

Grace Dunamis Theological Seminary, New York
2025 Fall Semester Hebrew 中階 第九週 Grammar
規則動詞一般描述 (3)

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE REGULAR VERB
NIPHAL

102

PARTICIPLE			
being broken (m. sg.)	נִשְׁבֵּר	being burned (m. sg.)	נִשְׂרָף
„ (f. sg.)	נִשְׁבְּרָה	„ (f. sg.)	נִשְׂרָפָה
„ (m. pl.)	נִשְׁבְּרִים	„ (m. pl.)	נִשְׂרָפִים
„ (f. pl.)	נִשְׁבְּרוֹת	„ (f. pl.)	נִשְׂרָפוֹת
INFINITIVE			
absolute	נִשְׁבֹּר and הִשְׁבֵּר	נִשְׂרֹף and הִשְׂרֵף	
construct	הִשְׁבֵּר	הִשְׂרֵף	

NOTE: The Niphal, in some verbs, preserves a 'middle' or reflexive meaning.^a The Niphal Perfect נִשְׁמַר may also mean 'he kept himself', the Imperfect יִשְׁמַר 'he will keep himself', and the Imperative הִשְׁמַר 'keep thyself', &c. The verbs which are of this kind will have the reflexive meaning given.

The Perfect of the Niphal is formed by prefixing the syllable נִ to the root. The pronominal suffixes are the same as those of the Qal, the 3rd masc. sg. serving as the basis for suffixing them.

NOTE: The context determines whether נִשְׁבְּרָה is 3rd fem. sg. Niphal Perf. ('she was broken') or 1st pl. Cohortative Qal ('let us break').

The Imperfect יִשְׁבֹּר is a contraction of יִנְשַׁבֵּר, the נ of the Niphal having been assimilated, so that *throughout the Imperfect Niphal there is a Dagheš Forte (Compensative) in the first root-letter of the verb.* (If the first root-letter is a guttural, then, in the Niphal Imperfect, since the guttural cannot receive the Dagheš, the preceding vowel, Hireq (under the prefix), is lengthened to Šere; 'he will be left' is יִשְׁוֹב (pp. 156 ff.).

As with the Imperfect Qal, so with the Imperfect Niphal, the consonants אִתְּנָה (mnemonically written אִתְּנָה) are *prefixed* to denote the persons. The pl. masc. ends in וּ and the pl. fem. in נוּ. There is no shortened form for the Jussive; it is the same as the 3rd m. sg. Imperf. and the context indicates when it is Jussive.

NOTE: The form אִשְׂרָף is frequently found, as well as אִשְׂרָף, but the Cohortative is always אִשְׂרָפָה.

^a The significance of the Niphal thus oscillates between reflexive and passive.

● Cf. J. Weingreen, A Practical Grammar for Classical Hebrew.