

Rocine Lesson 39

וַיֹּאמֶר אֲבִרְהָם אֲנֹכִי אֲשַׁבֵּעַ

Genesis 21:24

Goals

Identify and read

- the Niphal yiqtol

What we already know

וַיֹּאמֶר אֲבִרְהָם אֲנֹכִי אֲנֹשֶׁבֶת

Translate the first 2 words.

What we already know

וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְרָהָם אֲנֹכִי אֲנֻשׁ־בֵּטֶן

Translate the first 2 words.

Abraham said.

Niphal yiqtol

וַיֹּאמֶר אֲבִרְהֵם אֲנֹכִי אֲשַׁבֵּעַ

Let's look at the second verb.

- Do we see any evidence of a consonant added to the root that we can't account for by some other means? (e.g. prefix, affix, prefix complement, inseparable preposition, pronominal suffix, etc.)

Niphal yiqtol

וַיֹּאמֶר אֲבִרְהֶם אֲנֹכִי אֲשַׁבֵּעַ

Let's look at the second verb.

- Do we see any evidence of a consonant added to the root that we can't account for by some other means? (e.g. prefix, affix, prefix complement inseparable preposition, pronominal suffix, etc.)
- If we can, then we probably have an augment to the 3 root letters in our verb and therefore we have a stem/binyan other than Qal. Binyanim are built (בנה) by adding consonantal augments to the basic Qal binyan.

Niphal yiqtol

וַיֹּאמֶר אֲבִרְהֶם אֲנֹכִי אֲשַׁבֵּעַ

Let's look at the second verb.

- Where is the augment in this verb?
- Where is the augment in the Piel?

Niphal yiqtol

וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְרָהָם אֲנֹכִי אֲשַׁבֵּעַ

Let's look at the second verb.

- Where is the augment in this verb? Dagesh in 1st root letter
- Where is the augment in the Piel? Dagesh in 2nd root letter

Niphal yiqtol

וַיֹּאמֶר אֲבִרְהֵם אֲנִי אֲשַׁבֵּעַ

Let's look at the second verb.

- Our verb is a Niphal and the dagesh is the assimilated Niphal Nun.

Niphal yiqtol

וַיֹּאמֶר אֲבִרְהֵם אֲנֹכִי אֲשַׁבֵּעַ

Let's look at the second verb.

- The Niphal Nun assimilates in the yiqtol because when you add the yiqtol/wayyiqtol prefix, the Niphal Nun 'finds itself' at the end of a closed syllable with no intervening vowel between it and the next consonant, and so it assimilates.

אֲשַׁבֵּעַ - אֲשַׁבֵּעַ

Niphal yiqtol

וַיֹּאמֶר אֲבִרְהֶם אֲנִי אֲשַׁבֵּעַ

Let's parse the verb.

Root	Stem	Form	PGN	Function	Root meaning

Niphal yiqtol

וַיֹּאמֶר אֲבִרְהֶם אֲנִי אֲשַׁבֵּעַ

Let's parse the verb.

Root	Stem	Form	PGN	Function	Root meaning
שבע	Niphal	Yiqtol	1cs	X-yiqtol = Topicalization (non-past)	To swear

Niphal yiqtol

וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְרָהָם אֲנִי אֲשַׁבֵּעַ



Note:

- In the strong verb we expect to see a segol as the 1cs prefix vowel.
- In the Niphal Yiqtol 1cs, sometimes it will be a segol and sometimes a hireq as above.
- E.g.
 - Gen 21:4 “I will swear” אֲשַׁבֵּעַ
 - Ezek 16:8 “I swore” וַאֲשַׁבַּע
 - Gen 4:14 “I shall be hidden” אֶסְתֵּר
 - Lev 10:3 “I will be sanctified” אֶקְדֹּשׁ

Niphal yiqtol

וַיֹּאמֶר אֲבִרְהָם אֲנִי אֲשַׁבֵּעַ

So...

RULE: The sign of the Niphal yiqtol and wayyiqtol is a dagesh forte in the first root letter:

Niphal yiqtol

וַיֹּאמֶר אֲבִרְהֶם אֲנִי אֲשַׁבֵּעַ

So...

RULE: The sign of the Niphal yiqtol and wayyiqtol is a dagesh forte in the first root letter:

But ...

