

Chapter 24 — "Spot the Niphal" Passage Exercise

Genesis 37, 44, 45, 47, 49 · The Joseph Narrative

Most highlighted verbs are Niphal forms. For each one, first answer Is it Niphal? (Yes / No). If Yes: parse conjugation, PGN, and root, then state the semantic function (Passive / Reflexive / Simple Action). If No: identify the correct stem and parse fully. Three verbs in this exercise are not Niphal — drawn from Qal already studied. Answer key begins on the page marked "Answer Key".

Passage A — Genesis 37:7, 36

37:7

וְהִנֵּה קִמָּה אֶלְמָתִי וְגַם נֹצֵבָה

"and behold, my sheaf [1] ____ and [2] ____."

#	Verb	Conjugation	PGN	Root	Function
1	קִמָּה				
2	נֹצֵבָה				

37:36

וְהַמִּדְיָנִים מָכְרוּ אֹתוֹ ... וַיִּמָּכֶר יוֹסֵף אֶל-מִצְרַיִם

"Now the Midianites [3] ____ him ... and Joseph [4] ____ into Egypt."

#	Verb	Conjugation	PGN	Root	Function
3	מָכְרוּ				
4	וַיִּמָּכֶר				

Passage B — Genesis 44:9–20

44:9

אֲשֶׁר יִמָּצָא אֹתוֹ מֵעַבְדֶּיךָ וּמָת

"With whichever of your servants [5] ____ [the cup] shall die."

#	Verb	Conjugation	PGN	Root	Function
5	יִמָּצָא				

44:12

וַיִּמָּצָא הַגִּבִּיעַ בְּאִמְתַּחַת בְּנִימִן

"And the cup [6] ____ in Benjamin's sack."

#	Verb	Conjugation	PGN	Root	Function
6	וַיִּמָּצָא				

44:20

יֵשׁ לָנוּ אָב זָקֵן וַיֵּלֶד זָקָנִים קָטָן וְאָחִיו מֵת וַיֵּיתֶר הוּא

"We have an aged father ... his brother is dead, and he alone [7] ____."

#	Verb	Conjugation	PGN	Root	Function
7	וַיִּזְתֶּר				

Passage C — Genesis 45:1, 16

45:1

וְלֹא־יָכַל יוֹסֵף לְהִתְאַפֵּק לְכָל הַנֹּצְבִים עָלָיו

"Joseph [8] _____ no longer control himself before all those [9] _____ near him."

#	Verb	Conjugation	PGN	Root	Function
8	יָכַל				
9	הַנֹּצְבִים				

45:16

וַהֲקִיל נִשְׁמָע בֵּית פַּרְעֹה לֵאמֹר בָּאוּ אֶחָיו־יוֹסֵף

"And the report [10] _____ in Pharaoh's household, 'Joseph's brothers have come.'"

#	Verb	Conjugation	PGN	Root	Function
10	נִשְׁמָע				

Passage D — Genesis 47:14, 31

47:14

וַיִּלְקֹט יוֹסֵף אֶת־כָּל־הַכֶּסֶף הַנִּמְצָא בְּאֶרֶץ־מִצְרַיִם

"And Joseph collected all the silver [11] _____ in the land of Egypt."

#	Verb	Conjugation	PGN	Root	Function
11	הַנִּמְצָא				

47:31

הַשְּׁבָעָה לִי וַיִּשְׁבַּע לוֹ

"[12] _____ to me." And he [13] _____ to him."

#	Verb	Conjugation	PGN	Root	Function
12	הַשְּׁבָעָה				
13	וַיִּשְׁבַּע				

Passage E — Genesis 49:1, 29, 33

49:1

הָאֶסְפוּ וְאֶגִּידָה לָכֶם

"[14] _____ and I will tell you."

#	Verb	Conjugation	PGN	Root	Function
14	הֶאָסַפְנִי				

49:29

אֲנִי נֹאסֵף אֶל-עַמִּי

"I am [15] _____ to my people."

#	Verb	Conjugation	PGN	Root	Function
15	נֹאסֵף				

49:33

וַיֹּאסֶף אֶל-עַמּוֹ

"and he was [16] _____ to his people."

#	Verb	Conjugation	PGN	Root	Function
16	וַיֹּאסֶף				

Bonus — Exodus 19:12

19:12

וְהִשְׁמַרְתֶּם ... הַשְּׁמֶרָה לָכֶם

"And you shall [B1] _____ ... [B2] _____ for yourselves."

