

Example: Hosea 14:4

יְאֵשֶׁר-בְּיָדְךָ יְאֵשֶׁר
וְיָנִיחַ לְךָ יְאֵשֶׁר
וְיָנִיחַ לְךָ יְאֵשֶׁר

"which, in you, the orphan is comforted.."

Which is smoothed out to read.."You, in whom the orphan is comforted."

b. Restrictive clauses

Uses with words of time, place, or manner, **אשר** tends to show the restrictive sense and is translated as "where", "when", or "why". The fuller notes are on BDB pp 82. We call it "restrictive" in that it limits or locates a response. Often with regard to place you will see the expression **אשר** which is identical in use to the locative he...although considerably longer in written form.

c. Possession

This is often indicated with **אשר** being followed by the inseparable preposition **ל** and the resultant noun or pronoun. This is generally translated "of". The phrase conveys the sense of "belonging" in the simplicity of English possession. Although it is problematic, there is a fascinating occurrence of this in Genesis 49:10 and the expression "Shiloh".

d. To qualify by showing cause

אשר is used in the causal sense to explain how some action or state has come to be. Translated as "that", "as" "forasmuch" "how" and so forth, the context will determine the exact flavor of your translation idea.

Example: Deuteronomy 9:7

זְכוֹר אֵל-יְהוָה שְׂפִיחַ אֵת
אֵת-יְהוָה אֵלֶיךָ בְּמִדְבַּר

"Remember, don't forget, how you provoked the Lord your God in the wilderness..."

אשר could be translated "that" but the idea of "how" is fuller.

This verse continues with a contrasting use of **אשר** that demonstrates "b" above:

פֶּן תֵּיָצֵא מִן הָאָרֶץ
מִן הָאָרֶץ מִן הָאָרֶץ

"when you came out of the land of Egypt..."

This completes an expression of time clause as noted in b-above, and is so called "restrictive". This verse allows us to see the multi-sided nature of **אשר** and most of our students soon realize that it is one of the most common of the particles to be faced in the Hebrew language.

e. Conjunctive use

אשר may well serve as a simple connective as does **ו**.