

QAL is the “simple” stem; it makes up more than 60% of all verbs in the Hebrew Bible

There are 6 derived stems:

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|----------------|-------------|
| 1. Niphal | 4. Hiphil |
| 2. Piel | 5. Hophal |
| 3. Pual | 6. Hithpael |

A note on the names of the derived stems:

- each of these names is based on the 3ms perfect form of **פָּעַל**. **נִפְעַל** = niphal; **פִּיעַל** = piel; etc.)

PIEL (פִּיעַל)

There are 3 major meanings/functions of the piel verb:

1. factitive (transitivizing)
2. intensive
3. denominative

1) What is a factitive verb?

- A factitive verb is one which gives an otherwise intransitive verb a transitive meaning. In other words, verbs in the qal which are intransitive (don't take an object) or stative, can become transitive (can take an object) in the piel.
 - intransitive in qal: **קָדַשׁ** He is holy.
 - transitive in piel: **קָדַשׁ אֹתוֹ** He sanctified it. (He made it holy.)

2) What is an intensive verb?

- An intensive verb is one that pluralizes the action of a qal verb, or makes the action of a qal verb stronger.
 - qal: **שָׁבַר יְהוָה מַטֵּה רְשָׁעִים** Yahweh broke the staff of the wicked. (Isa 14:5)
 - piel: **וְאֶת-כָּל-עֵץ הַשָּׂדֶה שָׁבַר** And it [the hail] shattered all the trees of the field. (Exod 9:25)

3) What is a denominative verb?

- A denominative verb is a verb that is either derived from a noun, or a verb with a meaning closer to the noun of the same root than the qal verb of the same root.
 - noun: **בְּרָכָה** a blessing
 - verb: **בָּרַךְ** He blessed.