

CHAPTER FOUR

יחידה ארבע

IN THIS CHAPTER YOU WILL ACQUIRE:

- A conceptual framework for the wide range of grammatical structures you have been using in sentences you already know. These include:
 - a. Verb Classifications - בניינים - הפעיל, פיעל, פעל
 - b. Looking up verbs in the dictionary – צורת היסוד
 - c. Expressing “existence” and “possession” – היה/יש
 - d. Expressing the English concept “it” in Hebrew.
 - e. Action, איפה, מה
 - f. The ל of possession in past and present tense
 - g. Use of the ל with the indirect object.
- A considerably expanded vocabulary for description and narration.
- An understanding of some of the more subtle aspects of Hebrew articulation.

YOU WILL LEARN TO:

- Read and understand longer stories about events and experiences.
- Use phrases to react with surprise, indignation, and other emotions.
- Become familiar with the calendar – days and year.
- Study two poems. One by נתן זך and the other by the poet רחל
- Sing popular Israeli songs, one for young children and one for people of all ages.
- Appreciate the importance of hiking and "experiencing" the Land of Israel
- Master vocabulary to describe colors.



Use with the Software flashcard drills to learn the vocabulary for Chapter Four. Go to the “Main Menu” screen and choose “Flashcard Tools”. Then first choose #1 in the flashcard learning modules and do the decks for Chapter Four. Continue flashcard modules 2, 3 and 4 as you continue to master the vocabulary.



Be sure to print the Chapter Four Exercise Workbook containing all the exercises for Chapter Four which require written responses.

Use your printed booklet when you see this icon of a pencil.



4.1 דיקדוק: השורש, בניינים, צורת היסוד - SOME BASIC CONCEPTS

Most Hebrew words can be easily traced to a three-consonant root. For example, the verb "to write" is based on the root כתב. The vowels that we use to pronounce the word כתב are "variable". We change the vowels in order to indicate whether the tense is past, present, or future. We can also form *related nouns* from these same three letters by further changing the vowel patterns and by using a small number of letters (א, ה, מ, נ, ת,) that function as "noun makers". Although the new words may seem totally different to the beginning learner, the Hebrew speaker will instantly recognize that the derived words retain the notion of "writing," for example:



I write	אָנִי כוֹתֵב
script	כְּתָב
scriptures	כְּתוּבִים
a letter	מִיכְתָּב
a desk	מִכְתָּבָה
dictation	הַכְּתָבָה

After examining the list of words with the root כתב above, you see that in Hebrew the three consonant roots are used to create many additional words:

- 1) By using a particular sequence of vowels with the consonantal root and /or,
- 2) By the addition of a prefix, a suffix.

This way of creating words is true of all parts of speech —verbs, adverbs, adjectives, nouns.



4.1.1 הביניים - Verb Classification

Hebrew uses a classification system that groups all verbs according to the features that they share in common.

Hebrew verbs can be classified according to:

- 1) The pattern of their vowels, and
 - 2) Whether additional letters have been added to create the *dictionary form*.
- 1). For example כתב and למד consist of three root consonants with an /ah/ vowel after the first and second consonant. They are grouped in the same class.

- 2). But דִּיבֵּר has a *yood* inserted between the first and second root consonants and the vowel sequence is /ih/ /eh/. Therefore it is grouped in a different class along with the verbs that share those traits.

לָמַד דִּיבֵּר

Note the different vowel sequence and the added *yood* in דִּיבֵּר

The different classes, or patterns of verbs, are referred to as the **בִּינְיָנִים**. Each class is called a **בִּינְיָן**. Read on for more information about the **בִּינְיָנִים**

4.1.2 **בִּינְיָנִים** - "infix" and "prefixed"

Examine the vowel sequence for the three root letter consonants for these words:

כָּתַבְתִּי > "I wrote", דִּיבַרְתִּי > "I spoke" הִסְבַּרְתִּי > "I explained"

דִּיבַרְתִּי has a special vowel sequence and has a *yood* inserted following the first root letter. הִסְבַּרְתִּי has the letter *heh* prefixed to the root letters סבר. כָּתַבְתִּי has its unique vowel pattern but has no additional letters added. Each of these verb forms belongs to a separate "בִּינְיָן".

When we discuss the features of the different **בִּינְיָנִים** we will use the following terms for letters added to the three consonant root letters:

"**infix**" (embedded in the middle of the word). Example:

י (yood), (I hurried = מִיְהָרַתִּי, "I spoke" = דִּיבַרְתִּי)

prefixed (added to the beginning of a word). Example:

ה "I explained" = הִסְבַּרְתִּי

Please note that the verb form הִסְבַּרְתִּי is not written with a י to indicate the /ih/ vowel after the ה. You just have to learn to recognize the shape of each **בִּינְיָן** (verb group) and to read and pronounce it according to the pattern you have learned.



The same root but different shapes and patterns.

4.1.4 **בִּינְיָן פְּעַל, פִּיעַל, הִפְעִיל** - Naming the Binyanim

As you've seen above, verbs that share **the same number of consonants and the same sequence of vowels** can be said to have the same "shape" or "pattern". Every verb in the Hebrew language is grouped, according to its shape, together with other verbs that have a similar number of consonants and a similar vowel pattern. Those verbs are said to belong to the same **בִּינְיָן**. There are **seven** main **בִּינְיָנִים** in Hebrew.

