

Chapter 13a - Qal Perfect: Strong

introduction

The Qal Stem

Qal verbs are *active* in voice with the *simple* or unnuanced type of action. The simple action of the Qal stem is further divided into **transitive, intransitive** and **stative**.

1. Transitive. Transitive verbs may take a direct object. In the example “the prophet wrote the book,” the word “book” is the direct object of the verb “wrote” because it receives the verbal action.

2. Intransitive. Intransitive verbs cannot take a direct object. In the example “the king perished in the battle,” the verb “perished” cannot take a direct object. Other examples of intransitive verbs include “to live,” “to die” and “to fast.”

3. Stative. Stative verbs are used to describe a state of being. In the example, “the priest is old,” the verbal construction “is old” describes the state or condition of the subject (the priest). In English, a stative (or state-of-being) idea is expressed with a form of the verb “to be” (is) and an adjective (old). In Hebrew, a stative idea is expressed through various verbs themselves, such as כָּבֵד (to be heavy) and קָטַן (to be small). Most stative verbs are considered to be intransitive because they cannot take a direct object.

The Perfect Conjugation

The Perfect conjugation is used to express a *completed action* or *state of being*. It must be emphasized that the Hebrew Perfect does not have tense (time of action) apart from context and issues of syntax. Rather, it signifies aspect (type of action). The Perfect aspect designates a verbal action with its conclusion envisioned in the mind of the speaker or writer. To state it differently, *the Perfect aspect denotes completed action, whether in the past, present or future*.



Chapter 13b - Qal Perfect: Strong

qal perfect paradigm

	<i>Suffix</i>	<i>Perfect</i>	<i>Translation</i>
<i>3ms</i>		קָטַל	he killed
<i>3fs</i>	הָ	קָטְלָהּ	she killed
<i>2ms</i>	תָּ	קָטַלְתָּ	you killed
<i>2fs</i>	תְּ	קָטַלְתְּ	you killed
<i>1cs</i>	תִּי	קָטַלְתִּי	I killed
<i>3cp</i>	וּ	קָטְלוּ	they killed
<i>2mp</i>	תֶּם	קָטַלְתֶּם	you killed
<i>2fp</i>	תֵּן	קָטַלְתֵּן	you killed
<i>1cp</i>	נוּ	קָטַלְנוּ	we killed



Chapter 13c - Qal Perfect: Strong

other strong verbs

	יָשַׁב <i>to dwell</i>	זָכַר <i>to remember</i>	כָּתַב <i>to write</i>	שָׁמַר <i>to keep</i>	קָבַץ <i>to gather</i>
3ms	יָשַׁב	זָכַר	כָּתַב	שָׁמַר	קָבַץ
3fs	כָּאַשְׁבָּה	כָּאַזְכְּרָה	כָּאַתְּבֵה	נִשְׁמְרָה	קָבְצָה
2ms	יָשַׁבְתָּ	זָכַרְתָּ	כָּתַבְתָּ	שָׁמַרְתָּ	קָבַצְתָּ
2fs	יָשַׁבְתְּ	זָכַרְתְּ	כָּתַבְתְּ	שָׁמַרְתְּ	קָבַצְתְּ
1cs	יָשַׁבְתִּי	זָכַרְתִּי	כָּתַבְתִּי	שָׁמַרְתִּי	קָבַצְתִּי
3cp	כָּאַשְׁבוּ	כָּאַזְכְּרוּ	כָּאַתְּבוּ	נִשְׁמְרוּ	קָבְצוּ
2mp	יָשַׁבְתֶּם	זָכַרְתֶּם	כָּתַבְתֶּם	שָׁמַרְתֶּם	קָבַצְתֶּם
2fp	יָשַׁבְתֶּן	זָכַרְתֶּן	כָּתַבְתֶּן	שָׁמַרְתֶּן	קָבַצְתֶּן
1cp	יָשַׁבְנוּ	זָכַרְנוּ	כָּתַבְנוּ	שָׁמַרְנוּ	קָבַצְנוּ



Chapter 13d - Qal Perfect: Strong

verbal roots ending in ת and נ

When a verbal root ending in ת receives a sufformative beginning with ת, the two identical consonants become one consonant with a Daghesth Forte (תת > ת). Five of the Perfect sufformatives begin with ת.

