

Chapter 27 — Biconsonantal / Geminate Disambiguation Drill

BBH Chapters 25 & 27 · Niphal and Hiphil Weak Verbs

For each form: (1) identify the stem (Niphal or Hiphil); (2) parse — conjugation, PGN; (3) identify the weak class (Biconsonantal or Geminate); (4) give the root and translate. Biconsonantal and Geminate forms are vocally identical — root knowledge is required. Answer key is on the last page.

Biconsonantal (II-**■**/**■**): medial vowel letter **■** or **■** retained in stem (e.g. **■****■****■****■**, **■****■****■****■****■**, **■****■****■****■****■**). Geminate (R2=R3): same consonant at R2 and R3; no medial vowel letter (e.g. **■****■****■****■**, **■****■****■****■****■**). Both classes share: Niphal perfect **■****■** (qamets); Hiphil perfect **■****■** (tsere); Hiphil imperfect **■****■** (qamets); Hiphil imperative **■****■** (qamets); Hiphil participle **■****■** (tsere).

Part A — Niphal: Biconsonantal vs. Geminate

All forms are Niphal. Identify whether each is Biconsonantal (medial **■**/**■**) or Geminate (R2=R3). The prefix vowel pattern (**■****■** in perfect; **■****■** in imperfect) is identical for both classes.

#	Form	Ref	Context	Stem	Conjugation	PGN	Class	Root
1	נָכַן	Gen 41:32	"the thing is ____ by God"					
2	נָסַב	1 Kgs 7:24	"the gourds ____ it, ten to a					
3	יָכַן	Psa 93:2	"your throne ____ from of old"					
4	יָסַב	Num 21:4	"they traveled ____ Mount Edom"					
5	הִכֵּן	Psa 57:8	"my heart is ____, O God"					
6	הִסַּב	Num 34:4	"your border ____ from the					
7	נִשְׁאָב	Lam 3:40	"let us examine and ____ to the					
8	נָתַם	1 Sam 3:12	"when I ____ what I have					

Part B — Hiphil: Biconsonantal vs. Geminate

All forms are Hiphil. Hiphil prefix patterns: **■****■** (perfect) · **■****■** (imperfect) · **■****■** (imperative) · **■****■** (participle). These are identical for Biconsonantal and Geminate — root knowledge is the only distinguisher.

#	Form	Ref	Context	Stem	Conjugation	PGN	Class	Root
9	הִקֵּים	Gen 6:18	"I will ____ my covenant with					
10	הִסַּב	2 Sam 2:22	"____ from following me"					
11	יִקִּים	Deut 18:15	"the LORD will ____ a prophet"					
12	יָסַב	Ecdl 1:6	"the wind ____ to the south"					
13	הִקֵּם	Deut 27:26	"____ the words of this law"					
14	הִסַּב	2 Sam 2:22	"____ from following me"					
15	מִקֵּים	1 Sam 2:8	"He ____ the poor from the dust"					
16	מָסַב	Ezek 41:7	"the structure ____ upward"					

Part C — Mixed: Stem and Class Both Unknown

Identify both the stem (Niphal/Hiphal/Qal/Hophal) and the class. Part C includes Qal and Hophal forms as distractors — not every Biconsonantal form is Niphal or Hiphal.

#	Form	Ref	Context	Stem	Conjugation	PGN	Class	Root
17	בָּמוֹג	Isa 14:31	"all Philistia ____"					
18	הִמָּס	Josh 2:11	"the LORD ____ our hearts"					
19	יָרָם	Isa 52:13	"my servant shall be high and					
20	יָרַם	Psa 99:2	"great is the LORD, ____ above					
21	הִרָּיִם	Gen 14:22	"I have ____ my hand to the					
22	הוֹרָם	Lev 4:10	"just as it is ____ from the peace					
23	יָשׁוּב	Hos 14:8	"they ____ in the shade"					
24	יִשָּׁב	Lam 1:11	"all her people ____ to find					

Reflection Questions

- Items 1 (בָּמוֹג) and 2 (הִמָּס) have the same בָּ prefix. What is the only reliable way to identify בָּמוֹג as Biconsonantal (root בָּמָג) and הִמָּס as Geminate (root בָּמָם)?
- Items 9 (יָרָם) and 10 (יָרַם) both have יָ prefix (tsere). One retains a medial vowel letter; the other shows a contracted stem. Describe precisely what the medial position of each form looks like and how that reflects the root structure.
- Items 11 (הִרָּיִם) and 12 (הוֹרָם) are both Hiphal imperfect 3ms. You encounter an unknown form יָשׁוּב. What question must you ask to determine if it is Biconsonantal or Geminate?
- Items 19 (יָרָם) and 21 (יָרַם) come from the same root (יָרָם) but differ in stem. What vowel under R2 distinguishes the Niphal imperfect from the Hiphal perfect?
- Item 22 (הוֹרָם) was classified as Hophal. How does the Hophal Biconsonantal prefix (הוֹ) differ from Niphal (נִ) and Hiphal (הִ), and what does it tell you about the semantics?

