Weak Hebrew Verbs - Initial Nun
Dennis Bratcher

Basic guideline: initial nun assimilates with preformatives

A. A nun at the end of a syllable (following preformative letters) usually assimilates to the following consonant.

- Qal Imperfect, 3rd masc sing: \( \text{ינָל} \rightarrow \text{יָנָל} \rightarrow \text{יָנָל} \)
- Niphal Perfect 3rd Masc Sing: \( \text{נָל} \rightarrow \text{נָל} \rightarrow \text{נָל} \)
- Hiphil Imperfect, 3rd Plural: \( \text{לֶנָל} \rightarrow \text{לֶנָל} \rightarrow \text{לֶנָל} \)
- Hophal Participle Masc Sing: \( \text{מָלָנּ} \rightarrow \text{מָלָנ} \rightarrow \text{מָל} \)

B. Forms dependant on the imperfect (infinitives and imperatives) use the assimilated root.

- Qal Imperative, 2nd masc sing: \( \text{גָּנֵש} \rightarrow \text{גָּנֵש} \rightarrow \text{גָּנֵש} \)
- Hiphil Imperative, 2nd Masc Plural: \( \text{נָגֵשַׁשָׁ} \rightarrow \text{נָגֵשַׁש} \rightarrow \text{נָגֵש} \)
- Qal Infinitive Construct: \( \text{גָּנֵש} \rightarrow \text{גָּנֵש} \rightarrow \text{גָּנֵש} \)

C. In rare cases, for example when the middle letter is a gutteral, the nun does not assimilate.

- Qal Imperfect, 3rd masc sing: \( \text{נָבָה} \rightarrow \text{נָבָה} \)

D. לֵיחַ conjugates just like an initial nun verb in the Qal imperfect and dependant forms. This is the only verb where an initial ל assimilates.

- Qal Imperfect, 3rd masc sing: \( \text{לֵיחַ} \rightarrow \text{לֵיחַ} \rightarrow \text{לֵיחַ} \)
- Qal Imperative, 2nd masc sing: \( \text{לֵיחַ} \rightarrow \text{לֵיחַ} \rightarrow \text{לֵיחַ} \)
- Qal Infinitive Construct: \( \text{לֵיחַ} \rightarrow \text{לֵיחַ} \rightarrow \text{לֵיחַ} \)

E. נֵה is irregular because the final nun elides before suffixed elements. This is the only verb where a final nun elides.

- Qal Perfect, 1st sing: \( \text{נֵה} \rightarrow \text{נֵה} \rightarrow \text{נֵה} \)
- Qal Imperative 2nd masc sing: \( \text{נֵה} \rightarrow \text{נֵה} \rightarrow \text{נֵה} \)
- Qal Infinitive Construct: \( \text{נֵה} \rightarrow \text{נֵה} \rightarrow \text{נֵה} \)

F. A few verbs with initial yod conjugate just like an initial nun verb in imperfect and dependant forms. These are mostly limited to initial yod verbs with a medial sibilant (usually כ); the yod assimilates to the following letter,

- Qal Imperfect, 3rd masc sing: \( \text{כָּנָה} \rightarrow \text{כָּנָה} \rightarrow \text{כָּנָה} \)

*as in other forms, the infinitive often adds ה to strengthen the root.