Rocine Lesson 7

וּמַלְאָךְ יְהוָה דִּבֶּר אֶל־אֵלִיָּה

2 Kings 1:3

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2 Kings 1:3
Goal

• Identify and read construct chains.
Construct chains

1. Involves **nouns**
2. They have to be **adjacent** to one another
3. You have to have at **least 2 nouns** but you can have longer chains with 3 or more nouns.
   – All the nouns must be adjacent.
4. The relationship between the nouns is approximated by the use of the English word “of”.
   – If you have taken Greek, construct chains are how we express the genitive relationship in Hebrew.
The land of Israel
This is called the Absolute Construct Chain

The land of Israel
The *land of Israel*
The **land of Israel**

This is called the **Construct**

Add the English word "of" here.
The land of Israel

If the **absolute** is definite, the **construct** is definite. Remember a word can be definite by virtue of 3 things:

- The article
- Proper name
- A possessive suffix
Examples
Definite Status in Construct Chains

Indefinite
• אִישׁ מִלְחָמָה “a man of war” (Ex 15:3)

Definite
• אֲרוֹן הַבְּרִית “the ark of the covenant” (Josh 4:9)
• עֶבֶּד אַבְרָהָם “the servant of Abraham” (Gen 24:34)
• בֵּית אָבִי “the house of my father” (1 Kings 2:31)

From Seow p. 116.
Interesting Example

There are 3 construct chains in Judges 9:1. See if you can spot them.

(Hebrew)

וַיֵלֶּךְ אֲבִּימֶּכֶל בֶּן־יְרֻבַעַל שְׁכֶּם (Shechem)

אֶל־אָחֵי אִמּוֹ

וַיְדַבֵּר אֲלֵיהֶם

וְאֶל־כָּל־מִשְׁפַחַת בֵּית־אֲבִּי אִמּוֹ לֵאמֹר

There are 3 construct chains in Judges 9:1. See if you can spot them.
Interesting Example

There are 3 construct chains in Judges 9:1. See if you can spot them.

(Shechem) נִלְךָ אֲבִיֵּל בָּרִירֶשֶׁל שְׁכֵמָה אֵל־אָחֵי אִמּוֹ וַיְדַבֵּר אֲלֵיהֶם וְאֶל־כָּל־מִּשְׁפַּחַת בֵּית־אֲבִי אִמּוֹ לֵאמֹר

Now translate the text into English:

There are 3 construct chains in Judges 9:1. See if you can spot them.
Interesting Example

There are 3 construct chains in Judges 9:1. See if you can spot them.

וַיֵּלֶּכֶת אֲבִּימֶל בֶּן יְרֻבַּעַל שְׁכֶּם (Shechem) אֶל־אָחֵי אִמּוֹ

וַיְדַבֵּר אֲלֵיהֶם וְאֶל־כָּל־מִּשְּפַחַת בֵּית־אֲבִּי אִּמּוֹ לֵאמֹר

There are 3 construct chains in Judges 9:1. See if you can spot them.
There are 3 construct chains in Judges 9:1. See if you can spot them.

Longest construct chain in the Bible.
Rocine’s Rules #1

RULE:
When two or more nouns are linked together so that the second or any succeeding noun has a modifying relationship to the noun before it, we have a **construct chain** requiring English **of** for translation.

(Rocine p. 32)
RULE 2:

When the last word of a construct chain (called the absolute) is definite, the entire chain is definite.

– In translation, add the word the to each of the other words (called constructs) in the chain.

(Rocine p. 32)
Rocine’s Rules #3

RULE 3:
No matter how long a construct chain is,
• the entire chain can be thought of as a unit
• which can perform all the same functions as a single noun.

A construct chain can be
• the subject of a sentence,
• a direct object,
• an indirect object,
• even the object of a preposition.

(Rocine p. 32)