

Hophal Stem Handout (Ross 31)  
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31.1 Forms/principal parts of the Hophal

The Hophal stem is the passive counterpart to the Hiphil (which is often referred to as the “causative” stem). The element of the Hiphil that is made passive is the causative element (not the lexical element of the verbal root), and so it has the general sense of ‘to be caused to do X’.

Using our example from the ch.30 handout, the verb מוֹת in the Qal stem means ‘to die’.  
 Hiphil: ‘to cause someone to die’ (as in, ‘John caused Billy to die’ = ‘John killed Billy’).  
 Hophal: ‘to be caused to die’ (as in, ‘Billy was caused to die’ = ‘Billy was killed’).

We first deal with the way the Hophal is formed. NOTE: In the Hophal stem, as in the Hiphil, the form is characterized by a prefix ה before R-1 (root 1); however, this prefix ה is not visible in the prefix conjugations (impf, wci, juss, etc.) or participle. The Hiphil/Hophal are distinguished, then, by the vowel pointing. Finally, since the Hophal is a passive stem, it cannot take DO pronominal suffixes.

For our paradigm verb פָּקַד, the Hophal means ‘to be caused to visit/appoint’.

Forms	Hophal
Pft 3ms	הִפְקַד
Impf 3ms	יִפְקַד
Wci(wayyiqtol) 3ms	וַיִּפְקַד
Juss 3ms	יִפְקַד
Coh 1cs	אֶפְקַדְהָ
Impv 2ms	XXX
Ptc ms	מִפְקַד
Infc	הִפְקַד
Infa	הִפְקַד

Below, let’s fill in the vowel-pointing for the Hophal stem.



31.2 Translating the Hophal: All the same semantics of the Hiphil are available to the Hophal stem, only the semantics are made passive.

הִשְׁמִיעַ

הִשְׁמַע

הִמְלִיךְ

הִמְלֵךְ

הִקְרִיב

הִקְרַב

הִלְשִׁין

הִלְשֵׁן