

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” is pronounced with either an “oh” sound or an “oo” 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 / ’álep̄
- There are many different ways to write the consonants.
  - See below (page 3) for a table of examples.
  - See my chapter 1 overheads for suggested letter shapes, stroke order, and the keys to distinguishing similar-looking letters.
- The letters Shin ש and Sin שׁ are treated as a single letter in Hebrew acrostic poems in the Bible.
- *Mnemonic* for Sin שׁ having its dot on the left: “Sin is never right.”
- Order of Sin שׁ and Shin ש
  - Some people (e.g., those who wrote our alphabet songs) put Sin before Shin.
  - Our textbook and lexicon put Sin שׁ before Shin ש
  - We’ll use the lexicon’s order, since that is how we’ll look up words.

### 1.2 Pronouncing א and ע

- When memorizing vocabulary, I pronounce these letters differently so that I do not confuse words.
  - For example: אא means ‘if’ or ‘then’, whereas אע means ‘with’.

### 1.3 Right to left

- Hebrew is written and read from right to left when it is written in Hebrew characters.
- BUT when it is transliterated, it is written from left to right.
- So, for example, בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים is transliterated as *bārā’ ʾēlōhîm*

### 1.4 Final forms

- *Mnemonic*: ‘**common fats**’ כ מ נ פ צ → ך ם ן ף ץ
- Except for final mem (מ → ם), final forms ‘pull down’ the end of the letter (e.g., כ → ך).

### 1.5 **Begadkephat letters**

- The dagesh in a begad kephat indicates the kind of sound that you can't prolong (e.g., P )
  - Begad kephat letters without a dagesh have the kind of sound you can prolong (e.g., F )
- *Mnemonic:* For begadkephat letters, there is either a dot in the Hebrew letter or a line in the transliteration.
- *Mnemonic:* Dagesh is a dot, which is a visual representation of a momentary sound (e.g., P ).
- *Mnemonic:* Begad kephat letters without a dagesh have a line in transliteration, which is a visual representation of a sound that can go on for a long time (e.g., F )
- The line used to transliterate begadkephat letters without a dagesh lene goes under the letter ( b d k t ) except for the letters where an underline wouldn't fit, in which case an over-line is used ( g p ).
- When a word is inflected (e.g., dog → dogs, do → does → did), the dagesh lene may appear or disappear. A dagesh lene just indicates the pronunciation of the particular form of a word.
- Final kaf ( ך ) is usually written with two dots in it ( ך̣ ), to distinguish it from a final nun ( ן ). Those dots are a shewa (see §2.11), not a dagesh lene. Pronounce final kaf with the shewa ( ך̣ ) as כּ, like the ch in Bach.
- *Advanced information:* Modern Hebrew uses a hard pronunciation for כּ כַּ כֵּ, regardless of whether or not they have a dagesh in them.

### 1.6 **Gutturals**

- Resh ( ר ) is NOT a guttural letter. It is never a guttural letter.
- Resh behaves in some of the same ways as a guttural letter, as you will learn in later chapters.
- *In case you are curious:* Since Kaf without a dagesh lene ( כ ) is pronounced just like Het ( ה ), which is a guttural letter, you might wonder why Het is guttural but Kaf isn't. The reason is a historical one: Kaf used to always be pronounced with the hard K sound, and it developed the CH sound later on, when the sound rules that change the pronunciation in the presence of a guttural were no longer in operation.

### 1.7 **Easily confused letters**

- There are other letters that sound alike: א (Alef) and אַ (Ayin), and כ (Kaf) and ח (Het)
- I recommend distinguishing all letters orally when memorizing vocabulary.
- When writing the letters, be sure to make it clear which letter you are writing.

### 1.8 **Transliteration**

- There are multiple systems of transliterating Hebrew, so if you want to know the exact spelling, you will need to check the details of the system that is used in the particular book or journal article.
- Fortunately, if you learn the basic system presented in this textbook, you will usually be able to recognize what word or words is being transliterated, assuming that you know the word in Hebrew.

