Learning Hebrew: Piel Stem

PIEL STEM
The Piel Stem is used to express an intensive type of action with an active voice.

Qal: שָׁבַר (he broke)
Piel: שִׁבֵּר (he smashed)

The factitive use of the Piel Stem is used to make an intransitive Qal verb transitive.

Qal: אָבַד (to perish)
Piel: אִׁבַד (to destroy)

The denominative use of the Piel Stem is derived from a noun or adjective and is used to make the verbal action simple and not intensive.

Noun: כֹּהֵּן (priest)
Piel: כִׁהֵּן (to serve as priest)

The iterative action of the Piel Stem expresses the nuance of repeated action.

Qal: צָׁעַק (to cry)
Piel: צֵּעֵּק (to weep over and over; keep crying)

PIEL STEM – STRONG VERBS
The Piel Perfect has a chiriq under the first consonant of the verbal root and a dagesh forte in the second verbal root.

Qal: קָטַל
Piel: קִׁטֵּל

The stem vowel of the Piel Perfect varies between the tsere and the patach (except the third person, feminine singular and third person, common plural which has a vocal sheva).

Qal: קָטָל
Piel: קִׁטָל
The Piel Imperfect has a vocal sheva under the Imperfect preformative. The Piel Imperfect has a patach under the first consonant of the verbal root and a dagesh forte in the second consonant of the verbal root.

Qal: יִׁקְטֹּל
Piel: יְקַטֵּל

The Piel Imperative and the Infinitive Absolute have a patach under the first consonant of the verbal root and a dagesh forte in the second consonant of the verbal root.

Piel Imperfect: יְקַטֵּל
Piel Imperative: קַטֵּל

The Piel Infinitive Absolute has a patach under the first consonant of the verbal root and a dagesh forte in the second consonant of the verbal root.

Qal: קְטֹּל
Piel: קַטֵּל

The Piel Participle is formed with a מ (מ) prefix, a patach under the first consonant of the verbal root, and a dagesh forte in the second consonant of the verbal root.

Qal: בֶּקֶטֶל
Piel: מְקַטֵּל

PIEL STEM – WEAK VERBS
Category III-ר and Category III-נ weak verbs stem vowels are patach stem vowels (as opposed to the tsere stem vowel in the strong verbs).

Category III-א, Category III-נ and Geminate weak verbs keep all the same rules of the Piel strong verbs.


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rachel-esther@becomingjewish.org