

Lesson 5 שְׁעוֹר חֲמִשִּׁי

Subjects Covered:

- 5.1 The Imperative - צוּי
- 5.2 The Imperative Form - קל Stem
- 5.3 The Elongated Imperative Form
- 5.4 The Imperative with the Direct Object Suffix
- 5.5 The Negative Command
- 5.6 The Imperative with נָא

5.1 The Imperative - צוּי

You have already encountered three possible ways in which a command may be expressed in Hebrew:

- *the prefix form* e.g. תִּשְׁמֹר (Vol. I, section 27.2)
- *the suffix form + ו conjunctive* e.g. וְשָׁמַרְתָּ (Vol. I, section 30.5)
- *the infinitive absolute* e.g. שְׁמֹר (Vol. II, section 1.5)

The command is, of course, only one of the interpretations of any of these three forms.

*However, 5 out of the 7 Hebrew verb stems (הִתְפַּעֵל, הִפְעִיל, פָּעַל, נִפְעַל, קַל) also have an **imperative form**, addressed to the 2nd person (אַתָּה, אַתְּ, אַתְּם, אַתֶּן) and assigned solely for the command.*

*In this lesson you will learn the **imperative form** of the קַל stem. You will be able to apply much of what you learn here in the קַל stem to the interpretation of the **imperative form** of the other verb stems that will be introduced later.*

5.2 The Imperative Form - קל Stem

In considering this form, you may look at the **קל imperative** form as being derived from the **prefix form** of the 2nd person without the prefix and with possible slight changes in vowels. For example:

שְׁמֹר ← הַשְׁמֹר
 שְׁמְרִי ← הַשְׁמְרִי

The following are the two variations of the **imperative** form based on the two possible vocalizations of the **prefix form** (Vol. I, section 25.4): [] or [_].

Plural	Singular	
שְׁמְרוּ	שְׁמֹר	m.
שְׁמֹרְנָה	שְׁמְרִי	f.

or

שְׁלְחוּ	שְׁלַח	m.
שְׁלַחְנָה	שְׁלְחִי	f.

Read aloud the imperative form of verbs ש.ל.ב.ש, ל.ב.ש, כ.ת.ב, כ.ר.ת, ז.כ.ר, in the קל stem found in your Frequent קל Verbs List - Infinitives, Imperative, Participle (Tool No. 11g).

Examples

...keep my commandments... (Proverbs 4:4)	שְׁמֹר מִצְוֹתַי ... (משלי ד, ד)	1
Open to me the gates of righteousness; I will go in to them. (Psalms 118:19)	פְּתַחוּ לִי שַׁעֲרֵי צְדָק אָבֹא בָם ... (תהלים קיח, יט)	2
Pray say that you are my sister... (Genesis 12:13)	אֲמְרִי-נָא אֲחֹתִי אָתָּה (בראשית יב, יג)	3
Hearken O Israel: YHWH our God, YHWH is one! (Deuteronomy 6:4)	שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ ה' אֶחָד (דברים ו, ד)	4

Note that there does not seem to be a difference in meaning and impact between the kind of commands you have learned to now (5.1), and the **imperative** form. The **imperative** is not a stronger command. In the following example, God is addressed in the **imperative** form, which is not uncommon:

O send out thy light and thy truth (Psalms 43:3)

שְׁלַח אֹרֶךְ וְאֶמְתָּךְ (תהלים מג, ג)

5.2.1 Do not confuse!

Imperative vs. Suffix Form

Look at your basic קל paradigm (Tool No. 11a). Take note of the differences in the vowels and do not confuse:

<i>Imperative</i>		vs.	<i>Suffix Form</i>	
שְׁמֹר	<i>m.s.</i>		שְׁמֹר	<i>3 m.s.</i>
שְׁמֹרוּ	<i>m.p.</i>		שְׁמֹרוּ	<i>3 m.p.</i>

Examples

These are the names of the men that Moses sent to spy out the land (Numbers 13:16)	אֵלֶּה שְׁמוֹת הָאֲנָשִׁים אֲשֶׁר שְׁלַח מֹשֶׁה לְתוֹר אֶת הָאָרֶץ (במדבר יג, טז)	1
And David sent to Joab, [saying]: 'Send me Uriah the Hittite.' (II Samuel 11:6)	וַיִּשְׁלַח דָּוִד אֶל יוֹאָב שְׁלַח אֵלַי אֶת אֲוִרְיָה הַחִתִּי (שמואל ב' יא, ו)	2
... neither kept Mine ordinances to do them (Ezekiel 20:21)	וְאֵת מִשְׁפָּטַי לֹא שְׁמְרוּ לַעֲשׂוֹת אוֹתָם (יחזקאל כ, כא)	3
Only take diligent heed to do the commandment and the law (Joshua 22:5)	רַק שְׁמְרוּ מְאֹד לַעֲשׂוֹת אֶת הַמִּצְוָה וְאֵת הַתּוֹרָה (יהושע כב, ה)	4

5.2.2 Do not confuse!

Imperative vs. Infinitive Construct

Look again at your basic קל paradigm (Tool No. 11a) as well as your Frequent קל Verbs List (Tool No. 11ג). Notice that the **imperative** of the *m.s.* and the **infinitive construct** may be identical, for example: שְׁמֹר, זָכַר, שָׁפַט
Only context will help you determine the role of these words.