### 1.9 **Numerical Values**

- *Advanced information:* For numbers from 1–999 a dot is put over the letter (e.g., א̣ = 1, ב̣ = 2).
  - For numbers from 1000–9999, two dots are used (e.g., א̣̣ = 1000, ב̣̣ = 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 ( ך̣ ), those dots are a Silent Shewa (§3.6.1.c).
- A final kaf with a Silent Shewa ( ך̣ ) does not have a Dagesh Lene, so it is pronounced *ch* like Bach.

- When writing Hebrew by hand, don't try to imitate all the details of the fancy letter shapes used in books.
- Instead, use a simpler style like that used in the Arial and Choco fonts, below.
  - My overheads for chapter 1 show the suggested stroke order and how to distinguish similar letters.
- Alternately, your teacher may permit you to use the modern style of handwriting that is used in Israel today.
  - Notice that some modern-style handwritten letters look quite different from those printed in books.

	Printed in books			Imitate this		Modern Handwriting
	Ezra SIL	SBL Hebrew	Times New Roman	Arial	Choco	Yoav
Aleph	א	א	א	א	א	א
Bet	ב	ב	ב	ב	ב	ב
Bet+Dagesh	בּ	בּ	בּ	בּ	בּ	בּ
Gimel	ג	ג	ג	ג	ג	ג
Gimel+Dagesh	גּ	גּ	גּ	גּ	גּ	גּ
Dalet	ד	ד	ד	ד	ד	ד
Dalet+Dagesh	דּ	דּ	דּ	דּ	דּ	דּ
He	ה	ה	ה	ה	ה	ה
Waw	ו	ו	ו	ו	ו	ו
Zayin	ז	ז	ז	ז	ז	ז
Het	ח	ח	ח	ח	ח	ח
Tet	ט	ט	ט	ט	ט	ט
Yod	י	י	י	י	י	י
Kaf	כ	כ	כ	כ	כ	כ
Kaf+Dagesh	כּ	כּ	כּ	כּ	כּ	כּ
Kaf (final)	ך	ך	ך	ך	ך	ך
Kaf (final with silent shewa)	ךְ	ךְ	ךְ	ךְ	ךְ	ךְ

	Printed in books			Imitate this		Modern Handwriting
	Ezra SIL	SBL Hebrew	Times New Roman	Arial	Choco	Yoav
Lamed	ל	ל	ל	ל	ל	ל
Mem	מ	מ	מ	מ	מ	מ
Mem (final)	ם	ם	ם	ם	ם	ם
Nun	נ	נ	נ	נ	נ	נ
Nun (final)	ן	ן	ן	ן	ן	ן
Samek	ס	ס	ס	ס	ס	ס
Ayin	ע	ע	ע	ע	ע	ע
Pe	פ	פ	פ	פ	פ	פ
Pe+Dagesh	פּ	פּ	פּ	פּ	פּ	פּ
Pe (final)	ף	ף	ף	ף	ף	ף
Tsade	צ	צ	צ	צ	צ	צ
Tsade (final)	ץ	ץ	ץ	ץ	ץ	ץ
Qof	ק	ק	ק	ק	ק	ק
Resh	ר	ר	ר	ר	ר	ר
Sin	ש	ש	ש	ש	ש	ש
Shin	שׁ	שׁ	שׁ	שׁ	שׁ	שׁ
Taw	ת	ת	ת	ת	ת	ת
Taw+Dagesh	תּ	תּ	תּ	תּ	תּ	תּ

