

HEBREW WEAK VERBS REVIEW

GENERAL INFORMATION

System Designating Weak Verbs:

ל ע פ
3 2 1

Guttural Variations (א ה ח ע ר)

- 1) Gutturals refuse to be doubled (reject the dagesh)
- 2) They prefer compound shevas
- 3) They prefer “A” class vowels

Some consonants may disappear (ך or ך)

PE GUTTURAL VERBS

Means: “guttural” is in the Pe (פ) position

- 1) 1st root letter *refuses dagesh forte*
 - affects Nifal, Imperfect, Imperative, Infinitive Construct
 - Thus, the preceding vowel under the preformative is *lengthed* יַעֲמִיל
- 2) They prefer *compound shevas*
 - A prefix vowel takes the corresponding short vowel יַעֲבֹר
- 3) When two *vocal shevas* are used, then the Pe Guttural reverts to a *full short vowel* (forms with vowel affirmatives, but no changes in intensives)
- 4) Qal Imperfect prefers a “holem” for a preformative vowel יֵאָכֵל

PE ALEPH VERBS

Means: “Aleph” is in the Pe (פ) position

- 1) The “aleph” tends to *quiesce*
- 2) In Qal Imperfect, preformative vowel is a “holem” יֵאָכֵל
- 3) They have Pe Guttural tendencies

AYIN GUTTURAL VERBS

Means: “guttural” is in the Ayin (ע) position

- 1) 2nd root letter *refuses dagesh forte*
 - Affects all intensives
 - May lengthen the preceding vowel or double guttural by implication (בִּרְךָ piel perf 3ms) or (בִּרְךָ pual perf 3ms)

2) They prefer *compound shevas*

בָּחֲבוּ qal perf 3cs

3) Prefer “A” class vowels instead of “O” class

יִשְׁחַט qal imperf 3ms

LAMED GUTTURAL VERBS

Means: “guttural” is in the Lamed (ל) position

1) They like “A” class vowels before & around them

שָׁלַח qal imperf 3ms

שָׁלַחְתָּ qal perf 2fs

זָבַח piel perf 3ms

שָׁמַע qal act part ms

LAMED ALEPH VERBS

Means: “Aleph” is in the Lamed (ל) position

1) They like *long “A” class vowels* before them (or sometimes long “E”)

יִקְרָא qal imperf 3ms

מִלָּא pual perf 3ms

2) Some like nothing under them (they *quiesce*) before consonant affirmatives

מָלַמְתִּי qal perf 1cs

תִּקְרָאנָה qal imper 3fp

LAMED HE VERBS

Means: “He” is in the Lamed (ל) position

1) “He” (ה) will *dissappear* when suffix added

- Yod (י) is *preserved* when ending begins with a *consonant*

בָּכִיתִי qal perf 1cs

- Yod (י) is *lost* when ending begins with a *vowel*

בָּכוּ qal perf 3cp

2) “He” (ה) has *thematic vowels*:

הָ all perfects (גָּלָה)

הַ all imperfects (יִגְלֶה)

הֵּ all imperatives (גָּלֵה)

וְתֵּ all infin const (גְּלוּת)

הֶּ all participles (גֹּלֵה)

HEBREW WEAK VERBS REVIEW

PE NUN VERBS

Means: “Nun” is in the Pe (נ) position

- 1) When the “nun” has sheva (ְ) as a syllable divider:
 - “Nun” (נ) drops out
 - The next letter gets a *dagesh forte*
 - Affects many qal imperfect, nifal imperfect, nifal participle, hifil and hofal stems

יִנְפַל	becomes	יִפַּל	qal imp 3ms
נִנְגַד	becomes	נִגַּד	nif imp 3ms
- 3) In Hophal, הֻ reverts to הֵ

הֻנְגַּשׁ	becomes	הֵנְגַּשׁ	hof per 3ms
-----------	---------	-----------	-------------
- 4) Qal Imperative the “nun” may drop (נִשׁ)
- 5) Qal Infinitive Construct the “nun” drops and a “tav” is added at the end (נִשְׁתַּ)
- 6) לָקַח acts like a Pe Nun verb

AYIN VAV & AYIN YOD VERBS (Hollow Verbs)

Means: “Vav” or “Yod” is in the Ayin (ע) position

- 1) Middle letter “vav” or “yod” (ו or י):
 - Either drops out
 - Or remains as a vowel
- 2) Qal Perfects usually *lose* the middle letter:

בָּן	בָּא	מִתְּ	הֵם
------	------	-------	-----
- 3) Qal Imperfects usually *lengthen vowel* of prefix:

יְשִׁים	יְקוּם
---------	--------
- 4) Intensives -- Piel, Pual, Hithpael -- *double the last consonant* instead of doubling middle consonant:

קוּמִים	“polel” (piel) perfect 3ms
קוּמָם	“polal” (pual) perfect 3ms
- 5) Hophal gets a *Sureq* (הוּ or וּ) preformative vowel:

הוּקַם	hofal per 3ms
--------	---------------
- 6) Hiphil gets a *Sere* (הֵ or הִ) preformative vowel:

הֵקִים	hifil perfect 3ms
--------	-------------------
- 7) Watch for *separating vowels* before consonant endings

נְהוּמֹתָ	nifal perfect 2ms
תְּהוּמְנָה	qal imperfect 3fp

PE YOD & PE VAV VERBS

Means: “Yod” or “Vav” is in the Pe (פ) position

- 1) “Pe Yod” may *merge* with preceding preformative vowel:

יִיטֵב	qal imperfect 3ms
הֵיטִיב	hifil perfect 3ms
- 2) “Pe Vav” may *drop* out (qal imperfect, qal imperative, qal infinitive construct):

יֵשֵׁב	qal imperfect perfect 3ms	(“vav is dropped, . becomes ..)
דָּע	qal imperative 2ms	
- 3) “Pe Vav” *reappears* in Nifal, Hifil and Hofal as a vowel

הוֹשִׁיב	hifil perfect 3ms
נוֹשֵׁב	nifal perfect 3ms
תוֹלֵד	nifal imperfect 2ms
הוֹשֵׁב	hofal perfect 3ms
- 4) הִלָּךְ *acts like* a “Pe Vav” verb

DOUBLE AYIN VERBS

Means: the 2nd & 3rd root letters are the same so that the letter in the Ayin (ע) position is doubled

- 1) The duplicated last consonant may *drop*
- 2) Get a *dagesh forte* when the ending is added:

קָלְלוּ	becomes	קָלְלוּ	qal perfect 3cp
---------	---------	---------	-----------------

 - Consonant affirmatives get a helping vowel
 - Vowel affirmatives do not
- 3) The intensive stems are *usually regular*
- 4) Vowels of the preformatives will change:
 - Qamets (ָ) used with qal imperfect, nifal perfect, nifal participle, hifil imperfect
 - Sere (ֵ) used with hifil perfect, hifil participle
 - Sureq (וּ) used with hofal