

1. We promote reading the text by clause divisions. Note how the first verse is broken into clauses by the accent marks. If you need to review the accents...there is a chapter in my Supplementary Notes on Hebrew Grammar.

And Abram was (zaqqeph)
 the son of ninety years (tipah)
 and nine years (athnaq)
 and the Lord appeared unto Abram (rebhia)
 and he said unto him I am God Almighty (zaqqeph)
 walk before me (tipah)
 and be complete. (silluq)

It is amazing but if one will learn to read clauses, one will soon be reading sentences and paragraphs and will be free from the "what is this word and where does it go" feeling that haunts so many students.

Note the imperatives in vs. 1 and note also the obvious condition.

And we trust in line 1 that you observed the arrangement of the Hebrew numerals! If you don't understand how they operate: the modifier does not agree with the word modified in number and gender. (ninety--plural masculine; year, singular, feminine)

2. In addition to noticing the clauses, it is good to pick up the leading verb in a sentence...it will often give you a feeling as to where the sentence is going.

Note the leading verbs in vs. 2 "I will put" "I will bless"
 Notice that they are cohortatives.

Note how the action in vss 1 and 4 condition the action and render it passive "the Lord appeared"... "it will not be called"

3. Observe the sequences of "waw" in vss 5-9 and see how the translation must be given to reflect this sequence.

"and it will not be called"	<u>simple conjunction</u>	(v. 5)
"but your name will be"	<u>adversative</u>	(v. 5)
"and I will make you very fruitful"	<u>narrative</u>	(v. 6)
"and I will set you"	<u>narrative</u> "then"	(v. 6)
"and I will raise up"	<u>resultant</u> "so"	(v. 7)
"and I will give"	<u>narrative</u>	(v. 8)
"and I will be"	<u>narrative?</u>	(v. 8)
"and God said"	<u>narrative</u>	(v. 9)

It is obvious that a lot of variety can be had in the handling of the waw..and it is an honest usage. My suggestions on types of action and not final but the student needs to think of these and keep them in mind as one goes.

4. Notice some special usages that occur in the passage...of things in a more random and less specified form:

Notice the use of "eternal" as an adjective in vss 7, 8