Bible Online Learner: Technical Documentation

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26 April 2022

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Contents

Co	Contents	4	
1	1 Introduction		3
	1.1 How To Read This Document		. 3
2	2 General Information		4
	2.1 User Interface		. 4
	2.2 Viewing Text		. 4
	2.3 The Grammar Selection Box		
3	3 Logging In		9
	3.1 Creating An Account		. 9
	3.2 Advantages of Having An Account		. 9
	3.3 Special Account Privileges		. 9
4	4 Running Exercises		12
	4.1 Accessing an Exercise		. 12
	4.2 Variations to Exercises		
In	Index		21

Chapter 1

Introduction

You should read this chapter.

Bible Online Learner (or "Bible OL" for short) is a web-based computer program that supports reading and learning biblical Hebrew and Greek. Bible Online Learner provides these features:

- Users can read the Old Testament in Hebrew and the New Testament in Greek.
- Users can see grammatical information about the words and clauses in the text.
- Teachers of Hebrew and Greek can create exercises based on the biblical texts.
- Students can drill and test themselves using exercises created by teachers.
- Teachers can keep track of how well students do in the exercises.
- Teachers can generate exams for students.

1.1 How To Read This Document

This documents describes how to use Bible Online Learner (Bible OL). The document consists of three parts:

- General information for everyone who wants to use Bible OL.
- Information specifically for students who want to use the exercises provided in Bible OL.
- Information specifically for teachers who want to create exercises in Bible OL.

At the start of most chapters you will find a line indicating if that chapter is relevant for you. On page 21 you will find an index, which may help you find your way through this document.

General Information

You should read this chapter.

2.1 User Interface

You access Bible OL through a web browser using an appropriate URL¹.

When you access the Bible OL main web site using a computer, you will see an introductory page, at the top of which there is a menu. If you are using a smartphone, you will see a small rectangle with three horizontal lines at the top right of the screen. Tap that rectangle to display the menu.

The menu has five items:

- *Home* Selecting this item, takes you to the main web page.
- *Text and Exercises* This allows you to view the Hebrew and Greek biblical texts and to run exercises.
- User Access Here you can log in to the system and view the privacy policy.
- Language This lets you select the language of the user interface.
- *Variant* Here you can select between different variants of the terms and translations used. (See Section XXX.)

If you have a user account (see Section XXX), you can select Login from the User Access menu to access your personal features of the system. Once you have logged, in, a new menu item appears:

• *My Data* – This menu item lets you change your user profile, setup font preferences, enroll in classes, and view how you are doing on the exercises.

2.2 Viewing Text

The most basic operation of Bible OL is that of viewing the Hebrew or Greek text of the Bible. If, for example, you want to see Genesis chapter 1 verses 1-7, you can do it in this manner:

From the *Text and Exercises* menu select *Display text*. This will take you to a web page displaying the dialog of Figure 2.1. Under "Corpus" in that dialog, you select the text database you want to use. You have three options:

- *Hebrew (ETCBC4, OT)*: This is the Hebrew text of the Old Testament as provided by the ETCBC4 database (see Appendix XXX).
- *Hebrew (ETCBC4, Transliterated, OT):* This is the Hebrew text of the Old Testament as provided by the ETCBC4 database, but written with Latin letters.
- *Greek (Nestle 1904,NT):* This is the Greek text of the New Testament as provided by the Nestle 1904 database (see Appendix XXX).

¹Most users will use https://bibleol.3bmoodle.dk.

Make a selection: Corpus: Hebrew (ETCBC4, OT) Hebrew (ETCBC4, Transliterated, OT) Greek (Nestle 1904, NT) Book: Chapter: High (Valid chapters: 1-50) First verse: Last verse: Show link icons:

Figure 2.1: Selecting a text to display.

To see Genesis 1:1-7, fill out the dialog thus:

• Corpus: Hebrew (ETCBC4, OT)

Book: GenesisChapter: 1First verse: 1Last verse: 7

• Show link icons: Don't mark this. (See Section XXX.)

