

In common with other Semitic languages, the roots of *almost all* Hebrew verbs consist of three letters, conveniently pronounced as follows:

to eat	אָכַל	to finish	גָּמַר
to learn	לָמַד	to give	נָתַן
to write	כָּתַב	to guard, keep	שָׁמַר
to say	אָמַר	to walk, go	הֵלֵךְ
to give birth	יָלַד	to shut	סָגַר
to sit	יָשַׁב	to stand	עָמַד

Active Participles of Qal Verbs

Let us first consider the following active participles before we study one of the chief ways of expressing present action.

eating	אוֹכֵל	finishing	גּוֹמֵר
learning	לוֹמֵד	giving	נוֹתֵן
writing	כוֹתֵב	going, walking	הוֹלֵךְ
saying	אוֹמֵר	shutting	סוֹגֵר
sitting	יוֹשֵׁב	standing	עוֹמֵד

The participles may be written without (ו): הוֹלֵךְ or הֵלֵךְ *going*, נוֹתֵן or נָתַן *giving*.

The participles agree with the nouns and pronouns associated with them. They may precede or follow the subject.

The man is walking.	הוֹלֵךְ הָאִישׁ or הָאִישׁ הוֹלֵךְ
The son is writing.	כוֹתֵב הַבֵּן or הַבֵּן כוֹתֵב
The boys are learning.	הַיְלָדִים* לוֹמְדִים or הַיְלָדִים לוֹמְדִים*
The women are eating.	אוֹכְלוֹת הַנָּשִׁים or הַנָּשִׁים אוֹכְלוֹת

Plural		Singular			
Feminine	Masculine		Feminine		Masculine
לִּוּמְדוֹת	לִּוּמְדִים		לִּוּמְדָה		לִּוּמָד
כּוֹתְבוֹת	כּוֹתְבִים		כּוֹתְבָה		כּוֹתֵב

4. *Biblical Word List Two* (verbs occurring 500 to 5000 times)

to eat	אָכַל		to speak	דָּבַר
to say	אָמַר		to be	הָיָה
to come	בָּא			

This is one of the most important lessons so far. It is of utmost importance that you learn the root of each Hebrew verb you study. Master thoroughly the three letters of the root of each verb. All other verbs and nouns associated by meaning with this verb will also contain this root. Note, for example, the root יָלַד, which in the Qal means *to bear* or *to bring forth*: יָלַד boy, יָלְדָה girl, תּוֹלְדוֹת generations, מוֹלְדָה kindred, יְלָדוֹת childhood, youth.

נָתַן	
עָמַד	2.
אָמַר	3.
יָשַׁב	4.
גָּמַר	5.
כָּתַב	6.
הָלַךְ	7.
סָגַר	8.

C. Read aloud and translate the following into English:

1. הָאִישׁ יוֹשֵׁב תַּחַת הָעֵץ עִם הַכֶּלֶב.
2. הֵבֵת לִוּמְדָה מִן־הַסֶּפֶר.
3. הוֹלֵכֶת הָאִשָּׁה מִן־הַבַּיִת אֶל־הַשָּׂדֶה.
4. יוֹשְׁבִים הַנְּבִיאִים עַל־הָעֵץ.
- 5.

E. Rapid Reading (Ex. 3:1, Ex. 20:8, Gen. 1:31):

וּמֹשֶׁה הָיָה רֹעֵה אֶת־צֹאן יִתְרוֹ
חֹתְנָנוּ כִּי־הָיָה מִדִּין
זָכוֹר אֶת־יוֹם־הַשַּׁבָּת לְקַדְּשׁוֹ
וַיְהִי־עָרֵב וַיְהִי־בֹקֶר יוֹם הַשְּׁנִי