5.3 The Elongated Imperative Form

A variation of the m.s. **imperative** form is the **elongated form**. Thus, you may find both:

שְׁמֹר = שְׁמֹרָה

מְלַךְ = מְלַכָּה

Note the short vowel [ַ] in מְלַכָּה pronounced like the English 'o' in 'or'.

Examples

<p>The trees went forth on a time to anoint a king over them and they said unto the olive-tree: Reign thou over us (Judges 9:8)</p>	<p>הָלוֹךְ הָלְכוּ הָעֵצִים לְמַשַׁח עֲלֵיהֶם מֶלֶךְ וַיֹּאמְרוּ לְאִת מְלָכָה עָלֵינוּ (שופטים ט, ח)</p>	1
<p>O LORD, hear my prayer, and let my cry come unto Thee (Psalms 102:2)</p>	<p>ה' שְׁמַעָה תִפְלְתִי וְשׁוֹעַתִי אֵלֶיךָ תָּבוֹא (תהלים קב, ב)</p>	2

As you will see later (Lesson 6), the **elongated imperative** form seems to appear more often among 'weak' verbs.

5.4 The Imperative with the Direct Object Suffix

You have already encountered the **prefix** and **suffix forms** as well as the **infinitive construct**, with the **direct object suffix** added (Vol. I, Lesson 32, & Vol. II, section 2.8). Now, you will find the **direct object suffix** added to the **imperative** as well. In such cases a shift in vowels may occur.

שְׁמַעֲנוּ = שְׁמַע אוֹתֵנוּ

Note the short vowel [ַ] in שְׁמַרְם, שְׁפַטְנִי, שְׁפַטְנִי (stemming from the vowel [ִ] in the free standing verb שָׁפַט).

שְׁפַטְנִי = שְׁפַט אוֹתִי

שְׁמַרְם = שְׁמַר אוֹתְם

Examples

<p>My son, keep my words, and lay up my commandments with thee... Bind them upon thy fingers, write them upon the table of thine heart. (Proverbs 7:1-3)</p>	<p>בְּנֵי שְׁמֹר אִמְרֵי וּמִצְוֹתַי תִּצְפֹּן אִתָּךְ... קְשֹׁרִם עַל אֶצְבְּעֹתֶיךָ כְּתָבֵם עַל לִוַח לִבְךָ (משלי ז, א-ג)</p>	1
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Pray my Lord Hear me The field I grant you and the cave that is in it I grant it to you (Genesis 23:11)	<i>Efron to Avraham:</i> לֹא אֲדַנִּי שָׁמַעֲנִי הַשָּׂדֶה נָתַתִּי לָךְ וְהַמְעָרָה אֲשֶׁר בּוֹ לָךְ נָתַתִּיהָ (בראשית כג, יא)	2
[KJ] Judge me, O God [OJPS] Be Thou my judge, O God [RA] Grant me justice , O God (Psalms 43:1)	שִׁפְטֵנִי אֱלֹהִים (תהלים מג, א)	3

5.5 The Negative Command

The Hebrew **Imperative** form is not used when giving a negative command.

The negative command is expressed by either לֹא or אַל preceding the **prefix form** (2nd person, in singular & plural).

You have already learned (Vol. I, section 27.4) that there is usually a difference between negative commands expressed by אַל and those expressed by לֹא .

- אַל preceding the **prefix form** is used for the suggestion to not do a specific act, or as a milder prohibition (don't ...)

... and drink no wine nor strong drink, and eat not any unclean thing (Judges 13:4)	<i>The messenger of the LORD to Manoah's wife:</i> וְאַל תִּשְׂתֵּי יַיִן וְיִשְׁכָּר וְאַל תֹּאכְלִי כָּל טָמֵא (שופטים יג, ד)	1
And Joshua said unto them: 'Fear not, nor be dismayed be strong and of good courage' (Joshua 10:25)	וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵיהֶם יְהוֹשֻׁעַ אַל תִּירְאוּ וְאַל תִּחַתּוּ חֲזִקוּ וְאַמְצוּ (יהושע י, כה)	2

- לֹא preceding the **prefix form** is used for absolute, categorical prohibitions (don't you ever...). The Decalogue is a good example:

Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain (Exodus 20:6)	לֹא תִשָּׂא אֶת שֵׁם ה' אֱלֹהֶיךָ לְשׁוּא (שמות כ, ו)
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5.6 The Imperative with נָא

You have already learned about the common word נָא (Vol. I, section 28.5), which may follow the **prefix form** when used as a command, cohortative or jussive.