Finally, click the *Display* button. This will show you Genesis 1:1-7 in Hebrew.

The actual layout of the page will depend on whether you are using a computer or a smartphone to view the text. On a computer, the text will look as shown in Figure 2.2. Above the Hebrew text, you see an "eye" labelled "MyView". We shall return to that in Section 2.3. The box on the right is the so-called *grammar information box*. This box is only visible if your mouse points to a word in the Hebrew text; in that case, the grammar information box will show grammatical information about the word pointed to by the mouse. You may find it inconvenient that the grammar information box disappears as soon as you move the mouse, so if you click on a word with your mouse, a dialog box will appear with the same grammar information. (Click the × at the top of the dialog box or the Close button at the bottom of the box to close the dialog. Alternatively, press the "Esc" key on your keyboard.)

If you are using a smartphone, you have no mouse, so you never see the grammar information box. However, if you tap on a Hebrew word, a dialog box will appear with the grammar information. (Tap the \times at the top of the dialog box or the Close button at the bottom of the box to close the dialog.)

The small icon to the right of the first verse is a link to the same text at the SHEBANQ website. (See Section XXX.)

2.3 The Grammar Selection Box

If you click the icon labelled "MyView", the system will show the so-called *grammar selection box*. At the same time the eye icon turns into a \times icon. The contents of the grammar selection box depends on whether you are viewing a Hebrew or a Greek text. In the case of a Hebrew text, the it looks as shown in Figure 2.3.

The Hebrew grammar selection box contains four buttons, identifying the four levels of the grammar hierarchy used by the Hebrew text: The text contains *sentences*, which contain *clauses*, which contain *phrases*, which contain *words*. You can click on each of these to display relevant grammar information.

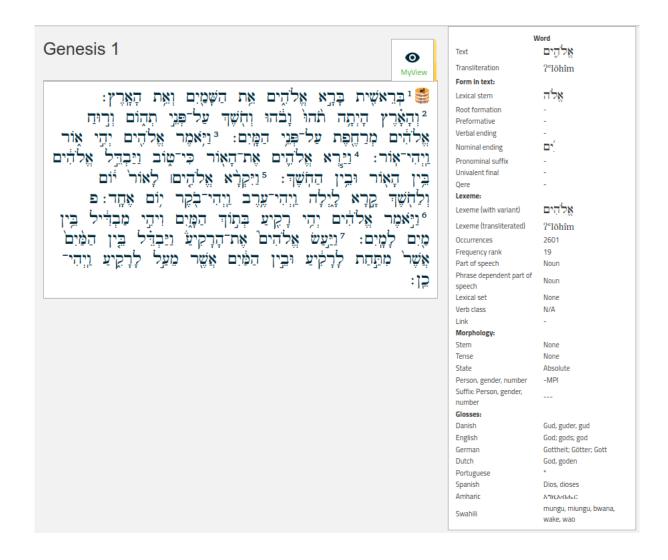


Figure 2.2: Displaying Genesis 1 on a computer.



Figure 2.3: Hebrew grammar selection box.

If, for example, you click the *Word* button and then the *Lexeme* button, the grammar selection box looks as shown in Figure 2.4. If you now click the *Part of speech* button, the Hebrew text changes to look as in Figure 2.5, where you can see the part of speech of each word of the text. You can add additional information by clicking the relevant buttons in the grammar selection box.

You can use the *Clear grammar* all the selected grammar information, and you can use the \times icon to hide the grammar selection box.

The grammar selection box also allows you to see borders between phrases, clauses or sentences, as well as grammatical information about each of these. If, for example, you click *Clause*, and the select *Show border*, you will see the borders of each clause. Again, but pointing your mouse to the word "Clause" on the border of a particular Clause (or, alternatively, clicking the word "Clause"), grammar information about the particular clause will be shown. (See Figure 2.6.)

