Chapter 1
Preliminary discussion

1.1 Parts of speech

One of the major issues in the presentation of grammar is the definition of language categories. Language categories can be described as parts of speech, i.e. language units in isolation, or in terms of their function in context. For instance, a noun can be described as belonging to the parts-of-speech category 'noun', and also as functioning either as a subject or an object within the clause or sentence structure, as the modifier of another noun, etc. While we recognize that all language items belong to a whole network of interrelationships, we shall limit the present discussion to context-free (i.e., parts-of-speech), and context-dependent (i.e., functional) relationships.

The following are the main traditional categories of parts of speech:

Verbs	פעלים
Nouns	שמות
Pronouns	כינויי גוף
Adjectives	שמות תואר
Adverbs	תוארי הפועל
Prepositions	מילות יחס
Conjunctions	מילות חיבור

In many cases, the distinction between the part-of-speech characterization of some item and its function in context is obvious. Thus, for instance, in the noun phrase חנות ספרים 'bookstore', we have two nouns (part of speech), and although the second one is a modifier

of the first, and thus functions as if it were an adjective, it is still a
noun from the part-of-speech point of view. On the other hand, there
are words that even in isolation cannot be assigned unambiguously to a
single category. Every word functions as at least one part of speech,
but there are words that can serve as two or more parts of speech,
depending on the context. For instance, some present participle forms
can function as verbs in the present tense, as nouns or as adjectives:

<u>Noun</u>	The new <u>worker</u> did not arrive at work today.	הפועל החדש לא הגיע היום לעבודה.
<u>Verb</u>	The computer does not <u>work</u> properly.	המחשב לא פועל כראוי.
<u>Adjective</u>	The <u>executive (working)</u> committee decided to raise membership fees.	הועד הפועל החליט להעלות את דמי החבר.

The same word can also function as both an adjective and an adverb:

<u>Adjective</u>	The director is a <u>difficult</u> man.	המנהל הוא איש קשה.
<u>Adverb</u>	He makes everyone work <u>hard</u>.	הוא מעביד קשה את כולם.

Below are some illustrations of parts of speech and grammatical
functions. A more detailed discussion will follow in the main chapters
of the book.

Verbs   פעלים
Verbs in tense

Dan <u>hurried</u> home.	דן מיהר הביתה.
They <u>will oppose</u> the plan for ideological reasons.	הם יתנגדו לתוכנית מסיבות אידיאולוגיות.

Non-finite verbs

Dan wants <u>to run</u> in the Boston Marathon.	דן רוצה לרוץ במרתון בבוסטון.

Nouns and pronouns   שמות וכינויים
Nouns

I have <u>coffee</u> and <u>cake</u> for you.	יש לי קפה ועוגה בשבילך.

Verbal nouns

Dan is a <u>cooking</u> expert.	דן מומחה לבישול.
She proved a profound <u>understanding</u> of the subject.	היא הוכיחה הבנה עמוקה בנושא.

Personal pronouns

He likes to cook and she likes to eat.   הוא אוהב לבשל והיא אוהבת
לאכול.

Demonstrative pronouns

This food is Moroccan food.   האוכל הזה הוא אוכל מרוקאי.

Adjectives   **שמות תואר**

Adjectives in noun phrases

He is an excellent cook.   הוא בשלן מצוין.

Adjectives as predicates

This student is talented.   התלמיד הזה מוכשר.

Adverbs   **תוארי הפועל**

 He cooks a lot but eats little.   הוא מבשל הרבה אבל אוכל מעט.

Particles   **מילות/מיליות**

Prepositions

Dan goes with friends to shows.   דן הולך עם חברים להצגות.

Conjunctions

Do you want to walk or to go by car?   אתם רוצים ללכת ברגל או לנסוע?

Subordinators

They went to the restaurant that I   הם הלכו למסעדה שעליה המלצתי.
recommended.

Interrogatives

Who is this?   מי זה?

Interjections

Ouch! It hurts!   אוי! זה כואב!

