Weak Hebrew Verbs - Final ה

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Basic quidelines: **1. without suffix, final he is retained with characteristic vowels**
2. before consonantal suffix, the final he appears as a yod
3. before vocalic suffix, the final he elides

The lexical form of these verbs is with a final *he*, but originally the final letter was a *yod* which reappears in certain forms.

A. When he is the last element of a final he verb (without suffixes), it occurs with characteristic base vowels: Perfect הָ Imperfect הֶ Imperative הֵ (Note the one exception in B below)

Qal Perfect, 3rd masc sing: הָיָה ← היה √

Qal Imperfect, 3rd masc sing: יִהְיֶה ← היה √

Piel Imperfect, 1st sing: אֲעַשֶׂה ← עשה √

Qal Imperative, 2nd masc sing: שְׁתֵה ← שְׁתֶה ← תִשְׁתֶה ← שתה √

B. In Qal passive participle, final he *always* appears as the original yod.

Qal Passive Participle, masc sing: בָּנוּי ← בָּנוּה ← בנה √

Qal Passive Participle, fem sing: בְּנוּיָה ← בְּנוּהָה ← בנה √

C. Before consonantal suffixes, final he appears as the original yod and contracts to become part of a long vowel, either יִ , יֵ or יִ .

Qal Perfect, 1st sing: גָּלִיתִי ← גָּלִיתִי ← גָּלַהְתִּי ← גלה √

Niphal Perfect, 1st sing: נִשְׁתֵיתִי ← נִשְׁתַיִתִּי ← נִשְׁתַהְתִּי ← שתה √

Qal Imperfect, 2nd/3rd fem plur: תִּבְנֶינָה ← תִּבְנֶינָה ← תִּבְנֶהְנָה ← בנה √

D. Before vocalic suffixes, final he elides (note the one exception in E below).

Qal Perfect, 3rd plur: גָּלוּ ← גָּלְהוּ ← גלה √

Qal Imperative, 2nd fem sing: גְּלִי ← גְּלְהִי ← תִגְלְהִי ← גלה √

Qal Imperfect, 2nd masc plur: תִּבְנוּ ← תִּבְנְהוּ ← בנה √

E. 3rd fem sing perfect forms add a tav to connect the feminine suffix and distinguish it from the masculine form.

Qal Perfect, 3rd fem sing: גָּלְתָה → גָּלְיָה → גָּלְהָה → גלה √

F. The final he elides in shortened forms (consecutive imperfect and jussive).

The most common of these shortened forms are:

וַיְהִי → יְהִי or יִהְיֶה → היה √   וַיִּבֶן → בנה √   וַיַּעַל → עלה √

וַיִּרְא → ראה √   וַיַּעַשׂ → עשׂה √   וַיַּעַן → ענה √

וַתַּהַר → הרה √   וַיֵּבְךְּ → בכה √   וַיֵּשְׁתְּ → שתה √

G. The infinitive construct replaces the final he with וֹת- in all stems.

Qal Infinitive Construct: כְלוֹת → כלה √

Hiphil Infinitive Construct: הַפְנוֹת → פנה √