

LESSON VIII

I. The Infinitives

A. Infinitive Absolute

1. Definition of the Infinitive Absolute

The infinitive absolute is an infinitive that stands alone as a separate word in a sentence. It cannot have anything attached to the front of it or to the end of it.

NOTE: The infinitive absolute and the absolute state of the noun are two different things. There is no connection between them.

2. Base Forms of the Stems in the Infinitive Absolute

The base forms of the stems in the infinitive absolute are the same as the base forms of the stems in the imperfect tense (e.g. לִּשְׁׁרַב , לִּשְׁׁרַב , etc.).

3. Formation of the Stems in the Infinitives Absolute

a. Write the base form of the infinitive absolute (e.g. לִּשְׁׁרַב).

b. Change the vowel after the second letter of the verbal root to a holem in every stem except the Hiphil and Hophal where it changes to a şere (e.g. לִּשְׁׁרַב and לִּשְׁׁרַב־וּ).

c. In the Qal stem alone, change the vowel after the first letter of the verbal root to a qameş , and write the holem after the second letter of the verbal root with the vowel letter waw (e.g. לִּשְׁׁרַב־וּ).

NOTE: The accent is on the ultima (e.g. לִּשְׁׁרַב־וּ).

4. Uses of the Infinitive Absolute

a. It is used to emphasize the idea of the verb.

(1) Position

The infinitive absolute precedes the verb with which it goes (e.g. $\text{וְשִׁׁיב־וּ וְשִׁׁיב־וּ}$).

(2) Agreement