

The following comments are intended to explain, provide mnemonics for, answer questions that students have raised, and otherwise supplement the second edition of *Basics of Biblical Hebrew* by Pratico and Van Pelt.

## Chapter 1 – The Hebrew Alphabet

### 1.1 The consonants

- For begadkephat letters (§1.5), the pronunciation in §1.1 is the pronunciation with the Dagesh Lene (§1.5), even though the Dagesh Lene is not shown in §1.1.
- The name כ “Kaf” has an “off” sound. It looks like open mouth *coughing* or a cup of *coffee* on its side.
- The name ק “Qof” has an “oh” sound. It has a circle (like the letter “o” inside it). Also, it is transliterated with the letter q, and it looks like a backwards q.
- There are different ways of spelling the names of letters. E.g., Alef / Aleph / ’āleṗ
- Fonts differ, as do styles of handwriting.

*Ezra SIL font* → א ב ג ד ה ו ז ח ט י כ ל מ נ ס ע פ צ ק ר ש ת

*Arial font* → א ב ג ד ה ו ז ח ט י כ ל מ נ ס ע פ צ ק ר ש ת

*My handwriting* → א ב ג ד ה ו ז ח ט י כ ל מ נ ס ע פ צ ק ר ש ת

*Handwriting I've also seen* → א ב ג ד ה ו ז ח ט י כ ל מ נ ס ע פ צ ק ר ש ת

← Final forms

### 1.2 Pronouncing א and ע

- When memorizing vocabulary, I distinguish those sounds so that I do not confuse words.
  - For example: א means ‘if’ or ‘then’, whereas ע means ‘with’.

### 1.4 Final forms

- **Mnemonic:** “common fats” כמנפצ → דםןרץ
- Except for final mem (מ → ם), final forms ‘pull down’ the end of the letter (e.g., כ → ך).

### 1.5 Begadkephat letters

- Either a dot in the letter or a line in transliteration.
- Line in transliteration goes under the letter unless not fit (g, p), in which case it goes over.

### 1.7 Easily confused letters

- There are other letters that sound alike: א (Alef) and ע (Ayin), and כ (Kaf) and ח (Het)
- I recommend distinguishing all letters orally when memorizing vocabulary.

### 1.9 Numerical Values

- Advanced information: To represent a number from 1–999 a dot is put over the letter (e.g., א = 1, ב = 2). For numbers from 1000–9999, two dots are used (e.g., א = 1000, ב = 2000).
- These numbers are never used within the text of the Bible. They are only used for notes in the margin.
- Within the Biblical text, numbers are always written out (like ‘one’ instead of 1).

### 1.10 Final Kaf

- When final kaf (ך) appears with two dots (ך׃), those dots are a Silent Shewa (§3.6.1.c).
- A final kaf with a Silent Shewa (ך׃) does not have a Dagesh Lene, so it is pronounced *ch* like *Bach*.

## Chapter 2 – The Hebrew Vowels

### 2.2 Hebrew vowel charts

- Reduced vowels have a small “u” over the letter, and “u” is the sound in the word “reduced.”

### 2.8.2 Vowel letters written with waw

- How to distinguish the vowel letter Holem Waw וְ from the consonant waw (וּ) with the long vowel holem (וֹ)? If the previous letter has a vowel (or silent shewa), then וְ is the consonant waw with a holem. If the previous letter lacks a vowel, then וְ is the vowel holem waw.
- How to distinguish a Shureq וּ from a waw with a dagesh forte? The waw with a dagesh forte will have a vowel. e.g., וּ is a waw with a dagesh forte (and the vowel Qamets).

### 2.11 Shewa

- Silent shewa is not a vowel.

### 2.13 Dagesh Forte

- Dagesh forte ‘fortifies’ the consonant by doubling it.
- begadkephat
  - Both kinds of Dagesh (lene and forte) harden a begadkephat.
  - A Dagesh Forte doubles and hardens a begadkephat.
  - A Dagesh Lene hardens a begadkephat.
- Dagesh lene
  - Can only occur in a begadkephat
  - A Dagesh Lene is ‘lenient’, so it just hardens the consonant but doesn’t make it double.

