

Chapter 25 — "Spot the Niphal" Passage Exercise

Genesis 3, 6, and 21 · The Garden, the Flood Prelude, and Beersheba

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 / Middle / 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 3:5–10

3:5

וְהָיִיתֶם כְּאֱלֹהִים יֹדְעֵי טוֹב וָרָע כִּי יָדַע אֱלֹהִים כִּי בַיּוֹם אֲכָלְכֶם מִמֶּנּוּ וּנְפָקְחָן עֵינֵיכֶם

"...for God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will [1] ____."

#	Verb	Conjugation	PGN	Root	Function
1	וּנְפָקְחָן	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

3:6

וַתֵּרָא הָאִשָּׁה כִּי טוֹב הָעֵץ ... וַנְּחַמֵּד הָעֵץ לְהַשְׁכִּיל

"So when the woman [2] ____ that the tree was good ... and the tree was [3] ____ to make one wise."

#	Verb	Conjugation	PGN	Root	Function
2	וַתֵּרָא	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
3	וַנְּחַמֵּד	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

3:7

וַתִּפְקְחֶנָּה עֵינֵי שְׁנֵיהֶם

"Then the eyes of both of them [4] ____."

#	Verb	Conjugation	PGN	Root	Function
4	וַתִּפְקְחֶנָּה	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

3:10

וַאֲרָא כִּי־עֵרָם אֲנִי וְאֶחָבָא

"I was afraid, because I was naked, and [5] ____."

#	Verb	Conjugation	PGN	Root	Function
5	וְאֶחָבָא	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Passage B — Genesis 6:6–12

6:6

וַיִּנָּחַם יְהוָה כִּי־עָשָׂה אֶת־הָאָדָם בָּאָרֶץ

"And the LORD [6] ____ that he [7] ____ man on the earth."

#	Verb	Conjugation	PGN	Root	Function
6	וַיַּנְחֵם	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
7	עָשָׂה	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

6:7

נִחַמְתִּי כִּי עָשִׂיתֶם

"I [8] ____ that I made them."

#	Verb	Conjugation	PGN	Root	Function
8	נִחַמְתִּי	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

6:11

וַתִּשְׁחַת הָאָרֶץ ... וַתִּמְלֵא הָאָרֶץ חָמָס

"The earth [9] ____ ... and the earth [10] ____ with violence."

#	Verb	Conjugation	PGN	Root	Function
9	וַתִּשְׁחַת	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
10	וַתִּמְלֵא	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

6:12

וַהֲנֵה נִשְׁחָתָה כִּי־הִשְׁחִית כָּל־בָּשָׂר

"and behold, it [11] ____, for all flesh had corrupted its way."

#	Verb	Conjugation	PGN	Root	Function
11	נִשְׁחָתָה	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

6:21

וַיְהִי לָהֶם לְאֹכֶל וּלְאֹכֶלָּה יֵאָכֵל

"it shall be food for you and for them — it shall [12] ____."

#	Verb	Conjugation	PGN	Root	Function
12	יֵאָכֵל	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Passage C — Genesis 21:23–31

21:23

הַשְּׂבָעָה לִּי בְּאֵלֵהֶם הִנֵּה

"[13] ____ to me by God here."

#	Verb	Conjugation	PGN	Root	Function
13	הַשְּׂבָעָה	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

21:24

וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְרָהָם אֲנֹכִי אֲשָׁבַע

"And Abraham said, 'I [14] ____.'"

#	Verb	Conjugation	PGN	Root	Function
14	אָשַׁבַּע				

21:31

כִּי שָׁם נִשְׁבַּעַן שְׁנֵיהֶם

"For there [15] ____ both of them."

#	Verb	Conjugation	PGN	Root	Function
15	נִשְׁבַּעַן				

Bonus — Genesis 21:3, 21:8

21:3

אֲשֶׁר-נִוְלַד-לּוֹ

"who had been born to him"

21:8

וַיִּגְדֵּל הַיֶּלֶד וַיִּגְמַל

"And the child [16] ____ and was weaned."