## Chapter 2 – The Hebrew Vowels

### 2.2 Hebrew vowel charts

- Every Hebrew vowel has a "type" and "class". It is important to memorize the type and class of each vowel because some of the rules of how Hebrew words are spelled depend on the type or class of the vowel. For an example of such a rule, see §3.6.1.a on page 21 of the textbook.
- The "**type**" of a vowel is its "**length**."
  - The "type" or "length" of a vowel is either Long, Short, or Reduced.
  - The names 'long' and 'short' and 'reduced' are just names for categories; they don't mean that you actually take more time to say a 'long' vowel than you take to say a 'short' vowel. Just memorize for each vowel whether it is long, short, or reduced.
- The "**class**" of a vowel is either a, e, i, o, or u.
  - The sounds of the vowels are not necessarily what you would expect. For example, Tseré is an e-class vowel, but its sound ('e' in 'they') is what we think of as an 'a' in English. Just memorize for each vowel whether it is a, e, i, o, or u class.
- For example, Qamets is a 'long' type, 'a' class vowel (section 2.3).
- For example, Hateph Pathach is a 'reduced' type, 'a' class vowel (section 2.5).
- *Mnemonic*: Reduced vowels have a small 'u' over the letter in transliteration, and 'u' is the sound in the word 'reduced'.

### 2.5 Reduced Vowels

- This textbook calls ֿ Hateph Qamets, but many books call it Hateph Qamets Hatuf because it is an o-class vowel (like Qamets Hatuf), not an a-class vowel (like Qamets).
- Vocal shewa ְ is also a reduced vowel.
- Hateph vowels (ֿ ֿ ֿ) are used almost exclusively with guttural consonants (ע פ ה א); it is very rare to find a hateph vowel under a consonant that is not guttural.

### 2.7 Hebrew vowel letters

- 'Vowel letters' are also called *matres lectionis* ('mothers of reading') or simply *matres*.
- In vowel letters, the Yod, Waw, or He is silent. So, for example, tseré yod sounds just like tseré; it doesn't have a 'y' sound at the end. And Qamets He sounds just like Qamets, it doesn't have an 'h' sound at the end.

### 2.8.2 Vowel letters written with waw

- How to distinguish the vowel letter Holem Waw וּ from the consonant waw (וּ) with the long vowel holem (וּ)? If the previous letter has a vowel (or silent shewa), then וּ is the consonant waw with a holem. If the previous letter lacks a vowel, then וּ is the vowel holem waw.
- How to distinguish a Shureq וּ from a waw with a dagesh forte? A waw with a dagesh forte will have a vowel. e.g., וּ is a waw with a dagesh forte (and the vowel Qamets). Shureq is itself a vowel, so it will not have a second vowel accompanying it.

### 2.10 Defective writing

- 'Full writing' (i.e., with the vowel letters) is also called *plene writing*.
- When Shureq וּ is written defectively as Qibbutz וּ, the Qibbutz וּ is a long vowel.
- When Hireq Yod וּ is written defectively as Hireq וּ, the Hireq וּ is a long vowel.

### 2.11 Shewa

- Silent shewa is NOT a vowel.
- Vocal shewa is a reduced vowel.

### 2.12 Holem over װ and ױ

- Whether or not the two dots combine depends on the font. It has nothing to do with Hebrew per se.

### 2.13 Dagesh Forte

- A Dagesh Forte doubles the sound in the sense that the sound ends one syllable and begins the next.
- *Mnemonic*: 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
  - *Mnemonic*: A Dagesh Lene is ‘lenient’: it hardens the consonant but doesn’t force it to double.

## Chapter 3 – Syllabification and Pronunciation

### 3.2 One vowel per syllable

- Silent shewa (§3.6) marks the end of a closed syllable; it is not a vowel.
- Furtive pathach (§3.8) is a vowel, but it does not count as the ‘one’ vowel for the syllable.
- A diphthong (§3.10) counts as a single vowel.
- There is one exception to the rule that a syllable must begin with a consonant (§5.7.2).

