• **METHEG.**

As you know, if you see a small vertical line to the left of a Qamets, you are looking at a Qamets (long a), not Qamets Hatuf (short a). However, it is important to realize that Metheg only shows up in potentially ambiguous situations (a closed, unaccented syllable). What this means is that you cannot rely on the Metheg to *always* be present when a Qamets is present. For example, the Metheg is present next to the Qamets under the first root consonant in the Qal Perfect 3fs and 3cp forms, but not in the rest of the Perfect forms, even though all of them have a Qamets (long a). What this means is: **don’t rely on the Metheg to always identify a Qamets as such.**

• **I-V VERBS IN THE PERFECT – DON’T CONFUSE WITH IMPERFECTS!**

Once you learn the Imperfect, you get so used to seeing a Yod at the beginning of a verb, it’s easy to assume you’re looking at an Imperfect if there’s a Yod there. However, don’t forget about I-Yod verbs – they’ll have a Yod at the beginning, but that doesn’t mean they’re Imperfect. I-Yod verbs to look out for: יָשַׁב, יָדַע, יָסַף, יָטַב, יָלַד, יָרַד, יָרַשׁ. This is not an exhaustive list, but these are some of the main ones taken from the vocab at the back of the textbook. Ex: יָלַדְנוּ – this is a Qal Perfect 1cp from יָלַד, not an Imperfect!

• **THE VERB מָצָא.**

For some reason, this verb confuses people. In the Perfect, be aware that the Aleph is quiescent, but still there, so it’s easy to figure out what the 3 root consonants are, for example מָצָאתִי (Qal Perfect 1cs מָצָא). To say the Aleph is quiescent means that it just goes along with the vowel sound before it and does not require its own vowel. In the Imperfect, all that changes is the stem vowel, so מִמְצָא with a Qamets instead of the expected Holem. But Aleph is a guttural, so we know to expect strange things!

• **וַיְהִי – BE ABLE TO PARSE IT!**

This is a very common temporal modifier that is bound to show up on quizzes and exams. It is parsed as: Qal Imperfect 3ms יָהָי with Waw Conversive/Consecutive (whatever the book you have calls it!).

• **COHORTATIVES.**

Don’t forget to look out for cohortatives! A cohortative is an imperfect 1cs or 1cp with an extra Qamets He ending, which is its only distinguishing characteristic (e.g. נֵלְכָה, let us go; אֲדַבְּרָה, let me speak). It could be tempting to interpret the ending as a 3fs pronominal suffix, so when you think you see a 3fs pronominal suffix, check to see if you’re looking at an imperfect 1cs or 1cp. If so, you have a cohortative. However, if the Qamets He has a Mappiq (a little dot) in the He, then you really are looking at a 3fs pronominal suffix (e.g. נִשְׁמְרָה, we will keep her). (One fact to keep in mind however: Dr. Pratico only puts pronominal suffixes on infinitive constructs on exams, so if you see a pronominal suffix, it has to be an infinitive construct).
• JUSSIVES.

Remember, jussives do not have any distinctive forms EXCEPT with III-He and Hiphil verbs. This means in a parsing section you will only ever parse something as jussive if it has one of these distinctive forms and DOES NOT have a Waw Conversive/Consecutive (for some reason, when a Waw Consecutive is attached one of these types of verbs, it takes on the shortened jussive form, even though it is not jussive in meaning and is not parsed as a jussive). So, to flesh all this out, here are some examples:

- יִבֶן - Qal Jussive 3ms יִבֶן. THE HE OF A III-HE VERB DROPS IN THE JUSSIVE! (Compare to the regular 3ms Imperfect of יִבְנֶה, יִבְנֶה. If the He is dropped, it’s a jussive).

- וַיִּבֶן - THIS IS NOT A JUSSIVE! This is a Qal Imperfect 3ms יִבְנֶה with Waw Consecutive. You’ll notice that the basic form is the same, but it’s only jussive when it’s on its own apart from a Waw Consecutive attached to it.

- יַשְׁלֵך - Hiphil Jussive 3ms יַשְׁלֵך. THE HIREQ YOD OF THE HIPHIL IMPERFECT CONTRACTS TO A TSERE IN THE JUSSIVE (Compare to the regular 3ms Imperfect of יַשְׁלִיך, יַשְׁלִיך).