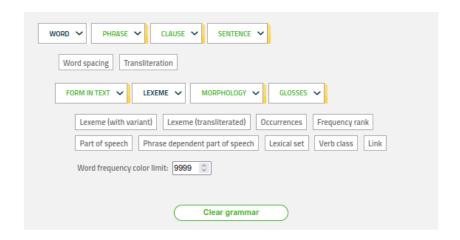


Figure 2.4: Grammar selection box after clicking Word and Lexeme.



Figure 2.5: Genesis 1 with part-of-speech information.

Sometimes clauses (or other parts of a sentence) can contain other clauses inside them. An example of this is seen in Genesis 1 : 7 (Figure 2.7). Here, you can see how the clause וַיַבְּלֵיבָ בֵּין הַמַּׁיִם ׁ וְבֵין הַמַּׁיִם ׁ וֹבִין הַמַּׁיִם ׁ וֹבִין הַמַּׁיִם ׁ וֹבִין הַמַּיִם ׁ וֹבִין הַמַּיִם ׁ וֹצִין הַמַּיִם ׁ וֹבִין הַמַּיִם ׁ וֹצִין הַמַּיִם ׁ וֹבִין הַמַּיִם וֹנִין הַמַּיִם וֹיִּבְין הַמַּיִם וֹיִין הַמַּיִם בּיִּין הַמַּיִם וֹיִים בּיִּבְּין הַמַּיִּם בּיִּבְּין הַמַּיִם בּיִּין הַמַּיִם וֹיִין הַמַּיִם וֹנִין הַמַּיִּים בּיִין הַמַּיִּים בּיִין הַמַּיִּים בּיִין הַמַּיִּים בּיִין הַמַּיִּים בּיִין הַמַּיִּים בּיִּין הַמַּיִּים בּיִּין הַמַּיִּים בּיִּבְּין הַמַּיִּים בּיִּבְּיוֹים בּיִּבְּיוֹם בּיִּבְּיוֹ הַמַּיִּים בּיִּין הַמַּיְים בּיִּבְּבָּיִים בּיִּבְּבָּים בּיִין הַמַּיְים בּיּבְּיוֹים בּיִּין הַמַּיְים הַמַּים בּיִּבְּיוֹ הַעְּיִים בּיּים בּיִין הַמַּיְים בּיּיִים בּיִּבְּים בּיִים בּיִּים בּיּבְּים בּיּיִים בּיּים בּיּיִים בּיּים בּיּים בּיּבּים בּיים בּיּים בּיִּים בּיּיִּים בּיּים בּיים בּיּים בּיִים בּיּים בּיים בּיים בּיים בּיּים בּיִּים בּיים בּיים בּיּים בּיים בּיים בּיּים בּיים בּיים בּיִים בּיִּים בּיים בּיים בּיים בּיים בּיים בּיִּים בּיִים בּייִּים בּיִּים בּיִים בּיּים בּיִּים בּיִים בּיִּים בּיִּים בּייִּים בּיִים בּייִים בּייִּים בּייִים בּייִים בּיים בּייִים בּייִּים בּיים בּיים בּיים בּיים בּיים בּיים בּייִים בּיים בּיים בּייִים בּיים בּיים

The different items you can select in the grammar selection box are detailed in section XXX.

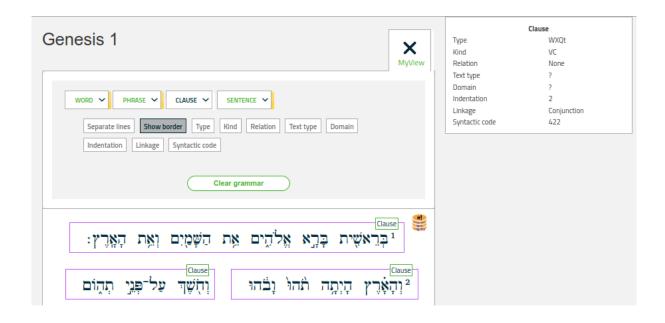


Figure 2.6: Showing grammar information for the second clause of Genesis 1.