## Chapter 3 – Syllabification and Pronunciation

### 3.2 One vowel per syllable

- Furtive pathach (§3.8) and silent shewa (§3.6) do not count as vowels.
- A diphthong (§3.10) counts as a single vowel.

### 3.4 Syllable classification

- The accent is always on either the last syllable or the next-to-last syllable.<sup>1</sup>
- The propretonic syllable and syllables to the right of it are called *distant* syllables.
- The syllable to the left of the accented syllable could perhaps be called the *postonic* syllable, but I have never seen any name given to it.

### 3.5 The Dagesh and Syllabification

- A *begadkephat* letter has a Dagesh Lene if and only if it is not preceded by a vowel (exceptions exist).

### 3.6 The Shewa and Syllabification

- The wording of §3.6.1 can be misleading. The wording of §3.6.1.a is not.
  - To be precise (§3.6.1.a), a shewa is silent when IMMEDIATELY preceded by a short vowel.
  - If the preceding vowel is short, but a Dagesh Forte separates the Shewa from the preceding vowel, then rule §3.6.1 does not apply, because the short vowel does not *immediately* precede the Shewa.
  - This distinction is illustrated in §3.6.2.c with the word **הַמְלָכִים**
    - §3.6.2.c says that the shewa in **הַמְלָכִים** is vocal because it is under a Dagesh Forte.
    - §3.6.1.a says that a shewa is silent when immediately preceded by a short vowel.
    - The preceding vowel (pathach in **הַ**) is short, so you might expect the shewa to be vocal.
    - BUT, the shewa is immediately preceded by the Dagesh Forte, not by the short vowel pathach.
    - Therefore, the shewa is NOT immediately preceded by a short vowel, so §3.6.1.a does not apply.

### 3.7 Qamets and Qamets Hatuf

- Advanced information: When an unaccented **ֶ** is followed by a Shewa, the situation can be ambiguous because the rules can be circular with two possible solutions.
  - This ambiguity is illustrated by the word **הַכְּמֶה**
    - The vowel in **הַ** is Qamets Hatuf, which is a short vowel. Thus the Shewa in **ֶ** is preceded by a short vowel, so it is a Silent Shewa (§3.6.1.a). Because the Shewa in **ֶ** is silent, **הַ** is in a closed syllable. Thus **הַ** is in a closed, unaccented syllable, so **הַ** can be Qamets Hatuf (§3.7.1).
    - Thus, if we assume that **הַ** is Qamets Hatuf (which it is), the Shewa in **ֶ** is silent, and all of the rules are followed.
    - BUT, if the vowel in **הַ** were Qamets, the vowel would be long, so the Shewa in **ֶ** would be after an unaccented long vowel, so the Shewa would be vocal (§3.6.2.d). As a result of being followed by a Vocal Shewa, **הַ** would be in an open syllable. And according to rule §3.7.1, the **ֶ** in **הַ** could not be Qamets Hatuf. Instead, the **ֶ** in **הַ** would be in an open, pretonic syllable, which is what Qamets prefers (§3.7.2).
    - Thus, if we assume that **הַ** is Qamets (which it is not), the Shewa in **ֶ** is vocal, and all of the rules are followed.
    - So the rules allow contradictory answers. You must memorize the right answer for each word.

<sup>1</sup> Advanced information: The primary accent of a word can occur only on the last syllable or the next-to-last syllable. Some words have one or more secondary accents (not discussed in BBH2), which can occur on any syllable before the primary accent.

## Chapter 4 – Hebrew Nouns

### 4.2 Plural and Dual Endings on Masculine and Feminine Nouns

- סוס means either ‘horse’ or ‘male horse’.
- When specifically a mare (a female horse) is meant, the word סוסה is used (Song 1:9).

### 4.4 Summary of Noun Endings

- One drops the singular ending before adding the plural or dual ending
  - E.g., ‘law’ is תורה. To form the plural ‘laws’, the FS ending הֶ is removed before adding the FP ending ות so that the FP form is תורות (not תורהות).

