

Chapter 18a – Qal Imperative

Introduction to the Volitional Conjugations

The term “volitional” describes those conjugations used, as a general rule, to express some type of command, wish or desire.

Imperative

2nd person volitional conjugation

Cohortative

1st person volitional conjugation

Jussive

3rd person volitional conjugation



Chapter 18b – Qal Imperative

Introduction to the Form of the Qal Imperative

The form of the Qal Imperative is related to the form of the Qal Imperfect. Remove the preformative (consonant and vowel) from the four second person Imperfect forms and you are left with the Imperative paradigm.

	<i>Imperfect Form</i>		<i>Subtract Preformative</i>		<i>Imperative Form</i>
<i>2ms</i>	תִּקְטֹל	>	תִּ קְטֹל	>	קְטֹל
<i>2fs</i>	תִּקְטְלִי	>	תִּ קְטְלִי	>	קְטְלִי
<i>2mp</i>	תִּקְטְלוּ	>	תִּ קְטְלוּ	>	קְטְלוּ
<i>2fp</i>	תִּקְטְלִינָה	>	תִּ קְטְלִינָה	>	קְטְלִינָה



Chapter 18c – Qal Imperative

Strong Verb Paradigm

	<i>Imperative</i>	<i>Sufformative</i>	<i>Translation</i>
2ms	קַטֹּל		(you) kill!
2fs	קַטְלִי	י	(you) kill!
2mp	קַטְלוּ	וּ	(you) kill!
2fp	קַטְלֵנָה	נָה	(you) kill!



Chapter 18d – Qal Imperative

The “Lengthened” 2ms Imperative

Qamets He (הֶ) may be added to the ms form of the Imperative (242 times in the Hebrew Bible). Though uncertain, it is thought that the lengthened form of the Imperative is either a polite or emphatic form of the regular Imperative.

<i>Lexical Form</i>	<i>Regular Imperative</i>	<i>Lengthened Imperative</i>	<i>Translation</i>
קָטַל	קַטֹּל	קַטֹּלֶה	you (2ms) kill!
שָׁמַר	שַׁמֹּר	שַׁמֹּרֶה	you (2ms) observe!
שָׁפַט	שַׁפֹּט	שַׁפֹּטֶה	you (2ms) judge!
שָׁמַע	שַׁמֹּעַ	שַׁמֹּעֶה	you (2ms) listen!

Note that the vowel in the first syllable of a lengthened Imperative like קַטֹּלֶה is Qamets Hatuf. It may also appear with Hireq as in שַׁמֹּעֶה



Chapter 18e – Qal Imperative

The Particle **נָא**

Imperatives (along with the other volitional conjugations) may be followed by the particle **נָא** which can be translated as “please” or simply left untranslated.

שִׁמְרָ **נָא**
שִׁמְרָ-**נָא**

“observe!” or
“please observe!”



Chapter 18f – Qal Imperative

Weak Verbs: Part 1

I-Guttural

2ms	תִּחַזֵּק	>	חַזֵּק
2fs	תִּחַזְּקִי	>	חַזְּקִי
2mp	תִּחַזְּקוּ	>	חַזְּקוּ
2fp	תִּחַזְּקִינָה	>	חַזְּקִינָה

II-Guttural

	תִּבְחַר	>	בְּחַר
	תִּבְחְרִי	>	בְּחְרִי
	תִּבְחְרוּ	>	בְּחְרוּ
	תִּבְחְרִינָה	>	בְּחְרִינָה

I-א Type 1

2ms	תִּאָסֶר	>	אָסֶר
2fs	תִּאָסְרִי	>	אָסְרִי
2mp	תִּאָסְרוּ	>	אָסְרוּ
2fp	תִּאָסְרִינָה	>	אָסְרִינָה

I-א Type 2

	תִּאמֶר	>	אִמֶר
	תִּאמְרִי	>	אִמְרִי
	תִּאמְרוּ	>	אִמְרוּ
	תִּאמְרִינָה	>	אִמְרִינָה

III-ת/ע

2ms	תִּשְׁלַח	>	שְׁלַח
2fs	תִּשְׁלְּחִי	>	שְׁלְּחִי
2mp	תִּשְׁלְּחוּ	>	שְׁלְּחוּ
2fp	תִּשְׁלְּחִינָה	>	שְׁלְּחִינָה

III-א

	תִּמְצֹא	>	מְצֹא
	תִּמְצְאִי	>	מְצְאִי
	תִּמְצְאוּ	>	מְצְאוּ
	תִּמְצְאִינָה	>	מְצְאִינָה