- וַיַּשְׁלֵך - Hiphil Imperfect 3ms יַשְׁלֵך with Waw Consecutive. In the same way as with Qal III-He verbs, this is technically a jussive form, but when it’s paired with the Waw Consecutive, it loses all jussive translation or parsing value.

• INFINITIVE CONSTRUCTS.

Helpful hint: Dr. Pratico only puts the inseparable prepositions בְּ and כְ on infinitive constructs on quizzes or exams. So, if you see any of these prepositions attached to a verb in the parsing section, it must by default be an infinitive construct. Chances are it will also have a pronominal suffix attached, so look out for that as well. Note: don’t confuse the Perfect sufformatives (suffixes) with pronominal suffixes. If you need to, take a look at them to make sure you understand how they’re different.

• VERBAL ROOTS BEGINNING WITH ב - DON’T ASSUME IT’S THE PREPOSITION ב!

Yes, it’s true that the preposition ב, if seen on a verb, means the verb is an infinitive construct on Dr. Pratico’s exams; however, don’t forget about verbal roots starting with ב. For example, יִבְרָה - is a Qal Perfect 2mp from יָבְרָה, NOT an infinitive construct with the preposition ב. Common roots beginning with ב: יָבַר, יָבָה, יָבָה, יָבָה.

• QAL PASSIVE VS. INFINITIVE ABSOLUTE.

Be sure to note the difference between a Qal Passive (קָטוּל, Ch. 22.8) and a Qal Infinitive Absolute (קָטוֹל, Ch 21). The Qal Passive has a Shureq, while the Infinitive Absolute has a Holem Waw. One small vowel, one big difference in meaning!
• **HOLEMS IN QAL PARTICIPLES.**

Be aware that the Holem in the Qal Participles can either be written defectively (without the Waw) (קֹטֵל) or with the plene, or full spelling (קוֹטֵל). Be able to recognize both as Qal participles.

• **TSERE PREFORMATIVE VOWEL.**

If you have a tsere preformative vowel, you could be looking at:
   - A I-Yod Qal Imperfect: יֵשֵׁב = Qal Imperfect 3ms יָשַׁב.
   - A Niphal I-Gutteral: יֵעָזֵב = Niphal Imperfect 3ms עָזַב.

There are technically other options, but they will not show up on any of your exams.

• **PIEL VERBS.** For some reason, a lot of students have trouble recognizing Piel verbs. Here are a few things to keep in mind:
   - The middle root consonant will always have a Daghesh Forte in it: דִּבֵּר.
   - In the Imperfect, whether there is a Waw Consecutive at the beginning of the form or not, there will always be a Shewa (or Hateph Pathach if under a guttural) under the preformative consonant: וַתְּחַלְּלוּ, אֲקַטֵּר. תְּבַקֵּשׁ, וַיְכַסֶּה.
   - Study the Piel diagnostics well!

• **A COMMON CONFUSION BETWEEN QAL AND HIPHERIL.**

As you know, there are many forms that are distinguished only by one or two vowels; the textbook notes these and their similarities to other forms as they are introduced, so I will not cover them here. There is one, however, that seems to cause a lot of problems for students on exams, so I want to mention it here:

   - In chapter 16 on the Qal Imperfect Weak Verbs you learn that a I-Gutteral (more specifically, a I-ע) verb takes a Pathach preformative vowel with a Hateph Pathach underneath the Ayin (יַעֲמוֹד). Thus, if you see a Pathach under an imperfect preformative, you know that it’s a I-ע Qal verb.
   - This holds true until you get to chapter 31, Hiphil weak verbs. Not only is the basic Hiphil preformative vowel also a Pathach, but with I-ע verbs, the Ayin takes a Hateph Pathach, just like with the Qal Imperfect (יַעֲמִיד).
   - You can see by comparing the two forms that the only difference between them is the stem vowel: the Qal form has a Holem Waw and the Hiphil form has a Hireq Yod.
   - Now, there are times when the stem vowels will change, but if you ask the following clarifying question, you should be just fine:
     - Is there a Hireq Yod stem vowel? If yes, it’s a Hiphil, if no, it’s a Qal (there are 2 Hiphil forms that do no have a Hireq Yod – 2fp/3fp – but you will not be tested on them).
HITHPAEL III-HE INFINITIVE CONSTRUCTS.

Although Hithpael may seem pretty different from all the other conjugations because of the extra Taw, don’t forget that if the root is III-He, its infinitive construct ending will still be the וֹת ending. Example: הִתְרַאוֹת. This is the Hithpael Infinitive Construct from רָאָה.