### 4.7.3 Special Dual Nouns

- Many scholars argue that שמים ‘heavens’ and מים ‘waters’ are actually the plural forms of שמי and מי.

### 4.8.1 Pluralization with no change

- The text refers to “an unchangeable long vowel.” Recall from §2.8.2 and §2.8.3 that unchangeable long vowels are vowel letters that are written with ם or ם

### 4.8.2 Propretonic reduction

- The Shewa that is added in propretonic reduction is a Vocal Shewa.

## Chapter 5 – Definite Article and Conjunction Waw

### 5.5 The Article with Initial ך and ך

- This loss of the Dagesh Forte in these cases is an example of the general rule that is given in §26.16.
- There is a one-page handout (“Skin ‘em, Levi”) on HebrewSyntax.org that explains this rule in detail.

## Chapter 6 – Hebrew Prepositions

### 6.4.4 Inseparable Prepositions with an Article

- When an inseparable preposition is added to a noun with the article, the ה of the article disappears, so one must use other clues to decide if the article is there or not. Here are the rules:
  - If the preposition has a Shewa (◌ֶ) or Hireq (◌ִ), it does NOT have the article. (e.g., לְנִבְיָאִים and בְּשָׂרָה do not have the article)
  - If the consonant after the preposition has a Dagesh, it has the article. (e.g., בְּשָׂרָה has the article)
  - If the consonant after the preposition has a reduced vowel, and the vowel under the preposition does NOT correspond to the reduced vowel, it has the article. (e.g., כְּאֲנָשִׁים has the article).
  - If the consonant after the preposition has a reduced vowel, and the vowel under the preposition corresponds to the reduced vowel, it does not have the article. (e.g., כְּאֲנָשִׁים lacks the article)
  - Exceptions: הֶ , הִ , אֶ , and עֶ are ambiguous. (e.g., לְהַפְכֶּה is ambiguous)
- In summary:
  - Shewa or Hireq under preposition → No article
  - Dagesh after preposition → Article
  - Reduced vowel not correspond → Article
  - Reduced vowel corresponds → No article, except that הֶ , הִ , אֶ , and עֶ are ambiguous.

## Chapter 7: Hebrew Adjectives

### 7.3 The Inflection of Adjectives

- Adjectives are never dual, so dual nouns (§4.1) use a plural adjective.

#### 7.4.1 Attributive Adjectives

- If a noun is definite for *any* reason, then an attributive adjective that modifies it will have the article.
- A noun is definite if it: (1) Has the article, (2) Is a proper noun, (3) Has a pronominal suffix (ch.9), or (4) Is in a construct chain where the last word in the chain is definite (§10.2.2).
- Because a predicative adjective never has the article, if an adjective has the article, you know that it is attributive. The **mnemonic** is AAA: Article, Adjective, Attributive.

#### 7.4.2 Predicative Adjective

- A predicative adjective never takes the article. Mnemonic PP: Predicative dePrived of article.

### 7.6 The Directional Ending

- Because the directional ending םֿ is never accented, there will always be an accent mark on the immediately preceding syllable.
- Because the FS noun and adjective ending םֿ is accented, no accent mark will be shown in the textbook or workbook. (In the Hebrew Bible, there will be an accent mark on the last syllable).

### 7.10 Basic Patterns of Adjectival Inflection

- There are no segholate adjectives. So if you see a two-syllable word with the accent on the first syllable, you know that it is a noun.

#### 7.10.3 Inflection of Adjectives Ending in םֿ

- Because the ending םֿ is dropped, adding an adjective ending does not change the number of syllables or move the accent. As a result, propretonic reduction does not occur for adjectives whose lexical form ends in םֿ

## Chapter 8: Hebrew Pronouns

### 8.3 Independent Personal Pronoun Paradigms

- **Mnemonic:** *Who* (הוא) is *he*, and *she* (היא) is *she*.
- Independent personal pronouns never take the article.

### 8.6 Demonstrative Paradigm

- In the third person, demonstratives are spelled the same as independent personal pronouns. BUT, because independent personal pronouns never take the article, if you see something that looks like a third-person independent personal pronoun with the article, you know that it is a demonstrative adjective.

