

The Ten Commandments

Suffixes and Prefixes

Hebrew uses **suffixes** (at the end of a word) and **prefixes** (at the start of a word) a lot. The table below shows the suffixes and prefixes used in the Ten Commandments. In the Hebrew text, we have added color to make them stand out, and so that you can see them more clearly. What you are left with (in black) is essentially the vocabulary.

These suffixes and prefixes are very important, because they are the link between vocabulary (knowing the words on their own) and being able to understand the text (i.e. understanding the words as they appear in the Biblical text). These same endings will occur again and again, in every passage you come across.

Prefix	Meaning (at the start of a word)		Suffix	Meaning (at the end of a word)
וְ	means <i>and</i>		ךְ	means <i>you</i> with a verb or <i>your</i> with a noun (i.e. thee, thine, masculine singular)
בְּ	before a noun, means <i>from</i> (with certain letters)		יִמְ	sign of a masculine <i>plural</i> noun, or adjective, e.g. <i>Elohim</i> .
בַּ	before a noun, means from (with certain letters)		כְּ ..	means <i>them</i> , e.g. do not serve <i>them</i>
בָּ	before a noun, means <i>in</i>		לְ	means me, mine
לְ	before a noun, means <i>to, for</i>		וְ	means his, e.g. <i>his</i> donkey
תְּ	before a verb, means <i>you</i> , e.g. you will		ךָ	means <i>you</i> , with a verb (e.g. <i>you [did]</i> , masculine singular)
הְ	before a verb, means <i>he</i> , e.g. he will		הֵךְ	means <i>it</i> , i.e. to bless it
			ןְ	means <i>they</i> with a verb. Usually shortened to לְ

אֱנֹכִי יְהֹוָה אֱלֹהִיךְ אֲשֶׁר הַזְצָאתִיךְ מִאָרֶץ Ex. 20:2
 me'erets hotseti'cha asher Elohe'cha Yahweh anochi

מִצְרִים מִבֵּית עֲבָדִים : Ex. 20:2
 avadim mi'bet Mitsrayim

לֹא יְהִי־לְךָ אֱלֹהִים אֶחָרִים עַל־פָּנֶיךָ Ex. 20:3
 panay - al acherim Elohim le'cha yiheyeh io

לֹא תַעֲשֵׂה־לְךָ פְּסֶל וְכָל־תְּמוֹנָה אֲשֶׁר Ex. 20:4
 asher tmoonah - ve'chol pesel le'cha taaseh io

בְּשָׁמָיִם מִמְעָל וְאַשְׁר בָּאָרֶץ מִתְחַת וְאַשְׁר בְּמִים
 ba'mayim va'asher mi'tachat ba'arets va'asher mi'maal ba'shamayim

מִתְחַת לְאָרֶץ

la'arets mi'tachat

לَا תִשְׁתַּחֲווּ לְהַمּוֹת וְלֹא תִעֲבֹדֵם כִּי אָنֹכִי Ex. 20:5

anochi ki taavdem ve'lo la'hem tishtacheveh lo

יְהֹוָה אֱלֹהִיךְ אֲלֹקֶן קָנָא פָּקַד עָזָן אָבָת עַל־בָּנִים

banim - al avot avon poked kana El Elohe'cha Yahweh

עַל־שְׁלַשִּׁים וְעַל־רְבָעִים לְשְׁנָאֵי :

le'sonay ribeim ve'al shileshim - al

וְעַשְׂתָּה חִסְדֵּךְ לְאֲלָפִים לְאַהֲבֵי וְלִשְׁמָרֵי Ex. 20:6

u'Ishomrey le'ohavay la'alafim chesed ve'oseh

מִצְוֹתִי :

mitsvotai

לَا תִשְׁאַת־שְׁמֵדְךָ יְהֹוָה אֱלֹהִיךְ לְשֹׁאָכִי Ex. 20:7

ki la'shav Elohe'cha Yahweh shem et tisa lo

לَا יִנְקַה יְהֹוָה אֵת אֲשֶׁר־יִשְׁאָא אֶת־שְׁמוֹ לְשֹׁרְאָא : פ

la'shav shm'o et yisa asher et Yahweh yenakeh lo

זָכֹר אֶת־יּוֹם הַשְׁבָת לְקָדְשׁוֹ Ex. 20:8

le'kadsh'o ha'shabat yom et zachor

שְׁשַׁת יָמִים פְּعַבֵּד וְעַשֵּׂית כָּל־מְלָאכָתֶךָ Ex. 20:9

melachte'cha kol ve'asita ta'avod yamim sheshet

וְיּוֹם הַשְׁבִּיעִי שְׁבָת לְיְהֹוָה אֱלֹהִיךְ Ex. 20:10

Elohe'cha la'Yahweh shabat hashvi-i ve'yom

לَا תִעַש כָּל־מְלָאכָה אַתָּה וּבְנֶךָ-בְּתָךָ עַבְדָּךְ

avde'cha u'veite'cha u'vin'cha atah melachah chol taaseh lo

וְאִמְתָּךְ וּבְהַמְּתָךְ וְגַךְ אֲשֶׁר בְּשֻׁעְרִיךְ Ex. 20:10

bi'share'cha asher ve'ger'cha u'vhemte'cha va'amate'cha

כִּי שְׁשַׁת־יָמִים עַשֵּׂה יְהֹוָה אֶת־הַשְׁמָיִם Ex. 20:11

ha'shamayim - et Yahweh asa yamim - sheshet ki

וְאֶת־הָאָרֶץ אֶת־כָּל־אֲשֶׁר־בָּם וְיִנְחָ

va-yanach bam - asher - kol - ve'et ha'yam - et ha'arets - ve'et

בַּיּוֹם הַשְׁבִּיעִי עַל־כָּן בְּרֹךְ יְהֹוָה אֶת־יּוֹם הַשְׁבָת

ha'shabat yom - et Yahweh berach ken - al ha'shvi-i ba'yom

וַיִּקְדֹּשֵׁהוּ : ס

va'ykadshehu

כִּבְדָּךְ אֶת־אֲבִיךְ וְאֶת־אָמֵךְ לְמַעַן יְאַרְכֵיכֶם Ex. 20:12

yaarichun le'maan ime'cha - ve'et avi'cha - et kabed

יְמִיקֵד עַל הָאָדָםָה אֲשֶׁר־יְהֹוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם נָתַן לְךָ : ס

lach noten Elohe'cha Yahweh - asher ha'adamah al yame'cha

לֹא תַּرְצַח : ס Ex. 20:13

tirtsach lo

לֹא תַּגְנַף : ס Ex. 20:14

tinaf lo

לֹא תַּגְנַב : ס Ex. 20:15

tignov lo

לֹא תַּעֲנַה בְּרֵעַךְ עַד שְׁקָר : ס Ex. 20:16

shaker ed be'rea'cha taaneh - lo

לֹא תַּחֲמֹד בֵּית רֵעַךְ לֹא תַּחֲמֹד אֲשֶׁת Ex. 20:17

eshet tachmod - lo ree'cha bet tachmod lo

רֵעַךְ וְעַבְדֹּךְ וְאֶמְתֹה וְשׂוֹרֵךְ וְחַמְרוֹךְ וְכָל אֲשֶׁר

asher ve'chol va'chamor'o ve'shor'o va'amat'o ve'avd'o ree'cha

לְרֵעַךְ : ס

le'ree'cha