

Volitional Verb Personal Endings Handout

The “volitional” verb forms are those in which the speaker projects¹ his/her will about the performance of an action by a 1st person agent, a 2nd person agent, or a 3rd person agent. To indicate one’s will concerning a 2nd person agent, the writer generally employs the Imperative forms. To indicate one’s will concerning a 3rd person agent, the writer generally employs the Jussive forms. To indicate one’s will concerning a 1st person agent, the writer generally employs the Cohortative forms.

[1] Imperative : Memorize this chart

2ms	□□□	2mp	י□□□
2fs	י□□□	2fp	יָנָה□□□

The Imperative forms will use the suffixes of the 2nd person Imperfect, *BUT* it omits the Imperfect-prefix consonants.² See below for the actual forms in the Qal stem. Imperative verbs forms should be translated as commands, indicating what the speaker wishes the 2nd person agent (you) to do: “Eat! Visit! Love one another!”

Qal Imperative Paradigm (פָּקַד): Memorize this chart

2ms	פָּקַד	2mp	פָּקְדֵי
2fs	פָּקְדִי	2fp	פָּקְדִינָה

[2] Jussive : Memorize this chart

3ms	□□□י	3mp	י□□□י
3fs	□□□ת	3fp	תָּנָה□□□י

The Jussive forms will use both the suffixes and the prefixes of the 3rd person Imperfect. Since the speaker is projecting his will about what a 3rd person agent (he, she, it, they) should do, Jussives will often be translated “Let him/her do X,” “May he/she do Y.” See below for the actual forms in the Qal stem.

¹Thus, some grammarians refer to the volitional forms as having “projective modality.”

²Please note that although the prefix consonants peculiar to the Imperfect are missing, that does not mean that there could be no prefix consonants in the Imperative. But those prefix consonants would be peculiar to the *derived stem*, not to the Imperfect. For ex., the Niphal Impv forms do not have the Imperfect prefix consonant ת of the 2nd person, but it does have a Niphal stem prefix of ה. The suffixes of the Niphal Imperative, however, are the same as occur in all the 2nd person Niphal Imperfect forms.

Qal Jussive Paradigm (פָּקַד): Memorize this chart

3ms	יִפְקֹד	3mp	יִפְקְדוּ
3fs	תִּפְקֹד	3fp	תִּפְקְדְנָה

[3] Cohortative: Memorize this chart

1cs	אֶפְקְדֶה	1cp	נִפְקְדֶה
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The Cohortative forms will use the normal prefixes of the 1st person Imperfect, *BUT* it will include a *qamesh-hē* suffix that is not found on the 1cs/1cp Imperfect. Since we are here dealing with *prefix forms*, this suffix should not be confused with the 3fs suffix on Perfect verbs. Think of the *qamesh-hē* on the cohortative forms as related to the *qamesh-hē* we find on the alternative Qal Impv 2ms form: פִּקְדֶה, “Write!” [transliteration: *poqdā*] Since the speaker is projecting his will about what a 1st person agent (I, we) should do, Cohortatives will often be translated “Let me/us do X” or “I/we shall do Y.” See below for the actual forms in the Qal stem.

Qal Cohortative Paradigm (פָּקַד): Memorize this chart

1cs	אֶפְקְדֶה	1cp	נִפְקְדֶה
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