

root. It parses and declines, so to speak. Many teachers oppose the analyticals because the student who knows the alphabet can get information from them that the teacher would prefer the student to just know. But in a course like this it is a great tool and will also help one to be better aware of the Hebrew notes. It does not give as much background and lexicographical material as does BDB but it is a start in the right direction and not too expensive, either.

Brown, Driver and Briggs: HEBREW AND ENGLISH LEXICON OF THE OLD TESTAMENT. This is a revision of Gesenius' Lexicon and is one of the standard works in lexicography. For many words it serves as a concordance as well. Read the introduction and the prefatory material before trying to use the Lexicon...and it will save you a lot of grief and note particularly the table of abbreviations. Then remember the following:

--Words are listed by root, in alphabetical sequence.

--derivatives of a word may begin with a different letter than the root but they will be under the root in alphabetical sequence! This is why you use the INDEX (discussed in a few paragraphs)..to make sure you have the right root. You will discover that a lot of words beginning with

מ mem ה he
ת tau

are derivative words. The mem indicates an original participle stem while the he and tau indicate an infinitive origin. Don't worry about it now but sometimes when you see a word beginning with one of these letters the fastest way is to disregard the initial letter and begin with the second. Of course, the INDEX will deliver you from this problem.