

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: √ נוּג → נוּג

Qal Infinitive Construct: √ ציץ → ציץ

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

Qal Perfect, 3rd plural: √ שׁוּב → שָׁבוּ

Qal Perfect, 1st sing: √ בּוֹא → בָּאתִי → בִּאתִי

Qal Perfect, 1st sing: √ מוֹת → מָתִיתִי → מִיתִי

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: √ קוּם → אֶקוּם

Qal Imperfect, 3rd masc sing: √ בּוֹשׁ → יִבוֹשׁ

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 masc sing: √ קוּם → נִקּוּם

Niphal Perfect, 2nd masc sing: √ קוּם → נִקּוּמְתָּ

Niphal Imperfect, 2nd fem sing: √ קוּם → תִּנְקוּמִי → תִּתְקוּמִי → תִּקּוּמִי

Niphal Infinitive Construct: √ קוּם → הִנְקוּם → הִתְקוּם → הִקּוּם

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 fem sing: √ קוּם → הִקְיָמָהּ

Hiphil Imperfect 3rd masc sing : √ מוֹת → יִמִּית

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: √ מות → הוּמְתוּ (or הִמְתּוּ)

Hophal Imperfect, 3rd masc sing: √ מות → יוּמְתוּ (or יִמְתּוּ)

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: √ קום → קוּמִים

Polal (Pual) Imperf, 2nd fem plural: √ קום → תְּקוּמְמִי

Hitpolel (Hitpael) Imperf, 3 mas sng: √ קום → יִתְקוּמִים

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

√ בוא Inf Construct → בּוֹא Participle → בָּא

√ מות Inf Construct → מוֹת Participle → מָת

√ שים Inf Construct → שִׁים Participle → שָׁם

√ שוב Inf Construct → שׁוּב Participle → שָׁב

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.