

# JSAT

## JSAT Level 8 Chumash Decoding Skills - Guide

אגוד מוסדות לחינוך ישראלי  
CONSORTIUM of  
JEWISH DAY SCHOOLS



For practice questions associated with guide, please visit our website [cojds.org](http://cojds.org)

JSAT Level 8 Chumash Decoding Skills Guide

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In the field of curriculum development, backward-mapping curriculum development has become quite popular in recent years. In this model, the process for curriculum development is to a) develop standards for students to master b) design assessments that will measure if students have mastered the designated standards c) create learning opportunities for students to learn the skills targeted by the assessments. Once this is done, data from the assessments should inform the next iteration of curriculum development.

It is this model we have followed in the development of this guide. To explain, prior to launching the JSAT Level 8 High School Placement Exam in November of 2019, our first step at CoJDS was to develop a set of standards that an eighth-grade student should be expected to master after several years of learning in a Jewish day school. These standards were developed in partnership with over sixty Jewish Day Schools across North America. Now, after two years and over 4,000 students who have taken the JSAT Level 8 exam, we have data indicating which of these standards Jewish day school students find easier to master and which they find to be more challenging. As such, we feel the time is right to move on to the third step of curriculum development, which is to create learning opportunities that will help students master the standards covered by the exam. To be clear, our intention is not to “teach to the test”. Rather, our intention is to genuinely help students develop the skills needed to become independent lifelong learners of Chumash and other subjects commonly taught as part of a standard Jewish day school Judaic Studies curriculum.

Based on the data (which is publicly available on our website), we have decided to begin with the Chumash Skills section of the exam, and in particular, to target those standards labeled as “Decoding Skills”. These standards target the skills students need to translate a *posuk* of Chumash with accuracy. Therefore, in the pages that follow, students will find on each page a) the designated standard b) a brief outline explaining the details to be aware of regarding the standard c) a summary that shows students the “patterns to look for” regarding the standard. Considering our desire to prevent information overload, each standard does not take up more than one page of explanation and does not go into more detail than we felt necessary. Or in other words, our aim is not to cover every “exception to the rule” but rather to provide further clarity regarding what students are expected to know, including some exceptions to a general rule when needed.

For those students who would like practice questions, we have launched a new website with over six hundred practice questions that target the standards listed in this guide. In addition, the platform has a Chumash Vocabulary practice section. For more information regarding the platform or how to purchase access, please visit our website at [cojds.org](http://cojds.org). We expect that the data gleaned from the JSAT Level 8 High School Placement exam will inform the continued development of this platform and any guides we may issue in the future. In addition, we hope that our efforts will lead to a measurable improvement of student achievement scores in this critical area of Jewish study.

Rabbi Tzvi Daum  
CoJDS / Curricular Initiatives



## JSAT Level 8 – Chumash Decoding Skills Standards 1-19

**Standard 01:** Student can identify the three letter שרש of a word.

**Standard 02:** Student can identify the three letter שרש of a word even when one letter of the שרש is absent.

**Standard 03a:** Student can identify if a noun, pronoun, or adjective is singular or plural.

**Standard 03b:** Student can identify if a singular (non-numeric) noun, pronoun, or adjective is masculine or feminine.

**Standard 03c:** Student can identify if a plural (non-numeric) noun, pronoun, or adjective is masculine or feminine.

**Standard 03d:** Student can identify if a number is masculine or feminine.

**Standard 04:** Student can determine the appropriate agreement form between a noun or pronoun and its (non-numeric) modifier e.g. הנשים גדולות / היום הנה / הספה הזאת.

**Standard 05:** Student can determine the appropriate agreement form between a noun and its numeric modifier e.g. איש אחד / אשה אחת / שלשה אנשים / שלש שנים.

**Standard 06:** Student can translate the prefixes of משה וכלב when they appear with nouns e.g. ממצרים, למצרים.

**Standard 07:** Student can translate a combined or contracted prefix e.g. בביתו or והאיש.

**Standard 08:** Student can translate a המקמה e.g. ה"א = מצרים = Egypt.

**Standard 09:** Student can translate Hebrew numbers from

1-999,999 e.g. 127 = מאה עשרים ושבע.

**Standard 10:** Student can translate two nouns that appear בסמיכות e.g. בית פרעה = הבית של פרעה, אחי יוסף = האחים של יוסף.

**Standard 11a:** Student can translate singular nouns attached to a possessive suffix e.g.

ביתו, ידיו, גופו.

**Standard 11b:** Student can translate plural nouns attached to a possessive suffix e.g. בתי, ידי, גופו.

**Standard 12:** Student can translate prepositions attached to a pronominal suffix e.g. ב, בך, עלינו, בינינו.

**Standard 13:** Student can translate a קל/פעל verb in the past tense e.g. שמר, שמרה, שמרת.

**Standard 14:** Student can translate a קל/פעל verb in the future tense e.g. אשמע, נשמע.

**Standard 15a:** Student can translate a word that has a הפוך from עתיד to עבר.

**Standard 15b:** Student can translate a word that has a הפוך from עבר to עתיד.

**Standard 16:** Student can translate a קל/פעל verb in the present tense e.g. הוא שומר / שומר.

**Standard 17:** Student can translate a קל/פעל verb in the form of a command (צווי) e.g. שמרי.

**Standard 18:** Student can translate a קל/פעל verb in the form of an infinitive (מקור) e.g. לדע (תדע) / לקחת.

**Standard 19:** Student can translate a קל/פעל verb attached to a pronominal suffix e.g. שובך, לעבדך, וינהגהו.

**In brief:** The root of a word in Hebrew is known as its שָׁרֵשׁ. A שָׁרֵשׁ (or שֵׁשׁ עָצָם) generally consists of three letters from which various other related words can be derived. Therefore, the first step in translating any Hebrew word is to first identify its שָׁרֵשׁ.

**Tip:** As a rule, only the letters "מִשֶּׁה אֵתוֹ וְכָל" can be a prefix, and of those, only the letters שֶׁ" can be a suffix. Thus, any other letters are certainly part of the שֶׁ" (although these letters can be part of the שֶׁ" as well). Or put another way, the letters ג"ט"ד"ע"ס"ק"רצ"ה will always be part of the שֶׁ" although again, there might be some additional letters as well. In general, the letters ה and ו are the letters that are most commonly added to a word.

The most commonly added letters		
<b>Prefixes</b>	א, ב, ה, ו, ז, וא, וה, וי, ונ, ות, י, כ, ל, מ, נ, ש, ת	תחיליות
<b>Suffixes</b>	ה, הָ, ו, ות, וי, ים, ד, כּם, כּוּ, דְּ, נָה, נוּ, ת, תּ, תי, תם, תּ	סופיות
<b>Infixes</b>	ה, ו, י, ת	מוספיות

Below is a list of words which all contain the three letters of the שָׁרָשׁ in various patterns. Hopefully, this will help you gain a sense of where a שָׁרָשׁ might be “hiding” in a word. After you go through the rest of the standards, you will undoubtedly have a better sense of which letters in a word are most likely to be prefixes, suffixes, or infixes. But, for now, try identifying שָׁרָשׁים of words you already know. The next standard will deal with words where not all letters of the שָׁרָשׁ are present.

אָקראַ, באַדמַתם, הַיּוֹצֵאִים, הַשּׁוֹמְרֵת, הַקְּטַנִּים, הַדּוֹרוֹת, וְאֲשַׁמְעֶם, וְשׁוּב, וּבְגִבּוֹלֶם, וְהַשְׁפָּחָה, וְהָאוֹסְפֹת,  
וְהַטּוֹבוֹת, וְהַכְּבָשִׁים, וְיִסּוּר, וְיִפְקֹד, וְיִקְבְּרוּ, וְנִשְׁמַע, וְנֶאֱכַל, וּבִכָּה, וּגְדִלְנוּ, וּשְׁלַחְתֶּם, וַיִּדְעֶתּוּ, וַיֵּאָהֲבֵהוּ,  
וַתִּלְקַח, תִּבְקֶשְׁנָה, כְּהֻנִּים, רְגִלִּים, חֲסִדִּי, בְּגִדָּה, לַחֲמִידָה, חֲלוּמוֹ, אֶהְיֶה, אֶרְצֵנוּ, צֶאֱנֶם, רְכוּשׁוֹ, בְּשֶׁרְכֶם,  
דִּרְכֶּכֶּוּ, עֵינֵי, קִרְבָּנֶיךָ, חֲטֵאֲמֶיךָ, אֲנָשִׁי, יִלְדֶיךָ, חֲמוּרֵינוּ, זִבְחֵיכֶם, מִשְׁפָּטֵיכֶם, מוֹעֲדֵיכֶם, שַׁעֲרוֹתֵיכֶם,  
בְּאֲדָמוֹתַי, כְּטוֹבָה, בְּבֵיתֶךָ, לְמִימֶיךָ, מֵרֵאשִׁיד, יִכְרַת, יִגְבּוּ, כַּחֲמוּרִים, לְטָהוּרִים, לִירְאָה, מִהַיּוֹשִׁיבִים, נִמְכָּר,  
נִשְׁאָל, שְׁהַגּוֹיִם, זֹרַע, יוֹרְדוֹת, שׁוֹכְבִים, הוֹלֵכֶת, נִתְּנוּ, בִּרְכֵנוּ, דִּבְרָתָהּ, הִרְגָּתָהּ, שְׁנִסְסֶתָהּ, נִשְׁקַתִּי, עַבְדְּךָ,  
עֲבַרְתּוֹ, מַעֲלָה, תַּפְתָּחוּ, תַּכְתַּבְנָה

**JSAT L8 Standard 02:** Student can identify the three letter שָׁרֵשׁ of a word even when one letter of the שָׁרֵשׁ is absent.

