

Weak Verb Guidelines

Stative Verbs:

If a verb is stative then it has an a-vowel and if it is non-stative then it has an o-vowel.

Gutturals:

If a weak verb is a guttural it will prefer a-vowels (even before them in pe gutturals), will reject a dagesh which results in compensatory lengthening, and will take a composite shewa in pe guttural and ayin gutturals.

Imperative:

If a weak verb is imperative then a letter will almost always be dropped and in ayin yod verbs it will have a yod.

Infinitive Construct:

If a weak verb is an infinitive construct it will almost always drop a letter, and then add seghol or segholate form or else stay regular¹. The ayin yod inf. cons. has a yod.

Shortened Imperfect:

If a weak verb has a shortened form of the imperative, it is Qal, Niphal, or Hiphil and will be used for the jussive and form the wayyiqtol.

Sere:

If a weak verb takes a sere it may: occur under a prefix², occur under the second root letter in Niphal and Hiphil perfect³, and occur where Qal would have holem.⁴

Assimilation:

If something has been assimilated then it is either a pe nun or pe nun and lamed nun verb. If it is pe nun then the assimilation occurs where there normally would have been a silent shewa. If the verb is pe nun and lamed nun then the second nun in נָנָ can assimilate.

Hateph Qametz:

If a weak verb has a hateph qametz then it is either Qal or Hophal. If it is Qal is a an ayin waw verb and the hateph qametz occurs in the perfect with heavy suffixes. If the verb is Hophal it is a pe guttural and the hateph qametz is part of a composite shewa.

¹ It stays regular only in pe nun and lamed guttural verbs and pe nun and lamed aleph verbs.

² This occurs in double ayin and pe waw verbs.

³ It will be in either the 1st or 2nd person and occur in lamed-aleph verbs.

⁴ This occurs in pe nun verbs.

Hateph Seghol:

The hateph seghol only occurs in pe gutturals. It also only occurs in Qal statives, the Niphal perfect, or the Hiphil perfect.