### 3.4 Syllable classification

- The accent is always on either the last syllable (ultima) or the next-to-last syllable (penultima).<sup>1</sup>
- *Advanced information*: The propretonic syllable and all syllables to the right of the propretonic are called **distant** syllables.
- *Advanced information*: 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 consonant with a Dagesh Forte is doubled so that it is part of two syllables: A consonant with a dagesh forte always closes one syllable and begins the next syllable.
- A Dagesh Lene always begins a new syllable that immediately follows a closed syllable (unless the dagesh lene is in the first letter of the word, so there is no immediately preceding syllable).
  - *Advanced information*: Actually, on rare occasions, a Dagesh Lene follows an open syllable (i.e., it is preceded by a vowel). But don’t worry about this on tests and quizzes in this class.
- A Dagesh is a Lene if and only if the following are BOTH true:
  - The Dagesh is in a begadkephat consonant, AND
  - The consonant right before the begadkephat with the Dagesh does NOT have a vowel.
- Since the first letter of a word does not have a vowel right before it in the same word, a dagesh in the first letter of a word is always a dagesh lene.
  - A dagesh lene can occur in the first letter of a word, because a dagesh lene always begins a syllable.

<sup>1</sup> *Advanced information*: The primary accent of a word can occur only on the last syllable or the next-to-last syllable (Actually, I’ve noticed one exception, and there may be others). Some words have one or more secondary accents (not discussed in BBH2), which can occur on any syllable.

- A dagesh forte NEVER occurs in the first letter of a word, because a dagesh forte always ends one syllable and begins the next, but for the first letter of a word, there is no preceding syllable to end.

### 3.6 The Shewa and Syllabification

- Silent Shewa always comes at the end of a closed syllable.
- Vocal Shewa always comes at the beginning of an open syllable. Consonant + Vocal Shewa = a syllable all by itself. Whatever consonant comes after vocal shewa starts a separate syllable.
- The wording of §3.6.1 and §3.6.1a can be misleading because of the following rule:
  - A shewa under a Dagesh Forte is always vocal, even if the preceding vowel is short (§3.6.2.c).
  - This rule 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 Dagesh Forte (§3.6.2.c) takes precedence over the short vowel (§3.6.1.a), so the Shewa is vocal due to the Dagesh Forte (§3.6.2.c).
- In summary, a shewa is silent:
  - at the end of a word **קָטָלַתְּ**
  - before another shewa **קָטָלַתְּ**
  - after a short vowel **פָּרַעַה**
  - after an accented long vowel **הַמְלָכִים**
  - under a guttural
  - BUT a shewa is vocal:
    - under dagesh forte (ALWAYS) **הַמְלָכִים**
    - after metheg (ALWAYS) **קָטָלַתְּ**

### 3.9 Quiescent Aleph א

- Quiescent aleph (aleph without a vowel) never begins a syllable.

## Chapter 4 – Hebrew Nouns

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

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

### 4.3 Gender and Number

- When the textbook says “a few nouns are both masculine and feminine,” what it means is that certain nouns are treated in some Bible verses as masculine nouns (it is the subject of verb that is written in masculine form or it is modified by a noun that is masculine) and in other Bible verses the same noun is treated as a feminine noun (it is the subject of a verb that is written in feminine form or it is modified by an adjective that is written in feminine form).

### 4.4 Summary of Noun Endings

- One drops the singular ending before adding the plural or dual ending
  - E.g., ‘law’ is תּוֹרָה. To form the plural ‘laws’, the FS ending הַ is removed before adding the FP ending וֹת so that the FP form is תּוֹרוֹת (not תּוֹרָהוֹת).

### 4.7.3 Special Dual Nouns

- Many scholars argue that שָׁמַיִם ‘heavens’ and מַיִם ‘waters’ are actually the plural forms of שָׁמַי and מַי.

### 4.8.1 Pluralization with no change

- “Unchangeable long vowels” are vowel letters that are written with וּ or י ( §2.8.2–3)
- Nouns with a feminine singular ending (וֹת, יֹת, תֹּת, תֵּת, הֵת) drop the singular ending and add a plural ending (usually וֹת but sometimes יֵם) but usually don’t make any other changes.