**In brief:** The letters most likely to be missing are ה, ו, ג, and the ל of לקח.

**Tip:** a) The ו often drops when it is the first letter of the שָׁרֵשׁ. For example, the שָׁרֵשׁ of the word "שָׂא" or "אָשָׂא" is א.ש.ו., and the שָׁרֵשׁ of the word "סָעוּ" and "יָסַע" is ע.ס.ו. b) When the middle letter of the שָׁרֵשׁ is ו or י (letters that tend to serve as vowels) they often go missing. For example, the שָׁרֵשׁ of the word "נִיָּקָם" is מ.ק.ו., and the שָׁרֵשׁ of the word "שָׁמַיִם" is ש.י.מ., and the שָׁרֵשׁ of the פָּא is א.ב.ו. c) A ה will often go missing when it is the third letter of the שָׁרֵשׁ. Thus, for example, ה.ר.א. will become רָאִיתִי, and ה.ק.נ. will become קָנִיתָם, קָנִיתָהּ, קָנִיתִי, etc. Even when attached to a prefix, the ה might drop. For example, עָשָׂה will become וַיַּעַשׂ, and כָּנָה will become וַיִּכֶּן, etc. d) If the last two letters of the שָׁרֵשׁ are identical, one of them might drop out as well.

**Important:** Other places where it is common for a letter of the שָׁרֵשׁ to be missing is the ל of ח.ל.ק., the ה of ה.ל.ך. This is demonstrated in the phrase "קָח וְלָךְ" where the ל of ח.ל.ק. and ה of ה.ל.ך. are missing despite being in the first position of the שָׁרֵשׁ. Another typical example is the word תַּת or תַּתָּן which is actually from the שָׁרֵשׁ of תָּתַן, and both תָּנִים are missing.

**The pattern to look for: A letter of the שָׁרֵשׁ often drops if –**

**a) A ו or י is the first letter of the שָׁרֵשׁ.** For example,

ו.ג.ע. / נ.ג.ש. / נ.ד.ר. / נ.ט.ה. / נ.ט.ע. / נ.ס.ע. / נ.פ.ל. / נ.ש.א. / נ.ש.ק. / נ.ת.ג.  
וַיָּגַע < וַיָּנַע < וַיָּגַשׁ / וַתָּגַשׁ / וַיָּגֶשׁ / וַתָּגֶשׁ / וַיָּדַר < וַיָּדֹר / וַיָּטַע < וַיָּטַע / וַיָּסַע < וַיָּסַע  
וַתָּפַל < וַתָּפַל / וַאֲשָׂא < וַאֲשָׂא / לָשָׂאת < לָשָׂאת / וַיָּשַׁק < וַיָּשַׁק / אָתָּן < אָתָּן / וַיָּתַנּוּ < וַיָּתַנּוּ  
י.ד.ע. / י.ב.ל. / י.ל.ד. / י.צ.א. / י.ר.א. / י.ש.ב.  
אָדַע < אָדַע / דָּעַת < דָּעַת / נֹכַח < נֹכַח / וַתָּלַד < וַתָּלַד / נָצַא < נָצַא / צָא < צָא / צָאוּ < צָאוּ  
וַתָּצַא < וַתָּצַא / נֹרָא < נֹרָא / בָּשַׁבְתָּךְ < בָּשַׁבְתָּךְ / וַאֲשַׁב < וַאֲשַׁב / שָׁב < שָׁב / תָּשְׁבוּ < תָּשְׁבוּ

**b) The middle letter of the שָׁרֵשׁ is ו or י.** - For example,

ב.ו.א. / ג.ו.ר. / י.ו.מ. / מ.ו.ת. / נ.ו.ס. / ס.ו.ר. / ע.י.ר. / ק.ו.מ. / ר.ו.מ. / ר.ו.ע. / ש.ו.ב. / ש.י.מ. / ש.י.ר.  
וַתָּבֵא < וַתָּבֵא / הָגֵר < הָגֵר / יָמִיד < יָמִיד / מָתַד < מָתַד / וָנָס < וָנָס / וַתָּסַר < וַתָּסַר  
עָרִים < עָרִים / קָמָה < קָמָה / וִירָם < וִירָם / וַתָּרַץ < וַתָּרַץ / וַיָּשְׁבוּ < וַיָּשְׁבוּ / שָׁמַיִם < שָׁמַיִם

**c) It is the ל of ח.ל.ק., the ה of ה.ל.ך., or the final ו of ו.ת.ג.** - For example,

אָקַח < אָקַח / וַאֲקַח < וַאֲקַח / קָח < קָח / קָחוּ < קָחוּ / תָּקַחוּ < תָּקַחוּ / אָלַךְ < אָלַךְ  
יָלְכוּ < יָלְכוּ / לָךְ < לָךְ / בָּלַכְתָּךְ < בָּלַכְתָּךְ / נָלַךְ < נָלַךְ / וַתָּלַךְ < וַתָּלַךְ / לָתַת < לָתַת

**d) The last letter of the שָׁרֵשׁ is a ה or the last two letters of the שָׁרֵשׁ are doubled.**

ב.ג.ה. / ע.ש.ה. / ר.א.ה. / ע.ל.ה. / ש.ת.ה. / ח.ג.ה. / נ.ט.ה. / נ.ב.ה. / פ.ג.ה. / ק.ג.ה. / ה.ר.ה. / ס.ב.ב. / ח.ג.ג. / ח.ק.ק.

וַיִּבְנֶה < וַיִּבְנֶה / וַיַּעַשׂ < וַיַּעַשׂ / וַיִּרְאֶה < וַיִּרְאֶה / לָרְאוֹת < לָרְאוֹת / רָאוּ < רָאוּ / וַיַּעֲלֶה < וַיַּעֲלֶה  
עוֹלָהּ < עוֹלָהּ / וַיִּשְׁתַּחֲוֶה < וַיִּשְׁתַּחֲוֶה / לְשַׁתְּחוֹת < לְשַׁתְּחוֹת / מִחְנֹת < מִחְנֹת / וַיִּטָּה < וַיִּטָּה / וַיִּכָּה < וַיִּכָּה  
פָּנָיו < פָּנָיו / קָנִיתִי < קָנִיתִי / וַתִּהְרֶה < וַתִּהְרֶה / וַיִּסָּב < וַיִּסָּב / וַיִּחַנֶּה < וַיִּחַנֶּה / חָקְקִים < חָקְקִים

**JSAT L8 Standard 03a: Student can identify if a noun, pronoun, or adjective is singular or plural.**

**In brief:** In Hebrew, plural nouns, pronouns, and adjectives generally have a ים or ות suffix. For example, the noun מֶלֶךְ means “king”. To indicate more than one king, the suffix ים (א היריק) under the last letter of the שָׁרֵשׁ followed by a ים) is added to the root כ.ל.מ to form "מְלָכִים" which means “kings”. Likewise, the noun "אֶרֶץ" means “land”. To indicate more than one land, the suffix ות is added to the root א.ר.צ to form "אֲרָצוֹת" – lands.

**Note:** On occasion, the ות suffix will not be spelled out completely. For example, the word קָלָת is plural despite the “missing” ו. Similarly, the ים is sometimes not written out completely as the ם can drop out and the היריק changes to ירי. This occurs in סְמִיכוֹת form (see Standard 10). For example, in the phrase "בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל", the word בְּנֵי which is plural and means “the sons (of)”. The phrase "בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל" is a shortened form of "הַבָּנִים שֶׁל יִשְׂרָאֵל".

**Important:** Although the form for plural nouns is ים (e.g. בְּגָדִים) be aware that there is a “dual form” which is used for “pairs” or “sets” of two. For example, while the word "אַלְפִים" means “thousands”, the word אֶלְפִים however specifically means 2,000 (i.e. a pair of thousands). Words like מְאֻנָּה, מְאֻנָּה, מְאֻנָּה, מְאֻנָּה, מְאֻנָּה all follow this dual pattern and convey the meaning of a “pair” or “set”.

**The pattern to look for: A word is plural if –**

- מים, שְׂמִים, שְׂפָתִים, שְׁנִים – ים (also in dual form ים). (מִים, שְׂמִים, שְׂפָתִים, שְׁנִים, עָרִים, דְּבָרִים, בְּגָדִים, שְׁנִים, הָרִים – ים).
- קָלָת, סִפָּת, חִלָּת, אָבוֹת, בָּנוֹת, בְּהֵמוֹת, בְּרָכוֹת, נְבִיאֹת, נְעֻרוֹת, מְצוֹת, מְצוֹת – ות (also with defective spelling, חִלָּת, סִפָּת, קָלָת).
- י (סְמִיכוֹת י under the last letter before a י) – translates as “plural of”. For example, e.g. עֵינִי, עֶבְדִּי, אָחִי, בְּנֵי, כְּלִי, שְׂבָטִי, בְּגָדִי, רֶגְלִי, יָדִי.



