

Chapter Twenty One

Hof'al Strong Verbs

Vocabulary

או	or	לָכֵן	therefore
אֹת	sign	מְלִיכָה	kingdom (f)
אַרְזוֹ	cedar (m)	שָׁם	there
בֶּטֶן	belly, womb (f)	צֹאן	flock, sheep
דְּמוּת	likeness, image (f)	צְבָאוֹת	hosts, armies
דַּעַת	knowledge (f)	צַדִּיק	righteous one
הִנֵּה הֵן	behold	צוּר	rock (m)
זֶרַע	seed (m)	צֶלֶם	image, likeness
חֹדֶשׁ	new moon, month	קַרְנוֹ	horn (f)
חוֹמָה	wall (f)	קֶשֶׁת	bow, rainbow (f)

Hof'al

The Hof'al (הַפְעַל) is the causative passive verb stem. The Hof'al is used to express causative action with a passive voice.

Qal		Hof'al ¹	
בִּיא	He brought	הוּבָא	He was brought
מוֹת	He killed	הוּמָת	He was killed
מָלַךְ	He reigned	הִמְלִיךְ	He was made king

Example:

וְהוּכַן בַּחֶסֶד כִּסֵּא וְיֹשֵׁב עָלָיו בְּאַמֶּת בְּאֵהֶל דָּוִד שִׁפְט וְדָרַשׁ מִשְׁפָּט וּמִחֵר צֶדֶק (hofal Perf)

And the throne **will be caused to be established** in mercy; And One will sit on it in truth, in the tabernacle of David, Judging and seeking justice and hastening righteousness. (Isaiah 16:5)

Hof'al Perfect Form

¹ Adapted from Page Kelley, *Biblical Hebrew* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1992), p. 113

The Hof'al perfect is identified by placing the Hof'al prefix, either the u-class (ה) or o-class (ה) vowel to the Qal form, add a Pathach (׀) as the stem vowel (except for 3fs & 3cp), and the perfect suffix².

Perfect: o-class ³			
	Qal		Hof'al
3ms	שָׁמַר	→	הִשְׁמַר

Perfect: u-class ⁴			
	Hif'il		Hof'al
3ms	נָצַל	→	הִצִּיל

Perfect			
	Qal	Hof'al	Translation
3ms	שָׁמַר	הִשְׁמַר	he was caused to guard
3fs	שָׁמְרָה	הִשְׁמְרָה	she was caused to guard
2ms	שָׁמַרְתָּ	הִשְׁמַרְתָּ	you were caused to guard
2fs	שָׁמַרְתְּ	הִשְׁמַרְתְּ	you were caused to guard
1cs	שָׁמַרְתִּי	הִשְׁמַרְתִּי	I was caused to guard
3cp	שָׁמְרוּ	הִשְׁמְרוּ	they were caused to guard
2mp	שָׁמַרְתֶּם	הִשְׁמַרְתֶּם	you were caused to guard
2fp	שָׁמַרְתֶּן	הִשְׁמַרְתֶּן	you were caused to guard
1cp	שָׁמַרְנוּ	הִשְׁמַרְנוּ	we were caused to guard

Hof'al Imperfect Form

To form the Hof'al imperfect, add the imperfect prefix, either the u-class (ה) or o-class (ה) vowel to the imperfect prefix, add the Pathach (׀) as the stem vowel verbal root (except for 3fs, 3mp & 3cp), and the imperfect suffix.

² Very few strong verbs appear in the Hof'al stem.

³ o-class vowels are: holem (ו), holem-vav (וּ), and Qamets-Hatuf (וּ)

⁴ u-class vowels are shureq (וּ) and qibbutz (וּ)

Imperfect			
	Qal	Hof'al	Translation
3ms	יִשְׁמַר	יִשְׁמָר	He will be cause to guard
3fs	תִּשְׁמַר	תִּשְׁמָר	She will be cause to guard
2ms	תִּשְׁמַד	תִּשְׁמָד	You will be cause to guard
2fs	תִּשְׁמְרִי	תִּשְׁמָרִי	You will be cause to guard
1cs	אֲשַׁמַּד	אֲשַׁמָּד	I will be cause to guard
3mp	יִשְׁמְרוּ	יִשְׁמָרוּ	They will be cause to guard
3fp	תִּשְׁמַרְנָה	תִּשְׁמָרְנָה	They will be cause to guard
2mp	תִּשְׁמְרוּ	תִּשְׁמָרוּ	You will be cause to guard
2fp	תִּשְׁמַרְנָה	תִּשְׁמָרְנָה	You will be cause to guard
1cp	נִשְׁמַר	נִשְׁמָר	We will be cause to guard

Hof'al Participle Form

To form the Hof'al participle, start with the Qal participle, add the participle prefix (נ), either the u-class (ו) or o-class (ו) vowel to the prefix, add the Qamets (ו) as the stem vowel verbal root, and the participle suffix.

	Qal Participle		Hof'al Participle	
ms	שֹׁמֵר	→	מְשַׁמֵּר	causing to be guarding
mp	שֹׁמְרִים	→	מְשַׁמְרִים	causing to be guarding
fs	שֹׁמֶרֶת	→	מְשַׁמֶּרֶת	causing to be guarding
fp	שֹׁמְרוֹת	→	מְשַׁמְרוֹת	causing to be guarding

Practice

- I. Memorize the vocabulary
- II. Memorize the Hof'al Perfect, Imperfect, and Participle forms.
- III. Translate the following:
 1. וְחֹכֵן בַּחֶסֶד כִּסָּא וְיֹשֵׁב עָלָיו בְּאֵמֶת בְּאֵהָל הוֹד שִׁפְט וְדָרַשׁ מִשְׁפָּט וּמִחֵר צְדָקָה (Isa. 16:5)
 2. כִּי עִם-אֲבִי תִשְׁדֶּה בְּרִיתְךָ וְחַיֵּת הַשְּׂדֵה הַשְּׁלֵמָה-לְךָ (Job 5:23)
 3. יָבֵשׁ בַּחֶרֶשׁ כַּחַי וְלִשְׁוֵי מִדְּבַק מִלְקוֹחַי וְלַעֲפָר-מוֹת הַשִּׁפְתָּנִי (Ps. Eng:22:16; Heb. 22:15)