Hebrew Weak Verbs

Pe Guttural

Paradigm Verb: עָבַד

Gutturals reject dagesh forte	nifal imperfect: → יֵעָבֵד
Compound Sheva	nifal perfect: → נֶעֱבַד
	hifil perfect: → הֶעֱבִיד
	hofal perfect: → הָעֳבַד
	qal imperfect: → יַעֲבֹד
	hifil imperfect: → יַעֲבִיד
	hofal imperfect: → יָעֳבַד

Pe Aleph

Only five verbs: אָבַד ,אָכַל ,אָפָה ,אָבָה ,אָמַר

Differences from Pe-gutturals only in the qal

א can't close syllable; a-class ✔	qal imperfect 3ms: → יֹאמַר
Can't have אא	qal imperfect 1cs: → אֹמַר
Change in preterite	accent shift: → וַיֹּאמֶר
א likes e-class	impv and inf. constr: → אֱמֹר

Other verbs beginning with א are like Pe-gutturals except…

א likes e-class	impv and inf. constr: → אֱחֹז
Prefix vowel is always ֶ	qal imperfect 3ms: → יֶאֱחֹז

Ayin Guttural

Paradigm Verb: פָּעַל

Gutturals reject dagesh forte:	Intensive stems – compensatory lengthening
Compound Sheva	Vocalic suffixes get ֲ, e.g., פֳּעֲלָה
Gutturals like a-class vowels	qal imperfect: → יִפְעַל
	Piel perfect 3ms: → פֵּעַל, not פֵּעֵל

Lamedh Guttural

Paradigm Verb: שָׁמַע

Only rule that is relevant is the preference of Gutturals for a-class vowels

Verbs with no suffix *always* have an a-class vowel under the middle root letter	If already a-class, it stays so
	If it is a ֵ or ֶ → ַ
	If it is a ִי, וֹ or וּ takes furtive
Changeably-long can take furtive-p	Instances are:
	qal inf. cstr. (שְׁמֹעַ)
	qal ppl. (שֹׁמֵעַ)
	piel ppl. (מְשַׁמֵּעַ)
	piel inf. abs. (שַׁמֵּעַ)
	hifil inf. abs. (הַשְׁמֵעַ)
with נָה ending	stem vowel is *always* ַ
	perfect 2fs: תְּ ַ ת , not תְ ַ ת

Lamedh Aleph

Paradigm Verb: מָצָא

Issue is inability of an א to close a syllable.

With no suffix, except when vowel before א is a ◌ַ or u-long…	Change vowel under middle letter to a ◌ָ. E.g.,… qal perfect: מָצָא → מָצַא qal imperfect: יִמְצָא → יִמְצַא
With **vocalic** suffixes	*No changes*
With **consonantal** suffixes, perfect	qal, hofal get ◌ָא—: e.g. מָצָאתָ others get ◌ֵא—: e.g. נִמְצֵאתָ
With imperfect, with ◌נָה— ending	Always get ◌ֶאנָה—.
Female singular participle	◌ֵ◌ֶת— becomes ◌ֵאת—

Lamedh He

Paradigm Verb: גָּלָה

Many things are the same *across the stems.*

Without suffixes: standard endings…

Perfect: ◌ָה, Imperfects ◌ֶה, Imperatives ◌ֵה, Inf. Constr. ◌וֹת, Inf. Abs ◌ֹה, Masculine singular participles ◌ֶה, Qal Passive Participle: גָּלוּי

With **Consonantal Suffixes**: Replace the ה with a י.

Perfect Active Stems: ◌ִי; Perfect Passive Stems: ◌ֵי; Imperfect: ◌ֶ

With **Vocalic Suffixes**: Remove the ה altogether (and the vowel preceding it)

except perfect 3fs, where you get a ת coming in.

Pe-Nun

Paradigm verb: נָפַל

Main change is that where you would have a נְ, the nun disappears and is replaced by a dagesh-forte in the following letter.

Where you have a verb where vowel under the second letter in the imperfect is not a holem, there are two more changes:

- In the imperative, the נ does not reappear.
- In the qal infinitive construct, you get a segholate. E.g., גֶּשֶׁת

Also behaving exactly like a Pe-Nun verb is לָקַח.