### 8.7 The Use of the Hebrew Demonstratives

- Demonstrative adjectives
  - A demonstrative adjective functions just like an attributive adjectives (“*this* book” like “*big* book”).
  - **Mnemonic:** Adjective, After, Article.
  - *After:* A demonstrative adjective always comes after the noun that it modifies.
  - *Article:* A demonstrative adjective always has the article because it always modifies a definite noun. (i.e., When one says “this book” there is always a particular book in mind).
- Demonstrative pronouns
  - A demonstrative pronoun is always the subject of a clause (e.g., “*This* is the book.”).
  - **Mnemonic:** Pronoun, Precedes, dePrived of article
  - *Precedes:* A demonstrative pronoun comes before the noun that it refers to (e.g., in “*This* is the book,” the word “this” comes before the word “book” in Hebrew).
  - *dePrived of article:* A demonstrative pronoun never has the article.



## Chapter 10: Hebrew Construct Chain

### 10.1 Introduction

- With regard to the comparison to the Greek genitive case: the second word (not the first) is like the Greek genitive case.

### 10.2.3 Multiple Construct Nouns

- If a construct chain has more than two words:
  - There is only one absolute noun: the last word in the chain.
  - The last noun in the chain is in the absolute state (so its spelling is unchanged).
  - All other nouns in the chain are in the construct state (spelling may change).

#### 10.5.1.b Spelling the Construct State

- As we have seen before (§4.8.2, 4.8.3, 7.10.2.d), gutturals take Hateph Pathach (◌ְ) instead of Vocal Shewa.

#### 10.5.1.d The Construct of כָּל is כָּל

- In the construct noun כָּל ‘all of’, the vowel ◌ְ is a Qamets Hatuf (pronounced ‘o’) because it is a closed, unaccented syllable without a Metheg. The syllable is unaccented because when a word is in the construct state, it loses its (primary) accent (§10.5).

## Chapter 11: Hebrew Numbers

### 11.2.3 Numbers Three through Ten

- Numbers three through ten look like they have the *opposite* gender of the noun that they count. So when counting a masculine noun, numbers three through ten have the feminine suffix ָׁ. Whereas when counting a feminine noun, numbers three through ten do not have a suffix.

## Chapter 12: Introduction to Hebrew Verbs

### 12.2 Roots and Stems

- “Root” refers to things like **נָתַן** and **שָׁב**
  - Most roots have three consonants. A few have two.
  - Roots are theoretical; one never sees the bare root itself, without vowels, in our Hebrew Bibles.
- The textbook uses the word “Stem” in two different ways.
  - §12.2 uses the word “stem” in this way: each lexical form is a stem. E.g., **מָלַךְ**, **מִלְכָּה**, **מְלִיךָ**
  - Elsewhere in the book (e.g., §12.5), “stem” refers to a particular type of verbal form. Examples include the “Qal stem” (chapters 13–22) and the “Niphal stem” (chapters 24–25).

### 12.5 Introduction to Verbal Stems

- Advanced information: In addition to the 7 major verbal stems that are discussed in BBH, there are several other “minor” stems. By “minor,” we mean that they are rare in the Hebrew Bible. In general, each is just a spelling variation of the corresponding major stem. For example, the Poel stem has the same meaning as the Piel stem, but it uses an ‘o’ vowel instead of an ‘i’ vowel. Most minor stems only occur with certain kinds of weak verbs.

#### 12.7.1 Qal Stem

- “Qal” is pronounced like “Cal” as in “calorie” or “California.”

#### 12.11.1 Perfect

- The Hebrew perfect conjugation does not have exactly the same meaning as a Greek perfect. (Actually, both of them have a variety of meanings, depending on the context, and for both Greek and Hebrew, the meanings of the conjugations are vigorously disputed by scholars).

#### 12.11.4 Cohortative

- Hebrew cohortative often has the same meaning as the Greek hortatory subjunctive (e.g., “let us pray”). But it also has a singular form, and has other meanings.

