

## Chapter 25 — "Spot the Niphal" Passage Exercise

Genesis 3, 6, and 21 · The Garden, the Flood Prelude, and Beersheba

Most highlighted verbs are Niphal forms. For each one, first answer Is it Niphal? (Yes / No). If Yes: parse conjugation, PGN, and root, then state the semantic function (Passive / Reflexive / Middle / Simple Action). If No: identify the correct stem and parse fully. Three verbs in this exercise are not Niphal — drawn from Qal already studied. Answer key begins on the page marked "Answer Key".

### Passage A — Genesis 3:5–10

3:5

וְהִיִּיתֶם כְּאֱלֹהִים יִדְעִי טוֹב וְרָע כִּי יִדְעַ אֱלֹהִים כִּי בַיּוֹם אֲכַלְתֶּם מִמֶּנּוּ וּנְפַקְחוּ עֵינֵיכֶם

"...for God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will [1] \_\_\_\_."

#	Verb	Conjugation	PGN	Root	Function
1	וּנְפַקְחוּ	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

3:6

וַתֵּרָא הָאִשָּׁה כִּי טוֹב הָעֵץ ... וַנְחַמְדָּהָ הָעֵץ לְהַשְׁכִּיל

"So when the woman [2] \_\_\_\_ that the tree was good ... and the tree was [3] \_\_\_\_ to make one wise."

#	Verb	Conjugation	PGN	Root	Function
2	וַתֵּרָא	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
3	וַנְחַמְדָּהָ	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

3:7

וַתִּפְקְחוּהָ עֵינֵי שְׁנֵיהֶם

"Then the eyes of both of them [4] \_\_\_\_."

#	Verb	Conjugation	PGN	Root	Function
4	וַתִּפְקְחוּהָ	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

3:10

וַאִירָא כִּי־עִירָם אֲנִכִּי וַאֲחָבָא

"I was afraid, because I was naked, and [5] \_\_\_\_."

#	Verb	Conjugation	PGN	Root	Function
5	וַאֲחָבָא	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

### Passage B — Genesis 6:6–12

6:6

וַיִּנְחַם יְהוָה כִּי־עָשָׂה אֶת־הָאָדָם בְּאָרֶץ

"And the LORD [6] \_\_\_\_ that he [7] \_\_\_\_ man on the earth."

#	Verb	Conjugation	PGN	Root	Function
6	וַיַּנְחֵם	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
7	עָשָׂה	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

6:7

נִחַמְתִּי כִּי עָשִׂיתֶם

"I [8] \_\_\_\_ that I made them."

#	Verb	Conjugation	PGN	Root	Function
8	נִחַמְתִּי	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

6:11

וַתִּשְׁחַת הָאָרֶץ ... וַתִּמְלֵא הָאָרֶץ חָמָס

"The earth [9] \_\_\_\_ ... and the earth [10] \_\_\_\_ with violence."

#	Verb	Conjugation	PGN	Root	Function
9	וַתִּשְׁחַת	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
10	וַתִּמְלֵא	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

6:12

וַהֲנֵה נִשְׁחָתָה כִּי־הִשְׁחִית כָּל־בָּשָׂר

"and behold, it [11] \_\_\_\_, for all flesh had corrupted its way."

#	Verb	Conjugation	PGN	Root	Function
11	נִשְׁחָתָה	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

6:21

וַיְהִי לָהּ לֶחֶם וְלֵהֶם לְאֹכֶל וַיֹּאכְלוּ

"it shall be food for you and for them — it shall [12] \_\_\_\_."

#	Verb	Conjugation	PGN	Root	Function
12	יֹאכְלוּ	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

### Passage C — Genesis 21:23–31

21:23

הִשְׁבְּעָה לִּי בְּאֱלֹהִים הַנְּה

"[13] \_\_\_\_ to me by God here."

