Learning Hebrew: Prepositions

PREPOSITIONS
In Hebrew prepositions function like prepositions in English. that is, they describe relationships between words. There are three types of prepositions in Hebrew: independent, Maqqef, and inseparable.

Independent prepositions. the majority of Hebrew prepositions stand alone. (Example: לַמֶלֶפֶן)

The Maqqef prepositions are always joined to their objects (the word after the preposition) with a Maqqef. (Example: על

The inseparable prepositions (ך, ל, ט) are prefixed directly to their objects. They never occur independently.

Before most consonants, the inseparable preposition will appear with a vocal sheva. (Example:ך.

Before a chataf vowel, the inseparable preposition takes the corresponding short vowel of the chataf vowel. (Example:ך.

Before consonants with a vocal sheva, the inseparable prepositions are spelled with a chirek. (Example:ך.

Nouns with a definite article retain the dagesh forte and the vowel but the consonant of the preposition replaces the ה of the definite article. (Example:ך.

When the מִן preposition is inseparably prefixed to a word beginning with a beged kefet, the dagesh lene becomes a dagesh forte. (Example:ך. The dagesh forte in the bet represents the assimilated nun of the preposition.

When the מִן preposition is inseparably prefixed to a word beginning with a guttural letter, the preposition changes to מֵן (Example:ך.

When the מִן preposition is inseparably prefixed to a word with the definite article, the ה is retained and preposition changes to מֵן (Example:ך.