**12. Qal Infinitive Construct and Absolute**

**12. A. Introduction to Infinitives**

Finite verbs are limited or specify the gender, person and number of the subject of the verb. An infinitive has no limitation of subject in gender, person or number. In English an infinitive is indicated by a “to” before the verb (e.g. to run, to go, to jump). There are two types of Hebrew infinitives: the Infinitive Absolute and the Infinitive Construct. There are about 513 Qal Infinitive Absolutes and 4561 Qal Infinitive Constructs. The difference is that the absolute usually follows or precedes a verb with the same root without any attached prefixing prepositions (other than a conjunctive וְ ) or suffixed pronouns.

**The forms and chant is: (only 2 words!)**

Inf. Construct: שְׁמֹר (note it is the same as the 2ms Imperative)

Inf. Absolute: שָׁמוֹר

**Parsing**: because there is no person, gender or number these are easily parsed as simply

נָתוֺן Qal Inf. Absolute from נָתַן to give

**12. B. Infinitive Absolute**

When an infinitive absolute stands in front of its cognate verb it is often for emphasis (e.g. surely keep). When it follows its cognate verb it often emphasizes the duration or continuation of the verbal concept. When it stands alone sometimes it can be translated as an imperative or as a normal perfect or imperfect.

**High Frequency Infinitive Absolute forms:**

אָכוֹל or defectively as אָכֹל from אָכַל to eat

אָמוֹר from אָמַ to say

בּוֹא from בּוֹא to enter

הָיֹה or הָיוֹ from הָיָה to be

הָלוֹךְ from הָלַךְ to go

יָדוֹעַ from יָדַע to know (notice the Pataḥ furtive under the ‘Ayin)

יָצוֹא from יָצָא to go out

נָתוֺן from נָתַן to give

עָשֹׂה or עָשׂוֹ from עָשָׂה

קוֺם from קוּם to rise

רָאֹה or רָאוֹ from רָאָה to see

שָׁמוֹעַ from שָׁמַע to hear (notice the Pataḥ furtive under the ‘Ayin)

**Examples:**

וַיֹּאמֶר לְאַבְרָם יָדֹעַ תֵּדַע כִּי־גֵר יִהְיֶה (Gen 15:13)

Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers

וַיֹּאמֶר שׁוֹב אָשׁוּב אֵלֶיךָ (Gen 18:10)

I will surely return to you

וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה אֶל־הָעָם זָכוֹר אֶת־הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה (Exod 13:3)

Moses said to the people, "Remember this day”

**12. C. Infinitive Construct**

The infinitive construct often is prefixed by a preposition (and suffixed by pronominal suffix):

לְ + Inf. Construct verb = purpose or intention “in order to,” or by   
 -- לַדְרוֹשׂ to seekְ; לֶאֱכָל to eat

לֵאמֹר is a frequent fixed forming meaning “saying” as a marker of direct   
 discourse

בְּ + Inf. Construct Verb = “when” or “while” x verb [went, arrived…]   
 – בִּהְיוֹת = while [he] was

כְּ + Inf. Construct Verb = “when” or “while” x verb [went, arrived…]

– כִּשְׁכַבּ = when [he] lies down

מִ (short form of מִן) + Inf. Construct Verb = from

Pronominal suffixes can be added to the Infinitive Construct indicating either the subject or the object of the infinitive construct. The infinitive construct is not negated by either a לֹא or and אַל but rather use לְבִלְתִּי (not or in order not).

**High frequency Infinitive Construct forms**

שְׂמֹר from שָׁמַר to keep, guard

נְתֹן from נָתַן to give (alternative form תֵּת)

נְשׂא from נָשָׂא to lift, carry (alternative form שְׁאֵת)

אֱמֹר from אָמַר to say

שֶׁ֫בֶת from יָשַׁב to sit, dwell

לֶ֫כֶת from הָלַךְ to walk, go

דַ֫עַת from יָדַע to know

בּוֹא from בּוֹא to come

שׁוּב from שׁוּב to turn, repent

בְּנוֹת from בָּנָה to build

הֱיוֹת from הָיָה to be

רְאוֹת from רָאָה to see

שְׁמֹעַ from שָׁמַע to hear

Examples:

וַיְבָרֶךְ אֹתָם אֱלֹהִים לֵאמֹר פְּרוּ וּרְבוּ וּמִלְאוּ (Gen 1:22)

God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill

כִּי בְּיוֹם אֲכָלְךָ מִמֶּנּוּ מוֹת תָּמוּת (Gen 2:17)

for in the day that you eat of it you shall die

לִשְׁמֹר אֶת־דֶּרֶךְ עֵץ הַחַיִּים (Gen 3:24 WTT)

to guard the way to the tree of life

**12. D. Chapter 12 Qal Infinitive Vocabulary List**

אָדוֹן / אֲדֹנָי Lord, master 439

יָלַד to give birth, beget 495

מִי who, how? 424

מִשְׁפָּט justice, judgment 421

נָכָה to strike, hit 500

פֶּה mouth, opening 497

עוֹד again, still, yet 490

עוֹלָם eternity, forever 439

קֹ֫דֶשׁ holy, set apart, sacred 491

קוֹל voice, sound 505

**12.F.** **Practice reading this text from Ps. 1:1-3.**   
 Memorize so you can orally recite line A, B, C, D and E:

אַשְׁרֵי ־ הָאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר לֹא הָלַךְ בַּעֲצַת רְשָׁעִים A:

wicked in the counsel walks not which the person blessed

וּבְדֶרֶךְ חַטָּאִים לֹא עָמָדB:

