

THE VERB

**All the verbs in Hebrew are based on
a combination of stems and
patterns.**

שורש Stem

A root is a skeleton of usually 3-4 consonants (in some few cases 5 consonants) that do not form a real word. They are written as shown:

ל.מ.ד

The letters of the root usually appear in the conjugation of the verb in different tenses.

פ.ע.ל

The first consonant of the stem is called

פ' הפועל

The second consonant of the stem is called

ע' הפועל

The third consonant of the stem is called

ל' הפועל

פ.	ע.	ל.
פ' הפועל	ע' הפועל	ל' הפועל

דוגמא:

ד.	מ.	ל.
ל' הפועל	ע' הפועל	פ' הפועל

Stems can be used in number of verbs and nouns:

ל.מ.ד.

לָמַד, לִימַד, תִּלְמִיד, לְמִידָה, לִימוּד, נִלְמַד, לוּמַד

(learned, taught, a student, learning, studying, was studied, was learned)

Pattern: בנין

In verbs, the stem is applied to a pattern which is named בנין and holds a group of similar pattern verbs.

(In nouns there are also groups and they are named: *mishkalim*)

7 בנינים

There are 7 patterns **בנינים** in Hebrew. The names of the patterns are created by using the three letters פ. ע. ל. (in Hebrew the meaning of פֿעַל is “verb”) with an addition of letters in each pattern **בנין**.

Third person singular masculine in the past tense is traditionally used to represent each one of the **בנינים**

A stem can appear in more than one **בנין** and will have a different meaning in each one of the **בנינים**.

הופעל	פועל	נפעל	התפעל	הפעיל	פיעל	(קל) פעל
passive	passive	passive		active	active	active

In many cases an active verb in one of the active buildings will have its counterpart in a passive building:

פעל – נפעל

פיעל – פועל

הפעיל – הופעל

There are 7 sub-groups גזרות:

Regular verbs	שלמים
Third consonant of the stem is ה' ה	נחי ל"ה – ל"י (לבנות, ב.ג.ה)
Second consonant of the stem is ו' (vav) or י' (yod)	ע"ו – ע"י (לרוץ, ר.ו.צ)
First consonant of the stem is י'. It weakens the vowel in the future tense and in the infinitive	נחי פ"י (לישון, י.ש.נ)
First consonant of the stem is י' but it does not appear in the conjugation in the future, imperative and infinitive	חסרי פ"י (לרדת, י.ר.ד)
First consonant of the stem is נ' but it assimilates in the future tense.	חסרי פ"נ (ליפול, נ.פ.ל)
Third consonant of the stem is א' א	נחי ל"א (לברוא, ב.ר.א)