### 12.16 Lexical Form for Hebrew Verbs

- Although the lexical form for verbs with a triconsonantal root is the QP3ms (Qal Perfect 3ms), the lexical form for verbs with biconsonantal roots is the QC (Qal Infinitive Construct).
- The reason for using the QC rather than the QP3ms is that the QC shows the vowel that goes between the two root consonants—the vowel that disappears in the QP3ms.

#### Suggested parsing code:

- **Stem:** Q = Qal, N = Niphal, P = Piel, Pu = Pual, H = Hiphil, Ho = Hophal, Ht = Hithpael
- **Conjugation:** P = Perfect, I = Imperfect, J = Jussive, C = Cohortative, M = Imperative, A = Infinitive Absolute, C = Infinitive Construct, P = Participle.
- Can distinguish Cohortative / Infinitive Construct, and Perfect / Participle by whether or not followed by a number.
  - Example: QP3ms = Qal Perfect 3<sup>rd</sup> person, masculine, singular
  - Example: QPms = Qal Participle, masculine, singular
- Put prefix or pronominal suffix after “+” sign
  - Example: QP3ms+3mp = Qal Perfect 3<sup>rd</sup> person, masculine, singular, with a 3<sup>rd</sup> person, masculine plural suffix.
  - Example: QC+ׁ = Qal infinitive construct with the preposition ׁ prefixed to it.
  - Example: QPfp+ׁ = Qal participle, feminine plural, with the article ׁ prefixed to it.

## Chapter 13: Qal Perfect – Strong Verbs

### 13.5 Qal Perfect Consonants

- **Mnemonic:** The perfect sufformatives are like the pronominal suffixes, but substitute ת for כ/ך

	Pronominal Suffix	Perfect Sufformative	Comment
3ms	וְ		
3fs	וֹתְ	וֹתְ	Same except Mappiq
2ms	כֶּ	תְּ	כ → ת. Both have וְ
2fs	כֶּ	תְּ	כ → ת. Both have וְ
1cs	יְ	תִי	Both have יְ
3mp	הֶם	וְ	
3fp	הֶן		
2mp	כֶּם	תֶּם	כ → ת. Both have מְ
2fp	כֶּן	תֶּן	כ → ת. Both have נְ
1cp	נִי	נִי	Same

### 13.5 Qal Perfect Vowels

	Perfect
3ms	וְ
3fs	וֹתְ
2ms	כֶּ
2fs	כֶּ
1cs	יְ
3cp	הֶם
2mp	כֶּם
2fp	כֶּן
1cp	נִי

- Vowels want to be וְ

- If sufformative starts with a vowel (3fs & 3cp), then the stem vowel is squeezed out and the Shewa moves up. וְ
- If sufformative is CV (2ms, 1cs, and 1cp), then accent the stem vowel וְ
- If sufformative is CVC (2mp, 2fp), then first vowel reduces to vocal Shewa וְ

# Chapter 14: Qal Perfect – Weak Verbs

## Lexical Form

- For most verbs, the lexical form is the QP3ms.
- For Biconsonantal verbs, the lexical form is the Qal Infinitive Construct, because that form shows the vowel that disappears in the QP3ms. This is akin to how for Greek contract verbs, the lexical form shows the vowel that disappears in the present active indicative 1s (e.g., ἀγαπάω → ἀγαπῶ).
- Some Geminate verbs (“Geminate Weak 2” in §14.10) lose the second geminate consonant in the QP3ms, but all consonants are shown in the lexical form.

## Lexical Form Vowels

- The vowels in the lexical form are Qamets + Pathach ( ◌◌◌ ) except:
  - Tsere Stative verbs have Qamets + Tsere ( ◌◌◌ )
  - Holem Stative verbs have Qamets + Holem ( ◌◌◌ )
  - 3-~~ל~~ verbs and 3-~~ה~~ verbs have Qamets + Qamets ( ◌◌◌ )
  - Bi-Consonantal Verbs have 1 vowel: Shureq ( ◌◌◌ ), Hireq Yod ( ◌◌◌ ), or Holem Waw ( ◌◌◌ )
    - There is no way to predict which vowel a bi-consonantal verb has. It must be memorized for each verb as part of the spelling.
    - In the QP3ms, this vowel is always replaced with Qamets ( ◌◌◌ ).

