

Chapter 27 — Niphal–Hiphil Contrast 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) give the root and weak class; (4) translate in context. Answer key is on the last page.

Niphal markers: **■** prefix (perfect/participle); **■** / **■** (imperfect/wayyiqtol — assimilation); **■** (I-**■** perfect/ptc); **■** (I-**■** imperfect); **■** (Biconsonantal perfect/ptc). Hiphil markers: **■** prefix (perfect); **■** (imperfect); **■** (imperative/inf.); **■** (participle) — modified for weak classes: **■** (I-gutt.), **■** / **■** / **■** (I-**■**), **■** / **■** / **■** (Biconsonantal/Geminate).

Part A — Contrasting Niphal and Hiphil (same root)

Niphal = passive/reflexive. Hiphil = causative. Same root, opposite semantic direction.

#	Form	Ref	Context	Stem	Conjugation	PGN	Root / Class
1	נִשְׁמַע	Est 1:20	"the decree ___ throughout the				
2	הִשְׁמִיעַ	Isa 48:6	"I ___ you new things"				
3	יִמָּצֵא	Gen 44:10	"he with whom it is ___ shall be my				
4	הִמְצִיא	Neh 9:15	"You ___ them bread from heaven"				
5	נִגְלָה	Isa 40:5	"the glory of the LORD shall ___"				
6	הִעֲלָה	Gen 8:20	"Noah ___ burnt offerings on the				
7	יִגַּשׁ	Gen 44:18	"Judah ___ him and said"				
8	הִגִּישׁ	Amos 9:13	"the one who ___ grain offering"				

Part B — Weak-Class Focus (I-**■** and Biconsonantal)

I-**■**: Niphal perfect/ptc = **■**; imperfect = **■** (dagesh in **■**). Hiphil perfect = **■**; imperfect = **■** (no dagesh in **■**).
Biconsonantal: Niphal perfect/ptc = **■** (qamets); Hiphil perfect = **■** (tsere).

#	Form	Ref	Context	Stem	Conjugation	PGN	Root / Class
9	נוֹלַד	Gen 21:3	"a son ___ to Abraham"				
10	יוֹלַד	Gen 5:3	"Adam ___ a son in his own likeness"				
11	יִלֵּד	Gen 17:17	"shall a child ___ to a man of 100				
12	יִוְרִיד	1 Sam 2:6	"the LORD ___ to Sheol and raises				
13	הִזְדַּע	Est 2:22	"the matter ___ to Mordecai"				
14	הִקִּים	Gen 6:18	"I will ___ my covenant with you"				
15	נִכֹּן	Gen 41:32	"the thing is ___ by God"				

Part C — Mixed Review

#	Form	Ref	Context	Stem	Conjugation	PGN	Root / Class
16	יָעַל	Gen 22:2	"and he ____ him as a burnt offering"				
17	יָגַל	Num 24:4	"who sees the vision, ____ eyes"				
18	הָסִב	2 Sam 2:22	"____ from following me"				
19	מַעֲמִידִים	Neh 4:7	"we who were ____ guard over them"				
20	הִרְאָה	1 Kgs 18:1	"Go, ____ yourself to Ahab"				

Reflection Questions

- Items 1–2 (יָעַל and יָגַל) and 3–4 (הָסִב and מַעֲמִידִים): pick one pair and explain in one sentence what the Niphal adds and what the Hiphil adds to the basic Qal meaning.
- Items 9–11 are all from יָגַל (I-יָגַל). Both stems use a holem-vav cluster. What is the precise difference between Niphal perfect יָגַל and Hiphil wayyiqtol יָגַל?
- Items 16 and 17 are both apocopated III-יָ wayyiqtol forms. What vowel under the prefix consonant is decisive in distinguishing Niphal from Hiphil?
- Items 18 (הָסִב, Hiphil Geminate imperative) and 20 (הִרְאָה, Niphal III-יָ imperative) both have a long prefix vowel rather than the expected strong יָ/יָ. Explain the phonological reason for the long vowel in each case.