**JSAT L8 Standard 03b: Student can identify if a singular (non-numeric) noun, pronoun, or adjective is masculine or feminine.**

**In brief:** All non-numeric singular nouns or adjectives can be assumed masculine unless they end in הָ (e.g. בָּרָכָה), a ת (e.g. בְּרֵכָה/סֵלָה), are a body part that comes in pairs (e.g. רֶגֶל, עֵין), are inherently feminine (e.g. נָשִׁים, הִיא) as well as the words אֶרֶץ or עִיר. Be aware that words ending in הָ are masculine (e.g. שָׂדֶה or מִטָּה).

**Important:** It should be noted that despite the rules cited above, there are known exceptions. For example, נָפֶשׁ, חֶרֶב, בָּאָר, אֵשׁ, אֶבֶן are feminine despite their lack of a feminine ending and בֵּית, זֵית, מֶנֶת are masculine despite their feminine looking ending. Also, שָׁמֶשׁ, רוּחַ, מַחְנֶה, לְשׁוֹן are some of the few words that are both masculine and feminine in terms of gender. Therefore, you should know the gender of the words mentioned here.

### The pattern to look for:

#### Feminine Nouns / Pronouns / Adjectives

גְּדוּלָּה, קִטְנָה, טוֹבָה, רָעָה, חֲזָקָה – אִשָּׁה, בְּרָכָה, בְּהֵמָה, מִלְחָמָה, אֲדָמָה, שָׁנָה, תּוֹרָה – הָ.

אִשָּׁה, בְּרֵכָה, בְּהֵמָה – אִשָּׁה, בְּרֵכָה, בְּהֵמָה. Also in סְמִיכוּת (see Standard 10) – אִשָּׁה, בְּרֵכָה, בְּהֵמָה. (Note: The final הָ or ת of these words are NOT part of the שָׁרֵשׁ.)

Body parts that come in pairs – כַּף, רֶגֶל, עֵין, אֶצְבַּע, אָזֶן.

People or animals that are inherently female: הִיא, אִתּוֹן.

Name of places, the word "עִיר" and "אֶרֶץ".

Everything else can be assumed male unless it is a known exception.

**Known exceptions:** נָפֶשׁ, חֶרֶב, בָּאָר, אֵשׁ, אֶבֶן are feminine. לֵילָה, מֶנֶת, זֵית, בֵּית are masculine. דָּרָד, שָׁמֶשׁ, רוּחַ, מַחְנֶה, לְשׁוֹן are considered both masculine and feminine.

**JSAT L8 Standard 03c: Student can identify if a plural (non-numeric) noun, pronoun, or adjective is masculine or feminine.**

**In brief:** While plural masculine nouns tend to end in ים. and plural feminine nouns tend to end in ות, this should not be used to determine if a plural noun is masculine or feminine as there are plenty of exceptions. Instead, **reduce the plural noun to its singular form and then determine its gender.** For example, the singular form of שָׁנִים is שָׁנָה thus שָׁנִים is feminine despite its masculine-looking suffix. Similarly, the word שְׁמוֹת with a ות suffix looks feminine, but its singular form "שֵׁם" is masculine. Thus, שְׁמוֹת is masculine.

**For plural adjectives, the ים. and ות suffix can be relied upon** to indicate gender as ים. is masculine and ות is feminine. Thus, for example, the word גְּדוּלִים comes from גְּדוּל and is masculine, whereas גְּדוּלוֹת comes from גְּדוּלָה and is feminine. Likewise, יָפִים comes from יָפָה and is masculine whereas יְפוֹת comes from יָפָה and is feminine.

**The pattern to look for:**

**Nouns (reduce to singular form):** שָׁנִים > שָׁנָה = feminine. שְׁמוֹת > שֵׁם = masculine. בְּרָכָה > בְּרָכָה = feminine. לִבָּבוֹת > לֵב = masculine. רְגָלִים > רֶגֶל = feminine.

**Adjectives (look at suffix):** ים. = masculine, ות = feminine. גְּדוּלִים = masculine, גְּדוּלוֹת = feminine etc.

## Chumash Decoding Skills Guide

**JSAT L8 Standard 04:** Student can determine the appropriate agreement form between a noun or pronoun and its (non-numeric) modifier e.g. *הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה / הַחֹדֶשׁ הַזֶּה / הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה / הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה / הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה*.

**In brief:** A noun and its modifier (e.g. adjective) must agree in gender (masculine or feminine) and number (singular or plural). For example, the word שֻׁלְחָן (table) is singular and masculine. Therefore, if we want to use an adjective to describe a שֻׁלְחָן, it too needs to be singular and masculine. Thus, a nice שֻׁלְחָן is a יָפֵה שֻׁלְחָן, whereas as a nice מְנוּרָה is a יָפֵה מְנוּרָה. Big horses are סוּסִים גְּדוּלִים (since the word סוּסִים is plural and masculine), whereas big cows are פָּרוֹת גְּדוּלוֹת (as the word פָּרוֹת is feminine and plural). The same is true of pronouns, meaning singular masculine nouns take singular masculine pronouns and singular feminine nouns take singular feminine pronouns, etc. Thus, about a man, we would say הוּא חָכָם, about a woman we would say הִיא חָכְמָה, for a group of men we would say הֵם חָכְמִים, and for a group of women we would say הֵן חָכְמוֹת etc.

**Note:** The word זֶה is used for to point out singular masculine nouns (הַחֹדֶשׁ הַזֶּה) whereas זאת is used for singular feminine nouns (הַחֹדֶשׁ הַזֶּה). For plural items, the word "אֵלֶּה" is used for both masculine and feminine items. For people or items that are not present (third person), the terms "הֵם/הֵן" is used for masculine nouns (e.g. בְּיָמֵי הַהֵם), and "הֵנָּה" is used for feminine nouns (e.g. "שָׁבַע שָׁנִים הֵנָּה").

#### The pattern to look for:

**Singular masculine nouns or pronouns get singular masculine adjectives:** אִישׁ גְּדוֹל, בֵּית קָטָן, לֵב טָהוֹר, הוּא חָדָשׁ, הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה.

**Singular feminine nouns get singular feminine adjectives:** עִיר גְּדוּלָּה, בְּהֵמָה טָהוֹרָה, אֶרֶץ טוֹבָה, הִיא חָדָשָׁה, הַשָּׁנָה הַזֹּאת.

**Plural masculine nouns get plural masculine adjectives (even if the plural noun ends in וֹת):**

אֲנָשִׁים טוֹבִים, אֲהָלִים קְטָנִים, קַרְבָּנוֹת תְּמִימִים, שְׁלַחֲנוֹת גְּדוּלִים, הֵם זָקְנִים, אֲתָם רְחוּקִים, הָאֲנָשִׁים הָאֵלֶּה, אֵלֶּה הַדְּבָרִים, אֵלֶּה בְּנֵי וְכו'.

**Plural feminine nouns get plural feminine adjectives (even if the plural noun ends in יִם):**

נָשִׁים טוֹבוֹת, פָּרוֹת גְּדוּלוֹת, בְּהֵמוֹת רַבּוֹת, שָׁנִים אַרְבָּכוֹת, עָרִים גְּדוּלוֹת, הֵן שְׂמֵחוֹת, אֲתָן טְהוֹרוֹת, אֵלֶּה תּוֹלְדוֹת וְכו'.



**JSAT L8 Standard 05:** Student can determine the appropriate agreement form between a noun and its numeric modifier e.g. *שְׁלֹשׁ שָׁנִים / שְׁלֹשָׁה אֲבוֹת / אִשָּׁה אַחַת / אִישׁ אֶחָד*.

**In brief:** The rules for this standard are essentially the same as the previous standard in that a noun and its modifier must agree in gender. Remember from standard 03d that the numbers for one and two are different in the masculine and feminine form (אֶחָד/אַחַת שָׁנִים/שָׁנִים) and that numbers 3-9 have the reverse endings for masculine and feminine numbers = שְׁלֹשָׁה = נְקֵבָה, שְׁלֹשׁ = זָכָר). Therefore, if the תּוֹרָה wishes to state “three years”, since שָׁנִים is feminine, its modifier needs to be feminine (שְׁלֹשָׁה). If the תּוֹרָה wishes to describe three months, it will write שְׁלֹשָׁה חֳדָשִׁים. Since חֳדָשׁ is masculine, its modifier needs to be masculine as well (שְׁלֹשָׁה).

The same is true for numbers 11-19. It is "אַרְבַּע עָשָׂר שָׁנִים" and "אַרְבַּעַת עָשָׂר יוֹם". As explained earlier, since the noun שָׁנִים is feminine, it takes the feminine number אַרְבַּע עָשָׂר, whereas since יוֹם is masculine, it takes the masculine number אַרְבַּעַת עָשָׂר.

### The pattern to look for:

#### Masculine nouns take masculine numbers:

אִישׁ אֶחָד, שְׁנֵי לִוְחֹת, שְׁלֹשָׁה אֲבוֹת, אַרְבָּעָה הָרִים, חֲמִשָּׁה סְפָרִים, שֵׁשׁ סְדָרִים, שִׁבְעָה יָמִים, שְׁמוֹנֶה בְּגָדִים, תֵּשַׁע חֲכָמִים, עָשָׂרָה גְּמָלִים, אַחַד עָשָׂר כּוֹכָבִים, שְׁנַיִם עָשָׂר שְׁבָטִים, שְׁלֹשָׁה עָשָׂר יְלָדִים, אַרְבָּעָה עָשָׂר שְׁבוּעוֹת.

