

# The Hebrew Verb System - Overview

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## Definition of Terms

**Radical:** the individual consonantal letters of a word: ל, ט, and ק.

**Root:** the letters (radicals) that give the basic sense, e.g. קטל, “kill”

**Citation Form:** also called *lexical form*, the simplest form of a word used for dictionary reference. For most verbs it is the Qal Perfect 3rd Masculine Singular (קָטַל). Nouns and adjectives are listed by verbal root or by the Masc Singular form.

**Inflection:** the changes in form that words undergo to show various meanings, such as gender, number, person, mood, tense, or voice. This is also termed *conjugation*.

Basic root	קטל	lexical form
Perfect	קָטַלְתִּי	suffixed verbal endings
Imperfect	אֶקְטַל	prefixed verbal preformatives
Modals		
Imperative	קַטֵּל	built from 2nd person imperfect form
Cohortative	אֶקְטַלְהָ	suffixed first person imperfect form
Jussive	(not always separate form)	[shortened] 3rd person imperfect form
Infinitive	קַטֹּל	shortened vowel or prefixed
Participle	קוֹטֵל	long vowel or prefixed
Consecutive Perfect	וְקָטַלְתִּי	perfect with ו
Consecutive Imperfect	וְאֶקְטַל	imperfect with ו

**Stem:** the patterns on which the root idea of a verb is inflected to vary its meaning.

Basic pattern	Qal (Paal)	Active	קַטֵּל
Prefixed Nun (נ)	Niphal	Passive	נִקְטַל
Doubled Second Radical	Piel	Intensive	קִטַּל
	Pual	Intensive Passive	קִטַּל
with prefixed הַת	Hitpaal	Reflexive	הִתְקַטַּל
Prefixed He (ה)	Hiphil	Causitive	הִקְטִיל
	Hophal	Causitive Passive	הִקְטִיל