיִם הוּא | (a) <u> </u> |
| It (she) (is) not in the heavens. (Deut. 30:12) | (b) <u> </u> |
| | (c) <u> </u> |
| (2) הַגּוֹי הַגְּדוֹל הַזֶּה | (a) <u> </u> |
| this great nation (Deut. 4:6) | (b) <u> </u> |
| | (c) <u> </u> |
| (3) זֶה הַיּוֹם | (a) <u> </u> |
| This (is) the day. (Judg. 4:14) | (b) <u> </u> |
| | (c) <u> </u> |
| (4) כִּי אֲנִי יְהוָה | (a) <u> </u> |
| For I (am) the LORD. (Exod. 7:5) | (b) <u> </u> |
| | (c) <u> </u> |
| (5) הָעָם הַזֶּה הָרָע | (a) <u> </u> |
| this evil people (Jer. 13:10) | (b) <u> </u> |
| | (c) <u> </u> |

IX VOCABULARY

- (6) **בְּדָבַר הָרָע הַזֶּה** (a) _____
 according to this evil word (Deut. 13:12) (b) _____
 (c) _____

4. Practice reading the Hebrew aloud. Cover the English translation and practice translating the Hebrew from sight.

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| (1) | הָאִישׁ מֹשֶׁה גָּדוֹל מְאֹד | The man Moses (was) very great.
(Exod. 11:3) |
| (2) | הַדָּבָר הַגָּדוֹל הַזֶּה | this great thing (1 Sam. 12:16) |
| (3) | כִּי אֵל גָּדוֹל יְהוָה וּמֶלֶךְ
גָּדוֹל עַל-כָּל-אֱלֹהִים | For the LORD (is) a great God, and a
great King above all gods. (Ps. 95:3) |
| (4) | כִּי קָרוֹב הוּא | For it (was) near. (Exod. 13:17) |
| (5) | כִּי-קָרְבִּים הֵם | For they (were) near (neighbors).
(Josh. 9:16) |
| (6) | וְאֲנִי נֶעֶר קָטָן | And I (am) a little child. (1 Kgs. 3:7) |
| (7) | נֹחַ אִישׁ צַדִּיק | Noah (was) a righteous man. (Gen. 6:9) |
| (8) | צַדִּיק וְיָשָׁר הוּא | Righteous and upright (is) he. (Deut. 32:4) |
| (9) | לֹא אִישׁ אֵל | God (is) not a human being. (Num. 23:19) |
| (10) | עַם-חָכָם הַגּוֹי הַגָּדוֹל הַזֶּה | A wise people (is) this great nation.
(Deut. 4:6) |

VOCABULARY

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|-----|----------------------|--------------------|------|----------------|-------------------------|
| (1) | אֶבֶן | (f) stone | (10) | מֹשֶׁה | Moses |
| (2) | דּוֹר | generation | (11) | נָבִיא | prophet |
| (3) | יְרוּשָׁלַיִם | | (12) | נֶעֶר | lad, youth |
| | יְרוּשָׁלַם | Jerusalem | (13) | נַעֲרָה | (f) maiden, young woman |
| (4) | כֵּן | thus | (14) | סֵפֶר | book |
| (5) | לֶחֶם | bread | (15) | פֶּן | lest |
| (6) | מִדְבָּר | wilderness, desert | (16) | רֶגֶל | (f) foot |
| (7) | מָה | What? | (17) | שֶׁמֶן | oil, fat |
| (8) | מִי | Who? | (18) | תּוֹרָה | (f) law, instruction |
| (9) | מִשְׁפָּט | judgment, justice | | | |