Rocine Lesson 7

וּמַלְאֵךְ יְהוָה דִּבֶּר אֶל־אֵלִיָּה

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

The land of Israel
This is called the Absolute

This is called the Construct

The land of Israel
Construct Chain

This is called the Absolute

This is called the Construct

Add the English word “of” here.

The land of Israel
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
• איש מלחמה “a man of war” (Ex 15:3)

Definite
• ארון הברית “the ark of the covenant” (Josh 4:9)
• עבד אברהם “the servant of Abraham” (Gen 24:34)
• בית אבי “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.

ניֵלֶּכֶת אֲבִּיֵּלֶּךְ בְּיוֹרָבְעָל שְׁכֶם (Shechem)
אַלּוּ אִמּוֹ אָהֵם
וְיַדְבֵּר אָלִיחָם
ואֶלָכְלַמְשַפֵּחָה בִּיתָאֵבְיָ אָמֹא לָאָמְרָי

וַיֵלֶּכֶת אֲבִּיֵּלֶּךְ בְּיוֹרָבְעָל שְׁכֶם (Shechem)
אַלּוּ אִמּוֹ אָהֵם
וְיַדְבֵּר אָלִיחָם
ואֶלָכְלַמְשַפֵּחָה בִּיתָאֵבְיָ אָמֹא לָאָמְרָי
Interesting Example

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

(Shchem) וַיֵלֶּךְ אֲבִּימֶל בֶּן יְרֻבַּעַל שְכַם (Shechem) אֲלֵיהֶם אָמֹת וְאֶל־כָּל־מִּשְׁפַּחַת בֵּית־אֲבִּי אִּמּוֹ לֵאמֹר

וַיְדַבֵּר אֲבִּימֶל אֲלֵיהֶם אֲלֵי־אָמֹת אֱלֹהֶיהֶם אֲלֵי־כָּל־מִּשְׁפַּחַת בֵּית־אֲבִּי אִּמּוֹ לֵאמֹר
Interesting Example

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

וַיֵלֶּךְ אֲבִּימֶל בֶּן יְרֻבַּעַל שְכֶּמָה (Shechem) אֶל־אֲחֵי אִמּוֹ וַיְדַבֵּר אֲלֵיהֶּם וְאֶל־כָּל־מִּשְׁפַּחַת בֵּית־אֲבִּי אִּמּוֹ לֵאמֹר
Interesting Example

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

(Shechem) והセンター אליעזר אמה ואל-אחור אמה והדבר אליהם ואל-כל-משפחת ביה-צאבי אמה לאמה

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)
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)