### 14.6 III-ה Weak Verbs

	Strong	III-ה
<b>3ms</b>	◌◌◌	ה◌◌
<b>3fs</b>	ה◌◌◌	הת◌◌
<b>2ms</b>	ת◌◌◌	ית◌◌
<b>2fs</b>	ת◌◌◌	ית◌◌
<b>1cs</b>	תי◌◌◌	יתי◌◌
<b>3cp</b>	ו◌◌◌	ו◌◌
<b>2mp</b>	תם◌◌◌	תם◌◌
<b>2fp</b>	תן◌◌◌	תן◌◌
<b>1cp</b>	נו◌◌◌	ינו◌◌

1. Drop the 3-ה from the verbal root.
2. Add the strong verb sufformatives, except:
  - Drop Dagesh Lene in Tau ת → ת because preceded by vowel.
  - Drop Shewa under Tau ת → ת
  - 3ms suffix ה◌ (Was 3FS!)
  - 3fs suffix תה◌ (Since 3MS took it)
- Strong verb has ◌◌◌ but lost 3<sup>rd</sup> consonant so Shewa moves up ◌◌
  - If sufformative starts with a vowel (3ms & 3cp), then the stem vowel is squeezed out.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> persons have stem vowel Hireq Yod ◌◌
  - If sufformative is CV (2ms, 1cs, and 1cp), then accent the stem vowel ◌◌
  - If sufformative is CVC (2mp, 2fp), then first vowel reduces to vocal Shewa ◌◌

## Chapter 15: Qal Imperfect – Strong Verbs

### 15.3 The Form of the Qal Imperfect

- The Perfect does not distinguish masculine and feminine in the third person plural. It has a 3cp form.
- The Imperfect distinguishes masculine and feminine in the third person plural (3mp and 3fp).

	Paradigm
3ms	וְיִשְׁׁוּ
3fs	וְיִשְׁׁוּ
2ms	וְיִשְׁׁוּ
2fs	וְיִשְׁׁוּ
1cs	וְיִשְׁׁוּ
3mp	וְיִשְׁׁוּ
3fp	וְיִשְׁׁוּ
2mp	וְיִשְׁׁוּ
2fp	וְיִשְׁׁוּ
1cp	וְיִשְׁׁוּ

1. Preformative:
  - וְ in 3M (singular and plural)
  - יִ in 1CS
  - יְ in 1CP
  - וְ elsewhere.
2. Preformative is always followed by Silent Shewa
3. Stem vowel:
  - וְ if suffix is a vowel.
  - וְ otherwise
4. Accent over stem vowel if suffix is CV. (Same rule as the perfect.)
5. 3FP and 2FP are identical.
6. 3FS and 2MS are identical
7. 3MP and 2MP are identical except וְ → וְ

### 15.5 Qal Imperfect Paradigm of II-*begadkephat* Verbs

- A *begadkephat* letter always has a Dagesh Lene if and only if it is not preceded by a vowel.
- Silent Shewa is not a vowel. So a *begadkephat* after a Silent Shewa always gets a Dagesh Lene.

## Chapter 16: Qal Imperfect – Weak Verbs

- **Strong** Stem vowel is Holem ( ◊ )
- **Stative** Stem vowel is Pathach ( ◊ )
- **2-Guttural** Stem vowel is Pathach ( ◊ ), Vocal Shewa → ◊
- **1-Guttural** Preformative vowel ◊ or ◊, other vowel changes.
- **1-א** Most 1-א just like other 1-Gutturals.  
Some 1-א have Preformative vowel ◊ and 1CS אא → א
- **3-ע/פ** Stem vowel is Pathach ( ◊ ), The Shewa under the III-ע/פ must be silent.
- **3-א** Stem vowel is Qamets ( ◊ )  
In 3FP/2FP, SV Seghol ( ◊ ), Aleph quiesces ( א◊ )
- **Geminate** Sometimes Dagesh in Geminate consonant.  
Sometimes preformative vowel Qamets (e.g., א◊ )
- **Biconsonantal** The vowel from the lexical form shows up, but sometimes it is written defectively.  
Imperfect preformative is Qamets (e.g., א◊ ) except sometimes in feminine plurals.
- **I-י** Drop the 1-י  
Preformative vowel is ◊ or י◊  
Stem vowel may be ◊ or ◊
- **I-נ** 1-נ assimilates to Dagesh in second consonant, so preformative is usually ◊
- If only see 2 root consonants, then the verb is I-י, I-נ, 3-ה, geminate, biconsonantal, אָלָה, or אָלָה
- Memorize this table of the preformatives for weak verbs:

