Weak Hebrew Verbs - Hollow Verbs

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Basic guidelines: functionally biconsonantal, long middle vowel often does not occur
repeats last letter when stem normally doubles the middle radical

A. Lexical form is the Qal Infinitive Construct to show the middle vowel.

Qal Infinitive Construct:  

\[
\text{גוע} \rightarrow \text{גונ}
\]

Qal Infinitive Construct:  

\[
\text{גייו} \rightarrow \text{גייו}
\]

B. Qal perfect does not show the middle vowel, and is usually pointed with an ‘a’ vowel.

Qal Perfect, 3rd plural: 

\[
\text{שובה} \rightarrow \text{שובה}
\]

Qal Perfect, 1st sing: 

\[
\text{צאתי} \rightarrow \text{צאתי} \rightarrow \text{זכא}
\]

Qal Perfect, 1st sing: 

\[
\text{מחיי} \rightarrow \text{מחיי} \rightarrow \text{מוח}
\]

C. Qal imperfect uses patah as thematic vowel and conjugates on the analogy of a strong
verb; a few take stative forms and use sere as the thematic vowel.

Qal Imperfect, 1st sing: 

\[
\text{จำนวนมาก} \rightarrow \text{כומ}
\]

Qal Imperfect, 3rd sing: 

\[
\text{ביצים} \rightarrow \text{ברשים}
\]

D. Niphal conjugates on the analogy of a strong verb: in the perfect, the nun prefix uses
patah as thematic vowel, often with an ‘o’ vowel following; in the imperfect the nun
prefix assimilates to the following consonant.

Niphal Perfect, 3rd sing: 

\[
\text{_pkqiw} \rightarrow \text{כומ}
\]

Niphal Perfect, 2nd sing: 

\[
\text{p_kqim} \rightarrow \text{כומ}
\]

Niphal Imperfect, 2nd sing: 

\[
\text{חקוקמ} \rightarrow \text{חקוקמ} \rightarrow \text{חקוקמ} \rightarrow \text{כומ}
\]

Niphal Infinitive Construct: 

\[
\text{חקוקמ} \rightarrow \text{חקוקמ} \rightarrow \text{חקוקמ} \rightarrow \text{כומ}
\]

E. Hiphil conjugates on the analogy of a strong verb, with sere as the thematic vowel of the
Hiphil perfect prefix, and patah as the thematic vowel of Imperfect prefixes.

Hiphil Perfect, 3rd sing: 

\[
\text{תקנ"ס} \rightarrow \text{כומ}
\]

Hiphil Imperfect 3rd sing: 

\[
\text{תקנ"ס} \rightarrow \text{כומ}
\]
F. Hophal does not show the middle vowel and conjugates on the analogy of an initial yod verb with shureq, or more rarely qibbuts, as the thematic vowel of both the perfect and imperfect,

   Hophal Perfect, 3rd masc plural: \( \sqrt{דסנשא} \rightarrow \text{דסנשא} \) (or \( \text{דסנשא} \))
   Hophal Imperfect, 3rd masc sing: \( \sqrt{דסנשא} \rightarrow \text{דסנשא} \) (or \( \text{דסנשא} \))

G. Piel, Pual, and Hitpael present special problems, since they need to double the middle radical. Instead, the last radical is reduplicated and the word uses a long 'o' vowel. These forms are given special names to indicate these changes. The characteristic vowels of the imperfect prefixes are retained. These forms are not common in hollow verbs.

   Polel (Piel) Imperfect, 3rd masc sing: \( \sqrt{ךדסנשא} \rightarrow \text{ךדסנשא} \)
   Polal (Pual) Imperf, 2nd fem plural: \( \sqrt{ךדסנשא} \rightarrow \text{ךדסנשא} \)
   Hitpolel (Hitpael) Imperf, 3 mas sng: \( \sqrt{ךדסנשא} \rightarrow \text{ךדסנשא} \)

H. The four most common hollow verbs occur hundreds of times in the Hebrew Bible. Note the participle and infinitive forms of these words:

   \( \sqrt{כדנשא} \) Inf Construct→ \( \text{כדנשא} \) Participle→ \( \text{כדנשא} \)
   \( \sqrt{כדנשא} \) Inf Construct→ \( \text{כדנשא} \) Participle→ \( \text{כדנשא} \)
   \( \sqrt{כדנשא} \) Inf Construct→ \( \text{כדנשא} \) Participle→ \( \text{כדנשא} \)
   \( \sqrt{כדנשא} \) Inf Construct→ \( \text{כדנשא} \) Participle→ \( \text{כדנשא} \)

I. Some hollow forms conjugate on the analogy of geminate verbs or in an irregular manner. These cannot be predicted and simply must be dealt with as they are encountered.