#### Feminine nouns take feminine numbers:

אִשָּׁה אַחַת, שְׁתֵּי אֲחִיּוֹת, שְׁלֹשׁ שָׁנִים, אַרְבַּע אֲמָהוֹת, חֲמִשָּׁה תּוֹרוֹת, שֵׁשׁ בָּנוֹת, שִׁבְעָה אֲרָצוֹת, שְׁמוֹנֶה אֲצִבְעוֹת, תֵּשַׁע עֵינַיִם, עָשָׂר בְּהֵמוֹת, אַחַת עָשָׂרָה אֲרָצוֹת, שְׁתֵּים עָשָׂרָה מְלַחְמוֹת, שְׁלֹשׁ עָשָׂרָה אֲמוֹת, אַרְבַּע עָשָׂרָה מְשֻׁפָּחוֹת.

#### Multiples of ten are both masculine and feminine:

עָשָׂרִים יָמִים, עָשָׂרִים שָׁנִים, שְׁלֹשִׁים חֳמֹרִים, שְׁלֹשִׁים בְּהֵמוֹת, אַרְבָּעִים גְּמָלִים, אַרְבָּעִים חֳלוֹת.

#### מֵאָה which is feminine always takes a feminine modifier:

שְׁלֹשׁ מֵאוֹת נָשִׁים, שְׁלֹשׁ מֵאוֹת אֲנָשִׁים, חֲמִשׁ מֵאוֹת פָּרִים, חֲמִשׁ מֵאוֹת פָּרוֹת, שְׁמוֹנֶה מֵאוֹת סוּסִים, שְׁמוֹנֶה מֵאוֹת בְּהֵמוֹת.

#### אֶלֶף which is masculine always takes a masculine modifier (אֶלֶף/אלפי):

שְׁלֹשָׁה אֶלְפִים מְשֻׁפָּחוֹת, שְׁלֹשָׁה אֶלְפִים שְׁקָלִים, חֲמִשָּׁה אֶלְפִי אִישׁ, חֲמִשָּׁה אֶלְפִים שָׁנָה, שִׁבְעַת אֶלְפֵי צֶאֱן, שִׁבְעַת אֶלְפֵי מִתִּים.

#### Even with larger numbers, the single unit numbers are masculine or feminine depending on the noun they modify:

עָשָׂרִים וּשְׁתֵּים עָשָׂר חֲכָמִים, עָשָׂרִים וּשְׁנַיִם חֲכָמִים, אַרְבַּע מֵאוֹת חֲמִשִּׁים וְאַחַת יְלָדוֹת, אַרְבַּע מֵאוֹת חֲמִשִּׁים וְאַחַד יְלָדִים, אַרְבַּע מֵאוֹת חֲמִשִּׁים וְאַחַת יְלָדוֹת.

**JSAT L8 Standard 06:** Student can translate the prefixes of מִשָּׁה וְכֵלָב when they appear with nouns e.g. מִמִּצְרַיִם, לְמִצְרַיִם.

**In brief:** This standard is very fundamental. See the pattern in the table below.

that Egypt	שִׁמִּצְרַיִם	from Egypt	מִמִּצְרַיִם	like Egypt	כְּמִצְרַיִם	the Egyptians	הַמִּצְרַיִם
		to Egypt	לְמִצְרַיִם	and Egypt	וּמִצְרַיִם	in Egypt	בְּמִצְרַיִם

**The pattern:** בּ = in/on/against, הַ = the, וְ = and, כְּ = like, לְ = to, מִ = from, שִׁ = that.

**Important:** In addition to the הַ הִדְיָעָה, there is also another type of הַ that can come before a noun or a verb and it is called the "הַ הַשְׁאָלָה" the הַ which indicates a question is being asked. For example, in the following פְּסוּקָה – וַיִּשְׁאַל לָהֶם לְשָׁלוֹם וַיֹּאמֶר הַשְׁלֹם אֲבִיכֶם הַזֶּקֶן אֲשֶׁר אָמַרְתֶּם הַעֲדֹנּוּ הִי: – is talking to his brothers, and he asks them "הַשְׁלֹם אֲבִיכֶם הַזֶּקֶן אֲשֶׁר אָמַרְתֶּם" – "Is there peace to your old father that you have spoken about? הַעֲדֹנּוּ הִי Is he still alive? The הַ on the word הַזֶּקֶן is a הַ הִדְיָעָה, whereas the הַ on the words הַשְׁלֹם and הַעֲדֹנּוּ are a הַ הַשְׁאָלָה – the הַ הַשְׁאָלָה which indicates a question. Usually, you can rely on context to recognize the difference between the two.

**Note:** If there is a חֶטֶף פָּתַח under the הַ prefix it is undoubtedly a הַ הַשְׁאָלָה. For example, הַשּׁוֹמֵר אֶחָי אֲנִכִּי is a statement (I am my brother's keeper). However, הַשּׁוֹמֵר אֶחָי אֲנִכִּי is a question (am I my brother's keeper? (See 'רִשְׁשִׁי בְּרֹאשִׁית ד':ט'))

**JSAT L8 Standard 07:** Student can translate a combined or contracted prefix e.g. וְהָאִישׁ or בְּבֵית (ב + ה = בְּ).

**In brief:** In addition to combining with one prefix letter, nouns can combine with two prefix letters. For example, the word "וְהָאִישׁ" has two prefix letters, the ו which means “and” as well the ה which means “the”. Thus, וְהָאִישׁ means “and the man”.

It is also important to note that sometimes the prefix ה (also known as the "ה' הַיְדִיעָה") can drop and its נְקוּדָה moves to the letter before it to make a contracted form of the word. This can occur in the letters מ.ב.כ.ל.מ. For example, to say, “in the house”, one does not use the term "בְּבֵית", but rather the contracted form of "בְּבֵית". Notice how the הַיְדִיעָה of the theoretical word "בְּבֵית" has dropped out and its נְקוּדָה of פֶּתַח transferred to the prefix letter ב before it. As such, there is a difference between the words "בְּבֵית" and "בִּבְיֶת". The word "בִּבְיֶת" means “in the house” (a specific house) whereas "בְּבֵית" means “in a house” (a non-specified house). The same is true of other prefix letters. For example, "לְשָׂדֶה" is the contracted form of "לְהַשְׂדֶּה" and means “to the field” whereas "לְשָׂדֶה" means “to a field”. "לְעִיר" means “to the city” whereas "לְעִיר" means “to a city”.

**Tip:** If the first letter is a שְׁוָא, it is not a prefix that means “the”. See chart below.

**The pattern to look for:** Prefix letter + הַיְדִיעָה = first letter with הַיְדִיעָה נְקוּדָה.

like <b>the</b> city	בְּעִיר	like <b>the</b> man	בְּאִישׁ	to <b>the</b> field	לְשָׂדֶה	in <b>the</b> house	בְּבֵית
like <b>a</b> city	בְּעִיר	like <b>a</b> man	בְּאִישׁ	to <b>a</b> field	לְשָׂדֶה	in <b>a</b> house	בִּבְיֶת

**JSAT L8 Standard 08:** Student can translate a ה"א המגמה e.g. מצרימה = to Egypt.

**In brief:** Although a ה at the end of a word often indicates the word is feminine, the ה can have another function in that it acts as the letter ל at the start of a word. Thus, מצרימה means “to מצרים”, תרנה = “to תרן”. This ה"א which is known as the ה המגמה (the directional ה"א) can also attach itself to common nouns. For example, ארצה = “to the ground” or צפונה means “to the north”. Even words like "למעלה" and "שמה" have a ה המגמה attached to them.

When there is a ה"א at the start of the word, it translates as “to the”. For example, הביתה means “to **the** house” (and not “the house”), האהלה means “to **the** tent” (and not “the tent”), etc.

**Note:** This ה should not be confused with a ה"א with a dot in it (known as a מפיק ה"א). The מפיק ה"א translates as “her” e.g. ארצה = **her** land, ביתה = **her** house (see Standard 11a). As noted, this should also not be confused with the regular ה at the end of a word which indicates the noun is feminine e.g. מלכה, ביהמה (Standard 03b).

**The pattern to look for:**

**ה at the end of a word can equal ל at the start of a word:** מצרימה = to מצרים, ארצה = to the ground, הביתה = to the house, האהלה = to the tent.



**JSAT L8 Standard 09:** Student can translate Hebrew numbers from 1-999,999 e.g. מאה עשרים  $127 =$  וְשֵׁבַע.

**In brief:** The תורה does not have numerals to represent numbers but instead uses words. Translating numbers simply requires adding up the value of the words. For example,  $127 = (7) \text{ וְשֵׁבַע} + (20) \text{ עָשָׂרִים} + (100) \text{ מֵאָה} =$  מאה עשרים וְשֵׁבַע.