1.2 Grammatical functions

Another way to classify the components of an utterance is by their
grammatical function. Here are some of the terms that are used to
describe the roles the parts of speech play in sentences:

Subject	נושא
Predicate	נשוא
Attribute	לוואי
Object	מושא
Adjunct	נספח

Subject   נושׂא
Noun phrases
<u>The new cook</u> is from France.   הַטבח החדש הוא מצרפת.
Subordinate clauses
<u>That he studied cooking in France</u> is   שהוא למד בישול בצרפת לא מעניין
of no interest to me.   אותי בכלל.

Predicate   נשׂוא
Verb predicates
Dan <u>started studying</u> in the summer.   דן התחיל ללמוד בקיץ.
Nominal predicates
He is <u>a student</u> in law school.   הוא תלמיד בפקולטה למשפטים.

Attribute   לוואי
Expansion of phrases with additional information
Dan met <u>friends from work</u> <u>at a pub</u>   דן פגש חברים מהעבודה בפאב על
<u>on the beach</u>.   שפת הים.

Object complement   מושא משלים
Direct object
Dan met <u>his friends</u>.   דן פגש את החברים שלו.
Indirect object
Dan got together <u>with his friends</u>.   דן נפגש עם החברים שלו.

Adjunct   נספח
Temporal
Dan was not at home <u>this morning</u>.   דן לא היה בבית הבוקר.
Spatial
Dan traveled in <u>England</u> for three   דן טייל שלושה חודשים באנגליה.
months.

1.3 Words and patterns   מלים, בניינים ומשקלים

All verbs, many nouns, and a good number of adjectives and adverbs
are based on a combination of roots and patterns. The root שורש
shoresh is a consonantal skeleton. It is a hypothetical sequence of
consonants shared by related words. Roots do not constitute actual
words. Each one is applied to a pattern, from which actual words are
formed. In the verb system the pattern is called בניין *binyan*, and
elsewhere it is called משקל *mishkal*.

Verbs

שורש	בניין	Word	Gloss
כ-ת-ב	פעל	כָּתַב	wrote
	הפעיל	הִכְתִּיב	dictated

Nouns and adjectives

שורש	משקל	Word	Gloss
ק-ס-מ	פועל	קוֹסֵם	magician (noun)
	מפעיל	מַקְסִים	charming (adjective)

There are seven verb pattern groups (*binyanim)* in Hebrew. The third person singular in the past tense is traditionally used to represent each of these groups. To label each of these groups generically, a prototypical root is used. The generic verb פעל is used in combination with the pattern of each *binyan*, giving it its name.

	Binyan's name	Citation Form	Root
pa`al	פָּעַל	זָרַק	ז-ר-ק
nif`al	נִפְעַל	נִשְׁבַּר	ש-ב-ר
pi`el	פִּעֵל (פיעל)	סִפֵּר (סיפר)	ס-פ-ר
pu`al	פֻּעַל (פועל)	סֻלַּק (סולק)	ס-ל-ק
hitpa`el	הִתְפַּעֵל	הִתְרַגֵּשׁ	ר-ג-ש
hif`il	הִפְעִיל	הִקְלִיט	ק-ל-ט
huf`al	הֻפְעַל (הופעל)	הֻנְצַח (הונצח)	נ-צ-ח

The root consonant is labeled פ׳ הפועל (marked in English as C_1). The second root consonant is labeled ע׳ הפועל (C_2) and the third root consonant is לי׳ הפועל (C_3).

Verb form	Binyan	Root	ל" הפועל	ע' הפועל	פ' הפועל
שָׁתַק	פעל	ש-ת-ק	ק	ת	ש
נִכְנַס	נפעל	כ-נ-ס	ס	נ	כ
שִׁלֵּם (שילם)	פיעל	ש-ל-מ	מ	ל	ש
פֻּטַּר (פוטר)	פועל	פ-ט-ר	ר	ט	פ
הִתְכַּתֵּב	התפעל	כ-ת-ב	ב	ת	כ
הִכְתִּיב	הפעיל	כ-ת-ב	ב	ת	כ
הֻקְלַט (הוקלט)	הופעל	ק-ל-ט	ט	ל	ק

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A comparative note

The verb pattern groups in Hebrew are somewhat similar to special groups of verbs in English, where the base undergoes predictable internal changes, and the modifications within the stem are regular. Some examples of such groups:

(a) drive-drove-driven, write-wrote-written, ride-rode-ridden
(b) speak-spoke-spoken, freeze-froze-frozen, steal-stole-stolen

Although the root does not exist on its own, many words sharing a common root tend to have a common meaning or related meaning.

