

the Hiphil stem due to the force or cause invested in that stem. Good examples include:

הַרְבֵּי /much/ from רַבִּי /be many/
 מִבֶּטֶן /early/ from מִבֶּטֶן /rise up early/

Other stems may be used for this development, however, and the student must know this. When you are parsing and come on such a form, it is safer to call it an infinitive absolute and learn to see it as having adverbial usage when the occurrences warrant such.

c. Used to strengthen the verbal idea

When the infinitive absolute precedes a verb in the same stem, we translate it "surely" and when it follows we generally say "continually". These are not inflexible and serve only as guidelines.

d. Less common usages:

- (1) with conditional sentences the absolute infinitive is at times used to stress the importance of the condition.
- (2) with interrogation the infinitive absolute is used to give a more forceful thrust to the nature of the question. This will often be seen in places where the question has a touch of indignation to it.
- (3) and it may be used almost as if it were "another verb" and bound to the over-all action with a simple copula. In such cases the infinitive absolute serves exactly as a finite verb.

"c" of the above is probably the most common.

2. The Infinitive Construct

If one defines sharply one will see that the infinitive absolute is like saying the "infinitive alone" and the infinitive construct is like saying the "infinitive that depends on another word." Such is somewhat the case although sharp lines of distinction like this are not easily drawn well.

But in a general sense, the construct infinitive depends on its relationship to another word (or an attached pronoun) for its significance in the sentence. This explains the use of the term "construct." Such usage may be summarized as follows:

- a. It may serve as a simple noun and thus have the role of subject or object.