

REVIEW: What is “weak” about the consonant (C) נ (nun)? It suffers from the “Borg Problem”—the problem of *assimilation*. That is, whenever a nun closes a syllable AND butts up against an adjacent C following nun, it assimilates to that C. Once that happens, the duplicate C is written once with a DF. Thus, DF represents the assimilated nun.

Ex.1: “from a king” מִן-מֶלֶךְ, written with assimilation: מִמֶּלֶךְ (< מִנְּמֶלֶךְ).

Ex.2: “I gave” נָתַתִּי (< \*נָתַתִּי\* < \*נָתַתִּי\*)

QUESTION: Where in the strong verb principal parts will this assimilation problem with R1-nun occur? Wherever some prefix consonant (either the stem-prefixes נ/ה or the NUTTY-prefixes נתיא) tries to close a syllable with R1-nun, it will assimilate to the next C, the R2 letter right behind it. Let’s look at the Principal Parts Chart handout to get an overview of where these situations happen. Then we’ll look at a few examples.

Note: throughout the lesson, we will make use of the following I-nun verbs:

- |                      |                             |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| נָפַל ‘to fall’      | נָשָׂא ‘to lift up’         |
| נָגַשׁ ‘to approach’ | נָתַן ‘to give’             |
| נָסַע ‘to travel’    | נָגַד Hi ‘to tell, declare’ |

1. The *pervasive problem* of R1-nun assimilating to R2 when some prefix C closes the syllable with R1. (See Ross 34.2.1; 34.3; 34.4; 34.5.)

Stem/conj	PG#	Form	Assimilation process	English gloss
Qal Impf	3ms	יִפֹּל	יִנְפֹּל > יִפֹּל	he will fall
		יִסֵּעַ	יִנְסֵעַ > יִסֵּעַ	he will travel
		יִשָּׂא	יִנְשָׂא > יִשָּׂא	he will lift up
		יִתֵּן	יִנְתֵּן > יִתֵּן	he will give

	3fs	תָּפַל	תִּנְפַל	she will fall
		תָּסַע	תִּסָּע	she will travel
		תָּשָׂא	תִּשָּׂא	she will lift up
		תָּתַן	תִּתֵּן	she will give
Niph Pft	3ms	נָתַן	נִתְּנָן > נִתְּנָן	he/it was given
Niph Ptc	ms	נָתַן	נִתְּנָן > נִתְּנָן	given
Hiph Pft	3ms	הִגִּיד	הִתְּגַיד > הִתְּגַיד	he told
Hiph Impf	3ms	יִגִּיד	יִתְּגַיד > יִתְּגַיד	he will tell
Hiph WCI	3ms	וַיִּגֵּד	וַיִּתְּגַד > וַיִּתְּגַד	and he told
Hoph Pft	3ms	הֻגַד	הֻתְּגַד > הֻתְּגַד	he/it was told
Hoph Impf	3ms	יֻגַד	יֻתְּגַד > יֻתְּגַד	he/it will be told
Hoph WCI	3ms	וַיֻּגַד	וַיֻּתְּגַד > וַיֻּתְּגַד	and he/it was told

2. *Potential problems* in Qal Impv and Qal Infrc: apheresis of R1-nun. (See Ross 34.2.2 and 34.2.3.)

I-nun verbs in the Qal Impv and Qal Infrc can follow a strong pattern (like the strong verb פָּקַד) or a weak pattern.

2.1 STRONG PATTERN: Generally, if the I-nun verb has a Qal Impf form with theme-vowel *holem*, then the Qal Impv/Infrc follows the normal, strong pattern.

Qal Pft	3ms	פָּקַד	נָפַל	he fell
Qal Impf	3ms	יִפְקֹד	יִפֹּל	he will fall
Qal Impv	2ms	פָּקַד	נָפַל	fall!

Qal Inf                      פָּקַד                      נָפַל                      to fall/the act of falling

2.2 WEAK PATTERN: If the I-nun verb has a Qal Impf form with theme-vowel NON-*holem*, then the Qal Impv/Inf follows the weak pattern with APHERESIS of R1-nun. In apheresis, the R1-nun “falls into Sheol.” It goes missing completely and is not visible anywhere. Thus, the nun is not assimilated (otherwise we would see a DF); it is now AWOL! [Remember: this weak pattern occurs only in Q-Impv/Inf. Memorize the acronym **QIIC** and think, “Quick, get me a doctor ‘cause these verbs are sick!”]

2.2.1 Qal Impv: Start with Impf, and remove the NUTTY prefix (chop off the head!). Do not re-insert the R1-nun; let it fall into Sheol!

Root	Qal Impf 3ms	Qal Impv 2ms	
נָגַשׁ	יִגַּשׁ	יִגַּשׁ	(What would the Impv 2fs, 2mp, and 2fp look like?)

2.2.2 Qal Inf: Drop R1-nun, leave R2 and R3. Add at final tav (ת) after R3 (the bonus ת!!), and then apply a segolate vowel pattern to the letters where possible.

Root	Qal Impf 3ms	Qal Inf (add which vowels?)
נָגַשׁ	יִגַּשׁ	יִגַּשׁתַּ

Below is a chart with a sampling of I-nun forms.

Qal Pft 3ms	Gloss	Qal Impf 3ms	Impf theme vowel holem?	Qal Impv 2ms	Qal Impv 2ms (alt)	Qal Infc	Qal Infc + 3ms sfx
נָפַל	fall	יִפֹּל	yes	נָפַל	נִפְּלָה	נִפְּלוֹ	נִפְּלוּ
נִגַּשׁ	approach	יִגַּשׁ	no	גַּשׁ	גִּשָּׂה	גִּשָּׂת	גִּשָּׂתוּ
נָסַע	travel	יִסַּע	no	סַע	סָעָה	סָעַת	סָעַתוּ
נִשָּׂא	lift up	יִשָּׂא	no	שָׂא	שָׂאָה	שָׂאת שָׂאת נִשָּׂא	שָׂאתוּ נִשָּׂאוּ
נָתַן	give	יִתֵּן	no	תֵּן	תִּנְּה	תִּת	תִּתוּ

3. The verb לָקַח ('to take'): a verb with multiple personalities! This verb is clearly I-lamed, but it behaves in the Qal stem like it's I-nun! (It's normal in any other stem!)

Qal Pft	3ms	לָקַח	he took
Qal Impf	3ms	יִלְכֹּחַ	he will take
Qal Impv	2ms	לְכַח	take!
Qal Infc		לְכַחַת	to take/the act of taking