

# Chapter 13a – Qal Perfect: Strong

## Introduction to the Qal Stem

Qal stem 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*.

### — Transitive —

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

### — 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.

### — 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.



# Chapter 13b – Qal Perfect: Strong

## Introduction to the Perfect Conjugation

The Perfect conjugation is used to express a *completed action or state of being* whether in the past, present or future.

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The Perfect conjugation is sometimes called the “suffix” conjugation because different inflectional endings or *sufformatives* are added to the verbal stem in order to indicate person, gender and number.

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At the beginning of your studies, it is best to translate Perfect verbs with the past tense and stative verbs with the present tense.



# Chapter 13c – Qal Perfect: Strong

## Qal Perfect: Strong Verb Paradigm

	<i>Perfect Sufformative</i>	<i>Perfect Paradigm</i>	<i>Translation</i>
3ms		קָטַל	he killed
3fs	הָ	קָטַלָּהּ	she killed
2ms	תָּ	קָטַלְתָּ	you killed
2fs	תְּ	קָטַלְתְּ	you killed
1cs	תִּי	קָטַלְתִּי	I killed
3cp	וּ	קָטַלוּ	they killed
2mp	תֶּם	קָטַלְתֶּם	you killed
2fp	תֶּן	קָטַלְתֶּן	you killed
1cp	נוּ	קָטַלְנוּ	we killed



# Chapter 13d – Qal Perfect: Strong

## Other Qal Perfect 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>
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3ms	יָשַׁב	זָכַר	כָּתַב	שָׁמַר	קָבַץ
3fs	יָשְׁבָה	זָכְרָה	כָּתְבָה	שָׁמְרָה	קָבְצָה
2ms	יָשַׁבְתָּ	זָכַרְתָּ	כָּתַבְתָּ	שָׁמַרְתָּ	קָבַצְתָּ
2fs	יָשַׁבְתְּ	זָכַרְתְּ	כָּתַבְתְּ	שָׁמַרְתְּ	קָבַצְתְּ
1cs	יָשַׁבְתִּי	זָכַרְתִּי	כָּתַבְתִּי	שָׁמַרְתִּי	קָבַצְתִּי
3cp	יָשַׁבוּ	זָכְרוּ	כָּתְבוּ	שָׁמְרוּ	קָבְצוּ
2mp	יָשַׁבְתֶּם	זָכַרְתֶּם	כָּתַבְתֶּם	שָׁמַרְתֶּם	קָבַצְתֶּם
2fp	יָשַׁבְתֶּן	זָכַרְתֶּן	כָּתַבְתֶּן	שָׁמַרְתֶּן	קָבַצְתֶּן
1cp	יָשַׁבְנוּ	זָכַרְנוּ	כָּתַבְנוּ	שָׁמַרְנוּ	קָבַצְנוּ



# Chapter 13e – Qal Perfect: Strong

## Verbal Roots Ending in ת

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

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כַּרְתָּתְּ	>	כַּרְתָּ	2ms	you cut
כַּרְתְּתְּ	>	כַּרְתְּ	2fs	you cut
כַּרְתִּיתִי	>	כַּרְתִּי	1cs	I cut
כַּרְתֶּתֶם	>	כַּרְתֶּם	2mp	you cut
כַּרְתֶּתֶן	>	כַּרְתֶּן	2fp	you cut



# Chapter 13f – Qal Perfect: Strong

## Verbal Roots Ending in נ

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

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שָׁכַנּוּ	>	שָׁכְנוּ	1cp	we dwelt
נָתַנּוּ	>	נָתַנְתִּי	1cs	I gave



# Chapter 13g – Qal Perfect: Strong

## Stative Verbs: Introduction

Stative verbs are classified by their stem vowel.

*The stem vowel is the vowel that is associated with the second root consonant.* With strong verbs that are transitive, the stem vowel is Pathach as in **קָטַל**, **שָׁמַר** and **זָכַר**. With stative verbs, the stem vowel is variable. There are three classes of stative verb.

*Pathach-Stative*

**גָּדַל** to be great

**חָכַם** to be wise

*Tsere-Stative*

**כָּבַד** to be heavy

**זָקַן** to be old

*Holem-Stative*

**קָטַן** to be small

**יָכַל** to be able



# Chapter 13h – Qal Perfect: Strong

## Stative Verbs: Qal Perfect Paradigms

Compared to the Qal Perfect inflection of the strong verb, spelling differences are indicated in red.

	<i>Pathach- Stative</i>	<i>Tsere- Stative</i>	<i>Holem- Stative</i>
3ms	גָּדַל	כָּבַד	קָטַן
3fs	גָּדְלָהּ	כָּבְדָהּ	קָטְנָהּ
2ms	גָּדַלְתָּ	כָּבַדְתָּ	קָטַנְתָּ
2fs	גָּדַלְתְּ	כָּבַדְתְּ	קָטַנְתְּ
1cs	גָּדַלְתִּי	כָּבַדְתִּי	קָטַנְתִּי
3cp	גָּדְלוּ	כָּבְדוּ	קָטְנוּ
2mp	גָּדַלְתֶּם	כָּבַדְתֶּם	קָטַנְתֶּם
2fp	גָּדַלְתֶּן	כָּבַדְתֶּן	קָטַנְתֶּן
1cp	גָּדַלְנוּ	כָּבַדְנוּ	קָטַנְנוּ





# Chapter 13i – Qal Perfect: Strong

## Stative Verbs: Corresponding Adjectives

Stative verbs are closely related to their corresponding adjectives. The Qal Perfect 3ms and the ms adjective are identical in form.

<i>Stative Verb</i> <i>Qal Perfect 3ms</i>		<i>Adjective</i> <i>Masculine Singular</i>	
כָּבֵד	it is heavy	כָּבֵד	heavy
מָלֵא	it is full	מָלֵא	full
טָמֵא	it is unclean	טָמֵא	unclean

The difference between the two is that one is inflected as a verb and the other as an adjective. The adjective inflects as כָּבֵד (ms), כְּבִדִים (mp), כְּבִדָּה (fs), כְּבִדוֹת (fp). Identical forms exist only with the Qal Perfect 3ms and the ms adjective (כָּבֵד). In this case, you will need to rely on context in order to correctly identify the form. The Qal Perfect 3fs (כְּבִדָּה) and fs adjective (כְּבִדָּה) are similar but should not be confused.



# Chapter 13j – 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.

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זָכַרְתִּי	Qal Perfect 1cs	זָכַר
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שָׁמַרְתְּ	Qal Perfect 2fs	שָׁמַר
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# Chapter 13k – Qal Perfect: Strong

## The Negative Particle לֹא

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

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לֹא שָׁמַרְתֶּם אֶת־הַתּוֹרוֹת  
You did *not* observe the laws.

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



# Chapter 13I – Qal Perfect: Strong

## The Form of 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 as in the following examples.

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



# Chapter 13m – Qal Perfect: Strong

## Three Common Uses of the Particle הִנֵּה

1. It may be used to add *emphasis* or to *stress the importance of something* (demonstrative interjection).

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. It 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. It may be used to *introduce a fact or situation* upon which a subsequent statement is based.

וַיֹּאמֶר שְׁמוּאֵל אֶל-כָּל-יִשְׂרָאֵל  
הִנֵּה שָׁמַעְתִּי בְּקִלְכֶם לְכֹל אֲשֶׁר-אָמַרְתֶּם לִּי  
וְאִמְלִיךְ 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).