### 4.8.2 Propretonic reduction

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

## Chapter 5 – Definite Article and Conjunction Waw

### 5.1 Introduction

- A noun is definite if and only if one of the following is true about it:
  1. It has the article (Ch. 5) E.g., הַמֶּלֶךְ ‘the king’
  2. It is a proper noun E.g., דָּוִד ‘David’
  3. It has a pronominal suffix (Ch. 9) E.g., סוּסִי ‘my horse’
  4. It is in a construct chain that ends in a definite noun (Ch. 10)

### 5.5 The Article with Initial וּ and וָ

- When the Dagesh Forte is lost because of the Shewa, **the Shewa is still a vocal shewa**, even though a short vowel precedes it!
  - Shewa is always vocal under dagesh forte. And if the shewa causes the dagesh forte to disappear, the shewa remains a vocal shewa, in memory of the dagesh forte that was there.
  - This is what happened in the workbook on Exercise 3, page 12, #26, where my workbook answer key says that וַיִּקְנֶה should really be syllabified as וַיְ | קְנֶה | אֵו (not וַיְ | קְנֶה | אֵו). There was a dagesh forte in the yod of this word, so the shewa under it remains a vocal shewa.
  - 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:
- No article if:
  - Shewa or Hireq under preposition (e.g., לְנִבְיָאִים and בְּשָׂדֶה do not have the article)
  - Hatef vowel after preposition corresponds to vowel under preposition (but see ambiguities)
- Article if:
  - Dagesh after preposition (e.g., בְּשָׂדֶה has the article)
  - Hatef vowel after preposition does not correspond to vowel under preposition (e.g., כְּאֲנָשִׁים has the article).
  - Vowel under preposition is וּ or וְ or וֹ but there is no Hatef vowel after preposition (e.g., לְעִיר has the article)
- Ambiguous if: הַוּ , הַוּ , אַוּ , or וְו (e.g., לְהַפְכֶּה is ambiguous)

### 6.5.2.b-c The Form of the Preposition מן

- Gutturals and Resh always reject a dagesh forte
- For the article, we had compensatory lengthening with אַ ע ר , whereas ה & ו had virtual doubling.
- But for מן, we have compensatory lengthening with אַ ע ר ה , whereas only ו had virtual doubling.

## 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. Also, because an attributive adjective always comes after the noun, if you see an adjective before the noun, it can't be attributive. **Mnemonic:** Atributive Adjective After noun and Article Agrees.

### 7.4.2 Predicative Adjective

- A predicative adjective never takes the article and it can come before or after the noun
  - **Mnemonic:** Predicative Perhaps Precedes noun but dePrived of article.

### 7.6 The Directional Ending הַוּ

- Because the directional ending הַוּ is never accented, there will always be an accent mark on the immediately preceding syllable.
- Because the FS noun and adjective ending הַוּ 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, it can't be an adjective.

### 7.10.3 Inflection of Adjectives Ending in םֻ

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

## Chapter 8: Hebrew Pronouns

### 8.3 Independent Personal Pronoun Paradigms

- **Mnemonic:** “Who (הוא) is *he*, and *he* (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.
- The book says that when הוא, היא, םֻ, etc. lack the article and precede the noun, they can be either a subject pronoun or a demonstrative pronoun, so they are ambiguous. But, every case I have seen can be translated as the subject pronoun (e.g., ‘she’), and several grammars say that that הוא, etc., only occur as demonstrative adjectives and never as demonstrative pronouns, so there are no ambiguous cases. If הוא, etc. has the article, it is a demonstrative adjective; if it lacks the article, it is the subject pronoun.
  - Thus the only demonstrative pronouns are the ‘near’ ones זה, זאת, אלה, etc.