Strong	I-י	I-Gut	I-א	Bi-con	אָלָה	אָלָה	I-נ
י	י or יי	י or יי	י or יי or יי	י	י	י	י

### 16.6 III-ה Verbs

	Strong	3-ה
3ms	◊◊י	ה◊◊י
3fs	◊◊ת	ה◊◊ת
2ms	◊◊ת	ה◊◊ת
2fs	י◊◊ת	י◊◊ת
1cs	◊◊א	ה◊◊א
3mp	י◊◊י	י◊◊י
3fp	ה◊◊ת	הי◊◊ת
2mp	י◊◊ת	י◊◊ת
2fp	הי◊◊ת	הי◊◊ת
1cp	◊◊נ	ה◊◊נ

III-ה same as strong verb in the Qal Imperfect, except:

1. Remove the 3-ה
  - Recognize that it is 3-ה by having only 2 root consonants.
  - But verbs with only 2 consonants could also be bi-consonantal, geminate, 1-נ, or 1-י
2. For forms without a sufformative, add ה◊
3. Feminine plural forms have stem vowel י◊

## Chapter 17: Waw Consecutive

### 17.3 Changes in the spelling of the consecutive imperfect verb

- Footnote 2 on page 198 mentions “retraction of the accent.” This refers to the accent moving toward the beginning of the verb (moves toward the right).
- The stress often, but not always, recedes in the imperfect with a waw consecutive for forms that lack a sufformative other than the 1cs.

### 17.5 Form and translation of the consecutive perfect

- BBH does not normally show the accent mark on the final syllable of a word. But in the in the 2ms and 1cs forms in the table on page 201, the accent mark on the final syllable is shown because that is what differentiates the perfect with a waw consecutive from a perfect with a regular waw in those forms.

## Chapter 18: Qal Imperative, Cohortative, and Jussive

### 18.6 The Particle ׀

- ׀ does NOT soften the command to a polite request.
- The meaning of ׀ (if any) is debated by scholars.
- Only add “please” in your translation if the context indicates it.
- ׀ is your friend because it indicates that the verb is an imperative, cohortative, or jussive.

### 18.13 Cohortative

- The cohortative can act like a Greek hortatory subjunctive (e.g., “let us pray”), but it has many other possible meanings as well.
- You cannot have the directional marker ׀ on a verb.

## Chapter 20: Qal Infinitive Construct

- The infinitive construct is NOT the construct form of the infinitive absolute.
- The infinitive construct is not part of a construct chain.

### 20.9 Infinitive Construct with pronominal suffixes

- If the infinitive has the prefixed preposition ׀ or ׀, then the pronominal suffix is usually (always?) the subject of the infinitive (rather than the object).

## Chapter 21: Qal Infinitive Absolute

### 21.4.3 Weak forms of the Qal infinitive absolute

- For biconsonantal verbs with a holem waw (׀) in the lexical form, the infinitive absolute and the infinitive construct are spelled the same.

## Chapter 22: Qal Participle

### 22.6 The Qal Passive Participle

- Only the Qal stem has both an active and a passive participle.
- You might not have expected the Qal to have a passive participle, since the voice is also embedded in the stem. Since the Niphal is the passive of the Qal (§12.7.2), a Niphal participle has roughly the same meaning as a Qal passive participle.

## Chapter 24: The Niphal Stem – Strong Verbs

### 24.4 Niphal Perfect

- For every stem except the Qal, the name of the stem is the pronunciation of the perfect 3ms of the verb נִפְעַל in that stem. This is a great mnemonic for the vowels! For example ‘Niphal’ = נִפְעַל

### 24.13 Niphal Participle

- The Niphal has only a passive participle. It does not have an active participle.
- Only the Qal stem has both an active and a passive participle.