#	Verb	Conjugation	PGN	Root	Function
B1	וְהִשְׁמַרְתֶּם				
B2	הַשְּׁמֶרָה				

Items 15–16 (הֶאָסַפְנִי / נֹאסֵף) are both from אָסַף — the euphemism "gathered to one's people" means death. Items 12–13 both parse as Reflexive from אָסַף — notice Imperative followed by Wayyiqtol in the same verse (Gen 47:31).

Score: 13 Niphal + 3 non-Niphal + 2 bonus = 18 total. 15–18 = excellent | 11–14 = review the paradigm | below 11 = revisit §24.3

Conjugation Coverage

Conjugation	Verbs
Wayyiqtol (5)	#4, #6, #7, #13, #16
Participle (3)	#9, #11, #15
Imperfect (1)	#5
Perfect (2)	#2, #10
Imperative (3)	#12, #14, B2
Weqatal (1)	B1
Non-Niphal (3)	#1 (Qal Perf 3fs), #3 (Qal Perf 3cp), #8 (Qal Perf 3ms)

Reflection Questions

1. Several Niphal forms of ■■■■■ in this passage describe Jacob's death (Gen 49:29, 33). What does the passive "to be gathered to one's people" suggest about ancient Israelite views of death?
2. In Gen 47:31, both ■■■■■■■■■■■■ (imperative) and ■■■■■■■■■■■■ (wayyiqtol) appear together. How does the narrative sequence reinforce the solemnity of Jacob's deathbed request?
3. Compare ■■■■■■■■■■ in Gen 37:7 (Reflexive — sheaf stands itself upright) with ■■■■■■■■■■■■ in Gen 45:1 (Reflexive participle — servants stationed before Joseph). Is the reflexive force the same in both? What does each communicate about agency?

Answer Key

Passages with correct answers shown in the green row below each verb.

Passage A — Genesis 37:7, 36

37:7

וְהִנֵּה קִמָּה אֶלְמָתִי וְגַם נִצָּבָה

"and behold, my sheaf [1] ____ and [2] ____."

#	Verb	Conjugation	PGN	Root	Function
1	קִמָּה	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> see ↓
✓	קִמָּה	Perfect	3fs	קוּם	NOT Niphal — Qal: she/it arose (no ■-
2	נִצָּבָה	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> see ↓
✓	נִצָּבָה	Perfect	3fs	נָצַב	Reflexive — it stood upright (stationed)

37:36

וְהַמִּדְיָנִים מָכְרוּ אֹתוֹ ... וַיִּמָּכֶר יוֹסֵף אֶל-מִצְרַיִם

"Now the Midianites [3] ____ him ... and Joseph [4] ____ into Egypt."

#	Verb	Conjugation	PGN	Root	Function
3	מָכְרוּ	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> see ↓
✓	מָכְרוּ	Perfect	3cp	מָכַר	NOT Niphal — Qal: they sold; no ■■-
4	וַיִּמָּכֶר	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> see ↓
✓	וַיִּמָּכֶר	Wayyiqtol	3ms	מָכַר	Passive — he was sold

Passage B — Genesis 44:9–20

44:9

אֲשֶׁר יִמָּצֵא אֹתוֹ מִעֶבְדֶּיךָ וּמֵת

"With whichever of your servants [5] ____ [the cup] shall die."

#	Verb	Conjugation	PGN	Root	Function
5	יִמָּצֵא	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> see ↓
✓	יִמָּצֵא	Imperfect	3ms	מָצָא	Passive — is found

44:12

וַיִּמָּצֵא הַגִּבִּיעַ בְּאֶמְתַּחַת בְּנִימִן

"And the cup [6] ____ in Benjamin's sack."

#	Verb	Conjugation	PGN	Root	Function
6	וַיִּמָּצֵא	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> see ↓
✓	וַיִּמָּצֵא	Wayyiqtol	3ms	מָצָא	Passive — was found

44:20

יש לנו אב זקן וילד זקנים קטן ואחיו מת ויותר הוא

"We have an aged father ... his brother is dead, and he alone [7] ____."

