

Introduction to the Hebrew Verb

A **verb** is a doing word.

The Hebrew word for 'verb' or 'action' is פָּעַל (pa'ahl).

Verbs have a voice, either active or passive

Voice is the property of the verb that shows whether the subject acts (active voice) or is acted upon (passive voice).

Ex:

active voice: he guarded

passive voice: he was guarded

The simplest and most basic shape or form of a verb is the **infinitive**:

come, take, eat, sleep, etc.

You may have learned that the infinitive can also have '**to**' as a **prefix**:

to-take, to-eat, to-sleep, etc.

In Hebrew, all words have a **root**, שִׁרֵשׁ (shoresh), which is the simplest form of the word, around which prefixes (in front of the word) infixes (inside the word) and suffixes (after the

word) are added, to grow a **building**, בִּנְיָן (binyan).

For verbs, the root is by convention made up of three letters, and it is how you find the verb in the lexicon.

In Hebrew, the simplest and most basic form of a verb is the **third person masculine singular past tense** of the verb.

In addition to the roots, there are forms that these roots can take to expand their meaning.

In Hebrew, a verb has the following **forms**:

1. **suffix form**: past tense
2. **prefix form**: future tense
3. **participle**: a verb that 'participates' in another grammar form, usually as a noun
4. **imperative**: command
5. **infinitive**: the verb is used generally, independent of person, gender or number.

All verbs have a **tense**, which tells you *when* the action happens:

past tense ('perfect', as the action has been 'perfected' or completed): suffix form

present (now) used with a vav

future ('imperfect', as the action hasn't been 'perfected' or completed yet): prefix form

A **participle** (a verb that 'participates' as another grammar type) such as a verbal noun or adjective.

active participle: Ex: a guard (one who guards)

passive participle: Ex: guarded (one who is guarded)

A gerund is a type of participle (from Latin gerere, to bear, carry on): it comes from a verb, and in English it ends in -ing, and becomes a thing (i.e. acts like a noun):

They bonded over their shared love of **gardening**.

I love **cooking**.

imperative verbs are commands, where the verb can stand alone, and the subject is implied:

Escape! ('You' or 'you-all' is implied)

Except for the imperative, all other verbs have a written **subject**, which is a noun that does the verb action (active) or is acted upon (passive):

David escapes.

I baked.

They present.

He reads.

Some verbs have a **direct object**, which receives the direct action of the verb:

David escapes **King Saul**.

I baked **a cake**.

They present **the evidence**.

He reads **the Torah**.

In contrast to direct objects, **indirect objects** receive the action indirectly or passively:

David escapes **the wrath of King Saul**.

I baked **my friend** a cake.

They present **the participants** the evidence.

He reads **portions of** the Torah.

verb mood

You will find that verbs have 'personalities.' That is, they have certain distinct characteristics. Some are used for action (e.g. imperative/command words), some are more passive (indicative), and some convey wishful thinking (subjunctive/irreal).

- **imperative/command**: used for orders or advice.

Read!

Leave the room!

- **indicative/passive**: used for facts, questions, opinions.

This book **requires** much time and effort to read.

- **wishful thinking: subjunctive/irreal**: used for wishes, requests, or recommendations.

I **wish** for you to grow up happy and healthy.

You **will learn** a lot if you read this book.

