

Chapter 17a - Waw Conversive

introduction

*Converted verbal forms are used primarily to denote sequences of **consecutive** actions, either in the past, present or future.*



Chapter 17b - Waw Conversive

basic form with imperfect

*Qal Imperfect without
Waw Conversive*

יִשְׁמֹר

he will observe

יִזְכֹּר

he will remember

*Qal Imperfect with
Waw Conversive*

וַיִּשְׁמֹר

and he observed

וַיִּזְכֹּר

and he remembered

*Imperfect with
Waw Conversive*

וַיִּקְטֹל



Chapter 17c - Waw Conversive

imperfect strong verb paradigm

Imperfect with Waw Conversive

<i>3ms</i>	וַיִּקְטֹל	and he killed
<i>3fs</i>	וַתִּקְטֹל	and she killed
<i>2ms</i>	וַתִּקְטֹל	and you killed
<i>2fs</i>	וַתִּקְטְלִי	and you killed
<i>1cs</i>	וַאֲקַטֵּל	and I killed
<i>3mp</i>	וַיִּקְטֹלוּ	and they killed
<i>3fp</i>	וַתִּקְטֹלְנָה	and they killed
<i>2mp</i>	וַתִּקְטֹלוּ	and you killed
<i>2fp</i>	וַתִּקְטֹלְנָה	and you killed
<i>1cp</i>	וַנִּקְטֹל	and we killed



Chapter 17d - Waw Conversive

waw conversive and regular waw

*Qal Imperfect with
Waw Conversive*

*Qal Imperfect with
Regular Waw*

<i>3ms</i>	וַיִּקְטֹל	וַיִּקְטֹל	and he will kill
<i>3fs</i>	וַתִּקְטֹל	וַתִּקְטֹל	and she will kill
<i>2ms</i>	וַתִּקְטֹל	וַתִּקְטֹל	and you will kill
<i>2fs</i>	וַתִּקְטְלִי	וַתִּקְטְלִי	and you will kill
<i>1cs</i>	וְאֶקְטֹל	וְאֶקְטֹל	and I will kill
<i>3mp</i>	וַיִּקְטֹלוּ	וַיִּקְטֹלוּ	and they will kill
<i>3fp</i>	וַתִּקְטֹלְנָה	וַתִּקְטֹלְנָה	and they will kill
<i>2mp</i>	וַתִּקְטֹלוּ	וַתִּקְטֹלוּ	and you will kill
<i>2fp</i>	וַתִּקְטֹלְנָה	וַתִּקְטֹלְנָה	and you will kill
<i>1cp</i>	וְנִקְטֹל	וְנִקְטֹל	and we will kill



Chapter 17e - Waw Conversive

use of converted imperfect

1. A past tense narrative sequence may begin with a **Perfect verb** followed by any number of converted Imperfect verbs.

וְהָאָדָם יָדַע אֶת-חַוָּה אִשְׁתּוֹ וַתַּהַר וַתֵּלֶד אֶת-קַיִן

And Adam knew Eve his wife, *and then she conceived, and then she bore* Cain (Gen 4:1).

2. A past tense narrative sequence may begin with the **temporal modifier** וַיְהִי followed by Imperfect verbs with Waw Conversive.

וַיְהִי אַחֲרֵי מוֹת אַבְרָהָם וַיְבָרֶךְ אֱלֹהִים אֶת-יִצְחָק בְּנוֹ

And after the death of Abraham
God blessed Isaac his son (Gen 25:11).

3. A past tense narrative sequence may begin with the **converted Imperfect** itself.

וַיִּקְרָא אֶל-מֹשֶׁה וַיְדַבֵּר יְהוָה אֵלָיו מֵאֵתֶל מוֹעֵד

And he *called* to Moses and Yahweh spoke to him
from the tent of meeting (Lev 1:1).



Chapter 17f - Waw Conversive

changes in spelling

With I-א verbs like אָמַר and some I-י verbs (including הִלָּךְ), the stem vowel changes to Seghol.

יֹאמַר he will say	>	וַיֹּאמֶר and he said
יִשָּׁב he will dwell	>	וַיִּשָּׁב and he dwelt
יֵלֵךְ he will go	>	וַיֵּלֶךְ and he went

Biconsonantal and III-ה verbs are “shortened” in converted Imperfect forms without a sufformative (except the 1cs). With Biconsonantal verbs, the medial vowel letter is lost. With III-ה verbs, the final ה drops off.

יִקוּם he will rise up	>	וַיִּקָּם and he rose up
יִשֵּׁם he will set	>	וַיִּשֶׂם and he set
יִבְנֶה he will build	>	וַיִּבֶן and he built
יִגְלֶה he will reveal	>	וַיִּגַּל and he revealed

Chapter 17g - Waw Conversive

basic form with perfect

*Qal Perfect without
Waw Conversive*

שָׁמַר

he observed

זָכַר

he remembered

*Qal Perfect with
Waw Conversive*

וְשָׁמַר

and he will observe

וְזָכַר

and he will remember

*Perfect with
Waw Conversive*

וְקָטַל



Chapter 17h - Waw Conversive

perfect strong verb paradigm

Perfect with Waw Conversive

<i>3ms</i>	וְקָטַל	and he will kill
<i>3fs</i>	וְקָטְלָהּ	and she will kill
<i>2ms</i>	וְקָטַלְתָּ	and you will kill
<i>2fs</i>	וְקָטַלְתְּ	and you will kill
<i>1cs</i>	וְקָטַלְתִּי	and I will kill
<i>3cp</i>	וְקָטְלוּ	and they will kill
<i>2mp</i>	וְקָטַלְתֶּם	and you will kill
<i>2fp</i>	וְקָטַלְתֶּן	and you will kill
<i>1cp</i>	וְקָטַלְנוּ	and we will kill



Chapter 17i - Waw Conversive

use of converted perfect

1. The future tense narrative sequence may begin with an **Imperfect verb** followed by any number of converted Perfect verbs.

שֵׁשֶׁת יָמִים תַּעֲבֹד וְעָשִׂיתָ כָּל־מְלַאכְתֶּךָ

Six days you will labor *and (you will) do*
all your work (Deut 5:13).

2. The **temporal modifier** וְהָיָה may mark the beginning of a future tense narrative sequence.

וְהָיָה בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא וְשָׁבַרְתִּי אֶת־קַשְׁתֹּת יִשְׂרָאֵל

And in that day *I will break* the
bow of Israel (Hos 1:5).

3. The converted Perfect will frequently follow an **Imperative verb** and carry the full force of the initial Imperative.

עֲמֹד בַּשַּׁעַר בֵּית יְהוָה וְקִרְאתָ שָׁם אֶת־הַדָּבָר
הַזֶּה וְאָמַרְתָּ שְׁמְעוּ דְבַר־יְהוָה

Stand (Imperative) in the gate of Yahweh's house *and (you will) proclaim* there this word *and (you will) say*,
“Hear the word of Yahweh” (Jer 7:2).



Chapter 17j - Waw Conversive

parsing

The parsing of converted verbal forms is just like the parsing of regular Perfect or Imperfect verbs except that *you must identify the presence of the Waw Conversive*.

וַיִּשְׁמַר Qal Imperfect 3ms וְשָׁמַר **with Waw Conversive**

וַזְכֹּר Qal Perfect 3ms וָזָכַר **with Waw Conversive**