

Chapter 20a

Qal Infinitive Construct

basic form

The Infinitive Construct *is not inflected for person, gender or number*. There is one basic form and, therefore, no paradigm to memorize. The vowel pattern is consistent for all strong verbs and even for most weak verbs. Note that the basic form of the Qal Infinitive Construct is identical to the Qal Imperative 2ms (קַטֵּל).

*Infinitive Construct
Strong Verb*

קַטֵּל



Chapter 20b

Qal Infinitive Construct

examples with weak verbs

Imperative Infinitive Infinitive
2ms Construct Translation

<i>Strong</i>	זָכַר	זָכֹר	to remember
<i>I-Gutt</i>	עָזַב	עָזֹב	to abandon
<i>I-א</i>	אָמַר	אָמוֹר	to say
<i>II-Gutt</i>	בָּחַר	בָּחוֹר	to choose
<i>III-ה</i>	שָׁלַח	שָׁלוֹחַ	to send
<i>III-ע</i>	שָׁמַע	שָׁמוֹעַ	to hear
<i>III-א</i>	קָרָא	קָרוֹא	to call



Chapter 20c

Qal Infinitive Construct

III-ה verbs: spelling

The Infinitive Construct form of III-ה verbs ends in **ות**. Remember that Imperfect forms end in **ה** (except in those forms with sufformatives) and that Imperative forms end in **ה** (2ms).

Summary of III-ה Verbal Endings

	<i>Ending</i>	<i>Example</i>	<i>Translation</i>
<i>Imperfect</i>	ה	יבנה	he will build
<i>Imperative</i>	ה	בנה	you (2ms) build!
<i>Infinitive Construct</i>	ות	בנות	to build, building



Chapter 20d

Qal Infinitive Construct

III-7 verbs: examples

<i>Verbal Root</i>	<i>Infinitive Construct</i>	<i>Translation</i>
בָּנָה	בְּנוֹת	to build, building
בָּכָה	בְּכוֹת	to weep, weeping
עָלָה	עֲלוֹת	to go up, going up
עָנָה	עֲנוֹת	to answer, answering
עָשָׂה	עֲשׂוֹת	to do, doing
הָיָה	הִיּוֹת	to be, being
רָאָה	רְאוֹת	to see, seeing



Chapter 20e

Qal Infinitive Construct

l-ל verbs

<i>Verbal Root</i>	<i>Infinitive Construct with ל</i>	<i>Alternate Form with ת</i>
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נִסַּע	נִסֵּעַ	סִיעַת
נִגַּע	נִגֵּעַ	גִּיעַת
נִטַּע	נִטֵּעַ	טִיעַת
נִשָּׂא	נִשֵּׂא	שִׂיעַת (שִׂיאת)
נִגַּשׁ		גִּישַׁת
נִתַּן	נִתֵּן	תִּיעַת



Chapter 20f

Qal Infinitive Construct

l-’ verbs

<i>Verbal Root</i>	<i>Infinitive Construct</i>
יִשֶׁב	שֵׁבַת
יִרְשׁ	רִשָׁתָּהּ
יִלְד	לְדַתָּהּ
יִרְד	רִדְתָּהּ
יִדַע	דַּעַתָּהּ
יִצֵּא	צֵאתָּהּ
הִלֵּךְ	לְכַתָּהּ



Chapter 20g

Qal Infinitive Construct

biconsonantal verbs

*Verbal
Root*

*Infinitive
Construct*

שׁוּב

שׁוּב

מוֹת

מוֹת

בוֹא

בוֹא

בוֹשׁ

בוֹשׁ

דִּין

דִּין



Chapter 20h

Qal Infinitive Construct

with suffixes and prefixes

The Infinitive Construct can take pronominal suffixes that function as either the subject or object of the verbal idea.

קָטַלְוּ

“**his** killing” or “killing **him**”

The inseparable prepositions לְ, בְּ, and עַל may be prefixed to the Infinitive Construct with a range of uses and translation values.

לְזָכֹר

in order to remember

בְּשֹׁמֵר

while observing

Both pronominal suffixes and prepositional prefixes can occur with the Infinitive Construct.

בְּשֹׁמֵעוֹ

when he **hears/heard**

Qal Infinitive Construct of שָׁמַע with
preposition בְּ and 3ms pronominal suffix.



Chapter 20i

Qal Infinitive Construct

negation

The negative particles לֹא and אַל are not used to negate the Infinitive Construct. Rather, it is negated with לְבִלְתִּי or בְּלִיתִי meaning “not” or “in order not.”

לְבִלְתִּי קָטַל

“in order not to kill”

or

“not to kill”



Chapter 20j

Qal Infinitive Construct

five common uses

1. With לְ to express purpose, intention or result.

וְלֹא־נָתַן יְהוָה לָכֶם לֵב לְדַעַת וְעֵינַיִם לְרֹאוֹת
וְאָזְנַיִם לְשִׁמְעַ עַד הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה

But Yahweh has not given to you a heart **to know** or eyes **to see** or ears **to hear** until this day (Deut 29:3 [English 29:4]).

2. With לְ to denote an action about to take place (inceptive).

וַיִּקַּח אֶת־הַמַּאֲכָלֶת לְשַׁחֵט אֶת־בְּנוֹ

And he took the knife (in order)
to slaughter his son (Gen 22:10).

3. With or without לְ as a verbal noun.

טוֹב לְהַדוֹת לַיהוָה

It is good **to praise** Yahweh (Ps 92:2).

4. With or without לְ to explain, clarify or complement a preceding action or statement (complementary).

וְשָׁמַרְתָּ אֶת־מִצְוֹת יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ לְלַכֵּת בְּדַרְכָּיו

And you shall observe the commandments of Yahweh
your God **by walking** in his ways (Deut 8:6).

5. With בְּ or כְּ in a temporal clause with or without pronominal suffixes.

וַיְהִי בְשָׁכֵן יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּאֶרֶץ הַהוּא

When (while) Israel dwelt in that land ... (Gen 35:22).