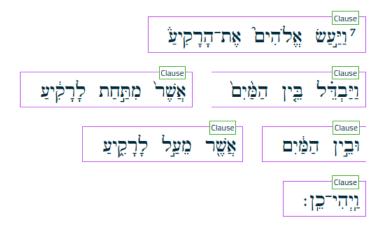


Figure 2.7: A split clause in Genesis 1:7.

Logging In

You should read this chapter.

You can use Bible OL to display biblical text and run some exercises without logging in to the system. But if you want to customize the way text is displayed and if you want to take full advantage of the system, you should have an account and log in when you use Bible OL.

3.1 Creating An Account

You can create an account yourself, or you can have your teacher create an account for you.

To create an account yourself, select *Login* from the *User Access* menu. This brings up the login page, where you can select *Create a new account*, or – if allowed by your installation – you can use an existing Google or Facebook account to log in.

3.2 Advantages of Having An Account

When you are logged in using an account, you get a number of extra possibilities:

- You can customize the fonts used for displaying text.
- You can join classes set up by your teacher and access exercises that anonymous users cannot
 access.
- When you take an exercise, your progress can be recorded and you and your teacher can monitor and grade your progress.

When you are logged in, an extra menu item appears on the Bible OL website: "My Data". This menu has these items:

- *Font preferences* Use this to change the fonts used to display Hebrew or Greek.
- *Profile* Here you can change your name, e-mail address, preferred interface language, and password. (If you are logged in via Google or Facebook, you can only change your preferred interface language.)
- *Enroll/unenroll in class* Use this to join or leave a class. Classes are described in detail in Chapter XXX
- *My performance* See how you are doing solving the exercises.

To log out, select *Logout* from the *User Access* menu.

3.3 Special Account Privileges

A system administrator may assign special privileges to your account. The special privileges are:

- Facilitator
- Translator
- Sysadmin

The facilitator and translator privileges are independent of each other. A user may have either or both sets of privileges.

A sysadmin has all the privileges of both facilitators and translators plus additional privileges.

3.3.1 Facilitator

As a facilitator (or teacher) you have the following additional rights on the system:

- Add, modify, or delete user accounts (except for facilitator, translator, or sysadmin accounts).
- Create and manage exercises.
- Create and manage exams.
- Create and manage classes.
- Monitor how the students in your classes are doing in the exercises.
- Assign or remove facilitator privileges to other accounts.

When you are logged in with facilitator privileges, additional items appears in the "My Data" menu:

- Students' performance See how your students are doing solving the exercises.
- Grade Quizzes Grade students' quizzes.
- Grade Exams Grade students' quizzes.

Additionally, you will see a new menu item "Administration" with these items:

- Users Manage user accounts.
- Classes Manage classes.
- Manage exercises.
- · Manage exams.

3.3.2 Translator

As a translator you have the right to modify the translation of

- The user interface.
- The names for Hebrew and Greek grammatical terms.
- The Hebrew and Greek lexicons.
- Add new languages to the set of available languages.

When you are logged in with translator privileges, you will see a new menu item "Administration" with these items:

- *Translate interface* Translate the user interface.
- Translate grammar items Translate the names for Hebrew and Greek grammatical terms.
- *Translate lexicon* Translate the Hebrew and Greek lexicons.
- *Download lexicon* Download a translation of a Hebrew or Greek lexicon.
- Available translations View the available translations and add new languages.

3.3.3 Sysadmin

As a sysadmin (or system administrator) you have all the privileges of facilitators and translators plus these additional rights:

- Add, modify, or delete user accounts (including facilitator, translator, or sysadmin accounts).
- Manage gloss links (see Section XXX).
- Change ownership of exercises.
- Manage exercises created by other facilitators.
- Manage exams created by other facilitators.
- Manage classes created by other facilitators.

The "Administration" menu will have one additional item:

• Gloss links - See Section XXX.

Chapter 4

Running Exercises

Read this chapter if you want to run or create exercises.

In this section we will look at how you run an exercise. We will go through a couple of examples that you can try out on the system.

NOTE: You need not be logged in to try the code in this example, but you may see some warnings if you are not logged in.