### 24.16 Vocabulary

- Unless otherwise specified, the meaning for a verb is the meaning of the Qal stem. Thus the meaning ‘to run’ for רָץ is the Qal meaning. The verb רָץ does not occur in the Niphal stem in the Hebrew Bible.

## Chapter 25: The Niphal Stem – Weak Verbs

### 25.4 III-ה verbs

- III-ה verbs behave almost the same in all stems.
- Recall that in the Qal Perfect, III-ה verbs use the stem vowel הֹ in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> persons. It turns out that III-ה verbs use הֹ for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> person stem vowel in all of the active stems (Qal, Piel, and Hiphil), and they use הֹ for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> person stem vowel in all of the passive stems (Niphal, Pual, and Hophal).
- The ending for III-ה verbs in the infinitive absolute is more complicated, as shown in the table below.
- III-ה Stem Vowels (SV) and Endings:

Perfect	Imperfect	Imperative	Infinitive Construct	Infinitive Absolute	Participle
(3MS) הֹ (3FS) הֹ (1-2P Active SV) הֹ (1-2P, Passive SV) הֹ	(No Suf) הֹ (FP) הֹ	(No Suf) הֹ (FP) הֹ	הֹ	(Q) הֹ (Q, N, Piel) הֹ (N, Piel, Hiphil) הֹ	הֹ

## Chapter 26: The Piel Stem – Strong Verbs

### 26.2 The meaning of the Piel Stem

- Most scholars today do not describe the meaning of the Piel as ‘intensive’.
- The possible meanings listed in §26.2 are a way to guess at the meaning of a verb in the Piel if you already know the meaning in the Qal, but they can mislead you to guess wrong. The only way to be sure of the meaning of a verb in any stem is to look it up in a lexicon.

### 26.3 Piel Perfect

- For every stem except the Qal, the name of the stem is the pronunciation of the perfect 3ms of the verb **פעל** in that stem. This is a great mnemonic for the vowels! For example ‘Piel’ = **פִּעַל** (although because **פעל** is a II-guttural, the root **פעל** would actually be spelled **פִּעֵל** or **פִּעֶל** in the Piel Perfect 3ms).

### 26.16 Loss of Dagesh Forte

- This loss of a Dagesh Forte makes identifying the stem more difficult, since the Dagesh is one of the diagnostics of the Piel.
- ‘Skin ‘em, Levi’ is a mnemonic for the consonants that often lose a Dagesh Forte when they have a Vocal Shewa. See the handout on HebrewSyntax.org
- When a skin ‘em Levi consonant has a vocal shewa under it, the Dagesh is sometimes lost and sometimes isn’t.
- When the Dagesh Forte is lost due to Skin ‘em Levi, compensatory lengthening does NOT occur.

### 26.17 Conjunctive Dagesh

- Conjunctive Dagesh can occur with or without a Maqqef (־)

## Chapter 27: The Piel Stem – Weak Verbs

### 27.5 III-ת Verbs

- See the comments on III-ת verbs in the Niphal on the previous page (§25.4).

### 27.15 Polel Stem

- The Polel is simply the way that the Piel stem is spelled for biconsonantal and geminate verbs.
- But instead of calling it the irregular spelling for the Piel stem, they call it the Polel stem.
- The Polel and Piel have the same meaning.
- Some scholars use the term ‘Polel’ only to refer to biconsonantal verbs; when a geminate verb occurs in this form they call it the ‘Poel’ stem.
- Once again, remember that the name of the stem is a mnemonic for the spelling in the perfect 3ms. So of **פעל** occurred in the Polel stem (which it can’t, because it is not biconsonantal or geminate), it would be spelled **פּוֹלֵל** ‘Polel’.

## Chapter 28: The Pual Stem – Strong Verbs

### 28.2 The meaning of the Pual stem

- The Pual stem is the passive of the Piel. So the Pual is intensive only if the Piel is intensive.

## No comments on the remaining chapters