#	Verb	Conjugation	PGN	Root	Function
7	וְיָתַר	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> see ↓
✓	וְיָתַר	Wayyiqtol	3ms	יָתַר	Passive/Middle — was left, remained

Passage C — Genesis 45:1, 16

45:1

וְלֹא יָכַל יוֹסֵף לְהִתְאַפֵּק לְכָל הַנֹּצְבִים עָלָיו

"Joseph [8] ____ no longer control himself before all those [9] ____ near him."

#	Verb	Conjugation	PGN	Root	Function
8	יָכַל	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> see ↓
✓	יָכַל	Perfect	3ms	יָכַל	NOT Niphal — Qal: he was able;
9	הַנֹּצְבִים	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> see ↓
✓	הַנֹּצְבִים	Participle	mp	נָצַב	Reflexive — those standing (stationed)

45:16

וְהַקֵּל נִשְׁמַע בֵּית פַּרְעֹה לֵאמֹר בָּאוּ אֶחָיו־יוֹסֵף

"And the report [10] ____ in Pharaoh's household, 'Joseph's brothers have come.'"

#	Verb	Conjugation	PGN	Root	Function
10	נִשְׁמַע	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> see ↓
✓	נִשְׁמַע	Perfect	3ms	שָׁמַע	Passive — was heard

Passage D — Genesis 47:14, 31

47:14

וַיִּלְקֹט יוֹסֵף אֶת־כָּל־הַכֶּסֶף הַנִּמְצָא בְּאֶרֶץ־מִצְרַיִם

"And Joseph collected all the silver [11] ____ in the land of Egypt."

#	Verb	Conjugation	PGN	Root	Function
11	הַנִּמְצָא	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> see ↓
✓	הַנִּמְצָא	Participle	ms	נָצַח	Passive — that was found

47:31

הַשְׁבְּעָה לִי וַיִּשָּׁבַע לוֹ

"[12] ____ to me." And he [13] ____ to him."

#	Verb	Conjugation	PGN	Root	Function
12	הִשָּׁבְעָה	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> see ↓
✓	הִשָּׁבְעָה	Imperative	2ms	שָׁבַע	Reflexive — swear! (bind yourself by
13	וַיִּשָּׁבַע	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> see ↓
✓	וַיִּשָּׁבַע	Wayyiqtol	3ms	שָׁבַע	Reflexive — he swore (bound himself by

Passage E — Genesis 49:1, 29, 33

49:1

הָאֲסָפוּ וְאֶגִּידָה לָכֶם

"[14] _____ and I will tell you."

#	Verb	Conjugation	PGN	Root	Function
14	הָאֲסָפוּ	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> see ↓
✓	הָאֲסָפוּ	Imperative	2mp	אָסַף	Passive — gather yourselves!

49:29

אֲנִי נֹאסֵף אֶל-עַמִּי

"I am [15] _____ to my people."

#	Verb	Conjugation	PGN	Root	Function
15	נֹאסֵף	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> see ↓
✓	נֹאסֵף	Participle	ms	אָסַף	Passive — am about to be gathered

49:33

וַיִּאָסֶף אֶל-עַמּוּוֹ

"and he was [16] _____ to his people."

#	Verb	Conjugation	PGN	Root	Function
16	וַיִּאָסֶף	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> see ↓
✓	וַיִּאָסֶף	Wayyiqtol	3ms	אָסַף	Passive — was gathered (died)

Bonus — Exodus 19:12

19:12

וְהִשְׁמַרְתֶּם ... הַשְּׁמִירָו לָכֶם

"And you shall [B1] _____ ... [B2] _____ for yourselves."

#	Verb	Conjugation	PGN	Root	Function
B1	וְהִשְׁמַרְתֶּם	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> see ↓
✓	וְהִשְׁמַרְתֶּם	Weqatal	2mp	שָׁמַר	Reflexive — take heed for yourselves
B2	הִשְׁמְרוּ	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> see ↓
✓	הִשְׁמְרוּ	Imperative	2mp	שָׁמַר	Reflexive — take heed! (guard

Items 15–16 (/) are both from — the euphemism "gathered to one's people" means death. Items 12–13 both parse as Reflexive from — notice Imperative followed by Wayyiqtol in the same verse (Gen 47:31).

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Perfect (2)	#2, #10
Imperative (3)	#12, #14, B2
Weqatal (1)	B1
Non-Niphal (3)	#1 (Qal Perf 3fs), #3 (Qal Perf 3cp), #8 (Qal Perf 3ms)