- All of the following verbs have only three consonants and share the same vowel sequence;

he sat	יָשַׁב
he learned	לָמַד
he thought	חָשַׁב
he wrote	כָּתַב

They all belong to **פִּעַל-פְּעַלְתִּי**, the group which we shall call the **פִּעַל-פְּעַלְתִּי** group in order to include an example of the past tense pattern in the group name. (Ordinarily it is simply called **פִּעַל**)

- All of the following verbs have an additional infixed *yood* and the share the same vowel sequence;

he spoke	דִּיבַר
he composed	חִיבַר

They all belong to **פִּיעַל-פִּיעַלְתִּי**, the group which we shall call the **פִּיעַל-פִּיעַלְתִּי** group in order to include an example of the past tense pattern in the group name. (Ordinarily it is simply called **פִּיעַל**)

- All of the following verbs have the prefix ה, and an infixed *yood* and share the same vowel sequence;

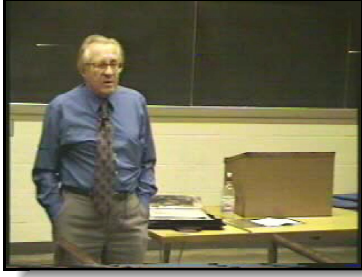
he began	הִתְחִיל
he agreed	הִסָּכִים

They all belong to **הִפְעִיל הִפְעִילְתִּי**, the group which we shall call the **הִפְעִיל-הִפְעִילְתִּי** group in order to include an example of the past tense pattern in the group name. (Ordinarily is is simply called **הִפְעִיל**)

After looking at the above examples you have probably already figured out the system for naming each **בִּינְיָן**.

1. Hebrew takes the letters פ - ע - ל and uses them to represent the three basic root letters.
2. It then gives these letters the appropriate vowel pattern and adds any additional consonants typical of the particular shape of the **בִּינְיָן** that the name of the **בִּינְיָן** describes.

The term, **בִּינְיָן**, meaning literally a "construction", is used to refer to the verbal pattern that a particular verb belongs to. This chapter will deal with three of the seven major **בִּינְיָנִים**.



הסברתי למורה שלי שאני כתבתי הרבה בכיתה
אבל לא דיברתי הרבה.

I explained to my teacher that I wrote a lot in
class but I didn't speak a lot.

4.1.6 פֶּעַל, פִּיעַל, הַפְּעִיל בזמן עבר - Past Tense



Use with the Software Chapter 4:1 "Identifying the Binyan: Past Tense"
and with the Software Chapter 4:2 "Finding Verbs in the Dictionary"

Why did we say above as we described each of the three verb patterns we are
studying now that the verb belongs to a specific **ביניין** "which *we* shall call ?

- To make these verbal forms easier to recognize, we have added a second name to the traditional designation for each of the verbal groups. Notice that in the "double name" used to represent a **ביניין**, the first name, (פֶּעַל) serves as a model (dictionary form) for the vowels for the 3rd person ("he") form of the verb, while the second word פִּיעַלְתִּי serves as a model for the vowels for the 1st person singular ("I").

<u>דוגמה</u>		<u>שם הביניין</u>
אני	הוא	
כתבתי	כתב	1. פֶּעַל - פִּיעַלְתִּי
דיברתי	דיבר	2. פִּיעַל - פִּיעַלְתִּי
הספמתי	הספמים	3. הַפְּעִיל - הַפְּעִילְתִּי

- In the illustration above, the left hand column (דוגמה) provides an example of a verb for each the three patterns.



4.1.7 פִּיעַל - פִּיעַלְתִּי

Looking and Listening for Verbal Shapes

The verbs חיפשתי and דיברתי, טיילתי, מיהרתי all belong to the same **ביניין** or group - פִּיעַל - פִּיעַלְתִּי. How can this group be recognized? All of the verbs in this pattern have a *yood* between the first and second root letters and the vowel sequence in the *dictionary form* is the same for each: /ih/ /eh/.

חיפש דיבר טייל מיהר

Even if we wrote these four verbs without the ניקוד, we would still be able to recognize them as belonging to the פִּיעַל-פְּלִעְלִיתִי group because of the ם (yood) that is inserted between the first two root letters.

Similarly, when we *hear* Hebrew spoken, we will quickly learn to pay attention to the difference between למדתי, a פעל verb, "I learned" - and לימדתי, "I taught", a פִּיעַל verb. *This last example is a good illustration of something we will frequently encounter: The same root letters can be used in more than one בניין to create different (though related) verbs!* This makes it easy to acquire a large vocabulary base in Hebrew.

The prefixed ה in the verb הסכמתי, plus its vowel pattern, will clue us in to the fact that this verb belongs to the הפעיל - הפעלתִי group.

Verbs that belong to the same בניין have a remarkably consistent vowel pattern. The high predictability of the verb patterns will make the verbal conjugations rather easy to master.

(At this point in our study we are interested solely in the shape and vowel patterns of these three groups and not in any other functional features which might be typical of a בניין.)



יואב: הלכתי לספר להסתפר. הוא סיפר לי סיפור על איש שלא ידע לספור.

Yoav: I went to the barber to get a haircut. He told me a story about a man who didn't know how to count.

WARNING! Hebrew Grammar CAN BECOME ADDICTIVE!

The Surgeon General has indicated that the Hebrew verb system of is capable of exercising such a fascination on students that it can take over their minds completely--driving all else from their thoughts.... moderation and caution are urged!

