

Weak Hebrew Verbs - Initial Nun

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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: √ נפל → יִנְפֹּל → יִפְּפֹּל → יִפֹּל
Niphal Perfect 3rd Masc Sing: √ נצל → נִנְצַל → נִצְצַל → נִצַּל
Hiphil Imperfect, 3rd Plural: √ נפל → יִנְפִּילוּ → יִפְּפִילוּ → יִפִּילוּ
Hophal Participle Masc Sing: √ נגד → מוֹנִגֵּד → מוֹגְגֵד → מוֹגֵד or מִגֵּד

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

Qal Imperative, 2nd masc sing: √ נגש → יִנְגַּשׁ → יִגְגַּשׁ → יִגַּשׁ → גַּשׁ
Hiphil Imperative, 2nd Masc Plural: √ נגש → תִּנְגִּישׁוּ → תִּגְגִּישׁוּ → תִּגִּישׁוּ → תִּגְיִישׁוּ
Qal Infinitive Construct: √ נגש → יִנְגַּשׁ → יִגְגַּשׁ → יִגַּשׁ → יִגְשֹׁת*

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

Qal Imperfect, 3rd masc sing: √ נהג → יִנְהַג

D. לקח 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: √ לקח → יִלְקַח → יִקְקַח → יִקַּח
Qal Imperative, 2nd masc sing: √ לקח → תִּלְקַח → תִּקְקַח → תִּקַּח → קַח
Qal Infinitive Construct: √ לקח → יִלְקַח → יִקְקַח → יִקַּח → יִקַּח*

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

Qal Perfect, 1st sing: √ נתן → נָתַנְתִּי → נָתַתִּי
Qal Imperative 2nd masc sing : √ נתן → תִּנְתֵּן → תִּתְתֵּן → תִּתֵּן → תֵּן
Qal Infinitive Construct: √ נתן → יִנְתֵּן → יִתְתֵּן → יִתֵּן → יִתְּנֶה → יִתֵּן*

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 צ); the *yod* assimilates to the following letter,

Qal Imperfect, 3rd masc sing: √ יצת → יִיֶצֵא → יִצְצֵא → יִצֵּא

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