stand not sinners and in a way

וּבְמוֹשַׁב לֵצִים לֹא יָשָׁב׃ C:

sit not mockers and in the seat

כִּי אִם בְּתוֹרַת יְהוָה חֶפְצוֹ D:

his delight will be in the Torah but

וּֽבְתוֹרָתוֹ יֶהְגֶּה יוֹמָם וָלָיְלָה׃E:

and night daily meditate and in the Torah

F. וְהָיָה כְּעֵץ שָׁתוּל עַל־פַּלְגֵי מָיִם

He is like a tree planted by streams of water   
 G. אֲשֶׁר פִּרְיוֹ יִתֵּן בְּעִתּוֹ

which yield their fruit in its season

H. יִתֵּן בְּעִתּוֹ וְעָלֵהוּ לֹא־יִבּוֹל

and their leaves do not wither

I. וְכֹל אֲשֶׁר־יַעֲשֶׂה יַצְלִיחַ׃

In all that he does, he prospers.

**12.G. Chapter 10-11: Sing Song**: **Hatikva** (The Hope)—Israeli National Anthem (from a poem by Ukranian Jew, Naftali Herz Imber, 1877).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1DPqNHkm1bM>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=af6VgvkWq48>

כָּל עוֹד בַלֵבָב פְנִימָה As long as in the heart, within

נֶפֶשׁ יְהוֹדִי הוֹמִיָּה, A Jewish soul still yearns

וּלְפַחֲתֵי מִזרָח קָדִימָה And onward, towards the ends of the east,

עַיִן לְצִיּוֹן צוֹפִיָּה;‬ an eye still gazes toward Zion;

עוֹד לֹא אָבְדָה תִּקְוָתֵנוּ‬ Our hope is not yet lost,

הַתִּקְוָה בַּת שְׁנוֹת אַלְפַּיִם‬ The hope two thousand years old,

לִהְיוֹת עַם חָפְשִׁי בְּאַרְצֵנוּ To be a free nation in our land,

אֶרֶץ צִיּוֹן וִירוּשָׁלַיִם The land of Zion and Jerusalem.

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Chapter 12: Qal Infinitives

1. Vocabulary from memory:

1. to go, walk \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. forever \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3. to go out \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4. to go up, ascend \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

5. on, upon, over \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

6. priest \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

7. this \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

8. who? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

9. to visit, number \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

10. to pass over, transgress \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

11. justice \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

12. to write \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

13. soul, life \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

14. holy \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

15. to set, put, lay \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. Translation

1. בְּקַחְתּוֹ אֶת־רִבְקָה בַּת־בְּתוּאֵל (Gen 25:20)  
 when he took Rebekah the daughter of Betuel

2.כִּשְׁמֹ֤עַ עֵשָׂו אֶת־דִּבְרֵי אָבִיו (Gen 27:34) [עֵשָׂו=Esau]

3. וַיֹּאמְרוּ רָאוֹ רָאִינוּ כִּי־הָיָה יְהוָה עִמָּךְ (Gen 26:28)

They said, "We see plainly that the LORD has been with you

4.וַאֲנִי בְּבֹאִי מִפַּדָּן (Gen 48:7)

5.וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה בְּלֶכְתְּךָ לָשׁ֣וּב מִצְרַיְמָה (Exo 4:21)  
 And the LORD said to Moses, "When you go back to Egypt”

6. לֵאמֹר מִכֹּל עֵץ־הַגָּן אָכֹל תֹּאכֵל (Gen 2:16)

7.וַיְדַבֵּר מֹשֶׁה לִפְנֵי יְהוָה לֵאמֹר הֵן בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל (Exo 6:12)

But Moses spoke before the LORD, saying, Behold, the people of Israel

8. וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו מֹשֶׁה כְּצֵאתִי אֶת־הָעִיר (Exo 9:29)

9. לֵאמֹר פָּקֹד יִפְקֹד אֱלֹהִים אֶתְכֶם (Exo 13:19)

saying, "God will surely visit you

10. וֵאלֹהִים פָּקֹד יִפְקֹד אֶתְכֶם (Gen 50:24)

3. Parsing

1. יָצֹא Qal Inf Absolute from יָצָא meaning to go out

2. לֵאמֹר Prep ל + Qal Inf Construct from אָמַר meaning saying

3. שָׁמוֹעַ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
  
4. לִקְרֹא \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

5. כְּבוֹא \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

6. הָלוֹךְ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

7. בְּלֶדֶת \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

8. הָיוֹ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

9. לַעֲשׂוֹת \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

10. עָלֹה \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

11. מוֹת \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

12. כִּרְאֹת \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4. Biblical Memory: Psalm 1

Memorize so you can orally recite line A, B, C, D and E:

A:

wicked in the counsel walks not which the person blessed

B:

stand not sinners and in a way

C:

sit not mockers and in the seat

D:

his delight will be in the Torah but

E:

and night daily meditate and in the Torah

F.

He is like a tree planted by streams of water   
 G.

which yield their fruit in its season

H.

and their leaves do not wither

I.

In all that he does, he prospers.

**7. Sing: Hava Nagila**

**Sing: Aaronic Blessing (Num. 6:24-26)**

**Sing: Oseh Shalom**

**Sing: Shema lullaby (Deut 6:4)**

**Sing: Hinneh Mah Tov (Ps. 133:1)**

**Sing: Hevenu Shalom Aleichem**

**Sing: Hatikva** (The Hope)—Israeli National Anthem