

Learning Hebrew: Qal Participle

QAL PARTICIPLE

The Participle is a verbal adjective which means that it shared the characteristics of both verbs and adjectives. When translated, the Participle is shown as a verb with an “-ing” ending (such as walking).

As a verb, the Participle has a stem (Qal), passive or active voice, and an expression of a verbal action such as “running”.

As an adjective, the Participle has gender and number and is used like an adjective. There are three types of adjectives which the Participle can be a part of.

1. Attributive (the *sleeping* student)
2. Predicative (the student is *walking*)
3. Substantive (*running* requires training)

QAL PARTICIPLE: STRONG VERBS

Participles are inflected for gender and number but not for person.

	Active Participle (Singular)	Inflectional Endings (Singular)
Masculine	קָטֵל	
Feminine	קֹטֶלֶת	תֹּ
Feminine	קֹטֶלֶה	הֹ

	Active Participle (Plural)	Inflectional Endings (Plural)
Masculine	קֹטְלִים	יִם
Feminine	קֹטְלוֹת	וֹת

QAL PARTICIPLE: WEAK VERBS

In the Qal stem, all Category I-Guttural, Category I-ג, Category I-ך, and Geminate weak verbs follow the strong verb pattern.

QAL ACTIVE PARTICIPLE

The active participle means that the subject of the verb performs the action of the verb (David killed Goliath). There are three uses for the active Participle that functions as an adjective.

1. Attributive – An active Participle directly modifies a noun. The active Participle follows the noun it is modifying and matches the noun in gender, number, and definiteness.

הַמְּלַאֲךְ הַדֹּבֵר בִּי (the angel *who was speaking* with me)

2. Predicative – The active Participle does not directly modify the noun but asserts something about the noun and creates a predication. The active Participle matches the noun in gender and number but not definiteness (the active Participle never take a definite article in this usage) which indicates a predicative relationship. The active Participle does not have its own tense which means that the tense must be taken from the context.

הָהָרַ בִּעֵר בְּאֵשׁ (The mountain *was burning* with fire)

3. Substantive – The active Participle is used independently as a noun indicating the one who does a certain action. In this usage, the active Participle acts completely as a noun with all the characteristics of a noun.

הַיּוֹשְׁבֵי בַגְּנִים (you who *dwell* in the gardens)

QAL PASSIVE PARTICIPLE

The passive Participle indicates that the subject of the verb receives or is the object of the verbal action (Goliath was killed by David). There are three uses for the passive Participle that functions as an adjective.

1. Attributive –The passive Participle follows the noun it is modifying and matches the noun in gender, number, and definiteness.

הַבְּרִית הַכְּתוּבָה בְּסֵפֶר הַתּוֹרָה הַזֶּה (the covenant *written* in this book of the law)

2. Predicative – The passive Participle either precedes or follows the noun it modifies and agree in gender and number but not definiteness.

אֲרוּרָה הָאֲדָמָה בְּעִבּוּרְךָ (Cursed *is* the ground because of you)

3. Substantive – The passive Participle is used independently as a noun indicating the one who does a certain action. In this usage, the passive Participle acts completely as a noun with all the characteristics of a noun.

וְתַחַת הָרוּגִים יִפְּלוּ (And they will fall among *the slain ones*)

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