Answer Key

#	Form	Stem	Answer
1	נִשְׁמַע	Niphal	Perfect · 3ms · ■■■■■■ · III-■/■ — "was heard" — ■■■ prefix + patach furtive before ■ = Niphal III-■/■
2	הִשְׁמִיעַ	Hiphil	Perfect · 3ms · ■■■■■■ · III-■/■ — "caused to hear / announced" — ■■■ + chiriq-yod + patach furtive
3	נִמְצָא	Niphal	Imperfect · 3ms · ■■■■■■ · III-■ — "is found" — ■■■■■■ (dagesh in ■ = Niphal assimilation) + tsere +
4	הִמְצִיא	Hiphil	Perfect · 3ms · ■■■■■■ · III-■ — "provided / caused to find" — ■■■ + chiriq-yod + silent final ■ = Hiphil
5	נִגְלָה	Niphal	Perfect · 3ms · ■■■■■■ · III-■ — "was revealed" — ■■■ prefix + final ■■ = Niphal III-■ perfect
6	הִעֲלָה	Hiphil	Perfect · 3ms · ■■■■■■ · III-■ + I-gutt. — "offered up" — ■■■ prefix + hateph-seghol under ■ + qamets +
7	נִגַּשׁ	Niphal	Wayyiqtol · 3ms · ■■■■■■ · I-■ — "drew near (reflexive)" — ■■■■■■ + dagesh in ■ (Niphal I-■
8	הִגִּישׁ	Hiphil	Perfect · 3ms · ■■■■■■ · I-■ — "brought near" — ■■■ prefix + dagesh in ■ (R2); contrast Niphal
9	נִוֹלַד	Niphal	Perfect · 3ms · ■■■■■■ · I-■ — "was born" — ■■■■ prefix = Niphal I-■ perfect; patach under R2 (not
10	יִוֹלַד	Hiphil	Wayyiqtol · 3ms · ■■■■■■ · I-■ — "fathered / begat" — ■■■■■■ prefix (dagesh in ■■ + holem-vav) =
11	יִוָּלַד	Niphal	Imperfect · 3ms · ■■■■■■ · I-■ — "shall be born" — ■■■■■■ cluster (dagesh in ■) = Niphal I-■ imperfect;
12	יֹרִיד	Hiphil	Imperfect · 3ms · ■■■■■■ · I-■ — "brings down" — ■■■■ prefix (holem-vav, no dagesh in ■) = Hiphil I-■
13	נִיָּדָע	Niphal	Wayyiqtol · 3ms · ■■■■■■ · I-■ — "became known" — ■■■■■■■■ cluster = Niphal I-■ wayyiqtol
14	הִקִּים	Hiphil	Perfect · 3ms · ■■■■■■ · Biconsonantal — "established" — ■■■ prefix (tsere) = Hiphil Biconsonantal perfect;
15	נִכּוֹן	Niphal	Perfect · 3ms · ■■■■■■ · Biconsonantal — "is established / firm" — ■■■ prefix (qamets) = Niphal
16	נִיָּעַל	Hiphil	Wayyiqtol · 3ms · ■■■■■■ · III-■ + I-gutt. — "offered up (apocopated)" — patach prefix (■■■) + composite
17	נִגְלָה	Niphal	Wayyiqtol · 3ms · ■■■■■■ · III-■ — "were uncovered (apocopated)" — ■■■■■■ + dagesh in ■ (Niphal
18	הִסָּב	Hiphil	Imperative · 2ms · ■■■■■■ · Geminate — "turn aside!" — ■■■ prefix (qamets) = Hiphil
19	מַעֲמִידִים	Hiphil	Participle · mp · ■■■■■■ · I-guttural — "stationing / standing guard" — ■■■ + composite shewa under ■ =
20	הִרְאָה	Niphal	Imperative · 2ms · ■■■■■■ · III-■ — "show yourself!" — ■■■ prefix (■ compensatory) + final ■■ retained =