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

וַיִשְׁמֹר

he will observe

וַיִזְכֹּר

he will remember

Qal Imperfect with Waw Consecutive

וַיִשְׁמֹר

and he observed

וַיִזְכֹּר

and he remembered
### Chapter 17c – Waw Consecutive

#### Qal Imperfect Paradigm with Waw Consecutive

#### Imperfect with Waw Consecutive

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Person</th>
<th>CONJ</th>
<th>Hebrew</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3ms</td>
<td>וַיִּקְטֹל</td>
<td>לָכַּמֶּל</td>
<td>and he killed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3fs</td>
<td>וַתִּקְטֹל</td>
<td>לָכַּמֶּל</td>
<td>and she killed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2ms</td>
<td>וַתִּקְטֹל</td>
<td>לָכַּמֶּל</td>
<td>and you killed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2fs</td>
<td>וַתִּקְטְלִי</td>
<td>לָכַּמֶּל</td>
<td>and you killed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1cs</td>
<td>וָאֶקְטֹל</td>
<td>לָכַּמֶּל</td>
<td>and I killed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3mp</td>
<td>וַיִּקְטְלוּ</td>
<td>לָכַּמֶּל</td>
<td>and they killed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3fp</td>
<td>וַיִּקְטְלוּ</td>
<td>לָכַּמֶּל</td>
<td>and they killed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>וַתִּקְטְלוּ</td>
<td>לָכַּמֶּל</td>
<td>and you killed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2fp</td>
<td>וַתִּקְטְלוּ</td>
<td>לָכַּמֶּל</td>
<td>and you killed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1cp</td>
<td>וַנִּקְטֹל</td>
<td>לָכַּמֶּל</td>
<td>and we killed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Chapter 17d – Waw Consecutive

Qal Imperfect Paradigm with Regular Waw

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Waw Consecutive</th>
<th>Regular Waw</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3ms</td>
<td>וְיִקְטֹלַיִּקְטֹל</td>
<td>וְיִקְטֹלַיִּקְטֹל</td>
</tr>
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<td>וְתִקְטֹלוַתִּקְטֹל</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>וְיִקְטֹלוַתִּקְטֹל</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2fs</td>
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<td>וְתִקְטְלִיוַתִּקְטְלִי</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1cs</td>
<td>וְאֶקְטֹלוָאֶקְטֹל</td>
<td>וְאֶקְטֹלוָאֶקְטֹל</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3mp</td>
<td>וְיִקְטְלוּוַיִּקְטְלוּ</td>
<td>וְיִקְטְלוּוַיִּקְטְלוּ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3fp</td>
<td>וְיִקְטְלוּוַיִּקְטְלוּ</td>
<td>וְיִקְטְלוּוַיִּקְטְלוּ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2mp</td>
<td>וְתִקְטְלִיוַתִּקְטְלִי</td>
<td>וְתִקְטְלִיוַתִּקְטְלִי</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2fp</td>
<td>וְתִקְטְלִיוַתִּקְטְלִי</td>
<td>וְתִקְטְלִיוַתִּקְטְלִי</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1cp</td>
<td>וְנִקְטֹלוַנִּקְטֹל</td>
<td>וְנִקְטֹלוַנִּקְטֹל</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

וַיָּדַעוּ אָדָם אֶת־אִשָּׁתוֹ וַתַּהַר 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 היה with Waw Consecutive) followed by Imperfect verbs with Waw Consecutive.

וַיְהִי אֲבֹֽרֶךְ יִצְחָק אֶת־אֱלֹהִים
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.

וַיְקָרָא מֹשֶׁה אֶל־מֹעֵדָו יֵדַֽע אֵלָיו יְהוָה
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 יָלַה), the stem vowel changes to Seghol in consecutive Imperfect forms.

- נָמַר: he will say → נָאמַר and he said
- יָשַׁב: he will dwell → יָשֶׁב and he dwelt
- יָלַה: he will go → יָלָה 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.

- יָקָם: he will rise up → יָקָם and he rose up
- יָשִׁים: he will set → יָשִּׁים and he set
- יִבְנֶה: he will build → יִבְנֶה and he built
- יִגְלֶה: he will reveal → יִגְלֶה and he revealed

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Chapter 17g – Waw Consecutive
Basic Form with the Qal Perfect

Qal Perfect without Waw Consecutive

וְשָׁמַר
he observed

וְזָכַר
he remembered

Qal Perfect with Waw Consecutive

וְשָׁמַר
and he will observe

וְזָכַר
and he will remember

Perfect with Waw Consecutive

יִשָּׁמַר
he observed

יִזָּכַר
he remembered
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Form</th>
<th>Hebrew</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3ms</td>
<td>יָפֹלַת</td>
<td>and he will kill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3fs</td>
<td>יָפֹלַת</td>
<td>and she will kill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2ms</td>
<td>יָפֹלַת</td>
<td>and you will kill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2fs</td>
<td>יָפֹלַת</td>
<td>and you will kill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1cs</td>
<td>יָפֹלַת</td>
<td>and I will kill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3cp</td>
<td>יָפֹלַת</td>
<td>and they will kill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2mp</td>
<td>יָפֹלַת</td>
<td>and you will kill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2fp</td>
<td>יָפֹלַת</td>
<td>and you will kill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1cp</td>
<td>יָפֹלַת</td>
<td>and we will kill</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

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

2. The temporal modifier וְהָיָה (Qal Perfect 3ms from היה with Waw Consecutive) may mark the beginning of a future tense narrative sequence.

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.

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).
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

וְזָכַר
Qal Perfect 3ms
זָכַר with Waw Consecutive