4.1 Accessing an Exercise

Exercises are located in folders in much the same way files on a computer are located in folders. You can access the exercises by selecting *Exercises* from the *Text and exercises* menu. You will then see a list of folders that are found within the top level folder (Figure 4.1). The contents of some folders are available to all students, but you will see that some of the folders here are marked "Restricted". These are folders that are only available to students that are enrolled in certain classes. Students' access to folders is controlled by teachers as described in section XXX.

4.1.1 Example: First Hebrew Exercise

(For a corresponding Greek exercise, see Section 4.1.2.)



Figure 4.1: The top level exercise folder.

This Is the Folder 'ETCBC4/demo' Select a folder ↑ Parent Select an Exercise Ouiz name Select number of questions Select number of questions using preset passages and specify your own passages gender 5 10 25 5 10 25 gender-translit 5 10 25 5 10 25 id suffix 5 10 25 5 10 25 id_suffix-translit 5 10 25 5 10 25

Figure 4.2: The ETCBC4/demo exercise folder.

Find the folder named "ETCBC4" and click on that. Within that folder, you will find another folder called "demo". If you click on that, you will see a list of all the exercises found within that folder (Figure 4.2).

We will now focus on the exercise called "gender". The person who created this exercise will have configured it with a set of Bible passages that should be used for this exercises. If you click on one of the numbers 5, 10, or 25 under the heading "Select number of questions using preset passages", you will start an exercise with 5, 10, or 25 questions take from the pre-configured Bible passages. If instead you click on one of the numbers 5, 10, or 25 under the heading "Select number of questions and specify your own passages", you will be allowed to specify the Bible passages yourself.

Click on the number 5 under "...preset passages" and the exercise will start. The system will show you a random sentence from the specified Bible passages, for example, the one you see in Figure 4.3. At the top of the exercise you see a short description – in this case "Which gender is this?" If you click the button labelled "Locate", you will learn that this sentence is found in Genesis 1:2. As described in Sections 2.2 and 2.3, you can see more information about each word by pointing to it with your mouse (if you are using an ordinary computer), by clicking on it, or by using the "MyView" feature.

In this example, the system has highlighed three nouns in purple. Your task is to identify the grammatical gender of each of these words.

Below the text you see a green bar. This will show your progress through the five sentences of this exercise. Below the bar is a box in which you should provide your answers.

The first noun, אֱלֹהָׁים, is shown in the top line of the answer box, and you must identify its gender by clicking either "Masculine", "Feminine", "None", "Unknown", or "Absent".¹

After clicking an answer, you may then check your answer by clicking "Check answer". Figure 4.4 shows you what a correct and a wrong answer looks like. If you don't know the answer, clicking the "Show answer" button will display the correct answer.

In this sentence there are three nouns. We can move on to the next noun, \rightleftharpoons , by clicking the \gt symbol at the right side of the answer box. A \lt symbol will then appear at the left side of the answer box, allowing you to move back to the previous word.

When the last word in the sentence, :בְּיֵבְ, is shown (Figure 4.5), three buttons appear below the answer box. Use the "Next" button to move to the next sentence. When there are no more sentences,

¹"Unknown" means that the gender cannot be determined from the information in the text; it does not mean that the word has no gender. The values "None" and "Absent" are irrelevant in this exercise: "None" means the word has no gender; this is, for example, the case for prepositons, but since this exercise is only concerned with nouns, the answer is never "None". A value of "Absent" can occur on gender suffixes, but it is never the main gender of a noun.



Figure 4.3: The first sentence of a Hebrew exercise.



Figure 4.4: A correct and a wrong answer to a Hebrew exercise.

or if you want to terminate the exercise prematurely, you can click either "GRADE task" or "SAVE outcome". Both of these terminate the exercise. If you are not logged in, no further action is taken, regardless of which of the two buttons you press. But if you *are* logged in, "GRADE task" causes the system to stores your result internally and indicates to the teacher that your result may be used for grading your progress. "SAVE outcome" also stores your result internally, but indicates that you do not want your result to be used for grading.