Chapter 18g – Qal Imperative

Weak Verbs: Part 2

III-ה

2ms	בִּנֵּה	>	חִבְּנֵה
2fs	בְּנִי	>	חִבְּנִי
2mp	בְּנוּ	>	חִבְּנוּ
2fp	בְּנִינָה	>	חִבְּנִינָה

Geminate

סֵב	>	תִּסֵּב
סִבִּי	>	תִּסִּבִּי
סִבּוּ	>	תִּסִּבּוּ
סִבְּנָה	>	תִּסִּבְּנָה

I-נ Type 1

2ms	נִפְלֵ	>	חִפְּלֵ
2fs	נִפְּלִי	>	חִפְּלִי
2mp	נִפְּלוּ	>	חִפְּלוּ
2fp	נִפְּלִנָה	>	חִפְּלִנָה

I-נ Type 2

סֵע	>	תִּסֵּע
סִעִי	>	תִּסִּעִי
סִעּוּ	>	תִּסִּעּוּ
סִעְּנָה	>	תִּסִּעְּנָה

I-י Type 1

2ms	יָשֵׁב	>	חִשֵּׁב
2fs	יָשְׁבִי	>	חִשְׁבִּי
2mp	יָשְׁבוּ	>	חִשְׁבוּ
2fp	יָשְׁבִנָה	>	חִשְׁבִּנָה

I-י Type 2

רָשׁ	>	תִּירָשׁ
רָשִׁי	>	תִּירְשִׁי
רָשׁוּ	>	תִּירְשׁוּ
רָשְׁנָה	>	תִּירְשְׁנָה



Chapter 18h – Qal Imperative

Weak Verbs: Biconsonantal

קום

2ms	תָּקוּם	➤	קוּם
2fs	תִּקְוִמִי	➤	קְוִמִי
2mp	תִּקְוִמוּ	➤	קְוִמוּ
2fp	תִּקְוִמְיָנָה	➤	קְוִמְנָה

שים

	תִּשְׂם	➤	שֵׂם
	תִּשְׂמִי	➤	שְׂמִי
	תִּשְׂמוּ	➤	שְׂמוּ
	תִּשְׂמְיָנָה		

בוא

2ms	תָּבוּא	➤	בּוּא
2fs	תִּבְּוְאִי	➤	בְּוְאִי
2mp	תִּבְּוְאוּ	➤	בְּוְאוּ
2fp	תִּבְּוְאָנָה		



Chapter 18i – Qal Imperative

Weak Verbs: Irregular and Doubly Weak

נָתַן (to give)

2ms	תֵּן	>	תִּתֵּן
2fs	תִּתִּי	>	תִּתְּנִי
2mp	תֵּנוּ	>	תִּתְּנוּ
2fp	תֵּנָה	>	תִּתְּנָה

לָקַח (to take)

קח	>	תִּקַּח
קְחִי	>	תִּקְחִי
קְחוּ	>	תִּקְחוּ
קַחְנָה	>	תִּקְחֶנָּה

הָלַךְ (to walk)

2ms	לֵךְ	>	תֵּלֵךְ
2fs	לְכִי	>	תֵּלְכִי
2mp	לְכוּ	>	תֵּלְכוּ
2fp	לֵכְנָה	>	תֵּלְכֶנָּה

הָיָה (to be)

הִיָּה	>	תִּהְיֶה
הִיָּי		תִּהְיִי
הִיוּ	>	תִּהְיוּ
הִיָּנָה		תִּהְיֶינָה

עָלָה (to go up)

2ms	עֲלֵה	>	תֵּעָלֶה
2fs	עֲלִי	>	תֵּעָלִי
2mp	עֲלוּ	>	תֵּעָלוּ
2fp	עֲלִינָה	>	תֵּעָלֶינָה

נָטָה (to extend)

נִטָּה	>	תִּנָּטֶה
נִטִּי	>	תִּנָּטִי
נִטוּ	>	תִּנָּטוּ
נִטִּינָה	>	תִּנָּטֶינָה



Chapter 18j – Qal Imperative

Easily Confused Forms

Some forms of the Imperative are easily confused with other verb and noun forms. Five pairs of the most commonly confused words are listed below. In some instances, the different words are identical in form. In such cases, context should enable you to make the correct choice.

