

NOMINAL & VERBAL HENDIADYS

BASIC EXPLANATION

A *hendiadys* consists of two words joined by the simple conjunction *wāw* which express a single idea.

CLARIFICATION

One of the two words will modify or qualify the other in some way.

ILLUSTRATION

The English expression, "I am good and mad," provides a good illustration of a hendiadys. The point is that the speaker is very *mad* (not that he is on the one hand good, and on the other mad).

I. NOMINAL HENDIADYS [R, § 50.2]

A. Gen 13:13

"Now the men of Sodom were wicked sinners" (lit., "wicked and sinners").

וְאֲנָשֵׁי סֹדֹם וְחַטָּאִים רָעִים
and-sinners wicked-ones Sodom now-men-of

B. Gen 3:16

"I will greatly multiply your pain in conception" (lit., "your pain and conception").

וְהֵרַבְתְּ וְהֵרַבְתְּ אֲרַבָּה עֲצָבוֹנֶיךָ
and-childbearing-of-you pain-of-you I-will-increase to-increase

II. VERBAL HENDIADYS [R, § 59.1]

A. Most Common Situation: Two verbs joined by the simple conjunction *wāw* (ו). One of the verbs (usually the first) will qualify the other adverbially.

1. Jud 19:7 "his father-in-law persuaded him, so he again spent the night there" (lit., "and he stayed and he spent the night").

וַיִּפְצַר-בּוֹ חֹתְנוֹ וַיֵּשֶׁב וַיֵּלֶן שָׁם
there and-he-spent-night so-he-stayed father-in-law-of-him over-him then-he-persuaded

2. Gen 45:13 "and you shall quickly bring my father down here" (lit., "and you shall hurry and shall bring down ...").

וּמְהֵרָתֶם וְהוֹרַדְתֶּם אֶת־אָבִי הִנֵּה
 here father-of-me *** and-you-bring-down then-you-hurry

B. The Asyndetic Construction (2 verbs with no conjunction)

Gen 30:31 "I will go on tending your sheep"

אֲשׁוּבָה אֶרְעֶה צֹאֲנֶךָ
 flock-of-you I-will-tend I-will-go-on

C. Hendiadys involving an infinitive construct

There are numerous cases where the second verb will be an infinitive construct. In this case, the first verb is translated adverbially, and the infinitive is translated as the finite verb.

Gen 4:1 "and she again bore his brother Abel"

וַחֲסָף לִלְדֹת אֶת־אָחִיו אֶת־הָבֶל
 Inf. Con. Main Verb
 Abel brother-of-him *** to-bear and-she-continued

D. Verbs commonly used in the adverbial position of a verbal hendiadys:

1. הוֹסִיף [יִסַּף] - to do [something] again
2. שׁוּב - to do [something] again
3. מְהֵרָה - to do [something] quickly

Josh 8:19 ". . . and they quickly burned the city with fire."

וַיִּמְהָרוּ וַיְצִיחוּ אֶת־הָעִיר בְּאֵשׁ:
 with-the-fire the-city *** and-they-burned and-they-were-quick

4. הַרְבֵּה - to do [something] much or a lot
5. הַשְּׂכִים - to do [something] early (in the day)
6. הוֹאִיל [יֵאָל] - to do [something] willingly