

C. Function of the Definite Article

The definite article makes the word to which it is attached definite.

NOTE: If a word does not have a definite article, it is assumed to be indefinite (unless it is a proper name which is definite per se), and is translated by the indefinite article "a."

D. Steps for Adding the Definite Article

1. Attach the definite article he (ה) to the beginning of the word.
2. Put a pathah under the definite article he (ה).
3. Insert a dagesh forte in the first letter of the word to which the definite article is attached.

NOTE: If the first letter of the word to which the definite article is attached is a laryngeal (aleph - א , he - ה , heth - ח , or ayin - ע) or the letter resh (ר), it will not take a dagesh forte, and therefore, special rules will apply.

XI. Sign of the Object

A. Identification of the Sign of the Object

The sign of the object consists of the particle ׀ or ׀.

NOTE: The hyphen on the particle ׀ is called a maqqeph. It joins two or more words together so that they are pronounced as one word with the accent on the last word.

B. Position of the Sign of the Object

The sign of the object precedes the object of the verb in a verbal sentence, and it points to that which follows it as the object of the verb.

C. Use of the Sign of the Object

1. Negatively

The sign of the object is not used when the object of the verb is indefinite.

2. Positively

The sign of the object is used when the object of the verb is definite. The object of the verb is definite when:

- a. It has a definite article.
- b. It is a proper name.