- | | | |
|----|-----------|--|
| 1. | כָּתְבָהּ | Qal Perfect 3fs from כָּתַב meaning “she wrote” |
| | כָּתְבָה | Qal Imperative 2ms from כָּתַב (with the הָ ending) meaning “(you) write!” |
- | | | |
|----|----------|---|
| 2. | כָּתְבוּ | Qal Perfect 3cp from כָּתַב meaning “they wrote” |
| | כָּתְבוּ | Qal Imperative 2mp from כָּתַב meaning “(you) write!” |
- | | | |
|----|--------|--|
| 3. | בְּנִי | Qal Imperative 2fs from בָּנָה meaning “(you) build!” |
| | בְּנִי | Masculine singular noun בֵּן with 1cs pronominal suffix meaning “my son” |
- | | | |
|----|--------|---|
| 4. | בָּנוּ | Qal Perfect 3cp from בָּנָה meaning “they built” |
| | בָּנוּ | Qal Imperative 2mp from בָּנָה meaning “(you) build!” |
- | | | |
|----|-------|--|
| 5. | עָלוּ | Qal Perfect 3cp from עָלָה meaning “they went up” |
| | עָלוּ | Qal Imperative 2mp from עָלָה meaning “(you) go up!” |



Chapter 18k – Qal Cohortative

Introduction to the Basics

The Cohortative occurs only in the *first person*, singular and plural. In general, when the Imperfect (not consecutive) 1cs or 1cp verb is first in its clause, it is Cohortative. The Cohortative frequently appears with an הָ ending.

This ending is frequently a diagnostic indicator of the Cohortative.

נַעֲשֶׂה אָדָם בְּצַלְמֵנוּ

Let us make man in our image (Gen 1:26).

אֶעֱבֹר בְּכָל-צֹאנְךָ

Let me pass through all of your flocks (Gen 30:32).

אֲשַׁמְרָה תּוֹרָתְךָ

May I observe your law (Ps 119:44).

נַכְרִיתָ בְּרִית

Let us make (cut) a covenant (Gen 26:28).

אֶפְלָה-נָא בְּיַד-יְהוָה

May I fall into the hand of Yahweh (1 Chron 21:13).



Chapter 18I – Qal Jussive

Introduction to the Basics

The Jussive conjugation occurs primarily in the *third person*, singular and plural. In general, when the third person Imperfect (not consecutive) verb is first in its clause, it is Jussive. With strong verbs, the form of the Jussive is the same as its corresponding third person Imperfect forms.

יִזְכֹּר-נָא הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶת-יְהוָה

Let the king remember Yahweh.
(2 Sam 14:11)

יִשְׁפֹּט יְהוָה בֵּינִי וּבֵינֶיךָ

May Yahweh judge between me and between you.
(Gen 16:5)

יִסְלַח יְהוָה לַעֲבָדְךָ

May Yahweh forgive your servant .
(2 Kgs 5:18)



Chapter 18m – Qal Jussive

“Short” Forms

Short Jussive forms occur only in the singular and only with selected types of weak verbs, especially III-ה verbs.

<i>Perfect 3ms</i>	<i>Imperfect 3ms</i>	<i>Jussive (short) 3ms</i>
בָּנָה he built	יִבְנֶה he will build	יִבֹּן let him build
עָשָׂה he made	יַעֲשֶׂה he will make	יַעֲשׂ let him make
עָלָה he went up	יַעֲלֶה he will go up	יַעֲלֹ let him go up
רָאָה he saw	יִרְאֶה he will see	יִרְאֹ let him see

וַיִּבֹּן אֶת־בַּיִת יְהוָה

And *let him build* the house of Yahweh (Ezra 1:3).

וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים יְהִי אוֹר

And God said, “*let there be light*” (Gen 1:3).



Chapter 18n – Qal Jussive

“Short” Forms with Waw Conversive

The short Jussive form is the same form that occurs when prefixed with the Waw Consecutive (וַיִּבְּן and וַיִּהְיֶה; see 17.3.2). It is important to remember that when prefixed with the Waw Consecutive, the short Imperfect form will not be translated with a volitional nuance.

וַיִּבְּן נֹחַ מִזְבֵּחַ לַיהוָה

And Noah built an altar to Yahweh (Gen 8:20).

(וַיִּבְּן) Qal Imperfect 3ms from בָּנָה with Waw Conversive)

וַיַּעַל מֹשֶׁה אֶל־הַר הָאֱלֹהִים

And Moses went up to the mountain of God (Ex 24:13).

(וַיַּעַל) Qal Imperfect 3ms from עָלָה with Waw Conversive)



Chapter 18o – Qal Jussive & Cohortative

Negation

Jussive and Cohortative verbs are negated with **אַל**. This construction expresses a negative wish or a milder form of prohibition than that expressed by **לֹא** plus the Imperfect. The particle **נָא** is sometimes attached to **אַל** with Maqqef (**אַל-נָא**). In most instances, you do not need to translate the particle **נָא**. Remember that the Imperative is not negated.

אַל-נָא נִאֲבָדָה

Do not let us perish.

(Jonah 1:14)

וְאַל-יִחַר אַפִּי בְעַבְדִּי

Do not let your anger burn against your servant .

(Gen 44:18)