General verb patterns

participle			prefix form/ future tense	suffix form/ past tense	Pronoun singular
יְ-יְ-יְ (mp)	יְ-יְ- (ms)		אֶ- I-will---	יְ- I---	אֲנִי I
יְ-יְ-יְ (fp)	יְ-יְ- (fs)		תְ- you(ms)-will---	יְ- you(ms)---	אַתָּה you(ms)
passive participle			יְ- you(fs)-will---	יְ- you(fs)---	אַתָּה you(fs)
יְ-יְ- (mp)	יְ- (ms)		יְ- he-will---	--- he---	הוא he
יְ-יְ-יְ (fp)	יְ-יְ- (fs)		תְ- she-will---	הָ- she---	היא she
					plural
imperative			נְ- we-will---	נְ- we---	אֲנִחנוּ we
יְ- you-all(mp)---!	--- you(ms)---!		תְ- you-all(mp)-will---	תְ- you-all(mp)---	אַתֶּם you-all(mp)
יְ- you-all(fp)---!	יְ- you(fs)---!		תְ- you-all(fp)-will---	יְ- you-all(fp)---	אַתֶּן you-all(fp)
infinitive			יְ- they(mp)-will---	יְ- they(mp)---	הֵם they(mp)
(construct)	---(ל) to---		תְ- they(fp)-will---	יְ- they(fp)---	הֵנָּה they(fp)
(absolute)	יְ- ---of				

suffix form/past tense worksheet

participle			prefix form	Singular	pronoun
אֶ--י-- (mp)	--י-- (ms)		א-- I-will---	אֶי I	אֲנִי I
אֶ--י-- (fp)	ת--י-- (fs)		ת-- you(ms)- will---	תִּי you(ms)	אַתָּה you(ms)
passive participle			ת-- you(fs)-will---	תִּי you(fs)	אַתָּ you(fs)
אֶ--י-- (mp)	--י-- (ms)		א-- he-will---	הֵ he	הוא he
אֶ--י-- (fp)	ה--י-- (fs)		ת-- she-will---	הִ she	היא she
				Plural	
imperative			נ-- we-will---	נֵ we	אֲנֶחְנוּ we
י-- you-all(mp)---	--- you(ms)---		ת-- you-all(mp)-will---	תֶּם you-all(mp)	אַתֶּם you-all(mp)
הֵנָּה--- you-all(fp)---	י-- you(fs)---		ת-- you-all(fp)- will---	תֶּן you-all(fp)	אַתֶּן you-all(fp)
infinitive			י-- they(mp)-will---	י they(mp)	הֵם they(mp)
(construct)	---(ל) to---		הֵנָּה--- they(fp)-will---	י they(fp)	הֵנָּה they(fp)

prefix form/future tense worksheet

participle			Singular	suffix form/past	pronoun
אֶיְיךְ- (mp)	אֶיְיךְ- (ms)		אֶיְיךְ- I-will _____	אֶיְיךְ- I---	אֶיְיךְ I
אֶיְיךְ- (fp)	אֶיְיךְ- (fs)		אֶיְיךְ- you(ms)-will _____	אֶיְיךְ- you(ms)---	אֶיְיךְ you(ms)
passive participle			אֶיְיךְ- you(fs)-will _____	אֶיְיךְ- you(fs)---	אֶיְיךְ you(fs)
אֶיְיךְ- (mp)	אֶיְיךְ- (ms)		אֶיְיךְ- he-will _____	אֶיְיךְ- he---	הוא he
אֶיְיךְ- (fp)	אֶיְיךְ- (fs)		אֶיְיךְ- she-will _____	אֶיְיךְ- she---	היא she
			Plural		
imperative			אֶיְיךְ- we-will _____	אֶיְיךְ- we---	אֶיְיךְ we
אֶיְיךְ- you-all(mp)---!	אֶיְיךְ- you(ms)---!		אֶיְיךְ- you-all(mp)-will _____	אֶיְיךְ- you-all(mp)-	אֶיְיךְ you-all(mp)
אֶיְיךְ- you-all(fp)---!	אֶיְיךְ- you(fs)---!		אֶיְיךְ- you-all(fp)-will _____	אֶיְיךְ- you-all(fp)-	אֶיְיךְ you-all(fp)
infinitive			אֶיְיךְ- they(mp)-will _____	אֶיְיךְ- they(mp)---	הם they(mp)
(construct)	אֶיְיךְ- to---		אֶיְיךְ- they(fp)-will _____	אֶיְיךְ- they(fp)---	הנה they(fp)