One thing to be aware of is that **the word order is usually different in the תורה than those of the numbers that you are used to using.** Meaning, in the English numbering system, the first number always has the highest value, and the following number is always lower, and so forth. For example, in the number 14,276, the one is in the tens thousand unit column and has a value of ten thousand, the next numeral four is in the thousand unit column and has a value of four thousand. Each successive numeral has a value that is lower than the numeral before it. However, when the תורה writes numbers, it usually does not go in that order. For example, in the פסוק of וַיְהִי חֲנוּךְ חָמֵשׁ וָשֵׁשִׁים שָׁנָה, note how the lower number חָמֵשׁ which has a value of five comes **before** the higher number of וָשֵׁשִׁים which has a value of sixty. As such, care must be taken not to translate the number שָׁשֶׁה וָשֵׁבַע אֲלֶף as 67,000 but rather as 76,000. In this case, the “tens of thousands” appears **AFTER** the thousands.

**The pattern to look for:**

**When translating large numbers, beware that sometimes the lower unit values come before the higher ones.** Thus, for example, the number שָׁשֶׁה וָשֵׁבַע אֲלֶף is not 67,000 but rather 76,000. אַרְבָּעָה וְחֲמִשִּׁים אֲלֶף is 54,000 not 45,000.

**JSAT L8 Standard 10: Student can translate two nouns that appear בְּסִמְכּוּת e.g. = בֵּית פְּרָעָה = אֶחָד יוֹסֵף = הָאֲחָיִים שֶׁל יוֹסֵף, הַבֵּית שֶׁל פְּרָעָה**

**In brief:** There is no word "שֶׁל" in the חֲמֵשׁ. The word "שֶׁל" means “of” or “belonging to”. To accomplish this meaning, the חֲמֵשׁ simply places two nouns next to each other and the idea of “שֶׁל” is understood. This is known as סִמְכּוּת (סָמוּךְ = next to, i.e. the two nouns are placed next to each other). For example, if the תוֹרָה wishes to talk about “the hand of מֹשֶׁה”, i.e. יָדוֹ שֶׁל מֹשֶׁה, it will simply write “יָד מֹשֶׁה” which translates as “the hand of מֹשֶׁה”.

**Note:** Some changes take place to the first word in סִמְכּוּת. For example, the feminine ה־ ending gets converted to a ת (e.g. הַבְּרָכָה שֶׁל מֹשֶׁה = הַבְּרָכָה שֶׁל מֹשֶׁה). For plural nouns ending in ים, the ם drops and the ה־ before the final י is replaced with a צִירִי (e.g. הַבָּנִים שֶׁל יִשְׂרָאֵל = הַבָּנִים שֶׁל יִשְׂרָאֵל). The ו־ however, does not change in סִמְכּוּת. (In general, the נֶקוּד often becomes “shorter” in סִמְכּוּת, e.g. the two קִמְצִים in the word בְּרָכָה disappear and become בְּרַכַּת.)

**Note:** In סִמְכּוּת the “definiteness” of the phrase (i.e. the concept of “the”) depends on the נֶקֶד (the second word). Thus, if we are talking about a *specific* person or thing, the whole phrase is definite whereas if the second word is not definite (i.e. no ה־ הִדְיָעָה) then the whole phrase is not definite. For example, יָד מֹשֶׁה = “the hand of מֹשֶׁה”. Since מֹשֶׁה is a *specific* person, the translation of the word יָד is also specific (the hand). Also, שִׁמְלַת רַעְהוֹ = “the garment of his friend” since רַעְהוֹ is a *specific* person, therefore, the word שִׁמְלָה is translated with definiteness (the garment). However, לֵב אִישׁ translates as “a heart of a man” since אִישׁ is not definite. Therefore לֵב is not translated as definite either. (However, לֵב הָאִישׁ would translate as “the heart of the man”.)

### The pattern to look for:

**Two nouns next to each other translate as “of”. This is known as סִמְכּוּת.**

הַקוֹל שֶׁל הַשֵּׁם > קוֹל הַשֵּׁם = “the voice of הַשֵּׁם”, הָעֵצִים שֶׁל הַשָּׂדֶה > עֵצֵי הַשָּׂדֶה = “the trees of הַשָּׂדֶה”, לֵב אִישׁ > לֵב שֶׁל אִישׁ = “a heart of a man”.

**If the first noun ends in ה־, the ה־ will turn into a ת.**

הַבְּרָכָה שֶׁל יַעֲקֹב > בְּרַכַּת יַעֲקֹב = “the blessing of יַעֲקֹב”, הַשִּׁמְלָה שֶׁל רַעְהוֹ > שִׁמְלַת רַעְהוֹ = “the garment of רַעְהוֹ”, הַחֲסִיָּה שֶׁל הַשָּׂדֶה > חֲסִית הַשָּׂדֶה = “the animal of הַשָּׂדֶה”, הַתּוֹרָה שֶׁל הַשֵּׁם > תּוֹרַת הַשֵּׁם = “the of הַשֵּׁם תּוֹרָה”.

**If the first noun is plural and ends in ים. (even if it is feminine), the ם will drop off, and a צִירִי will go under the letter before the י.**

שָׁנֵי חַיָּוִי > שְׁנֵי חַיָּוִי = “the years of his life”, בְּגָדֵי יַעֲקֹב > בְּגָדֵי יַעֲקֹב = “the clothing of יַעֲקֹב”, הַבָּנִים שֶׁל יִשְׂרָאֵל > בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל = “the children of יִשְׂרָאֵל”, יָמֵי חֹשֶׁךְ > יָמֵי חֹשֶׁךְ = “days of darkness”, אֲנָשֵׁי יְרוּשָׁלַיִם > אֲנָשֵׁי יְרוּשָׁלַיִם = “the people of יְרוּשָׁלַיִם”.

**If the first noun is plural and ends in ו־, the ו־ will not drop in סִמְכּוּת.**

הַבָּנוֹת שֶׁל צִלְפָּחֵד > בָּנוֹת צִלְפָּחֵד = “the daughters of צִלְפָּחֵד”, הַשְּׁמוֹת שֶׁל יִשְׂרָאֵל > שְׁמוֹת יִשְׂרָאֵל = “the names of יִשְׂרָאֵל”, הַמִּלְחָמוֹת שֶׁל דָּוִד > מִלְחָמוֹת דָּוִד = “the battles of דָּוִד”.

**JSAT L8 Standard 11a:** Student can translate singular nouns attached to a possessive suffix  
e.g. ידי, ידך, ידו.

**Important:** It cannot be emphasized enough that this standard is extremely important as it is the key to understanding nearly all the other word forms and suffixes that will follow.

The chart below demonstrates how singular nouns combine with suffixes to indicate possession (my hand, your hand, etc.).

Referring to one person יחיד / יחידה	in 1 <sup>st</sup> person	(m.s. / f.s.)	my hand	יָדִי	←	יָד שְׁלִי	.1
	in 2 <sup>nd</sup> person	(m. s.)	your hand	יָדְךָ	←	יָד שְׁלָךְ	.2
		(f.s.)	your hand	יָדְךָ	←	יָד שְׁלָךְ	.3
	in 3 <sup>rd</sup> person	(m.s.)	his hand	יָדוֹ	←	יָד שְׁלוֹ	.4
		(f.s.)	her hand	יָדָהּ	←	יָד שְׁלָהּ	.5
Referring to two or more people רבים / רבות	in 1 <sup>st</sup> person	(m.p. / f.p.)	our hand	יָדֵנוּ	←	יָד שְׁלָנוּ	.6
	in 2 <sup>nd</sup> person	(m.p.)	your hand	יָדְכֶם	←	יָד שְׁלָכֶם	.7
		(f.p.)	your hand	יָדְכֶן	←	יָד שְׁלָכֶן	.8
	in 3 <sup>rd</sup> person	(m.p.)	their hand	יָדָם	←	יָד שְׁלָהֶם	.9
		(f.p.)	their hand	יָדָן	←	יָד שְׁלָהֶן	.10
m. = masculine (זָכָר), f = feminine (נְקֵבָה), s. = singular (יָחִיד/יָחִידָה), p. = plural (רַבִּים/רַבּוֹת). First person = my (s.) or our (p.). Second person = your. Third person = his/her/their.							

**The pattern to look for:** You must be able to translate the suffixes on these words accurately. In addition, you should know precisely who each suffix is referring to (ידך = your hand, i.e., one man who is present and not the speaker – i.e. 2<sup>nd</sup> person masculine singular).

**Singular nouns that don't end in ה :** ידי, ידך, ידו, ידה, ידנו, ידכם, ידכן, ידם, ידן.

**Singular nouns that end in ה :** ברכתך, ברכתך, ברכתו, ברכתה, ברכתנו, ברכתכם, ברכתו, ברכתי, ברכתם, ברכתן.

(Note: The second pattern is the same as the first except that the ה has turned to a ת due to סמיכות.)

**JSAT L8 Standard 11b:** Student can translate plural nouns attached to a possessive suffix e.g. יָדַי, יָדֶיךָ, יָדָיו.