Verbs

Gloss	Citation form	*binyan*	Root
tie	קָשַׁר	פעל	ק-ש-ר
be tied	נִקְשַׁר	נפעל	
get in touch; get connected	הִתְקַשֵּׁר	התפעל	

Nouns and adjectives

Gloss			Root
tied, connected (adj.)	קָשׁוּר	תואר	ק-ש-ר
tie, connection (noun)	קֶשֶׁר (ז)	שם	
context (noun)	הֶקְשֵׁר (ז)	שם	

1.3.2 Deriving new words   גזירת מלים חדשות

New words in Hebrew, as in other Semitic languages, are formed in two ways:

1. Linearly, without affecting the base for derivation. For instance, the adjective ציבורי 'public, in the public domain' is derived from the noun ציבור 'the public'.

There are also cases of chains of derivations.

Noun	child	יֶלֶד
Abstract noun derived from יֶלֶד-:	childhood	יַלְדוּת
Adjective derived from יַלְדוּת:	childish	יַלְדוּתִי
Abstract noun derived from יַלְדוּתִי:	childishness	יַלְדוּתִיּוּת

2. New verbs can also be derived from an existing root, by combining it with an existing derivation pattern. For instance, the following recent verbs were formed with existing roots and their new combination with patterns:

Existing verb	write	כָּתַב
New verb in _shifˁel_ pattern	rewrite	שְׁכְתֵּב
Existing verb	act, do	פָּעַל
New verb in _tifˁel_ pattern:	operate, activate	תִּפְעֵל

1.4 Gender and number   מין ומספר
Nouns, adjectives and verbs have gender and number features. The
gender is either masculine זָכָר or feminine נְקֵבָה. A distinction is made
between two major noun categories: [1] nouns that represent living
entities: human beings and other living beings with biological gender
features, and [2] nouns that represent other entities, mostly inanimate
and abstract nouns (for example, objects, concepts, plants and others).
The biological gender of living beings and their inherent masculine or
feminine features are reflected in their grammatical gender features.
Other nouns have an assigned grammatical gender, which is prescribed
and cannot be predicted.

There are regular number features, which indicate whether a noun is a
singular noun יחיד/יחידה or whether it is a plural noun רבים/רבות. The
feminine singular noun endings (יחידה) are frequently marked by a final
ה- -*a* or a final ת- -*t*. The plural noun endings are represented by the
suffixes ים- -*im* and ות- -*ot*. In nouns the plural ending ים- -*im* most
frequently but not necessarily reflects the masculine gender of the
nouns, while the plural ending ות- -*ot* most frequently but not
necessarily reflects the feminine gender of the nouns.
                (See pp.130-139 for more information)

Verb forms in Hebrew also have gender and number features. In most
past and future tenses they also have subject person features, i.e.
personal pronoun features (I, you, he), which are often affixed to the
verb forms.
                (See pp.36-38 for more information)

1.5 Open and closed word classes
The parts of speech can be classified as belonging to two large
categories: to 'open' classes or to 'closed' classes. The open classes
consist of these parts of speech: verb, noun, adjective, and adverb. The
various particles (prepositions and conjunctions and others) are closed

classes. The closed classes are fixed sets of a limited number of function words, whereas the open classes have a large membership.

1.5.1 Open classes

These are productive classes to which new words are continuously added, responding to the need for new vocabulary to serve the changing times. The new words are added either according to existing rules of morphology for the formation of new words, or by borrowing words from other languages and either leaving them as they are, or adapting them to Hebrew structures and patterns. The closed classes resist the addition of new members.

