

Exodus 20:1

וַיְדַבֵּר אֱלֹהִים אֶת כָּל־הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה לְאָמֹר:

And God spake all these words, saying, (ASV)

וַיְדַבֵּר (vay-da-ber)

The verb root דבר means "speak." The prefix י identifies the verb as third person, masculine, singular and imperfect tense - he will speak or he speaks. The prefix ו means "and" but also changes the tense of the verb from imperfect to perfect - he spoke.

אֱלֹהִים (e-lo-hiym)

The base word is אלוה (e-lo-ah) meaning "one of power" or "God." The suffix ים (iym) identifies the noun as a masculine plural - Gods or God (Hebrew plurals can be quantitative - more than one, or qualitative - large or great). Because this noun follows the verb it is the subject of the verb, the "he" in "he spoke."

אֶת (eyt)

This word precedes the definite object of the verb.

כָּל (kol)

This word means "all."

הַדְּבָרִים (ha-de-va-riym)

The base word is דבר and is the noun form of the verb seen in the first word of this verse. This base word means a "word." The prefix ה means "the." The suffix ים identifies the noun as a masculine plural. הדברים means "the words."

הָאֵלֶּה (ha-ey-leh)

The base word אלה (ey-leh) means "these." The prefix ה means "the." The phrase האלה הדברים (the words the these) is translated as "these words."

לְאָמֹר (ley-mor)

The verb root אמר (a-mar) means "say." The prefix ל (ley) means "to" and identifies the verb as infinitive. לאמר means "to say."