- other things (like I-Nun verbs) can cause a dagesh forte to appear in the first root letter.
- We need a little more to identify a Niphal Yiqtol.

Niphal yiqtol

וַיֹּאמֶר אֲבִרְהָם אֲנֹכִי אֲשַׁבֵּעַ

There are 2 primary signs for the Niphal Yiqtol.

Auditory Sign:

- i-a-ay sound
- hireq/qamets/tsere

Visual Sign:

- The 'Niphal triangle' at the front end
- hireq/dagesh/qamets

See Animated Hebrew lecture 26 for details.

Niphal yiqtol

וַיֹּאמֶר אֲבִרְהֵם אֲנֹכִי אֲשַׁבֵּעַ

There are 2 primary signs for the Niphal Yiqtol.

Auditory Sign:

- i-a-ay sound
- hireq/qamets/tsere

Visual Sign:

- The 'Niphal triangle' at the front end
- hireq/dagesh/qamets

Note that Piel yiqtol also has the i-a-ay sound but it will be shewa/patach/tsere and you'll have the dagesh forte in the 2nd, not 1st root letter.

Compare:

- Piel יִקְטֹל
- Niphal יִקְטֹל

Niphal yiqtol (weak verbs)

וַיֹּאמֶר אֲבִרְהֶם אֲנֹכִי אֲשַׁבֵּעַ

Why might the following weak verbs cause changes in the Niphal Yiqtol?

- I-Guttural
- I-Yod (I-Waw)
- I-Nun

Niphal yiqtol (weak verbs)

וַיֹּאמֶר אֲבָרְהָם אֲנֹכִי אֲשַׁבֵּעַ

Why might the following weak verbs cause changes in the Niphal Yiqtol?

- I-Guttural What do you do because you can't double the guttural?
- I-Yod (I-Waw) How do you double the original waw?
E.g. Very few hollow verbs have a Piel. בּוֹא has no Piel.
- I-Nun What do you do with 2 nuns?

Niphal yiqtol (weak verbs)

וַיֹּאמֶר אֲבִרְהֵם אֲנֹכִי אֲשַׁבֵּעַ

Why might the following weak verbs cause changes in the Niphal Yiqtol?

- I-Guttural Prefix vowel lengthens to tseré to compensate.
- I-Yod (I-Waw) Waw doubles as a consonant like in אֶזְרָא 'he commanded'. That's not a shuruk, it's a double consonantal waw.
- I-Nun The Niphal Nun does not assimilate. The 1st root nun assimilates.

Let's look at each of these.

Niphal Yiqtol

	Strong	I-Guttural עמד	I-Yod (I-Waw) ישב	I-Nun נצל
3ms	יִקְטֹל	יַעֲמֹד	יִוָּשֵׁב	יִנְצֵל
3fs	תִּקְטְלִי	תַּעֲמֹדִי	תִּוָּשְׁבִי	תִּנְצְלִי
2ms	תִּקְטְלוּ	תַּעֲמֹדוּ	תִּוָּשְׁבוּ	תִּנְצְלוּ
2fs	תִּקְטְלֵי	תַּעֲמֹדֵי	תִּוָּשְׁבֵי	תִּנְצְלֵי
1cs	אֶקְטֹל	אֶעֱמֹד	אֶוָּשֵׁב	אֶנְצֵל
3mp	יִקְטְלוּ	יַעֲמְדוּ	יִוָּשְׁבוּ	יִנְצְלוּ
3fp	תִּקְטְלֶנָּה	תַּעֲמְדֶנָּה	תִּוָּשְׁבֶנָּה	תִּנְצְלֶנָּה
2mp	תִּקְטְלוּ	תַּעֲמְדוּ	תִּוָּשְׁבוּ	תִּנְצְלוּ
2fp	תִּקְטְלֶנָּה	תַּעֲמְדֶנָּה	תִּוָּשְׁבֶנָּה	תִּנְצְלֶנָּה
1cp	נִקְטֹל	נַעֲמֹד	נִוָּשֵׁב	נִנְצֵל


