

Writing the Lexical Form of a Verb

- **Vowels:** The lexical form vowel pattern is ALWAYS Qamets Pathach (e.g. שָׁמַע רָקַד לָכַד) UNLESS:
 - The verb is either III-He or III-Aleph, in which case the vowels are Qamets Qamets (e.g. בָּנָה מָצָא). These are the only 2 cases in which you will write out Qamets Qamets for a lexical form; there are no exceptions!
 - The verb is a biconsonantal. Biconsonantals will have either a Shureq (קָיַם), a Holem Waw (בּוֹא), or a Hireq Yod (שָׂיַם) as the vowel between the two consonants. Which vowel goes with which biconsonantal in its lexical form *must be memorized*, as the lexical form vowel does not always show up in every form.
 - The verb is a Tsere stative (כָּבַד) or Holem stative (קָטַן). Pathach stative verbs have Qamets Pathach (נָדַל) in the lexical form, just like a strong verb.
- **Dagheshes:**
 - If the first root consonant of a verb is a begadkephat, it requires a Daghes Lene (e.g. בָּנָה גָּרַשׁ דָּבַק כָּתַב פָּלַא תָּקַע). There's no special explanation behind this – it's just a rule that begadkephats always require a Daghes Lene at the beginning of a word.
 - If the second (i.e. middle) or last root consonants of a verb are a begadkephat, they do not require a Daghes – DO NOT PUT A DAGHESH IN THE MIDDLE OR LAST CONSONANT OF A LEXICAL FORM EVER! (E.g. שָׁבַר כָּתַב רָפָא קָרַד). The reason begadkephats here do not take Dagheses is because they are preceded by a vowel in both cases (they would need a Daghes Lene if preceded by a consonant and silent shewa).
- **Hidden first consonants:** Don't forget that with I-נ or I-י verbs as well as the verbs הָלַךְ and לָקַח the Nun, Yod, He, or Lamed assimilate into other letters or disappear in some forms (e.g. Imperfect, Imperative). When giving the lexical form, it is important that you be able to recognize what the first root consonant is and write it down as such.
 - I-נ: Forms where the Nun assimilates or disappears: תָּתַן אָתָּן סָעוּ יִפְּלֵ אֶפְּלֵ תִסְעֶנָּה. For these verbs, their lexical form is either נָתַן or נָסַע.
 - I-י: Forms where the Yod disappears: תִּשְׁבִּי יִשָּׁב יִשְׁבְּנָה רָשׁ. For these verbs, their lexical form is either יָרַשׁ or יָשַׁב.
 - הָלַךְ: This verb (and yes, it is an exception) drops its He in the Imperfect and Imperative forms: (Impv) לֵךְ (Impf) יֵלֵךְ. Just make a note of this particular verb and memorize the fact that it is the only I-ה verb that you need to worry about as far as recognizing. You need to be able to recognize these forms so you can give the lexical form as הָלַךְ.
 - לָקַח: This verb is also an exception; it is the only I-ל verb where the Lamed assimilates in some forms: (Impv) קַח (Impf) יִקַּח. Be able to recognize these forms so you can give the lexical form as לָקַח.