Weak Hebrew Verbs - Final ה

Dennis Bratcher

Basic guidelines: 1. without suffix, final he is retained with characteristic vowels
2. before consonantal suffix, the final he appears as a yod
3. before vocalic suffix, the final he elides

The lexical form of these verbs is with a final ה, but originally the final letter was a יוד which reappears in certain forms.

A. When he is the last element of a final he verb (without suffixes), it occurs with characteristic base vowels: Perfect י, Imperfect וי, Imperative וי. (Note the one exception in B below)

Qal Perfect, 3rd masc sing: √ אני → הני
Qal Imperfect, 3rd masc sing: √ יני → הני
Piel Imperfect, 1st sing: √ אתה → והני
Qal Imperative, 2nd masc sing: √ אתה → והני

B. In Qal passive participle, final he always appears as the original yod.

Qal Passive Participle, masc sing: √ בנויה → ובניה
Qal Passive Participle, fem sing: √ בנויה → ובניה

C. Before consonantal suffixes, final he appears as the original yod and contracts to become part of a long vowel, either י or ש.

Qal Perfect, 1st sing: √ ותפילתי → ותפלתי
Niphal Perfect, 1st sing: √ והתחתי → והתחתי
Qal Imperfect, 2nd/3rd fem plur: √ וroperties → ו proprietà

D. Before vocalic suffixes, final he elides (note the one exception in E below).

Qal Perfect, 3rd plur: √ ילי → ילי
Qal Imperative, 2nd fem sing: √ ילי → ילי
Qal Imperfect, 2nd masc plur: √ רכבי → רכבי

Copyright © 2007, Dennis Bratcher, All Rights Reserved
CRI/Voice, Institute  http://www.crivoice.org/
E. 3rd fem sing perfect forms add a tav to connect the feminine suffix and distinguish it from the masculine form.

Qal Perfect, 3rd fem sing:

Qal Perfect, 3rd fem sing: \( √\) הָלָה → הָלָה → הָלָה

F. The final he elides in shortened forms (consecutive imperfect and jussive).

The most common of these shortened forms are:

\( √\) לָהֵי → לָהֵי → לָהֵי
\( √\) רָאָה → רָאָה → רָאָה
\( √\) סוּר → סוּר → סוּר

G. The infinitive construct replaces the final he with ה- in all stems.

Qal Infinitive Construct:

Qal Infinitive Construct: \( √\) קָלָה → קָלָה

Hiphil Infinitive Construct:

Hiphil Infinitive Construct: \( √\) קָפָנוּת → קָפָנוּת