כַּרְתֶּתָּ	>	כַּרְתָּ	2ms	you cut
כַּרְתֶּתְּ	>	כַּרְתִּי	2fs	you cut
כַּרְתֶּתִי	>	כַּרְתֶּם	1cs	I cut
כַּרְתֶּתְּם	>	כַּרְתֶּן	2mp	you cut
כַּרְתֶּתְּוּ	>		2fp	you cut

When a verbal root ending in נ receives a Perfect sufformative beginning with נ, the two identical consonants become one consonant with Daghesth Forte (ננ > נ). The only sufformative that begins with נ is the 1cp (ננו). The final נ of a verbal root may also assimilate into sufformatives ending in ת (נת > נת).

שָׁכְנֶנוּ	>	שָׁכְנוּ	1cp	we dwell
נִתְּנֵנוּ	>	נִתְּנֵנוּ	1cp	we dwell

Chapter 13e - Qal Perfect: Strong

stative verbs

Stative verbs are classified by their stem vowel. *The stem vowel is the vowel that is associated with the second root consonant.* In transitive strong verb paradigms, the stem vowel is Pathach as in **קָטַל**, **שָׁמַר** and **זָכַר**. With stative verbs, the stem vowel is variable.

Pathach-Stative Tsere-Stative Holem-Stative

גָּדַל to be great **כָּבַד** to be heavy **קָטַן** to be small
חָכַם to be wise **זָקַן** to be old **יָכַל** to be able

	<i>Pathach-Stative</i>	<i>Tsere-Stative</i>	<i>Holem-Stative</i>
<i>3ms</i>	גָּדַל	כָּבַד	קָטַן
<i>3fs</i>	אָדְלָה	אָבְדָה	קָטְנָה
<i>2ms</i>	גָּדַלְתָּ	כָּבַדְתָּ	קָטַנְתָּ
<i>2fs</i>	גָּדַלְתִּי	כָּבַדְתִּי	קָטַנְתִּי
<i>1cs</i>	גָּדַלְתִּי	כָּבַדְתִּי	קָטַנְתִּי
<i>3cp</i>	אָדְלוּ	אָבְדוּ	קָטְנוּ
<i>2mp</i>	גָּדַלְתֶּם	כָּבַדְתֶּם	קָטַנְתֶּם
<i>2fp</i>	גָּדַלְתֶּן	כָּבַדְתֶּן	קָטַנְתֶּן
<i>1cp</i>	גָּדַלְנוּ	כָּבַדְנוּ	קָטַנְנוּ



Chapter 13f - Qal Perfect: Strong

parsing

The parsing of Perfect verbs involves the identification of the *verbal stem, conjugation, person, gender, number* and *verbal root*. When parsing, give the appropriate information in the proper order as the following examples illustrate (translation is not a required part of parsing information).

זָכַרְתִּי Qal Perfect 1cs זָכַר I remembered

שָׁמַרְתְּ Qal Perfect 2fs שָׁמַר you observed



Chapter 13g - Qal Perfect: Strong

the negative particle לא

Perfect (and Imperfect) verbs are negated with the particle לא, usually translated “not.” It may also be spelled לוא. The negative particle is always placed immediately before the verb.

לא שְׁמַרְתֶּם אֶת־הַתּוֹרוֹת
You did *not* observe the laws.

לא זָכַרְתָּ אֶת־הַבְּרִית
You did *not* remember the covenant.



Chapter 13h - Qal Perfect: Strong

the particle הִנֵּה

The word הִנֵּה (also as הִן and הֵן-) is commonly translated “behold.” It can stand alone or take Type 1 pronominal suffixes.

1cs	הִנֵּנִי/הִנְנִי	1cp	הִנְנוּ/הִנָּנוּ
2ms	הִנְךָ	2mp	הִנְכֶם
2fs	הִנְךָ	2fp	
3ms	הִנּוּ	3mp	הִנָּם

1. The particle הִנֵּה may be used to add emphasis.

וַיִּרְא אֱלֹהִים אֶת־כָּל־אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה וְהִנֵּה טוֹב מְאֹד
 And God saw all that he had made, and
behold, (it was) very good (Gen 1:31).

2. The particle הִנֵּה may be used to indicate the immediate presence of someone or something.

וְהִנֵּה אֲנֹכִי עִמָּךְ
 And *behold*, I am with you (Gen 28:15).

3. The particle הִנֵּה may be used to introduce a fact or situation upon which a subsequent statement is based.

וַיֹּאמֶר שְׁמוּאֵל אֶל־כָּל־יִשְׂרָאֵל הִנֵּה שָׁמַעְתִּי בְּקוֹלְכֶם
 לְכֹל אֲשֶׁר־אָמַרְתֶּם לִי וְאִמְלִיךָ עָלֵיכֶם מֶלֶךְ

And Samuel said to all of Israel, “*Behold*, I have listened to all that you have said to me and (therefore) I have caused a king to reign over you” (1 Sam 12:1).

