

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: שִׁבַּר (he smashed)

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

Qal: אָבַד (to perish)

Piel: אִבַּד (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: כֹּהֵן (priest)

Piel: כִּהֵן (to serve as priest)

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

Qal: צָעַק (to cry)

Piel: צִיעַק (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: קִטַּל

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: קָטְלָהּ

Piel: קִטְלָהּ

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: יִקְטֹל

Piel: יִקְטִיל

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: יִקְטִיל

Piel Imperative: קְטִיל

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: קָטַל

Piel: קְטִיל

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

Qal: קָטַל

Piel: מְקַטֵּל

PIEL STEM – WEAK VERBS

Category III-א and Category III-ב weak verbs stem vowels are patach stem vowels (as opposed to the tsere stem vowel in the strong verbs).

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

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