נָא often follows the **imperative**. Thus:

שָׁמֵר נָא

While translating, נָא may be:

- *ignored*

or

- *interpreted as a request or polite address: I pray thee, please, etc.*

Say, I pray thee,
thou art my sister (Genesis 12:13)

Avram to Sarai while approaching Egypt:

אָמַרְי נָא

אָחֹתִי אָתָּה (בראשית יב, יג)

Exercises

Use all your previous Tools (especially Tool No. 11ג) and Verb Parsing Chart (6) to help you interpret the verbs. Translate.

1.

(Exodus 4:4)	<i>about the rod turned into a serpent</i> וַיֹּאמֶר ה' אֶל מֹשֶׁה שְׁלַח יָדְךָ וְאַחֲזֵ בַזָּנָבוֹ (שמות ד, ד)	1
(Jeremiah 22:29)	אֲרָץ אֲרָץ אֲרָץ שְׁמַעִי דְבַר ה' (ירמיהו כב, כט)	2
(IIKings 18:31)	... וְאָכְלוּ אִישׁ גִּפְנוֹ וְאִישׁ תְּאֵנָתוֹ (מלכים ב' יח, לא)	3
(Proverbs 7:4)	אָמַר לַחֲכָמָה אֲחֹתִי אֵת (משלי ז, ד)	4
(Psalms 4:6)	זָבְחוּ זִבְחֵי צֶדֶק וּבְטַחוּ אֶל ה' (תהלים ד, ו)	5
(Deuteronomy 9:7)	זָכַר אֶל תְּשֻׁבָה (דברים ט, ז)	6
(Genesis 2:17)	<i>God to the human:</i> וַיִּמְעַץ הַדְּעַת טוֹב וְרָע לֹא תֹאכַל מִמֶּנּוּ (בראשית ב, יז)	7

2.

(Judges 16:28)	וַיִּקְרָא שְׁמִשׁוֹן אֶל ה' וַיֹּאמֶר אֲדֹנָי ה' זְכַרְנִי נָא ... (שופטים טז, כח)	1
(IKings 2:17)	<i>Adonyahu to Bat Sheva':</i> וַיֹּאמֶר אָמְרִי נָא לְשִׁלְמָה הַמְּלִכָה: כִּי ... יִתֵּן לִי אֵת אֲבִישֵׁג הַשּׁוֹנְמִית לְאִשָּׁה (מלכים א' ב, יז)	2
(Jeremiah 1:7)	וַיֹּאמֶר ה' אֵלַי אֶל תֹּאמַר נַעַר אֲנֹכִי כִּי עַל כָּל אֲשֶׁר אֶשְׁלַחְךָ תִּלְדָּ: (ירמיהו א, ז)	3

(IIKings 19:29)	<p>וְזָה לְךָ הָאוֹת אֲכֹל הַשָּׁנָה סְפִיחַ וּבִשְׁנָה הַשְּׁנִית סְחִישׁ וּבִשְׁנָה הַשְּׁלִישִׁית זָרְעוּ וְקָצְרוּ וְנִטְעוּ כַרְמִים וְאָכְלוּ פְרִיָם (מלכים ב' יט, כט)</p>	4
(Exodus 20:9-10)	<p>שֵׁשֶׁת יָמִים תַּעֲבֹד וַעֲשִׂיתָ כָּל מְלֹאכְתְּךָ וַיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי שַׁבָּת לַיהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ לֹא תַעֲשֶׂה כָּל מְלָאכָה אֶתָּה וּבִנְךָ וּבִתְּךָ עַבְדְּךָ וְאִמְתְּךָ וּבְהֵמָתְךָ וְגֵרְךָ אֲשֶׁר בְּשַׁעְרֶיךָ (שמות כ, ט-י)</p>	5

3.

(Psalms 139:23)	<p>חֲקַרְנִי אֵל ... בְּחַנְנִי ... (תהלים קלט, כג)</p>	1
(Jeremiah 15:15)	<p>זְכַרְנִי וּפְקַדְנִי (ירמיהו טו, טו)</p>	2
My son, attend to my words ...	<p>בְּנִי לְדַבְרֵי הַקְּשִׁיבָה ... שְׁמֵרָם בְּתוֹךְ לְבָבְךָ (משלי ד, כ-כא)</p>	3
(Proverbs 4:20-21)	<p>וְאַשְׁמַע אֶת קוֹל אֲדָנִי אֲמַר אֶת מִי אֲשַׁלַּח וּמִי יִלְדָּ לָנוּ וְאֲמַר הֲנִנִּי שְׁלַחְנִי (ישעיהו ו, ח)</p>	4