Rocine Lesson 7

וּמַלְאַ֤ךְ יְהוָה֙ דִּבֶּ֔ר אֶל־אֵלִיָּ֔ה

2 Kings 1:3

Goal

- Identify and read construct chains.

Construct chains

1. Involves <u>nouns</u>
2. They have to be <u>adjacent</u> to one another
3. You have to have at <u>least 2 nouns</u> 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.
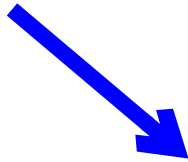
Construct Chain

אֶרֶץ יִשְׂרָאֵל

The land of Israel

Construct Chain

אֶרֶץ יִשְׂרָאֵל

The land of Israel

Construct Chain

This is called the <u>Absolute</u>

This is called the <u>Construct</u>

אֶרֶץ יִשְׂרָאֵל

The land of Israel

Construct Chain

Add the English word "of" here.

אֶרֶץ יִשְׂרָאֵל

The land of Israel

Construct Chain

אֶרֶץ יִשְׂרָאֵל

The land-of Israel

Or you can think of the *of* as a part of the construct state.

Construct Chain

Add the English word "of" here.

אֶרֶץ יִשְׂרָאֵל

<u>The</u> land of Israel

If the absolute is <u>definite</u>, the construct is <u>definite</u>.
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)

- בֵּית אָבִי "*the* house of my father" (1 Kings 2:31)

From Seow p. 116.

An Interesting Example

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

וַיֵּ֣לֶךְ אֲבִימֶ֣לֶךְ בֶּן־יְרֻבַּ֔עַל שְׁכֶ֖מָה (Shechem)
אֶל־אֲחֵ֣י אִמּ֑וֹ
וַיְדַבֵּ֣ר אֲלֵיהֶ֔ם
וְאֶל־כָּל־מִשְׁפַּ֥חַת בֵּית־אֲבִ֖י אִמּ֑וֹ לֵאמֹֽר

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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)

What if the first word must *remain* in*definite?*

The Hebrew word מִזְמוֹר means *Psalm*. So

<div dir="rtl">מִזְמוֹר דָּוִד</div>

must mean "t*he* Psalm of David," since the proper name of David is definite. But David wrote many Psalms. How can we say "*a* Psalm of David"?

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In a construct chain, every noun in the chain must be immediately adjacent to the others, with no intervening words. If we add the preposition לְ, meaning "to" (among other things), between two nouns, we "break" the chain, and the first word remains indefinite.

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. . . on to our lesson verse

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We can identify and parse the verb.

Root	Stem	Form	Person, Gender, Number	Function	Root meaning

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<div dir="rtl">

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Root	Stem	Form	Person, Gender, Number	Function	Root meaning
דבר	Piel	Qatal	3 m s	To Be Determined*	speak

* Note
- The Qatal here is in an independent clause, part of an X-qatal consturction. We must use our discourse analysis chart to help us identify the function.

. . . on to our lesson verse

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We can identify and parse the verb.

Root	Stem	Form	Person, Gender, Number	Function	Root meaning
דבר	Piel	Qatal	3 m s	X-qatal = continue mainline (foreground), with a contrast	speak

The most reasonable understanding of this clause *in the context of the discourse* is number 1 in the list of possible functions of preposed clauses: Contrast.