Niphal Yiqtol

	Strong	I-Guttural עמד	I-Yod (I-Waw) ישב	I-Nun נצל
3ms	יִקְטֹל	יַעֲמֹד	<div style="border: 2px solid magenta; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> Hireq lengthens to compensate for lack of doubling in guttural. </div>	יִנְצֵל
3fs	תִּקְטֹל	תַּעֲמֹד		תִּנְצֵל
2ms	תִּקְטֹל	תַּעֲמֹד	תִּוְשַׁב	תִּנְצֵל
2fs	תִּקְטְלִי	תַּעֲמְדִי	תִּוְשְׁבִי	תִּנְצְלִי
1cs	אֶקְטֹל	אֶעֱמֹד	אֶוְשַׁב	אֶנְצֵל
3mp	יִקְטְלוּ	יַעֲמְדוּ	יִוְשְׁבוּ	יִנְצְלוּ
3fp	תִּקְטְלֶנָּה	תַּעֲמְדֶנָּה	תִּוְשְׁבֶנָּה	תִּנְצְלֶנָּה
2mp	תִּקְטְלוּ	תַּעֲמְדוּ	תִּוְשְׁבוּ	תִּנְצְלוּ
2fp	תִּקְטְלֶנָּה	תַּעֲמְדֶנָּה	תִּוְשְׁבֶנָּה	תִּנְצְלֶנָּה
1cp	נִקְטֹל	נַעֲמֹד	נִוְשַׁב	נִנְצֵל

Niphal Yiqtol

	Strong	I-Guttural עמד	I-Yod (I-Waw) ישב	I-Nun נצל
3ms	יִקְטֹל	יַעֲמֹד	יִשֵּׁב	יִנְצֹל
3fs			תִּישֵׁב	תִּנְצֹל
2ms			תִּישְׁב	תִּנְצֹל
2fs			תִּישְׁבִי	תִּנְצֹלִי
1cs			אִישֵׁב	אִנְצֹל
3mp			יִשְׁבוּ	יִנְצְלוּ
3fp			תִּישְׁבְּנָה	תִּנְצְלֶנָה
2mp	תִּקְטְלוּ	תַעֲמְדוּ	תִישְׁבוּ	תִנְצְלוּ
2fp	תִקְטְלֶנָה	תַעֲמְדֶנָה	תִישְׁבְּנָה	תִנְצְלֶנָה
1cp	נִקְטֹל	נַעֲמֹד	נִישֵׁב	נִנְצֹל

- In I-Yod (I-Waw) verbs we see the original waw in the Hiphil and Niphal.
- Here the waw doubles like in the strong verbs.
- We know the ם symbol is not the vowel sheruk because there is a qamets under it and you can't have 2 vowels in a row in Hebrew so this is the doubled consonantal waw.



Niphal Yiqtol

	Strong	I-Guttural עמד	I-Yod (I-Waw) ישב	I-Nun נצל
3ms	יִקְטֹל	יַעֲמִד	יִוֹשֵׁב	יִנְצֵל
3fs				תִּנְצֹל
2ms				תִּנְצֹל
2fs				תִּנְצְלִי
1cs				אֲנִצֵּל
3mp				יִנְצְלוּ
3fp				תִּנְצְלֶנָּה
2mp	תִּקְטְלוּ	תַּעֲמְדוּ	תִּוֹשְׁבוּ	תִּנְצְלוּ
2fp	תִּקְטְלֶנָּה	תַּעֲמְדֶנָּה	תִּוֹשְׁבֶנָּה	תִּנְצְלֶנָּה
1cp	נִקְטֹל	נַעֲמִד	נִוֹשֵׁב	נִנְצֵל

• The nun we see is the First Root Nun.
 • The dagesh is the Niphal Nun.
 • If we pull apart the elements it would look like this.

יִ נִ צֵל

- The **Niphal Nun** assimilates because it ends a closed syllable, i.e. there is no vowel between it and the 1st Root Nun. The shewa is silent.
- The **First Root Nun** does NOT assimilate because there is a vowel between it and the tsade.



The Niphal's reflexive sense

As well as being the passive of the Qal, the Niphal can also have a reflexive sense.

DEFINITION:

When a verb is *reflexive* the subject of the verb receives the action of the verb as with other passive verbs. However, the subject of a reflexive verb is *also the doer of the action*. *Reflexive* action is therefore action done to oneself or in one's own interests.

See Animated Hebrew lecture 25 for some finer distinctions in the Niphal, e.g. reciprocal, resultitive, middle, etc.