### 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:** Demonstrative Adjective Always After noun and Always has 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:** Demonstrative Pronoun Perpetually Precedes noun but 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 9: Hebrew Pronominal Suffixes

### 9.2–9.3 Pronominal Suffixes

- **Mnemonic:** For plural pronominal suffixes: **M**asculine always end in ם (ם, ם, ם, ם, ם, ם) and feminine always end in ן (ן, ן, ן, ן, ן, ן)
- **Mnemonic:** If a pronominal suffixes has כ / ך then it is second person (ך, ך, ך, ך, etc.)
- The 3fs pronominal suffix ם usually, but not always, has the dot (called a Mappiq) in the ם. Occasionally, the 3fs pronominal suffix is spelled ם (without a Mappiq). When this happens, it is sometimes unclear if it is the 3fs pronominal suffix or the fs ending ם

### 9.4–9.7 Nouns with Pronominal Suffixes

- **Contrary to the headings in the book** (e.g., “*masculine* nouns with pronominal suffixes”), the key issue is the *ending* on the noun, not the *gender* of the noun. In other words, the issue is not masculine vs. feminine nouns, but no ending vs. ם vs. ם vs. ם vs. ם
  - Singular nouns (masculine or feminine) with no ending in the singular simply add the pronominal suffix to the end, as shown in the left column of §9.4.
  - Singular nouns or adjectives that end in ם usually (but not always) drop the ם before adding a suffix (§7.10.3, 9.5.6).
  - Singular nouns that end in ם change the ם to ם before adding a pronominal suffix, as shown in the left column of §9.6.
  - Plural nouns (masculine or feminine) that use the ם ending in the plural drop that ending before adding a pronominal suffix, as shown in the right column of §9.4.
  - Plural nouns (masculine or feminine) that use the ם ending in the plural keep that ending, and simply add the pronominal suffix to the end, as shown in the right column of §9.6.

### 9.9 Monosyllabic Nouns with Pronominal Suffixes

- The singular אב ‘father’ also takes the ם when adding a pronominal suffix, just like אח ‘brother’.
- For *all* nouns with a pronominal suffix, to detect if the noun is singular or plural, the following rule works every time: *If the suffix begins with vowel+yod (other than Hireq-yod), the noun is plural. In all other cases the noun is singular.*

### 9.12 The Preposition ך with Pronominal Suffixes

- Notice that the 3fs pronominal suffix (ם) on ך lacks a Mappiq. ך

### 9.14 Definite Direct Object Marker vs. Preposition ך

- When they have no pronominal suffix, they can be distinguished only by context.

### 9.14–9.15 ך / ך and ם vs. ם with a Pronominal Suffix

- For both ך / ך and ם with a pronominal suffix, if the ך or ם has the vowel Hireq (◌) it means *with*.
- **Mnemonic:** The vowel Hireq makes the ‘i’ sound that is in the English word ‘*with*’.

### 9.19 Advanced Information

- **IMPORTANT:** ך, ך, ך, etc. all have the base ך and a pronominal suffix, but is it the preposition ך ‘to’ or the noun ך ‘god’?
  - Brief answer: ך is ‘my god’. All other forms are the preposition ‘to’

- Explanation:
  - The preposition לְ ‘to’ takes a type 2 suffix.
  - So anything with a type 1 suffix is the singular noun אֱלֹהִים ‘god’.
    - In fact, the only form of אֱלֹהִים ‘god’ with a suffix that ever occurs in the Bible is אֱלֹהֵי ‘my God’.
  - What about with a type 2 suffix?
    - In theory, that could be either the preposition לְ ‘to’ or the plural noun אֱלֹהִים ‘gods’, but the plural אֱלֹהִים ‘gods’ occurs only five times in the Bible, and never has a pronominal suffix.
    - So any time you see לְ with a type 2 suffix, it is the preposition לְ ‘to’

## 9.20 Resumptive Pronouns

- The resumptive pronoun shows the function within the relative clause of the word that the relative clause modifies.