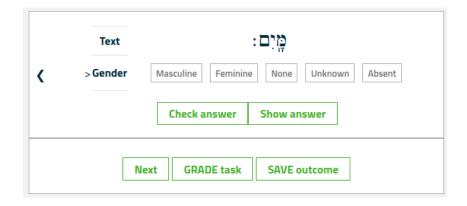


Figure 4.5: Showing the last word of the exercise question.

4.1.2 Example: First Greek Exercise

(For a corresponding Hebrew exercise, see Section 4.1.1.)

Find the folder named "Nestle 1904" and click on that. Within that folder, you will find another folder called "demo". If you click on that, you will see a list of all the exercises found within that folder (Figure 4.6).

We will now focus on the exercise called "case". The person who created this exercise will have configured it with a set of Bible passages that should be used for this exercises. If you click on one of the numbers 5, 10, or 25 under the heading "Select number of questions using preset passages", you will start an exercise with 5, 10, or 25 questions take from the pre-configured Bible passages. If instead you click on one of the numbers 5, 10, or 25 under the heading "Select number of questions and specify your own passages", you will be allowed to specify the Bible passages yourself.

Click on the number 5 under "...preset passages" and the exercise will start. The system will show you a random sentence from the specified Bible passages, for example, the one you see in Figure 4.7. At the top of the exercise you see a short description – in this case "Noun cases" If you click the button labelled "Locate", you will learn that this sentence is found in John 10:38. As described in Sections 2.2 and 2.3, you can see more information about each word by pointing to it with your mouse (if you are using an ordinary computer), by clicking on it, or by using the "MyView" feature.

This Is the Folder 'Nestle 1904/demo'					
Select a folder ↑ Parent					
Select an Exercise					
Quiz name	Select number of questions using preset passages	Select number of questions and specify your own passages			
case	5 10 25	5 10 25			
conjugate_verb	5 10 25	5 10 25			
everything	5 10 25	5 10 25			
prep_with_case	5 10 25	5 10 25			

Figure 4.6: The Nestle 1904/demo exercise folder.



Figure 4.7: The first sentence of a Greek exercise.

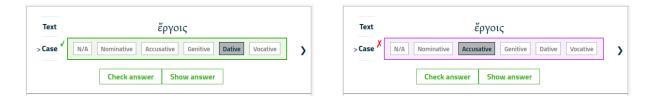


Figure 4.8: A correct and a wrong answer to a Greek exercise.

In this example, the system has highlighed three nouns in purple. Your task is to identify the grammatical case of each of these words.

Below the text you see a green bar. This will show your progress through the five sentences of this exercise. Below the bar is a box in which you should provide your answers.

The first noun, ἔργοις, is shown in the top line of the answer box, and you must identify its gender by clicking either "N/A", 2 "Nominative", "Accusative", "Genetive", "Dative", or "Vocative".

After clicking an answer, you may then check your answer by clicking "Check answer". Figure 4.8 shows you what a correct and a wrong answer looks like. If you don't know the answer, clicking the "Show answer" button will display the correct answer.

In this sentence there are three nouns. We can move on to the next noun, $\Pi\alpha\tau\eta\rho$, by clicking the \rangle symbol at the right side of the answer box. A \langle symbol will then appear at the left side of the answer box, allowing you to move back to the previous word.

When the last word in the sentence, $\Pi\alpha\tau\rho$ i, is shown (Figure 4.9), three buttons appear below the answer box. Use the "Next" button to move to the next sentence. When there are no more sentences, or if you want to terminate the exercise prematurely, you can click either "GRADE task" or "SAVE

²That is, "Not applicable". This means that the word has no case; this is, for example, the case for prepositions, but since this exercise is only concerned with nouns, the answer is never "N/A".



Figure 4.9: Showing the last word of the exercise question.

outcome". Both of these terminate the exercise. If you are not logged in, no further action is taken, regardless of which of the two buttons you press. But if you *are* logged in, "GRADE task" causes the system to stores your result internally and indicates to the teacher that your result may be used for grading your progress. "SAVE outcome" also stores your result internally, but indicates that you do not want your result to be used for grading.

