

Chapter 30 — Piel Semantic Function Sorting

BBH Chapter 30 · Piel Strong Verbs

Classify each Piel verb: I (Intensive), F (Factitive), D (Declarative), DN (Denominative), or SA (Simple Action). Answer key is on the last page.

I = Intensive (more forceful/thorough than Qal) | F = Factitive (causes object to be in a state; from stative root) | D = Declarative (declares/treats something as being in a state) | DN = Denominative (derived from a noun; performs noun's action) | SA = Simple Action (Piel is primary form; no productive Qal)

#	Hebrew	Conjugation	Ref	Contextual Gloss	Function
1	יְבָרַךְ	Wayyiqtol 3ms	Gen 1:22	"God blessed them"	<input type="text"/>
2	יִקְדָּשׁ	Wayyiqtol 3ms	Gen 2:3	"he set it apart as holy"	<input type="text"/>
3	יָכַל	Wayyiqtol 3ms	Gen 2:2	"he finished"	<input type="text"/>
4	שָׁחַת	Inf. Construct	Gen 6:17	"to destroy utterly"	<input type="text"/>
5	יָצַו	Wayyiqtol 3ms	Gen 2:16	"he commanded"	<input type="text"/>
6	יִגְרֹשׁ	Wayyiqtol 3ms	Gen 3:24	"he drove out forcibly"	<input type="text"/>
7	חִיּוֹת	Inf. Construct	Gen 7:3	"to preserve alive"	<input type="text"/>
8	יִשְׁלַח	Wayyiqtol 3ms	Gen 8:7	"he sent out / released"	<input type="text"/>
9	יָכֹסוּ	Wayyiqtol 3mp	Gen 9:23	"they thoroughly covered"	<input type="text"/>
10	יִדְבָּר	Wayyiqtol 3ms	Gen 8:15	"he spoke"	<input type="text"/>
11	יִשְׁרֹת	Wayyiqtol 3ms	Gen 39:4	"he served"	<input type="text"/>
12	אֶגְדֹּלָה	Yiqtol 1cs	Gen 12:2	"I will make great"	<input type="text"/>
13	מְקַלֵּל	Participle ms	Gen 12:3	"one who curses"	<input type="text"/>
14	יִגַּע	Wayyiqtol 3ms	Gen 12:17	"he struck / afflicted"	<input type="text"/>
15	וּקְדַשְׁתָּ	Weqatal 2ms	Exo 19:10	"you shall consecrate them"	<input type="text"/>
16	וּכְבְּסוּ	Weqatal 3cp	Exo 19:10	"and they shall wash their garments"	<input type="text"/>
17	יְהַלְלוּ	Wayyiqtol 3mp	Gen 12:15	"they praised her"	<input type="text"/>
18	יִבְקֹשׁ	Wayyiqtol 3ms	Gen 37:15	"he sought"	<input type="text"/>
19	לְנַחֵם	Inf. Construct	Gen 37:35	"to comfort him"	<input type="text"/>
20	צָוָה	Perfect 3ms	Gen 6:22	"he commanded"	<input type="text"/>
21	לְכַפֵּר	Inf. Construct	Lev 4:20	"to make atonement"	<input type="text"/>
22	יַחְלִיל	Wayyiqtol 3ms	Lev 21:12	"he would profane"	<input type="text"/>
23	בִּקֵּשׁ	Perfect 3ms	Gen 43:30	"he sought"	<input type="text"/>
24	יְנַחֵם	Yiqtol 3ms	Gen 5:29	"he will comfort us"	<input type="text"/>
25	לְהַלֵּל	Inf. Construct	Psa 113:1	"to praise"	<input type="text"/>

Reflection Questions

- Items 1, 5, 10, 17, 20, 24 are all SA. What do these roots share? Why does "intensification of the Qal" not work for them?
- Items 2, 7, 12, 15, 22 are all Factitive. For each root, name the Qal stative meaning and explain how the Piel "causes" that state.
- Item 21 (כָּפַר): if this is Denominative, what noun is it from? How does knowing that noun illuminate its meaning in Lev 4:20?

Answer Key

#	Hebrew	Ref	Fn	Explanation
1	יִבְרַךְ	Gen 1:22	SA	Piel is the primary form; no intensified Qal counterpart
2	יִקְדֹּשׁ	Gen 2:3	F	Qal = be holy; Piel = cause to be holy (factive)
3	יָמַל	Gen 2:2	I	Thorough completion; Qal = be complete
4	שָׁחַת	Gen 6:17	I	Total/thorough destruction; intensive force
5	יָצָא	Gen 2:16	SA	Piel is the standard form; Qal is marginal
6	יִגְרֹשׁ	Gen 3:24	I	Forcible expulsion; more intensive than basic Qal
7	חָיָה	Gen 7:3	F	Qal = live; Piel = cause to be alive (factive)
8	יִשְׁלַח	Gen 8:7	I	Release/send away with force; Qal = send
9	יָסָה	Gen 9:23	I	Thorough covering; Qal = cover
10	יִדְבֹּר	Gen 8:15	SA	Piel is standard form for "to speak"; Qal is rare
11	יִשְׁמַח	Gen 39:4	SA	Piel is primary form; denominative from מְשַׁח
12	אֶגְדֹּלָה	Gen 12:2	F	Qal = be great; Piel = cause to be great (factive)
13	מִקְלַל	Gen 12:3	D	Qal = be light/small; Piel = declare accursed
14	יִגַּעַ	Gen 12:17	I	Intensive striking/affliction; more severe than Qal
15	יִקְדֹּשֶׁת	Exo 19:10	F	Cause the people to be in a holy state
16	יִכְבֹּסוּ	Exo 19:10	I	Thorough washing; Qal of כָּבַס is rare
17	יִהְלִל	Gen 12:15	SA	Piel is standard form for "to praise"
18	יִבְקֹשׁ	Gen 37:15	I	Diligent/intensive seeking
19	לְנַחֵם	Gen 37:35	I	Active comforting; Niphal = be comforted
20	צָוָה	Gen 6:22	SA	Same root as #5; Piel is the operative form
21	לְכַפֵּר	Lev 4:20	DN	From כָּפַר "ransom/covering"; denominative function
22	יִחַלֵּל	Lev 21:12	F	Qal = be profane; Piel = cause to be profane
23	בִּקֵּשׁ	Gen 43:30	I	Same root as #18; intensive seeking
24	נָחַם	Gen 5:29	SA	Active sense; Niphal = relent/be comforted; Piel = comfort
25	לְהַלֵּל	Psa 113:1	SA	Standard form for praise; same root as #17