

Chapter 17a – Waw Consecutive

Introduction

In this chapter, we will study the **Waw Consecutive** and **consecutive verbal forms** in narrative sequences.

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



Chapter 17b – Waw Consecutive

Basic Form with the Qal Imperfect

*Qal Imperfect without
Waw Consecutive*

יִשְׁמֹר

he will observe

יִזְכֹּר

he will remember

*Qal Imperfect with
Waw Consecutive*

וַיִּשְׁמֹר

and he observed

וַיִּזְכֹּר

and he remembered

*Imperfect with
Waw Consecutive*

וַיִּקְטֹל



Chapter 17c – Waw Consecutive

Qal Imperfect Paradigm with Waw Consecutive

Imperfect with Waw Consecutive

3ms	וַיִּקְטֹל	and he killed
3fs	וַתִּקְטֹל	and she killed
2ms	וַתִּקְטֹל	and you killed
2fs	וַתִּקְטְלִי	and you killed
1cs	וַאֲקַטֵּל	and I killed
3mp	וַיִּקְטֹלוּ	and they killed
3fp	וַתִּקְטְלֵנָה	and they killed
2mp	וַתִּקְטְלוּ	and you killed
2fp	וַתִּקְטְלֵנָה	and you killed
1cp	וַנִּקְטֹל	and we killed



Chapter 17d – Waw Consecutive

Qal Imperfect Paradigm with Regular Waw

	<i>Qal Imperfect with Waw Consecutive</i>	<i>Qal Imperfect with Regular Waw</i>	
3ms	וַיִּקְטֹל	וְיִקְטֹל	and he will kill
3fs	וַתִּקְטֹל	וְתִקְטֹל	and she will kill
2ms	וַתִּקְטֹל	וְתִקְטֹל	and you will kill
2fs	וַתִּקְטְלִי	וְתִקְטְלִי	and you will kill
1cs	וְאֶקְטֹל	וְאֶקְטֹל	and I will kill
3mp	וַיִּקְטְלוּ	וְיִקְטְלוּ	and they will kill
3fp	וַתִּקְטְלֵנָּה	וְתִקְטְלֵנָּה	and they will kill
2mp	וַתִּקְטְלוּ	וְתִקְטְלוּ	and you will kill
2fp	וַתִּקְטְלֵנָּה	וְתִקְטְלֵנָּה	and you will kill
1cp	וְנִקְטֹל	וְנִקְטֹל	and we will kill



Chapter 17e – Waw Consecutive

Uses of the Consecutive Imperfect in Hebrew Narrative

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

וְהָאָדָם יָדַע אֶת-חַוָּה אִשְׁתּוֹ וַתְּהַר 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* (Qal Imperfect 3ms from הָיָה with Waw Consecutive) followed by Imperfect verbs with Waw Consecutive.

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 consecutive 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 Consecutive

Spelling Changes in the Consecutive Imperfect

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

יֹאמֵר	he will say	>	וַיֹּאמֶר	and he said
יֹשֵׁב	he will dwell	>	וַיֹּשֶׁב	and he dwelt
יֵלֵךְ	he will go	>	וַיֵּלֶךְ	and he went

Biconsonantal and III-ה verbs are “shortened” in consecutive 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.

יִקְוֶה	he will rise up	>	וַיִּקְוֶה	and he rose up
יִשָּׁם	he will set	>	וַיִּשָּׁם	and he set
יִבְנֶה	he will build	>	וַיִּבֶן	and he built
יִגְלֶה	he will reveal	>	וַיִּגְלֶה	and he revealed



Chapter 17g – Waw Consecutive

Basic Form with the Qal Perfect

*Qal Perfect without
Waw Consecutive*

שָׁמַר

he observed

זָכַר

he remembered

*Qal Perfect with
Waw Consecutive*

וְשָׁמַר

and he will observe

וְזָכַר

and he will remember

*Perfect with
Waw Consecutive*

וְקָטַל



Chapter 17h – Waw Consecutive

Qal Perfect Paradigm with Waw Consecutive

In the Perfect, the regular Waw conjunction and the Waw Consecutive are identical in form.

Perfect with Waw Consecutive

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



Chapter 17i – Waw Consecutive

Uses of the Consecutive Perfect in Hebrew Narrative

1. The future tense narrative sequence may begin with an Imperfect verb followed by any number of consecutive 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 (Qal Perfect 3ms from הָיָה with Waw Consecutive) may mark the beginning of a future tense narrative sequence.

וְהָיָה בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא וְשָׁבַרְתִּי אֶת־קִשְׁתֵּי יִשְׂרָאֵל

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

3. The consecutive Perfect may follow an Imperative verb and carry the full force of the initial Imperative.

עֲמַד בַּשַּׁעַר בֵּית יְהוָה וְקִרְאתָ שָׁם אֶת־הַדְּבָר 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 Consecutive

Temporal Modifiers

In Hebrew, temporal modifiers oftentimes mark the beginning of narrative sequences.

וַיְהִי

(Qal Imperfect 3ms from הָיָה with Waw Consecutive)

marks the beginning of a
past tense narrative sequence.

וְהָיָה

(Qal Perfect 3ms from הָיָה with Waw Consecutive)

marks the beginning of a
future tense narrative sequence.



Chapter 17k – Waw Consecutive

Parsing Consecutive Verbal Forms

The parsing of consecutive verbal forms is just like the parsing of regular Perfect or Imperfect verbs except that *you must identify a prefixed Waw as regular or Consecutive.*

וַיִּשְׁמֹר Qal Imperfect 3ms שָׁמַר with Waw Consecutive

וַזְכֹּר Qal Perfect 3ms זָכַר with Waw Consecutive

