

# Rocine Lesson 7

וּמִלֵּאדָּה יְהוָה דְּבַר אֶל-אֱלֹהִים

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.

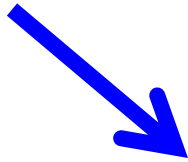
# *Construct Chain*

אֶרֶץ יִשְׂרָאֵל

The land of Israel

This is called  
the Absolute

# Construct Chain



אֶרֶץ יִשְׂרָאֵל

The land of [Israel](#)

This is called  
the Absolute

# Construct Chain

This is called  
the Construct



אֶרֶץ יִשְׂרָאֵל

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

This is called  
the Absolute

# Construct Chain

This is called  
the Construct

Add the  
English word  
"of"  
here.

אֶרֶץ יִשְׂרָאֵל

The land of Israel

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# Construct Chain

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Add the  
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אֶרֶץ יִשְׂרָאֵל

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)
- עֶבֶד אַבְרָהָם “the servant of Abraham” (Gen 24:34)
- בַּיִת אָבִי “the house of my father” (1 Kings 2:31)

# *Interesting Example*

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

וַיֵּלֶךְ אֲבִימֶלֶךְ בֶּן-יִרְבֵּעַל שְׁכֶמָה (Shechem)  
אֶל-אָחִי אָמוּ  
וַיְדַבֵּר אֵלֵיהֶם  
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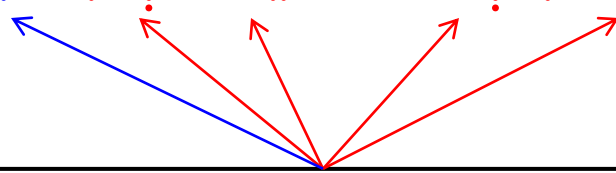
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Longest construct  
chain in the Bible.

# ***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)

# *Rocine's Rules #2*

## 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)