Hollow-verbs / Ayin-Yod or Ayin-Waw verbs

Paradigm verb: קוּם

What follows is an over-simplification

For **non-intensive stems** (qal, nifal, hifil, hofal)

There are only two root letters, so the first root letter opens a syllable	When there is a prefix, this is an open, unaccented syllable, therefore is long. This is ◌ָ, except for hifil perfect (◌ֵ) and hofal (◌וּ)
The vocalic suffixes don't attract the accent	This affects perfect 3fs, 3cp and imperfect 2fs, 3mp and 2mp
There is often a linking vowel before a consonantal suffix	So – qal imperfect f.p.: ◌ֶינָה → Nifal, hifil get ◌וֹתָ, ◌וֹת, ◌וֹתִי
In qal perfect:	The middle vowel drops out. Get ◌ַ for no/vocalic suffixes and ◌ for consonantal suffixes.
In qal active and nifal participles:	ms participle = qal perfect 3ms.
In jussive:	vowel letter disappears. So: ◌ִי → ◌ֵ; ◌וּ → ◌

For **intensive stems** (piel, pual, hitpael)

There is no middle letter to double, so new stems are created to replace these that involve doubling the *final* letter. These conjugate regularly	piel → polel
	pual → polal
	hitpael → hitpolel

Verbs with יֻ in the middle behave the same as those with וֹ. Paradigm verb is שִׂים. The only difference is in the qal imperfect, imperative and infinitive construct, where the vowel is יִ. (This makes qal imperfect = hifil imperfect).

Pe-Waw / Pe-Yod

Paradigm Verb: יָשַׁב

Main characteristic of Pe-Waw: The waw reappears as a yod:

- As a וֹ in hifil perfect & imperfect, nifal perfect and participle
- As a וּ in hofal
- As consonantal ו with dagesh forte (וּ) for nifal imperfect

Qal Perfect: Yod is retained (⇒ qal perfect 3ms same for Pe-Waw and Pe Yod)

Other Forms of Qal: There are significant variations from verb to verb:

- Qal Imperfect: Three main forms. (i) Like a Pe-Yod: יִיָ□□ ; (ii) Loosing initial consonant: יֵשֵׁב (→ וַיֵּשֶׁב) ; (iii) if 2nd letter צ (or other sibilant), like a Pe-Nun: יִצֹּק .
- Qal Infinitive Construct: Same two variations as for Pe-Nun. (i) יְ□□ - e.g., יְבֹשׁ ; (ii) □ֶ□ֶת - e.g., שֶׁבֶת .
- Qal Imperative: Again, same two variations as for Pe-Nun, with the added benefit that verbs tend to be consistent here and for infinitive construct. (i) יְ□□, e.g., יְבֹשׁ ; (ii) □□ or □□, e.g., שֵׁב .

Also behaving exactly like a Pe-Waw verb is הָלַךְ.

True Pe-Yod verbs are rare, the most common being יָטַב . Only occur in qal and hifil. Qal imperfect: יִיטַב ; Hifil forms always have □ for prefix.

Geminate or Double-Ayin

Paradigm Verb: סָבַב

Incredibly complex! **Main changes** are:

- Without any suffix, the duplicated root letter disappears
- With any suffix, it reappears, almost always as a dagesh-forte.

A lot of forms have things in common with the **hollow verbs**:

- With consonantal suffixes, get a helping vowel. Perfect וֹ, Imperfect יֶ.
- Vocalic suffixes don't attract the accent
- Nifal forms have נָ for perfect prefix (not נִ)
- Hifil forms have הֵ for perfect prefix (not הִ); יָ for imperfect (not יַ)
- Hofal forms have ו for prefixes, not □.

These are often due to the fact that, in both cases, only two root letters remain, giving rise to compensatory lengthening.

Qal imperfect can conjugate one of three ways:

- Transitive verbs can go like the hollow verbs: יָסֹב .
- Transitive verbs can go like the Pe-Nun verbs: יִסֹּב .
- Intransitive verbs have their own pattern. E.g., (for קָלַל) יֵקַל .

Qal imperative forms derive regularly from the imperfect.

Other changes:

- Nifal imperfect (and derived forms) have □ for theme vowel: יִסַּב .
- Hifil has a theme vowel of □ throughout (i.e., never יִ).
- Intensive stems are either regular, or use hollow verb stems of *polel* etc.