**In brief:** This is essentially the same idea as the previous standard except that it refers to plural nouns. For example, how does one say in Hebrew, “my hands”, “your hands”, or “our hands”, etc.? Referring to our previous example, you might think to say "הַיָּדַיִם שְׁלִי" or "הַיָּדַיִם שְׁלֶךָ" etc. But as we know already, the word שֶׁל does not exist in the חֲמִשָּׁה. The answer is, again we do סְמִיכוּת. As we have seen in Standard 10, when plural nouns end in ים, in סְמִיכוּת the ם drops off. As such, "הַיָּדַיִם שְׁלֶךָ" becomes "יָדֶיךָ", and "הַיָּדַיִם שְׁלִי" becomes "יָדַי" etc. **Or in other words, to indicate possession of a plural noun, the סְמִיכוּת plural form is used. This means a י is added between the noun and its suffix to indicate the plural noun. See the chart below:**

Referring to one person יחיד / יחידה	in 1 <sup>st</sup> person	(m.s. / f.s.)	my hands	יָדַי	←	יָדַי	.1
	in 2 <sup>nd</sup> person	(m. s.)	your hands	יָדֶיךָ	←	יָדֶיךָ	.2
		(f.s.)	your hands	יָדֶיךָ	←	יָדֶיךָ	.3
	in 3 <sup>rd</sup> person	(m.s.)	his hands	יָדָיו	←	יָדָיו	.4
		(f.s.)	her hands	יָדֶיהָ	←	יָדֶיהָ	.5
Referring to two or more people רבים / רבות	in 1 <sup>st</sup> person	(m.p. / f.p.)	our hands	יָדֵינוּ	←	יָדֵינוּ	.6
	in 2 <sup>nd</sup> person	(m.p.)	your hands	יָדֵיכֶם	←	יָדֵיכֶם	.7
		(f.p.)	your hands	יָדֵיכֶן	←	יָדֵיכֶן	.8
	in 3 <sup>rd</sup> person	(m.p.)	their hands	יָדֵיהֶם	←	יָדֶם	.9
		(f.p.)	their hands	יָדֵיהֶן	←	יָדֶן	.10
m. = masculine (זָכָר), f = feminine (נְקֵבָה), s. = singular (יחיד/יחידה), p. = plural (רבים/רבות). First person = my (s.) or our (p.). Second person = your. Third person = his/her/their.							

**The pattern to look for:** You must be able to translate the suffixes on these words accurately. In addition, you should know precisely who each suffix is referring to (יָדֶיךָ = your hands, i.e., one woman who is present and not the speaker – i.e. 2<sup>nd</sup> person feminine singular).

**Plural nouns that end in ים:** יָדַי, יָדֶיךָ, יָדָיו, יָדֵינוּ, יָדֵיכֶם, יָדֵיכֶן, יָדֵיהֶם, יָדֵיהֶן.

**Plural nouns that end in ות:** בְּרִכּוֹתַי, בְּרִכּוֹתֶיךָ, בְּרִכּוֹתָיו, בְּרִכּוֹתֶיהָ, בְּרִכּוֹתֵינוּ, בְּרִכּוֹתֵיכֶם, בְּרִכּוֹתֵיכֶן, בְּרִכּוֹתֵיהֶם, בְּרִכּוֹתֵיהֶן.



## Chumash Decoding Skills Guide

**JSAT L8 Standard 13:** Student can translate a קל/פעל verb in the past tense e.g. שָׁמַר, שָׁמְרָה, שָׁמְרָתִי.

A verb is a word that describes “action” (e.g. jumped, wrote, loved, etc.). The שָׁרַשׁ of פ.ע.ל. in Hebrew is related to “work” or “action”. As such, it was chosen by early grammarians to describe a verb. A קל/פעל verb (unlike other verb forms) does not require any extra letters (aside from the standard prefixes or suffixes) when describing the action. Examples of קל/פעל verbs include words like יָצָא, לָקַח, הָלַךְ, שָׁמַר, אָמַר, נָתַן, עָשָׂה etc. These are all examples of “past tense” קל/פעל verbs where the action was done by a singular 3<sup>rd</sup> person male in the past e.g. אָמַר = “he said” (see standard 14 for future tense verbs). The letters of the שָׁרַשׁ can combine with other suffix letters to indicate who completed the action.

**In brief:** A קל/פעל past tense verb (e.g. שָׁמַר), combines with a suffix to indicate the person who has completed the action (e.g. שָׁמַר + אָנִי = שָׁמְרָתִי).

Referring to one person / יחיד / יחידה	in 1 <sup>st</sup> person	(m.s. / f.s.)	I watched	שָׁמְרָתִי	←	שָׁמַר + אָנִי	1.
	in 2 <sup>nd</sup> person	(m. s.)	you watched	שָׁמְרָתָּ	←	שָׁמַר + אַתָּה	2.
		(f.s.)	you watched	שָׁמְרָתְּ	←	שָׁמַר + אַתְּ	3.
	in 3 <sup>rd</sup> person	(m.s.)	he watched	שָׁמַר	←	שָׁמַר + הוּא	4.
		(f.s.)	she watched	שָׁמְרָה	←	שָׁמַר + הִיא	5.
Referring to two or more people / רבים / רבות	in 1 <sup>st</sup> person	(m.p. / f.p.)	we watched	שָׁמְרָנוּ	←	שָׁמַר + אֲנַחְנוּ	6.
	in 2 <sup>nd</sup> person	(m.p.)	you watched	שָׁמְרָתֶם	←	שָׁמַר + אַתֶּם	7.
		(f.p.)	you watched	שָׁמְרַתְּו	←	שָׁמַר + אַתֶּן	8.
	in 3 <sup>rd</sup> person	(m.p.)	they watched	שָׁמְרוּ	←	שָׁמַר + הֵם	9.
		(f.p.)	they watched	שָׁמְרוּ	←	שָׁמַר + הֵן	10.

m. = masculine (זָכָר), f = feminine (נְקֵבָה), s. = singular (יחיד/יחידה), p. = plural (רבים/רבות).  
First person = I (s.) we (p.). Second person = you. Third person = they.

**Note:** Notice how numbers 9-10 are the same in the table above (שָׁמְרוּ).

**The pattern to look for – ש.מ.ר. (watch/guard):** שָׁמַר, הוּא שָׁמְרָתְּ, אַתָּה שָׁמְרָתִי, אַתָּה שָׁמְרָתְּ, אַתָּה שָׁמְרָתְּ, אַתָּה שָׁמְרָתְּ, אַתָּה שָׁמְרָתְּ, אַתָּה שָׁמְרָתְּ, אַתָּה שָׁמְרָתְּ, אַתָּה שָׁמְרָתְּ. (This is a sample of שָׁרַשׁ – all letters of the שָׁרַשׁ are present and pronounced.)

**The pattern to look for – ש.י.מ. (place/put):** שָׁמַר, הוּא שָׁמְרָתְּ, אַתָּה שָׁמְרָתִי, אַתָּה שָׁמְרָתְּ, אַתָּה שָׁמְרָתְּ, אַתָּה שָׁמְרָתְּ, אַתָּה שָׁמְרָתְּ, אַתָּה שָׁמְרָתְּ, אַתָּה שָׁמְרָתְּ, אַתָּה שָׁמְרָתְּ. (This is an example of where the middle letter of the שָׁרַשׁ is a י. Notice how the middle letter (י) drops, but the overall pattern remains the same.)

**The pattern to look for – ק.ג.ה. (acquire/make):** שָׁמַר, הוּא שָׁמְרָתְּ, אַתָּה שָׁמְרָתִי, אַתָּה שָׁמְרָתְּ, אַתָּה שָׁמְרָתְּ, אַתָּה שָׁמְרָתְּ, אַתָּה שָׁמְרָתְּ, אַתָּה שָׁמְרָתְּ, אַתָּה שָׁמְרָתְּ, אַתָּה שָׁמְרָתְּ. (This is an example of where the third letter of the שָׁרַשׁ is a ה. The ה mostly turns into a י. Again, the overall pattern remains the same.)

**JSAT L8 Standard 14:** Student can translate a קל/פעל verb in the future tense e.g. אֶשְׁמַר, נִשְׁמַר.

**In brief:** To indicate future tense, either an ת, י, א, or נ (also known as איתן) are placed before the שרש according to the following pattern.

Referring to one person / יחיד / יחידה	in 1 <sup>st</sup> person	(m.s. / f.s.)	I will watch	אֶשְׁמַר	←	אני	1.
	in 2 <sup>nd</sup> person	(m. s.)	you will watch	תִּשְׁמַר	←	אתה	2.
		(f.s.)	you will watch	תִּשְׁמָרִי	←	את	3.
	in 3 <sup>rd</sup> person	(m.s.)	he will watch	יִשְׁמַר	←	הוא	4.
		(f.s.)	she will watch	תִּשְׁמַר	←	היא	5.
Referring to two or more people / רבים / רבות	in 1 <sup>st</sup> person	(m.p. / f.p.)	we will watch	נִשְׁמַר	←	אנחנו	6.
	in 2 <sup>nd</sup> person	(m.p.)	you will watch	תִּשְׁמְרוּ	←	אתם	7.
		(f.p.)	you will watch	תִּשְׁמַרְנָה	←	אתן	8.
	in 3 <sup>rd</sup> person	(m.p.)	they will watch	יִשְׁמְרוּ	←	הם	9.
		(f.p.)	they will watch	תִּשְׁמַרְנָה	←	הן	10.

m. = masculine (זָכָר), f = feminine (נְקֵבָה), s. = singular (יָחִיד/יחידה), p. = plural (רַבִּים/רבות).  
First person = I (s.) we (p.). Second person = you. Third person = they.

**Note:** Notice how the same word תִּשְׁמַר is used both for אתה and היא. Also, the same word תִּשְׁמַרְנָה is used for אתן and הן. Also, it is worth noting that the suffix וי has the same translation value as י (e.g. תִּשְׁמְרוּ = תִּשְׁמְרוּן).

