













## state construct

### Summary

The construct state is a modified form of a word (noun, adjective, participle, or infinitive) in contrast to the standard form called the absolute state. The construct state is used when a word takes a suffix or is connected to another term in a construct chain.

### Article

Nouns, adjectives, participles and infinitives can appear in either the absolute state or the construct state. The construct state ending is shorter than the absolute state ending and can take an attached suffix. Nouns, adjectives and participles can appear in either the absolute state or the construct state for both masculine and feminine terms in both singular and plural forms. Because infinitives do not change form for either gender or number, there is usually only one infinitive construct form and one infinitive absolute form of a verb in Biblical Hebrew.

### Note

Many masculine singular nouns appear exactly alike in both the absolute state and the construct state. The construct state serves a unique function in Biblical Hebrew to grammatically link a word to the following word(s), making a single grammatical unit called a construct chain. Words in a construct chain are often translated into English with the word “of” between them. Construct chains can consist of two words (for example, “the king of Israel”) or more than two words (for example, “the son of the king of Israel”).

Back



# State Absolute

## Summary

The absolute state is the standard form of a word (noun, adjective, participle, or infinitive) in contrast to a modified form called the construct state. A word in the absolute state can take a prefix but not a suffix.

Nouns, adjectives, participles and infinitives can appear in either the absolute state or the construct state. The absolute state is the standard form and consists of a longer ending as opposed to the shorter construct ending. The most fundamental difference between the two forms is that the construct form can take an attached suffix, but the absolute form cannot. Nouns, adjectives and participles can appear in either the absolute or the construct state for both masculine and feminine terms in both singular and plural forms. Because infinitives do not change form for either gender or number, there is usually only one infinitive construct form and one infinitive absolute form of a verb in Biblical Hebrew.

### Note

Many masculine singular nouns appear exactly alike in both the absolute state and the construct state.

Back



# Torah Portion First reading — Genesis 1:1–2:3

1 \* אֶלֶף אֶלֶף אֶלֶף אֶלֶף  
אֶלֶף אֶלֶף אֶלֶף אֶלֶף  
אֶלֶף אֶלֶף אֶלֶף אֶלֶף

2 אֶלֶף אֶלֶף אֶלֶף אֶלֶף  
אֶלֶף אֶלֶף אֶלֶף אֶלֶף  
אֶלֶף אֶלֶף אֶלֶף אֶלֶף  
אֶלֶף אֶלֶף אֶלֶף אֶלֶף

3 1 אֶלֶף אֶלֶף אֶלֶף אֶלֶף  
אֶלֶף אֶלֶף אֶלֶף אֶלֶף

4 אֶלֶף אֶלֶף אֶלֶף אֶלֶף  
אֶלֶף אֶלֶף אֶלֶף אֶלֶף  
אֶלֶף אֶלֶף אֶלֶף אֶלֶף  
אֶלֶף אֶלֶף אֶלֶף אֶלֶף

5 אֶלֶף אֶלֶף אֶלֶף אֶלֶף  
אֶלֶף אֶלֶף אֶלֶף אֶלֶף  
אֶלֶף אֶלֶף אֶלֶף אֶלֶף  
אֶלֶף אֶלֶף אֶלֶף אֶלֶף

1 \* אֶלֶף אֶלֶף אֶלֶף אֶלֶף  
אֶלֶף אֶלֶף אֶלֶף אֶלֶף  
אֶלֶף אֶלֶף אֶלֶף אֶלֶף  
אֶלֶף אֶלֶף אֶלֶף אֶלֶף

2 אֶלֶף אֶלֶף אֶלֶף אֶלֶף  
אֶלֶף אֶלֶף אֶלֶף אֶלֶף  
אֶלֶף אֶלֶף אֶלֶף אֶלֶף  
אֶלֶף אֶלֶף אֶלֶף אֶלֶף

3 אֶלֶף אֶלֶף אֶלֶף אֶלֶף  
אֶלֶף אֶלֶף אֶלֶף אֶלֶף

4 אֶלֶף אֶלֶף אֶלֶף אֶלֶף  
אֶלֶף אֶלֶף אֶלֶף אֶלֶף  
אֶלֶף אֶלֶף אֶלֶף אֶלֶף  
אֶלֶף אֶלֶף אֶלֶף אֶלֶף

5 אֶלֶף אֶלֶף אֶלֶף אֶלֶף

אֶלֶף אֶלֶף אֶלֶף אֶלֶף  
אֶלֶף אֶלֶף אֶלֶף אֶלֶף  
אֶלֶף אֶלֶף אֶלֶף אֶלֶף  
אֶלֶף אֶלֶף אֶלֶף אֶלֶף

1 \* IN A BEGINNING HE  
CREATED ELOHEM NAMELY  
THE SPACE AND NAMELY THE  
MATTER:

2 AND THE MATTER SHE WAS  
FORMLESS AND VOID AND  
DARK ON THE SURFACE OF THE  
LOUD ELEMENTAL  
SEDIMENTARY FILLED SURGING  
MASS OF WATER AND THE  
COSMIC WINDS OF ELOHEM  
SHE PUSHES UPON THE  
SURFACE OF THE WATERS:

3 1 AND HE SAID ELOHEM  
LET THERE BE LIGHT AND  
THERE WAS LIGHT:

4 AND HE SAW ELOHEM  
NAMELY THE LIGHT THAT IT  
WAS GOOD AND HE  
DIFFERENTIATED ELOHEM  
BETWEEN THE LIGHT AND  
BETWEEN THE DARKNESS:

5 AND HE CALLED ELOHEM  
TO THE LIGHT YOM AND FOR  
THE DARKNESS HE CALLED  
LAYLAH AND THERE WAS A  
FADING OF THE LIGHT AND  
THERE WAS A DAWNING OF  
THE LIGHT HEAT PERIOD ONE: