Chapter 12a – Introduction to Verbs
Verbal Root and Derived Forms

Root

מלך

Nouns

מֶ֫לֶךְ king

מַלְכָּה queen

מַלְכוּת kingdom

Verb

מָלַךְ to reign
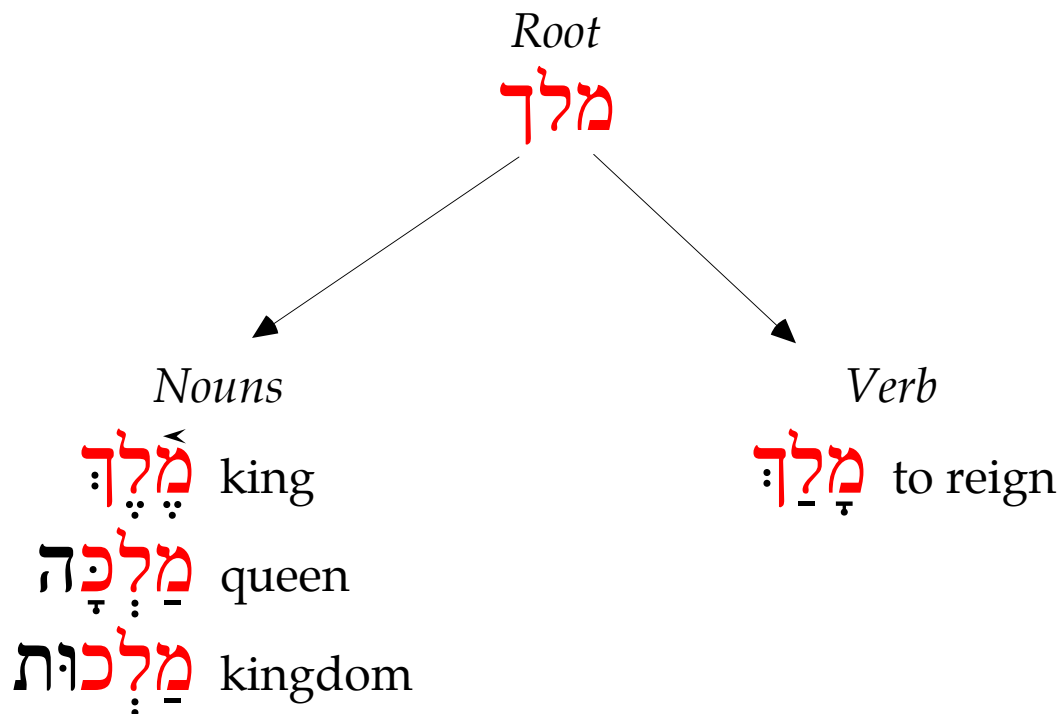
In Hebrew, most verb forms have person, gender and number as in כָּתְבָה (*she* wrote) and כָּתַבְתָּ (*you* wrote). Person, gender and number are indicated in Hebrew by certain patterns of spelling, often marked by the addition of certain preformatives (verbal prefixes) or sufformatives (verbal endings).

Person	*First*	I, we
	Second	you
	Third	he, she, it, they
Gender	*Masculine*	referring to *masculine* subjects
	Feminine	referring to *feminine* subjects
	Common	referring to *masculine or feminine* subjects
Number	*Singular*	referring to *one* person or thing
	Plural	referring to *more than one* person or thing

Chapter 12c – Introduction to Verbs
Verbal Stems: Names and Spelling

In the Hebrew verbal system, there are seven major stems.
The Qal stem is the basic or simple verbal stem. From the
Qal stem all other verbal stems are formed. For this reason,
the Niphal through Hithpael stems are called "derived
stems," because their forms are derived or based
on the Qal stem.

English Spelling		Hebrew Spelling	Spelling Diagnostics
Qal	➤	קַל	unaugmented
Niphal	➤	נִפְעַל	נִ prefix; Pathach stem vowel
Piel	➤	פִּעֵל	Hireq-Tsere vowel pattern
Pual	➤	פֻּעַל	Qibbuts-Pathach vowel pattern
Hiphil	➤	הִפְעִיל	הִ prefix; Hireq Yod stem vowel
Hophal	➤	הָפְעַל	הָ prefix; Pathach stem vowel
Hithpael	➤	הִתְפַּעֵל	הִת prefix; Tsere stem vowel

Chapter 12d – Introduction to Verbs
Verbal Stems: Meaning

Qal **Simple/Active**. Qal verbs are primarily *active* in voice. The Qal stem also exhibits the *simple* or unnuanced type of action.

Niphal **Simple/Passive or Reflexive**. The Niphal stem is used to express *simple* action with either a *passive* or *reflexive* voice.

Piel **Intensive/Active**. The Piel stem is sometimes used to express an *intensive* type of action with an *active* voice.

Pual **Intensive/Passive**. The Pual is the passive form of the Piel. The Pual stem is used to express an *intensive* type of action with a *passive* voice.

Hiphil **Causative/Active**. The Hiphil stem is used to express *causative* action with an *active* voice.

Hophal **Causative/Passive**. The Hophal is the passive form of the Hiphil. The Hophal stem is used to express *causative* action with a *passive* voice.

Hithpael **Intensive/Reflexive**. The Hithpael stem is used to express an *intensive* type of action with a *reflexive* (or sometimes *passive*) voice.

Chapter 12e – Introduction to Verbs
Summary: Stem Meaning and Translation

	Simple Action	Intensive Action	Causative Action
Active Voice	Qal	Piel	Hiphil
Passive Voice	Niphal	Pual	Hophal
Reflexive Voice	Niphal	Hithpael	

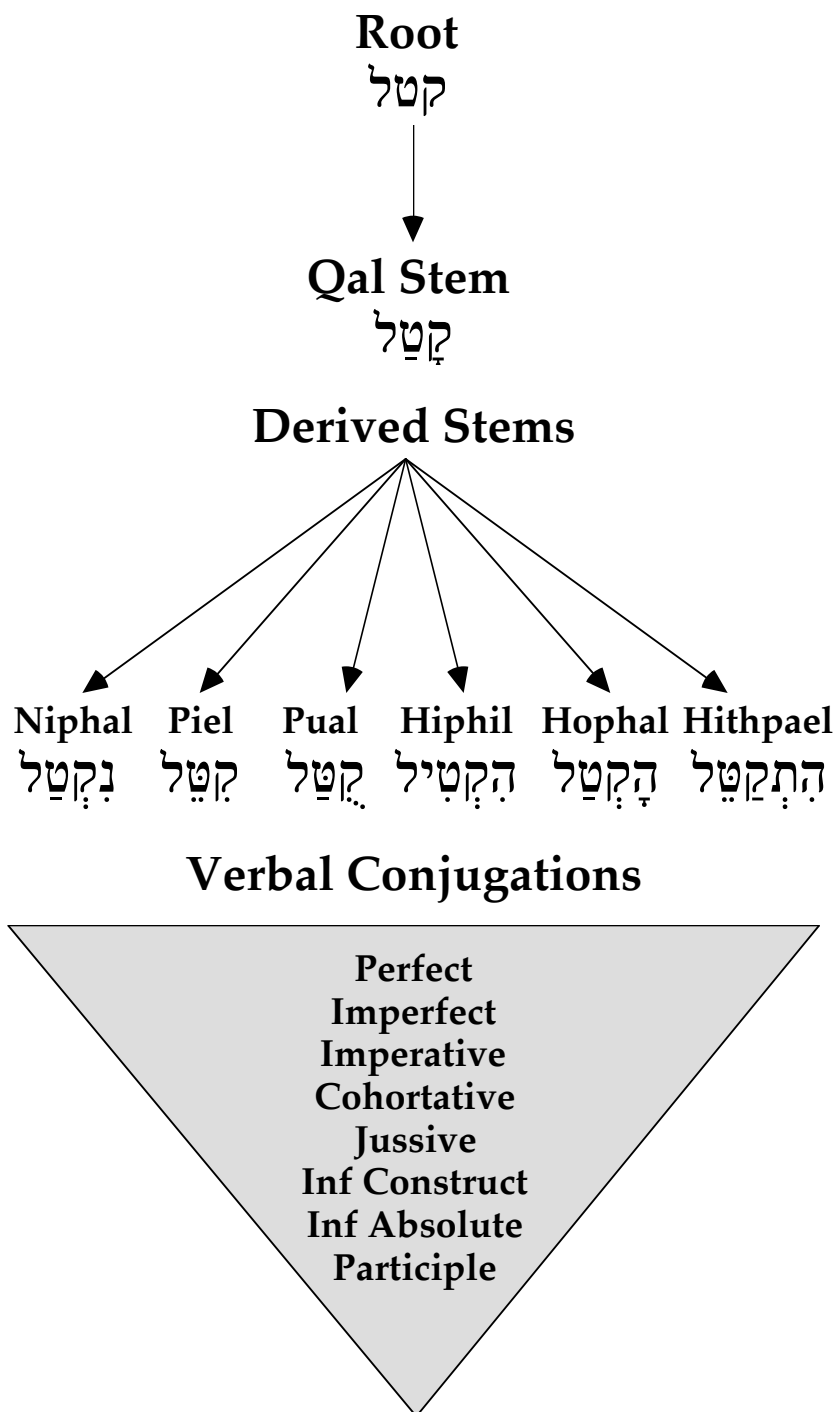|	Form	Translation
Qal	שָׁמַע	he heard
Niphal	נִשְׁמַע	he was heard
Piel	שִׁבֵּר	he smashed into pieces
Pual	שֻׁבַּר	he (it) was smashed into pieces
Hiphil	הִמְלִיךְ	he made (someone) king
Hophal	הָמְלַךְ	he was made king
Hithpael	הִתְחַבֵּא	he hid himself