**The pattern to look for – ש.מ.ר. (watch/guard):** היא, הוא, תִּשְׁמַר, תִּשְׁמָרִי, תִּשְׁמַרְנָה, תִּשְׁמַרְנָה. (This is a sample of שְׁרָשׁ – all letters of the שְׁרָשׁ are present and pronounced.)

**The pattern to look for – נ.פ.ל. (acquire/make):** היא תִּפְלֵ, הוא יִפְלֵ, תִּפְלֵ, תִּפְלֵי, תִּפְלֵי, תִּפְלֵי. (This is an example where the first letter of the שְׁרָשׁ is a נ. Notice how the נ tends to drop off. – See Standard 02.)

**The pattern to look for: – ל.ק.ח. (took):** היא תִּקַּח, הוא יִקַּח, תִּקַּח, תִּקַּחִי, תִּקַּחְנָה, תִּקַּחְנָה. (Notice how for the שְׁרָשׁ of ל.ק.ח. the ל drops off in the future tense. – See Standard 02.)

**JSAT L8 Standard 15a:** Student can translate a word that has a הִהפּוּךְ 'ו' from עָתִיד to עָבֵר.

**In brief:** As indicated in the previous standard, the prefix letters א.י.ת.ג. make a verb future tense. However, if the future tense letters א.י.ת.ג. are preceded by ו and the א.י.ת.ג. contain a דָּגֶשׁ, or if a ו precedes the future tense א, then the 'ו' reverses the future tense verb to past tense. The is known as a הִהפּוּךְ מַעְתִּיד לְעָבֵר 'ו'. For example, וַיֹּאמֶר = he **will say**, וַיֹּאמֶר = (and) he **said**. אֶתֵּן = I will give, וְאֶתֵּן = (and) I gave). (Also, וְ with no דָּגֶשׁ in the 'ו', e.g. וְהָיָה = it shall be, וְהָיָה = (and) it was.)

**Note:** Since there are only four possible future tense prefix letters (אֵיתֵן) therefore a הִהפּוּךְ 'ו' from עָתִיד to עָבֵר can only come before those four letters like this: וַיֹּאמֶר, וַיֵּלֶךְ, וַיִּשָּׂא, וַיִּהְיֶה.

Referring to one person / יחיד יחידה	in 1 <sup>st</sup> person	(m.s. / f.s.)	(and) I watched	וְאֶשְׁמַר	I will watch	⬅	אֶשְׁמַר	.1
	in 2 <sup>nd</sup> person	(m. s.)	(and) you watched	וְתִשְׁמַר	you will watch	⬅	תִּשְׁמַר	.2
		(f.s.)	(and) you watched	וְתִשְׁמְרִי	you will watch	⬅	תִּשְׁמְרִי	.3
	in 3 <sup>rd</sup> person	(m.s.)	(and) he watched	וְיִשְׁמַר	he will watch	⬅	יִשְׁמַר	.4
		(f.s.)	(and) you watched	וְתִשְׁמַר	she will watch	⬅	תִּשְׁמַר	.5
Referring to two or more people / רבים רבות	in 1 <sup>st</sup> person	(m.p. / f.p.)	(and) we watched	וְנִשְׁמַר	we will watch	⬅	נִשְׁמַר	.6
	in 2 <sup>nd</sup> person	(m.p.)	(and) you watched	וְתִשְׁמְרוּ	you will watch	⬅	תִּשְׁמְרוּ	.7
		(f.p.)	(and) you watched	וְתִשְׁמְרֶנָּה	you will watch	⬅	תִּשְׁמְרֶנָּה	.8
	in 3 <sup>rd</sup> person	(m.p.)	(and) they watched	וְיִשְׁמְרוּ	they will watch	⬅	יִשְׁמְרוּ	.9
		(f.p.)	and they watched	וְתִשְׁמְרֶנָּה	they will watch	⬅	תִּשְׁמְרֶנָּה	.10
m. = masculine (זָכָר), f = feminine (נְקֵבָה), s. = singular (יחיד/יחידה), p. = plural (רבים/רבות). First person = I (s.) we (p.). Second person = you. Third person = they.								

**The pattern to look for:** The prefix letters וַיֹּאמֶר, וַיֵּלֶךְ, וַיִּשָּׂא, or וַיִּהְיֶה reverses a future tense verb to a past tense verb.



**JSAT L8 Standard 15b: Student can translate a word that has a הַפְּוֹד from עָבַר to לָעָתִיד.**

**In brief:** A ו' that is a prefix letter to a past tense verb will usually make it future tense.

**Note:** Sometimes you will need to rely on context to decide if it is a לָעָתִיד מְעַבֵּר הַפְּוֹד or a regular ו' הַחֲבִיר (a connecting ו').

Referring to one person / יָחִיד / יָחִידָה	in 1 <sup>st</sup> person	(m.s. / f.s.)	(and) I will watch	וְשָׁמַרְתִּי	I watched	⬅	שָׁמַרְתִּי	1.
	in 2 <sup>nd</sup> person	(m. s.)	(and) you will watch	וְשָׁמַרְתָּ	you watched	⬅	שָׁמַרְתָּ	2.
		(f.s.)	(and) you will watch	וְשָׁמַרְתְּ	you watched	⬅	שָׁמַרְתְּ	3.
	in 3 <sup>rd</sup> person	(m.s.)	(and) he will watch	וְשָׁמַר	he watched	⬅	שָׁמַר	4.
		(f.s.)	(and) she will watch	וְשָׁמְרָה	she watched	⬅	שָׁמְרָה	5.
Referring to two or more people / רַבִּים / רַבּוֹת	in 1 <sup>st</sup> person	(m.p. / f.p.)	(and) we will watch	וְשָׁמְרָנוּ	we watched	⬅	שָׁמְרָנוּ	6.
	in 2 <sup>nd</sup> person	(m.p.)	(and) you will watch	וְשָׁמַרְתֶּם	you watched	⬅	שָׁמַרְתֶּם	7.
		(f.p.)	(and) you will watch	וְשָׁמַרְתֶּן	you watched	⬅	שָׁמַרְתֶּן	8.
	in 3 <sup>rd</sup> person	(m.p.)	(and) they will watch	וְשָׁמְרוּ	they watched	⬅	שָׁמְרוּ	9.
		(f.p.)	(and) they will watch	וְשָׁמְרוּ	they watched	⬅	שָׁמְרוּ	10.
m. = masculine (זָכָר), f = feminine (נְקֵבָה), s. = singular (יָחִיד/יָחִידָה), p. = plural (רַבִּים/רַבּוֹת). First person = I (s.) we (p.). Second person = you. Third person = they.								

it shall be = וְהָיָה	was = הָיָה	וְלֹא־יָקֻרָא עוֹד אֶת־שִׁמְךָ אֲבָרָם וְהָיָה שִׁמְךָ אֲבָרָהם...
(and) you shall take = וְלָקַחְתָּ	you took = לָקַחְתָּ	כִּי אֶל־אֶרֶצִי וְאֶל־מוֹלָדְתִּי תִלָּךְ וְלָקַחְתָּ אִשָּׁה לְבָנִי...
and you shall do = וַעֲשִׂיתֶם	you have done = עָשִׂיתֶם	לִמְעַן תִּזְכְּרוּ וַעֲשִׂיתֶם אוֹתָם...

**The pattern to look for:** A ו' before a past tense verb will usually make it future tense.

**JSAT L8 Standard 16:** Student can translate a קל/פעל verb in the present tense e.g. / הוא שומר / שומר.

**In brief:** There are only four forms for **active** present tense verbs (an active verb is a verb where someone or something is doing an action.) For example, for the שרש of ש.מ.ר. the four active forms are שומר, שומרת, שומרים, שומרות.

Referring to one person / יחיד יחידה	in 1 <sup>st</sup> person	(m.s. / f.s.)	I am watching	שׁוֹמֵר	⬅	אֲנִי	1.
	in 2 <sup>nd</sup> person	(m. s.)	you are watching	שׁוֹמֵר	⬅	אַתָּה	2.
		(f.s.)	you are watching	שׁוֹמֶרֶת	⬅	אַתְּ	3.
	in 3 <sup>rd</sup> person	(m.s.)	he is watching	שׁוֹמֵר	⬅	הוא	4.
		(f.s.)	she is watching	שׁוֹמֶרֶת	⬅	היא	5.
Referring to two or more people / רבים רבות	in 1 <sup>st</sup> person	(m.p. / f.p.)	we are watching	שׁוֹמְרִים	⬅	אֲנַחְנוּ	6.
	in 2 <sup>nd</sup> person	(m.p.)	you are watching	שׁוֹמְרִים	⬅	אַתֶּם	7.
		(f.p.)	you are watching	שׁוֹמְרוֹת	⬅	אַתֶּן	8.
	in 3 <sup>rd</sup> person	(m.p.)	they are watching	שׁוֹמְרִים	⬅	הֵם	9.
		(f.p.)	they are watching	שׁוֹמְרוֹת	⬅	הֵן	10.
m. = masculine (זָכָר), f = feminine (נְקֵבָה), s. = singular (יָחִיד/יְחִידָה), p. = plural (רַבִּים/רַבּוֹת). First person = I (s.) we (p.). Second person = you. Third person = they.							