#	Verb	Conjugation	PGN	Root	Function
B1	נִוְלַד				
16	וַיִּגְדֵּל				
B2	וַיִּגְמַל				

Items 6–8 (/) are both from , a verb that occurs almost exclusively in the Niphal. Items 13–15 all parse as Reflexive from — notice how Imperative, Imperfect, and Weqatal all express the same oath-swearing action.

Score: 13 Niphal + 3 non-Niphal + 2 bonus = 18 total. 15–18 = excellent | 11–14 = review the paradigm | below 11 = revisit §23.3

Conjugation Coverage

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

Reflection Questions

- Every Niphal in Passage A (Gen 3) involves eyes, hiding, or desire. What does the Niphal contribute to the theological message of the Fall narrative?
- In Gen 6:6–7, God is the subject of a Niphal-only verb (). What does this choice tell us about how the narrator portrays God's emotional response?

3. Compare Gen 3:5 (■■■■■■■■■■ — "will be opened," Middle/Tolerative) with Gen 3:7 (■■■■■■■■■■ — "were opened," Middle). Is the function identical in both? What difference in nuance, if any, does the shift from weqatal to wayyiqtol suggest?

Answer Key

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

Passage A — Genesis 3:5–10

3:5

וַיֵּיתֶם לְאֱלֹהִים יָדַעַי טוֹב וְרָע כִּי יָדַע אֱלֹהִים כִּי בַיּוֹם אֲכַלְכֶּם מִמֶּנּוּ וְנִפְקְחוּ עֵינֵיכֶם

"...for God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will [1] ____."

#	Verb	Conjugation	PGN	Root	Function
1	וְנִפְקְחוּ	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> see ↓
✓	וְנִפְקְחוּ	Weqatal	3cp	פִּקַּח	Middle — will be opened

3:6

וַתֵּרָא הָאִשָּׁה כִּי טוֹב הָעֵץ ... וְנִחְמַד הָעֵץ לַהֲשִׁכִּיל

"So when the woman [2] ____ that the tree was good ... and the tree was [3] ____ to make one wise."

#	Verb	Conjugation	PGN	Root	Function
2	וַתֵּרָא	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> see ↓
✓	וַתֵּרָא	Wayyiqtol	3fs	רָאָה	NOT Niphal — Qal: and she saw; III-■
3	וְנִחְמַד	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> see ↓
✓	וְנִחְמַד	Participle ms	ms	חָמַד	Passive — desirable (substantival ptc.)

3:7

וַתִּפְקְחוּנָה עֵינֵי שְׁנֵיהֶם

"Then the eyes of both of them [4] ____."

#	Verb	Conjugation	PGN	Root	Function
4	וַתִּפְקְחוּנָה	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> see ↓
✓	וַתִּפְקְחוּנָה	Wayyiqtol	3fp	פִּקַּח	Middle — they were opened

3:10

וַאֲרָא כִּי־עֵרָם אֲנִכִּי וַאֲחָבָא

"I was afraid, because I was naked, and [5] ____."

#	Verb	Conjugation	PGN	Root	Function
5	וַאֲחָבָא	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> see ↓
✓	וַאֲחָבָא	Wayyiqtol	1cs	חָבָא	Reflexive — I hid myself

Passage B — Genesis 6:6–12

6:6

וַיִּנָּחַם יְהוָה כִּי־עָשָׂה אֶת־הָאָדָם בָּאָרֶץ

"And the LORD [6] ____ that he [7] ____ man on the earth."

#	Verb	Conjugation	PGN	Root	Function
6	וַיִּנְחֹם	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> see ↓
✓	וַיִּנְחֹם	Wayyiqtol	3ms	נחם	Simple Action (Niphal-only) — relented
7	עָשָׂה	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> see ↓
✓	עָשָׂה	Perfect	3ms	עשה	NOT Niphal — Qal: he made/did; III-■

6:7

נִחַמְתִּי כִּי עָשִׂיתֶם

"I [8] ____ that I made them."