Answer Key

#	Form	Stem	Answer
1	נָכֵן	Niphal	Perfect/Ptc · 3ms/ms · Biconsonantal · ■■■■■ — "is established / firm" — ■■ prefix (qamets); medial ■
2	נָסַב	Niphal	Perfect · 3ms · Geminate · ■■■■■ — "encircled / went around" — ■■ prefix (qamets); R2=R3=■ =
3	יִנְכֵן	Niphal	Imperfect · 3ms · Biconsonantal · ■■■■■ — "is established" — ■■ + dagesh in ■■ + holem-vav = Niphal
4	יִסַּב	Niphal	Imperfect · 3ms · Geminate · ■■■■■ — "went around" — ■■ + dagesh in ■■ (R2=R3 doubled) + holem
5	הִכָּן	Niphal	Perfect · 3ms · Biconsonantal · ■■■■■ — "is ready / prepared" — ■■ + dagesh + holem-vav = Niphal
6	הִסַּב	Niphal	Perfect · 3ms · Geminate · ■■■■■ — "turned / went around" — ■■ + dagesh in ■■ (R2=R3) + holem =
7	נָשׁוּב	Niphal	Cohortative · 1cp · Biconsonantal · ■■■■■ — "let us return" — ■■ prefix + medial ■ = Niphal
8	נִתָּם	Niphal	Inf. Const. · — · Geminate · ■■■■■ — "to be completed / finished" — ■■ prefix + holem = Niphal
9	הִקָּים	Hiphil	Perfect · 3ms · Biconsonantal · ■■■■ — "established / raised up" — ■■ prefix (tsere) = Hiphil; medial ■
10	הִסַּב	Hiphil	Perfect · 3ms · Geminate · ■■■■■ — "turned aside" — ■■ prefix (tsere) = Hiphil; no medial vowel letter,
11	יִקָּים	Hiphil	Imperfect · 3ms · Biconsonantal · ■■■■ — "will raise up" — ■■ prefix (qamets) = Hiphil Biconsonantal
12	יִסַּב	Hiphil	Imperfect · 3ms · Geminate · ■■■■■ — "causes to go around / turns" — ■■ prefix (qamets) = Hiphil; no
13	הִקָּם	Hiphil	Imperative · 2ms · Biconsonantal · ■■■■ — "raise up! / confirm!" — ■■ prefix (qamets) = Hiphil
14	הִסַּב	Hiphil	Imperative · 2ms · Geminate · ■■■■■ — "turn aside!" — ■■ prefix (qamets) = Hiphil imperative; same
15	מִקָּים	Hiphil	Participle · ms · Biconsonantal · ■■■■ — "one who raises up" — ■■ prefix (tsere) = Hiphil participle;
16	מִסַּב	Hiphil	Participle · ms · Geminate · ■■■■■ — "going around / surrounding" — ■■ prefix (tsere) = Hiphil
17	נִמְּוָה	Niphal	Perfect · 3ms · Biconsonantal · ■■■■ — "melted / dissolved" — ■■ prefix + medial ■ = Niphal
18	הִמָּס	Hiphil	Perfect · 3ms · Geminate · ■■■■ — "caused to melt" — ■■ prefix (tsere) = Hiphil; R2=R3=■ = Geminate;
19	יִרָם	Niphal	Imperfect · 3ms · Biconsonantal · ■■■■ — "will be exalted / lifted up" — ■■ prefix + qibbutz under R2
20	יִרָם	Niphal	Imperfect · 3ms · Biconsonantal · ■■■■ — "is exalted / high" — ■■ prefix + holem under R2 = Niphal
21	הִרָם	Hiphil	Perfect · 3ms · Biconsonantal · ■■■■ — "lifted up / swore an oath" — ■■ prefix (tsere) + chiriq-yod =
22	הוּרָם	Hophal	Perfect · 3ms · Biconsonantal · ■■■■ — "was lifted off / removed" — ■■■ prefix (holem-vav) = Hophal
23	יִשׁוּב	Qal	Imperfect · 3ms · Biconsonantal · ■■■■■ — "will dwell / return" — Qal Biconsonantal — no Niphal ■ or
24	יִשַּׁב	Qal	Imperfect · 3ms · Biconsonantal · ■■■■■ — "returned / went around" — Qal Biconsonantal; holem vowel