**Note:** Present tense active verbs can be nouns as well. For example, שומרים, שופטים, אורגות etc.

There are also four forms for **passive** verbs (where someone or something is receiving an action), but they are slightly different. The four forms are שומר, שומרה, שומרים, שומרות.

Referring to one person / יחיד יחידה	in 1 <sup>st</sup> person	(m.s. / f.s.)	I am guarded	שָׁמוּר	←	אֲנִי	1.
	in 2 <sup>nd</sup> person	(m. s.)	you are guarded	שָׁמוּר	←	אַתָּה	2.
		(f.s.)	you are guarded	שָׁמוּרָה	←	אַתְּ	3.
	in 3 <sup>rd</sup> person	(m.s.)	he is guarded	שָׁמוּר	←	הוא	4.
		(f.s.)	she is guarded	שָׁמוּרָה	←	היא	5.
Referring to two or more people / רבים רבות	in 1 <sup>st</sup> person	(m.p. / f.p.)	we are guarded	שָׁמוּרִים	←	אֲנַחְנוּ	6.
	in 2 <sup>nd</sup> person	(m.p.)	you are guarded	שָׁמוּרִים	←	אַתֶּם	7.
		(f.p.)	you are guarded	שָׁמוּרוֹת	←	אַתֶּן	8.
	in 3 <sup>rd</sup> person	(m.p.)	they are guarded	שָׁמוּרִים	←	הֵם	9.
		(f.p.)	they are guarded	שָׁמוּרוֹת	←	הֵן	10.
m. = masculine (זָכָר), f = feminine (נְקֵבָה), s. = singular (יָחִיד/יְחִידָה), p. = plural (רַבִּים/רַבּוֹת). First person = I (s.) we (p.). Second person = you. Third person = they.							

The pattern to look for: שומרים, שומרת, שומר indicate **active** present tense verbs whereas שמורים, שמורה, שמור indicate **passive** present tense verbs.

**JSAT L8 Standard 17:** Student can translate a קל/פעל verb in the form of a command (צווי) e.g. שמרי

**In brief:** A direct command (צווי) can only be given in the second person (as you can't issue a direct command to yourself (first person) or to someone who is not present (third person)). As such, there are only four possible forms of a direct command a) to a single male who is present, b) to a single female who is present, c) to a group of males who are present or d) to a group of females who are present. The four forms for a צווי are: שמר, שמרי, שמרו, שמרנה.

Referring to one person / יחיד / יחידה	in 2 <sup>nd</sup> person	(m. s.)	Guard!	שָׁמַר	←	אַתָּה	1.
		(f.s.)	Guard!	שָׁמְרִי	←	אַתְּ	2.
Referring to two or more people / רבים / רבות	in 2 <sup>nd</sup> person	(m.p.)	Guard!	שָׁמְרוּ	←	אַתֶּם	3.
		(f.p.)	Guard!	שָׁמְרֵנָה	←	אַתֶּן	4.
m. = masculine (זָכָר), f = feminine (נְקֵבָה), s. = singular (יְחִיד/יְחִידָה), p. = plural (רַבִּים/רַבּוֹת). Second person = you.							

**Note:** שמרים like שמר, שמרת, שמור tend to lose a letter in צווי. For example, שמר > שמר, שמרת > שמרת, שמור > שמור.

**Note:** Often, the second person masculine form will have a ה suffix added to it. For example, שמר > שמרה, שמרת > שמרתה, שמור > שמורו, שמרנה > שמרנה etc.

The pattern to look for: The four forms of צווי (a direct second person command) are:

שמר, שמרי, שמרו, שמרנה.

**JSAT L8 Standard 18: Student can translate a קל/פעל verb in the form of an infinitive (מקור)**  
e.g. ידע (תדע) / ללכת.

**In brief:** The מקור is a verb that describes an action, however it does not have time, person, number or gender associated with it e.g. לשמר or פקד פקדתי.

In general, all verbs have time, action, person, number, and gender associated with them. For example, "שמרת" means, "you guarded". This single word has time (past), action (guarded), person (second person), number (singular) and gender (feminine). Another example, "ישמרו" means "they will guard". Again, we have time (future), action (guard), person (third person), number (plural) and gender (masculine). The מקור however, lacks time, person, number or gender. For example, the word "אכל" simply refers to the act of "eating" as in "אכל תאכל". It does not indicate who is doing the eating or when. Similarly, "לשמר" means "to guard", it is non-inherent in the verb when the guarding is to take place and by whom.

There are two types of infinitives a) absolute (מקור מוקלט) and b) one in a state of סמיכות (מקור נטוי).

**מקור מוקלט** – This type of infinitive stands by itself, is usually followed by another verb from the same שרש and adds emphasis. For example, מות תמות, ידע תדע, שוב אשוב, שכר שכרתיד. (Sometimes it is translated as "you surely will" e.g. מות תמות – you will surely die, פקד יפקד ה' – אהתכם will surely remember you.) The מקור מוקלט is identifiable by a קמץ under the first letter of the שרש and a חולם on the second letter.

Another function of the מקור מוקלט is to serve as a צווי. For example, זכור את יום השבת. Note how the word זכור is not spelled like the צווי form which would be "זכור". Rather, זכור means "be in a constant state of remembering". (See רש"י שמות כ"ז:).

**Note:** The מקור מוקלט does not take a ב,כ,ל,ם prefix letter.

**מקור נטוי** – The מקור נטוי is similar to the מקור מוקלט in that it does not have person, number or gender, however, it can take a ב,כ,ל,ם prefix. On its own, a מקור נטוי is usually identifiable when it has a שווא under the first letter of the שרש and a חולם under the second letter of the שרש. For example, לראות, בשמור (but also לעשות or לאמר).

**The pattern to look for: מקור = a verb that does not have time, person, number, or gender associated with it. It describes an action in the abstract.**

**מקור מוקלט** – A מקור in the absolute state. This form is usually identifiable by a קמץ under the first letter of the שרש and a חולם under the second letter of the שרש. A word with the same שרש is usually repeated after it e.g. אכל תאכל, מות תמות, ידע תדע, שוב אשוב, שכר שכרתיד. Can also function as a צווי, e.g. זכור את יום השבת. (Not to be confused with the צווי form, i.e. זכור.)

**מקור נטוי** – Similar to a מקור מוקלט but in סמיכות form. It can take a ב,כ,ל,ם prefix or combine with pronominal suffixes. Usually has a שווא under the first letter of the שרש and a חולם under the second letter. Examples include, לראות, בשמור but also לאמר.

**JSAT L8 Standard 19:** Student can translate a קל/פעל verb attached to a pronominal suffix e.g. שובך, לעבדה, ניהרגהו.

**In brief:** Until this point, we have seen how nouns combine with pronominal suffixes (e.g. ידי, ידה etc.) as do prepositions (תחתי, עלינו etc.). At times, the תורה will combine pronominal suffixes with verbs to form verbal nouns. Since you already know these suffixes, these words should be easy to translate. All types of verbs including past tense, future tense, present tense, צוי, מקור, and a verb with a ה'הפוך can combine with pronominal suffixes.

(Note: First person singular suffixes are usually in the נ' form. See first row below.)

Referring to one person / יחיד / יחידה	1 <sup>st</sup> person	(m.s. / f.s.)	He will kill me	יִהְרַגְנִי	←	אוֹתִי	+	יִהְרַג	1.
	2 <sup>nd</sup> person	(m. s.)	I have given you	נָתַתִּיךָ	←	אוֹתָךְ	+	נָתַתִּי	2.
		(f.s.)	I have taken you	לָקַחְתִּיךָ	←	אוֹתָךְ	+	לָקַחְתִּי	3.
	3 <sup>rd</sup> person	(m.s.)	take him	תִּקַּחְהוּ	←	אוֹתוֹ	+	תִּקַּח	4.
		(f.s.)	you should make her	תַּעֲשֶׂהָ	←	אוֹתָהּ	+	תַּעֲשֶׂה	5.
Referring to two or more people / רבים / רבות	1 <sup>st</sup> person	(m.p. / f.p.)	and he sent us	וַיִּשְׁלַחְנוּ	←	אוֹתָנוּ	+	וַיִּשְׁלַח	6.
	2 <sup>nd</sup> person	(m.p.)	when you went out	בְּצֵאתְכֶם	←	אֶתְכֶם	+	בְּצֵאתָ	7.
		(f.p.)	I redeemed you	גָּאֻלְתִּיכֶן	←	אֶתְכֶן	+	גָּאֻלְתִּי	8.
	3 <sup>rd</sup> person	(m.p.)	he took them	וַיִּקַּחֶם	←	אוֹתָם	+	וַיִּקַּח	9.
		(f.p.)	those who purchase them	לְבִיָּהֶן	←	אוֹתָן	+	קוּנָה	10.
m. = masculine (זָכָר), f = feminine (נְקֵבָה), s. = singular (יָחִיד/יְחִידָה), p. = plural (רַבִּים/רַבּוֹת). First person = I (s.) we (p.). Second person = you. Third person = they.									

**The pattern to look for:** Nearly every type of verb can combine with a pronominal suffix to form a “verbal noun”. For example, בָּרַכְנִי = bless me, לָקַחְתִּיךָ = “I took you”, שָׁמַעְתִּיךָ = “I heard you”, בְּבוֹאְכֶם = when you come, בְּשֹׁכְבְךָ = when you lay down, וַיִּקְשְׁרֶתֶם = and you shall tie them etc.

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