4.1.3 Example: Second Hebrew Exercise

(For a corresponding Greek exercise, see Section 4.1.4.)

We will now look at the exercise called "number_state" in the "ETCBC4/demo" folder. Click on the number 5 under "...preset passages" for that exercise. The system will show you a random sentence from the specified Bible passages, for example, the one you see in Figure 4.10.

Here, we have a sentence from Genesis 3:14. You will immediately notice an important difference from the previous example: Some of the words have been replaced by a number in parentheses. The reason is that in this case Bible Online Learner asks the user to provide a word that is actually part of the text; therefore the word must not be shown in the window. The system has therefore replaced the interesting words with numbers.

In this example, the answer box contains five lines labelled "Item number", "Lexeme (with variant)", "Number", "Gender", and "State". The item number referes to the number in parentheses in the sentence. In this case we have moved through the words to the third word. The lexeme is the dictionary form of the word in question, and the number, gender, and state should help you create the word form that is actually in the text.

Your task is to type the word form that is found in the text, but without the Hebrew cantillation marks (which you rarely need to know in detail). Below the empty field for the text, you will see a few buttons labelled with Hebrew characters. You can use these buttons to spell the correct word form, which in this case is בְּיֵלֵי. The key marked \rightarrow is a backspace key that deletes the last character you entered. The small characters in the upper right corner can be used to type the Hebrew character on you computer keyboard, if you prefer to do so rather than to click with your mouse.

When you have entered your answer, you can use the "Check answer" button to verify that your answer is correct.

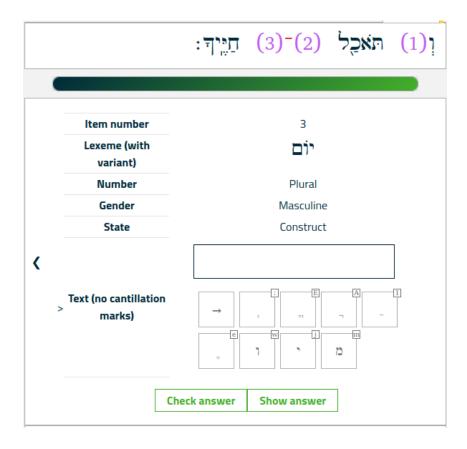


Figure 4.10: A sentence from the exercise "ETCBC4/number_state".

4.1.4 Example: Second Greek Exercise

(For a corresponding Hebrew exercise, see Section 4.1.3.)

We will now look at the exercise called "conjugate_verb" in the "Nestle 1904/demo" folder. Click on the number 5 under "...preset passages" for that exercise. The system will show you a random sentence from the specified Bible passages, for example, the one you see in Figure 4.11.

Here, we have a sentence from Luke 8:17. You will immediately notice an important difference from the previous example: Some of the words have been replaced by a number in parentheses. The reason is that in this case Bible Online Learner asks the user to provide a word that is actually part of the text; therefore the word must not be shown in the window. The system has therefore replaced the interesting words with numbers.

In this example, the answer box contains five lines labelled "Item number", "Voice", "Lexeme", "Mood", "Person", "Number", and "Tense". The item number referes to the number in parentheses in the sentence. The lexeme is the dictionary form of the word in question, and the voice, mood, person, number, and tense should help you create the word form that is actually in the text.

Your task is to type the word form that is found in the text in lower case without accents. Below the empty field for the text, you will see a few buttons labelled with Greek characters. You can use these buttons to spell the correct word form, which in this case is $\epsilon\sigma\tau\nu$. The key marked \leftarrow is a backspace key that deletes the last character you entered. The small characters in the upper left corner can be used to type the Greek character on you computer keyboard, if you prefer to do so rather than to click with your mouse.

When you have entered your answer, you can use the "Check answer" button to verify that your answer is correct.

