Classes of Hebrew Verbs
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There are three classes of Hebrew verbs: Strong, Weak, and Irregular

I. Strong Verbs

Strong verbs retain all three root letters in all forms. They are a minority of Hebrew verbs.

II. Weak Verbs

Certain types of weak root letters cause changes in pronunciation (vowels) in weak verbs. They should not be considered irregular because the changes are predictable and follow certain patterns. There are three basic types of weak verbs:

1. Gutteral and Quiescent

- initial gutteral
- medial gutteral
- final gutteral

Includes words ending in מ in which מ is a full consonant

- initial aleph
- final aleph
- final he
- originally initial yod

2. Elided or Assimilated Letters

- initial nun
- originally initial vav

1There are a significant number of doubly weak verbs that are affected by two (or more) of the weaknesses described here, e.g., POINT. They are best dealt with as they are encountered in reading.

2There are only five initial aleph verbs in which the aleph regularly quiesces:

- POINT
- POINT
- POINT
- POINT

There are some that occur with both quiescent and strong forms, e.g., POINT.

3There are only seven initial yod verbs in which the yod is original to the root and never elides:

- POINT
- POINT
- POINT
- POINT

In these, the initial yod normally quiesces.

1In some forms, such as the Qal perfect, the initial vav occurs as a yod and the conjugation appears regular (לַשׁ). In other forms the yod elides, as in the Qal imperfect (וְיָשֹׁב, from יָשֹׁב); assimilates, as in some words with a medial sibilant (וָשָׁב, from יָשֹׁב); or the original vav reappears, such as the Niphal imperfect (וְיָשֹׁב).
3. Hollow Verbs

medial yod

medial vav (א or י)

III. Irregular Verbs

Because of the history of the language, some verbs inflect in ways that are not always predictable.

4. Geminate Verbs

medial and final the same

5. Irregular Stems

forms Poel, Pilpel, etc.

6. Individual Irregular Verbs

initial he elides (unique)

initial lamed elides (unique)

final nun elides (unique)

four root letters (unique)

a small number of additional irregular verbs must simply be learned as they are encountered.