

Learning Hebrew: Hithpael Stem

HITHPAEL STEM

The Hithpael Stem can be used to express an intensive type of action with a reflexive voice. The reflexive voice is used when the subject of the verb performs the verbal action upon itself.

Qal Stem: קִדְּשׁ (he was holy)

Hithpael Stem: קִדְּשׁוּ (he sanctified himself)

The Hithpael Stem can be used to express reciprocity.

הִתְרְאוּ (they looked at each other)

The Hithpael Stem can be used to express repeated action.

הִתְהַפֵּךְ (he turned this way and that)

The Hithpael Stem can be used to indicate simple action with an active voice.

הִתְפַּלֵּל (he prayed)

HITHPAEL – STRONG VERBS

The Hithpael Perfect is formed with the הִתְ prefix, a patach under the first consonant verbal root, a dagesh forte in the second consonant verbal root, and the Perfect sufformatives.

Qal Stem: קָטַל

Hithpael Stem: הִתְקַטַּל

The Hithpael Imperfect is formed with the preformatives יְהִ, תְּהִ, אֶהֱ, and נְהִ, a patach under the first consonant of the verbal root, and a dagesh forte in the second consonant of the verbal root.

Qal Stem: יִקְטַל

Hithpael Stem: יִתְקַטַּל

The Hithpael Imperative, Infinitive Construct, and Infinitive Absolute are formed with a הָתְ prefix, a patach under the first consonant of the verbal root, and a dagesh forte in the second consonant of the verbal root.

Qal Stem: קָטַל

Hithpael Stem: הִתְקַטֵּל

The Hithpael Participle is formed with a מְתַ prefix, a patach under the first consonant of the verbal root, and a dagesh forte in the second consonant of the verbal root.

Qal Stem: קָטַל

Hithpael Stem: מְתַקַּטֵּל

HITHPAEL STEM – WEAK VERBS

The Geminate Hithpael Stem weak verbs keep the same rules as the strong verbs with this exception: The dagesh forte in the second consonant of the verbal root may be given up when followed by a sheva.

Category III-הִ Hithpael Stem weak verbs keep the same rules as the strong verbs.

Category II-Guttural Hithpael Stem weak verbs keep the same rules as the strong verbs except that the dagesh forte in the second consonant of the verbal root is rejected.

Sources: *The First Hebrew Primer, Third Edition* by Simon, Resnikoff, and Motzkin *Basics of Biblical Hebrew Grammar* by Pratico and Van Pelt

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