

38. The Prepositions בַּ *ba-*, לְ *la-*, and אֶת- *'et-* with Pronominal Suffixes.

When a personal pronoun is the object of a preposition, it is appended as a suffix directly to the preposition:

לִי <i>lî</i>	to me	לָנוּ <i>lānû</i>	to us
לְךָ <i>lakā</i>	to you (m. s.)	לְכֶם <i>lakém</i>	to you (m. pl.)
לְךָ <i>lak</i>	to you (f. s.)	[לְכֶן <i>lakén</i>	to you (f. pl.)]
לוֹ <i>lô</i>	to him	לָהֶם <i>lāhém</i>	to them (m. pl.)
לָהּ <i>lah</i>	to her	לָהֶן <i>lāhén</i>	to them (f. pl.)

Here, as elsewhere in the language, a distinction between genders is made in the second person as well as in the third. There are thus four Hebrew pronouns corresponding to English “you.”

The preposition בַּ *ba* with suffixes is exactly like the above. An alternate form בָּם *bām* for בָּהֶם *bāhém* is also used.

The pronouns as objects of the verb may occur as suffixes on the object marker, as follows:

אֹתִי <i>'ōtî</i>	me	אֹתָנוּ <i>'ōtānû</i>	us
אֹתְךָ <i>'ōtakā</i>	you (m. s.)	אֹתְכֶם <i>'etkém</i>	you (m. pl.)
אֹתְךָ <i>'ōtāk</i>	you (f. s.)	[אֹתְכֶן <i>'etkén</i>	you (f. pl.)]
אֹתוֹ <i>'ōtô</i>	him	אֹתָם <i>'ōtām</i>	them (m. pl.)
אֹתָהּ <i>'ōtāh</i>	her	אֹתָן <i>'ōtān</i>	them (f. pl.)

The 3rd pers. pl. forms also occur as אֹתָהֶם *'ethem* and אֹתָהֶן *'ethen*.

Some examples of usage:

הָאִישׁ נֹתֵן לָנוּ לֶחֶם *hā'îš nōtēn lānû léhem*
The man is giving (to) us bread.

אֵין לִי כֶסֶף *'ên lî késeḡ*
I have no silver.

יֵשׁ לָהֶם מֶלֶךְ *yēš lāhem mélek*
They have a king.

הַמֶּלֶךְ שֶׁלַח אֹתָם אֶל-הָעִיר *hammélek šölē^ah 'ōtām 'el-hā'îr*
The king is sending them to the city.