## 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 םָ. 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 **יָשַׁב**
  - 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+וּ = Qal infinitive construct with the preposition וּ prefixed to it.
  - Example: QPfp+וּ = Qal participle, feminine plural, with the article וּ 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	וּהָ	וּהָ	Same except Mappiq
2ms	כִּי	תִּי	כ → ת. Both have וְ
2fs	כִּי	תִּי	כ → ת. Both have וְ
1cs	יְ	תִי	Both have יְ
3mp	הֶם	וְ	
3fp	הֶן		
2mp	כֶּם	תֶּם	כ → ת. Both have ם
2fp	כֶּן	תֶּן	כ → ת. Both have ן
1cp	נִי	נִי	Same

### 13.5 Qal Perfect Vowels

	Perfect
3ms	וְ
3fs	וּהָ
2ms	כִּי
2fs	כִּי
1cs	יְ
3cp	וְ
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-~~א~~ 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
3ms	◌◌◌	ה◌◌
3fs	ה◌◌◌	הת◌◌
2ms	ת◌◌◌	ית◌◌
2fs	ת◌◌◌	ית◌◌
1cs	תי◌◌◌	יתי◌◌
3cp	ו◌◌◌	ו◌◌
2mp	תם◌◌◌	תם◌◌
2fp	תן◌◌◌	תן◌◌
1cp	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-ס** Most 1-ס just like other 1-Gutturals.  
Some 1-ס have Preformative vowel ◌ and 1CS סס → ס
- **3-ע/פ** Stem vowel is Pathach ( ◌ ), The Shewa under the III-ע/פ must be silent.
- **3-ס** Stem vowel is Qamets ( ◌ )  
In 3FP/2FP, SV Seghol ( ◌ ), Aleph quiesces ( ס◌ )
- **Geminate** Sometimes Dagesh in Geminate consonant.  
Sometimes preformative vowel Qamets (e.g., ס◌ )
- **Biconsonantal** The vowel from the lexical form shows up, but sometimes it is written defectively.  
Imperfect preformative is Qamets (e.g., ס◌ ) 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, הַלְהִי, or חַלְחִי
- Memorize this table of the preformatives for weak verbs that lose a root consonant in the Qal Imperfect.

י	י	י	י	י
1-yod	1-נ or חַלְחִי or Geminate	3-ה	Geminate or Biconsonantal	1-yod or הַלְהִי or Geminate

### 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	ו◌◌◌י	ו◌◌י
3fp	הַנְּהַ◌◌◌ת	הַנְּהַיְ◌◌◌ת
2mp	ו◌◌◌ת	ו◌◌ת
2fp	הַנְּהַ◌◌◌ת	הַנְּהַיְ◌◌◌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 נָּ

- נָּ does NOT soften the command to a polite request.
- The meaning of נָּ (if any) is debated by scholars.
- Only add “please” in your translation if the context indicates it.
- נָּ 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 holam waw (וֹ) 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 **נָפַעַל** in that stem. This is a great mnemonic for the vowels! For example ‘Niphal’ = **נָפַעַל**

### 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 **וּ** in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> persons. It turns out that III-ה verbs use **וּ** 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 **וּ** 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) הוּ (3FS) הָהּ (1-2P Active SV) וּ (1-2P, Passive SV) וּ	(No Suf) הוּ (FP) הִיְהוּ	(No Suf) הוּ (FP) הִיְהוּ	וּת	(Q) הוּ (Q, N, Piel) הוּ (N, Piel, Hiphil) הוּ	הוּ

## 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 **פָּעַל** in that stem. This is a great mnemonic for the vowels! For example ‘Piel’ = **פָּעַל** (although because **פָּעַל** is a II-guttural, the root **פֿעל** would actually be spelled **פֿעַל** or **פֿעֵל** 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-ה Verbs

- See the comments on III-ה 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 **פָּעַל** 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