#	Verb	Conjugation	PGN	Root	Function
8	נִחַמְתִּי	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> see ↓
✓	נִחַמְתִּי	Weqatal	1cs	נחם	Simple Action (Niphal-only) — I regret

6:11

וַתִּשְׁחַת הָאָרֶץ ... וַתִּמְלֵא הָאָרֶץ חֲמָס

"The earth [9] ____ ... and the earth [10] ____ with violence."

#	Verb	Conjugation	PGN	Root	Function
9	וַתִּשְׁחַת	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> see ↓
✓	וַתִּשְׁחַת	Wayyiqtol	3fs	שחח	Passive — it was corrupted
10	וַתִּמְלֵא	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> see ↓
✓	וַתִּמְלֵא	Wayyiqtol	3fs	מלא	Passive — it was filled

6:12

וַהֲבֵינָה נִשְׁחָתָה כִּי־הִשְׁחִית כָּל־בָּשָׂר

"and behold, it [11] ____, for all flesh had corrupted its way."

#	Verb	Conjugation	PGN	Root	Function
11	נִשְׁחָתָה	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> see ↓
✓	נִשְׁחָתָה	Weqatal	3fs	שחח	Passive — it was corrupt

6:21

וְהָיָה לָרֶגֶל וּלְהֶם לְאֹכֶלָה יֵאָכֵל

"it shall be food for you and for them — it shall [12] ____."

#	Verb	Conjugation	PGN	Root	Function
12	יֵאָכֵל	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> see ↓
✓	יֵאָכֵל	Imperfect	3ms	אכל	Passive — it shall be eaten

Passage C — Genesis 21:23–31

21:23

הַשְׁבַּעָה לִי בְּאֵלֵהֶם הֵנָּה

"[13] ____ to me by God here."

#	Verb	Conjugation	PGN	Root	Function
13	הַשְׁבַּעָה	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> see ↓
✓	הַשְׁבַּעָה	Imperative	2ms	שָׁבַע	Reflexive — Swear! (bind yourself by

21:24

וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְרָהָם אֲנֹכִי אֶשְׁבַּע

"And Abraham said, 'I [14] ____.'"

#	Verb	Conjugation	PGN	Root	Function
14	אֶשְׁבַּע	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> see ↓
✓	אֶשְׁבַּע	Imperfect	1cs	שָׁבַע	Reflexive — I will swear

21:31

כִּי שָׁם נִשְׁבָּעוּ שְׁנֵיהֶם

"For there [15] ____ both of them."

#	Verb	Conjugation	PGN	Root	Function
15	נִשְׁבָּעוּ	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> see ↓
✓	נִשְׁבָּעוּ	Weqatal	3mp	שָׁבַע	Reflexive — they swore (bound

Bonus — Genesis 21:3, 21:8

21:3

אֲשֶׁר-נִוְלַד-לּוֹ

"who had been born to him"

21:8

וַיִּגְדַּל הַיֶּלֶד וַיִּגְמַל

"And the child [16] ____ and was weaned."

#	Verb	Conjugation	PGN	Root	Function
B1	נִוְלַד	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> see ↓
✓	נִוְלַד	Weqatal	3ms	וָלַד	Passive — who had been born
16	וַיִּגְדַּל	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> see ↓
✓	וַיִּגְדַּל	Wayyiqtol	3ms	גָּדַל	NOT Niphal — Qal: and he grew; plain
B2	וַיִּגְמַל	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> see ↓
✓	וַיִּגְמַל	Wayyiqtol	3ms	גָּמַל	Passive — was weaned

Items 6–8 (■■■■■■■■■■ / ■■■■■■■■■■) are both from ■■■■■■, a verb that occurs almost exclusively in the Niphal. Items 13–15 all parse as Reflexive from ■■■■■■ — notice how Imperative, Imperfect, and Weqatal all express the same oath-swearing action.

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Imperfect (2)	#12, #14
Participle (1)	#3
Imperative (1)	#13
Non-Niphal (3)	#2 (Qal Wayyiqtol 3fs), #7 (Qal Perfect 3ms), #16 (Qal Wayyiqtol 3ms)