

The Definite Article and the Preposition מן

		ANY NON-GUTTURAL	GUTTURALS				
					UNACCENTED		
HISTORIC FORM OF THE D.A. DOES NOT OCCUR*			ה ה	ר ע א	ה ֿ	ע ה ֿ	ה ֿ
DEFINITE ARTICLE "THE"	הַ	הַ	הַ	הַ	הַ		הַ
BOUND PREP. & HIDDEN DEFINITE ARTICLE	בְּהַ	בְּ	בְּ	בְּ	בְּ		בְּ
		NORMAL FORM (ASSIMILATION)	VIRTUAL DOUBLING	COMPENSATORY LENGTHENING			VERY RARE

*This form of the definite article (הַ) does not occur in the Hebrew Bible but is the theoretical historic form of the definite article that was an independent, non-prefixed form. Though there is a debate as to whether this really is the historic form; it is included here in the table because it helps explain the changes that take place when the definite article is prefixed to a word, typical changes caused by the assimilation of ה, changes the student will encounter elsewhere.

	INDEPENDENT FORM**	MOST NON-GUTTURALS	GUTTURALS	YOD + SHEVA
מִן "FROM, OF; MORE THAN"	מִן	מִם	מִי	מִי
		ASSIMILATION	COMPENSATORY LENGTHENING	

**מִן ends in a נ (like the theorized historic form of the d.a.), consequently when מִן prefixes a word changes take place similar to those of the definite article.

ASSIMILATION. When no vowel separates, ה assimilates, resulting in the doubling of the initial consonant, reflected in the presence of a doubling dagesh (a dagesh forte). **COMPENSATORY LENGTHENING.** The nun is unable to assimilate because neither gutturals nor resh can double. Instead, the nun elides (disappears) while the vowel compensates for the loss of the nun by undergoing compensatory lengthening. In the case of the definite article the patach lengthens into a qamets; in the case of מִן, the hireq lengthens into a tsere. **VIRTUAL DOUBLING.** Again gutturals do not double and so we would expect compensatory lengthening. Yet with ה and פ (most of the time) we have *virtual* doubling, since as grammarians maintain the doubling has really occurred though it is not visible.

The Simple Vav Construction and Bound Prepositions

		BuMPֶ	ACCENTED SYLLABLE	YOD + SHEVA	SIMPLE VOCAL SHEVA	COMPOUND VOCAL SHEVA			"ELOHIM"
	NORMAL FORM	ב מ ב		י	ו	וֿ	וֿ	וֿ	אֱלֹהִים
SIMPLE VAV CONSTRUCTION "AND"	ו	ו	וֿ	וֿ	ו	וֿ	וֿ	וֿ	ו
BOUND PREPOSITION "IN, WITH, BY"	בְּ			בְּ	בְּ	בְּ	בְּ	בְּ	בְּ
BOUND PREPOSITION "LIKE, AS"	כְּ			כְּ	כְּ	כְּ	כְּ	כְּ	כְּ
BOUND PREPOSITION "TO, FOR"	לְ			לְ	לְ	לְ	לְ	לְ	לְ