Chapter 12f – Introduction to Verbs
Eight Basic Verbal Conjugations

Perfect
Completed Action. The Perfect aspect denotes completed action, whether in the past, present or future.

Imperfect
Incomplete Action. The Imperfect aspect denotes incomplete action, whether in the past, present or future.

Imperative
2nd Person Volitional. The Imperative is used primarily to express direct commands, demanding immediate action from the one being addressed.

Cohortative
1st Person Volitional. The Cohortative is used to express a wish, request or command. It may also be used to express purpose (in order to) or result (resulting in).

Jussive
3rd Person Volitional. The Jussive conjugation is also used to express some type of mild command or strong wish.

Infinitive Construct
Verbal Noun. The Infinitive Construct can function much like an English Infinitive, usually translated with the preposition "to" plus a verb as in "to study" or "to learn."

Infinitive Absolute
Verbal Noun. The Hebrew Infinitive Absolute has no real English counterpart. It may be used in conjunction with other verbs to emphasize or intensify the verbal action. It may also be used in the place of an Imperative to express a command.

Participle
Verbal Adjective. Verbally, the Participle expresses some type of verbal action such as "studying" or "learning." Adjectivally, it is used much like a Hebrew adjective: attributively, predicatively or substantively.

Root
קטל

↓

Qal Stem
קָטַל

Derived Stems

Niphal	Piel	Pual	Hiphil	Hophal	Hithpael
נִקְטַל	קִטֵּל	קֻטַּל	הִקְטִיל	הָקְטַל	הִתְקַטֵּל

Verbal Conjugations

Perfect
Imperfect
Imperative
Cohortative
Jussive
Inf Construct
Inf Absolute
Participle

Chapter 12h – Introduction to Verbs
Stong and Weak Verb Classification

Hebrew verbs are classified as either strong or weak. Strong verbs have no weak consonants. Weak verbs have at least one weak root consonant. The weak consonants are the gutturals and ר. The consonants י and נ are considered weak when they appear as the first consonant of the verbal root in certain conjugations. Biconsonantal and Geminate verbal roots are also considered to be weak.

I-Guttural	עָמַד	guttural in first root position
II-Guttural	גָּאַל	guttural in second root position
III-ח/ע	בָּרַח	ח or ע in third root position
III-א	מָצָא	א in third root position
III-ה	בָּנָה	ה in third root position
I-י	יָשַׁב	י in first root position
I-נ	נָפַל	נ in first root position
Doubly Weak	עָלָה	I-Guttural *and* III-ה (for one example)
Biconsonantal	קָם	only two root consonants
Geminate	סָבַב	identical second and third consonants

Normal word order for a verbal sentence is
verb-subject-object.

object	*object*	*subject*	*verb*

בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֵת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֵת הָאָרֶץ

God created the heavens and the earth.
(Gen 1:1)

It is not uncommon for the direct object to stand
at the beginning of a Hebrew sentence
for the purpose of emphasis.

verb	*object*

אֶת־יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ תִּירָא

Yahweh your God you shall fear.
(Deut 10:20)

Parsing is the process whereby you will identify a verb's stem, conjugation, person, gender, number and lexical form or verbal root. Note the following example.

נִשְׁמַע

Niphal Perfect 3ms from שָׁמַע

The lexical form of most triconsonantal verbs is the *Qal Perfect 3ms*. This is also the form of the verb that you will be memorizing in vocabulary. Only Biconsonantal verbs will have a different lexical form.