Formation of verbs

Adaptation from existing words:

Gloss	Derived Verb	Derived Root	Gloss	Base
to market	לְשַׁוֵּק	ש-ו-ק >	market	שׁוּק
to report	לְדַוֵּחַ	ד-ו-ח >	report	דו״ח

-ת t- prefix added to existing roots:

Gloss	Derived Verb	Derived Root	Gloss	Root
to communicate	לְתַקְשֵׁר	ת-ק-ש-ר >	tie	ק-ש-ר
to brief	לְתַדְרֵךְ	ת-ד-ר-כ >	guide	ד-ר-כ

-ש sh- prefix added to existing roots:

Gloss	Derived Verb	Derived Root	Gloss	Root
to subjugate	לְשַׁעְבֵּד	ש-ע-ב-ד >	work	ע-ב-ד
to rewrite	לְשַׁכְתֵּב	ש-כ-ת-ב >	write	כ-ת-ב

Formation of nouns

Derived from verbs

Gloss	Derived Noun	Gloss	Base	Root
frame	מִסְגֶּרֶת	close	סָגַר	ס-ג-ר
guard, watch	מִשְׁמָר	guard	שָׁמַר	ש-מ-ר

Derived from other nouns

Gloss	Derived Noun	Gloss	Base
brotherhood	אַחֲוָה	brother	אָח
privacy	פְּרָטִיּוּת	individual	פְּרָט

Derived from adjectives

Gloss	Derived Noun	Gloss	Base
permissiveness	מַתִּירָנוּת	permissive	מַתִּירָנִי
health	בְּרִיאוּת	healthy	בָּרִיא

Borrowing words from other languages

Direct borrowing of nouns:

high tech	היי-טק
prime time	פריים טיים
boss	בּוֹס

Deriving new verbs from borrowed words:

Gloss	Derived Verb	Extracted Root	Gloss	Base
subsidize	סִבְּסֵד	ס-ב-ס-ד	subsidy	סוּבְּסִידְיָה
sympathize	סִמְפֵּט	ס-מ-פ-ט	sympathy	סִימְפַּטְיָה

Borrowed words with Hebrew suffixes

Plural Suffixes	intellectuals	אינטלקטואלים
Feminine ending	Practice	פרקטיקה
Adjective endings	digital	דיגיטלי/דיגיטלית

Note that the noun system is the most open, and nouns from other
languages can be adopted into the language without alterations or with
little alteration, such as אטום 'atom', טלפון 'telephone', טלוויזיה
'television', טכנולוגיה 'technology', and many others. However, new
borrowed verbs and adjectives require adaptation into the existing
system. For instance, the verb סִבְּסֵד *sibsed* 'to subsidize' above requires
vowel modification from the borrowed noun סוּבְּסִידְיָה *subsídya*
'subsidy' in order to fit into a Hebrew verb pattern.

1.5.2 Closed classes

The closed classes of words consist of the grammatical function words,
such as:

1.	Pronouns	אני, הוא, זה
2.	Prepositions	עם, אצל, ל-, ב
3.	Conjunctions	ו, אבל
4.	Determiners	ה-
5.	Quantifiers	כל, הרבה, או מספרים
6.	Subordinators	ש, אשר

All of the above do not have gender or number features, and as a general rule, do not fill the slot of the head of a phrase. They are called closed because they contain a limited number of items, and their membership is not likely to be expanded. Function words are hardly ever borrowed from other languages.

Prepositions   מילות יחס
Prepositions are usually followed by a noun phrase or by a pronoun suffix. Prepositions function as heads of prepositional phrases. Some verbs must be followed by obligatory prepositions. Some prepositions are followed by a subordinating particle שֶ- that introduces a subordinate clause.

Prepositional phrase
After the holiday meal   אחרי הארוחה של החג

Subordinating item: preposition + clause
After they ate the holiday meal.   אחרי שהם אכלו את הארוחה.

Determiners, articles and quantifiers   מילות יידוע
Articles, determiners, and quantifiers precede and modify nouns:

Not everyone agrees with you.   לא כל האנשים מסכימים אתך.
He is a billionaire! He has lots of money.   הוא ביליונר! יש לו המון כסף.
Each person brought something.   כל אחד הביא משהו.

Coordinators   מילות חיבור
Common coordinators are ו- 'and' and כי 'because' and או 'or'. They can be found in several levels of the hierarchy: words, phrases, or clauses.
Phrases
Who is the boss here, you, or your   מי הבוס כאן, אתה או אחיך?
brother?
Are you and your brother going to   אתה ואחיך הולכים למשרד?
the office?