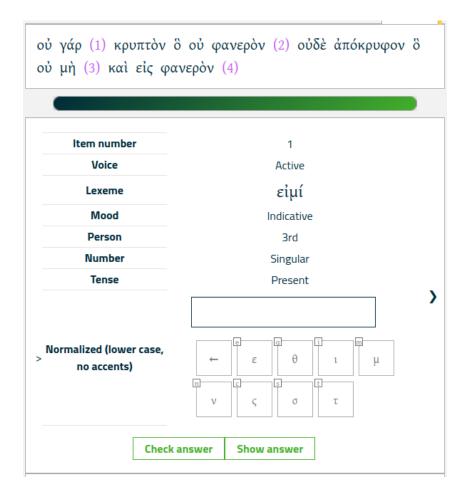


Figure 4.11: A sentence from the exercise "Nestle 1904/conjugate_verb".

4.2 Variations to Exercises

The exercises presented in the previous sections illustrate how most excersies work. However, a teacher can vary certain details about the way exercises look to the student. These details are listed in the following sections.

4.2.1 Fixed Exercises

Normally, the senteces for exercises are chosen at random from a set of Bible passages. This means that every time you run an exercise, you may see new sentences.

However, an exercise may be constructed to display a fixed set of questions in a fixed order. If that is the case, you will always see the same sentences every time you run the exercise.

Furthermore, the student can normally choose between seeing 5, 10, or 25 questions in an exercise; but a teach may restrict this number so that only a fixed number of questions can be shown.

If either the order of questions or the number of questions is fixed, the students cannot themselves choose the Bible passages for the exercise.

4.2.2 Sentence Context

Normally, an exercise will show you one sentence at a time. However, an exercise may be constructed to display a few sentences surrounding the sentence in question. For example, Figure 4.12 shows one sentence in grey before and after the sentence that the exercise is concerned with.

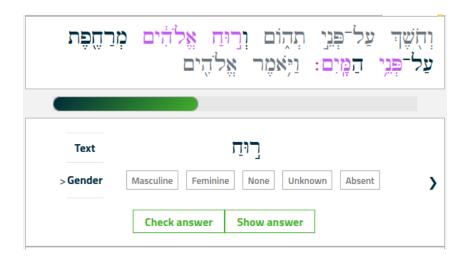


Figure 4.12: Context around the sentence being considered is shown in grey. The sentence in question in shown in black and purple.

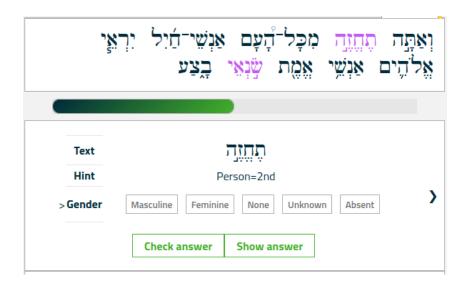


Figure 4.13: An ambiguous word form with a hint.

4.2.3 Disabling "Locate"

A teacher may disable the "Locate" button in an exercise.

4.2.4 Hints

Sometimes a Hebrew word form, taken on its own, may have multiple interpretations. For example, the word form הַּבְּהַבְּה can be both 2nd person masculine and 3rd person feminine. A teacher may configure the exercise to provide hints to the correct interpretation. Figure 4.13 shows a sentence where the student is asked to provide the gender for this particular word. A hint tells the student that we are dealing with a 2nd person form, which aids the student in selecting the correct gender, masculine.

Index

Page numbers in italics are used to indicate the main references for an entry. A page number may appear both in italics and in upright letters if a term is used twice on a page.

```
account, 9
    privileges, 9
administrator, 11
context, 19
creating an account, see account, creating
disabling locate, 20
exercises
    fixed, 19
    order, 19
    running, 12
    variations, 19
facilitator, 10
grammar information box, 5
grammar selection box, 5
hints, 20
information box, see grammar information box
locate, 13, 15, 20
MyView, 5
order of exercises, 19
privileges, see account, privileges
running exercises, 12
selection box, see grammar selection box
sentence context, 19
sysadmin, 11
system administrator, 11
teacher, 10
translator, 10
variations to exercises, 19
```