#	Verb	Conjugation	PGN	Root	Function
13	הִשְׁבְּעָה	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

21:24

וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְרָהָם אֲנִכִּי אֲשַׁבֵּעַ

"And Abraham said, 'I [14] \_\_\_\_.'"

#	Verb	Conjugation	PGN	Root	Function
14	אֲשַׁבֵּעַ	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

21:31

כִּי שָׁם נִשְׁבַּעְתָּ שְׁנֵיהֶם

"For there [15] \_\_\_\_\_ both of them."

#	Verb	Conjugation	PGN	Root	Function
15	נִשְׁבַּעְתָּ	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

**Bonus — Genesis 21:3, 21:8**

21:3

אֲשֶׁר-נִוְלַד-לּוֹ

"who had been born to him"

21:8

וַיִּגְדַּל הַיֶּלֶד וַיִּגְמַל

"And the child [16] \_\_\_\_\_ and was weaned."

#	Verb	Conjugation	PGN	Root	Function
B1	נִוְלַד	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
16	וַיִּגְדַּל	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
B2	וַיִּגְמַל	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Items 6–8 (■■■■■■■■■■ / ■■■■■■■■■■) are both from ■■■■■■, a verb that occurs almost exclusively in the Niphal. Items 13–15 all parse as Reflexive from ■■■■■■ — notice how Imperative, Imperfect, and Weqatal all express the same oath-swearing action.

**Score: 13 Niphal + 3 non-Niphal + 2 bonus = 18 total. 15–18 = excellent | 11–14 = review the paradigm | below 11 = revisit §23.3**

**Conjugation Coverage**

Conjugation	Verbs
Wayyiqtol (6)	#4, #5, #6, #9, #10, B2
Weqatal (5)	#1, #8, #11, #15, B1
Imperfect (2)	#12, #14
Participle (1)	#3
Imperative (1)	#13
Non-Niphal (3)	#2 (Qal Wayyiqtol 3fs), #7 (Qal Perfect 3ms), #16 (Qal Wayyiqtol 3ms)

**Reflection Questions**

- Every Niphal in Passage A (Gen 3) involves eyes, hiding, or desire. What does the Niphal contribute to the theological message of the Fall narrative?
- In Gen 6:6–7, God is the subject of a Niphal-only verb (■■■■■■). What does this choice tell us about how the narrator portrays God's emotional response?



## Answer Key

Passages with correct answers shown in the green row below each verb.

### Passage A — Genesis 3:5–10

3:5

וְהִיִּיתֶם כְּאֱלֹהִים יְדַעְתִּי טוֹב וְרָע כִּי יָדַע אֱלֹהִים כִּי בַיּוֹם אֲכַלְתֶּם מִמֶּנּוּ וּנְפַקְחוּ עֵינֵיכֶם

"...for God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will [1] \_\_\_\_."

#	Verb	Conjugation	PGN	Root	Function
1	וּנְפַקְחוּ	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> see ↓
✓	וּנְפַקְחוּ	Weqatal	3cp	פָּקַח	Middle — will be opened

3:6

וַתֵּרָא הָאִשָּׁה כִּי טוֹב הָעֵץ ... וַנְחַמְדָּהּ הָעֵץ לְהַשְׁכִּיל

"So when the woman [2] \_\_\_\_ that the tree was good ... and the tree was [3] \_\_\_\_ to make one wise."

#	Verb	Conjugation	PGN	Root	Function
2	וַתֵּרָא	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> see ↓
✓	וַתֵּרָא	Wayyiqtol	3fs	רָאָה	NOT Niphal — Qal: and she saw; III-■
3	וַנְחַמְדָּהּ	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> see ↓
✓	וַנְחַמְדָּהּ	Participle ms	ms	חָמַד	Passive — desirable (substantival ptc.)

3:7

וַתִּפְקְחוּ עֵינֵי שְׁנֵיהֶם

"Then the eyes of both of them [4] \_\_\_\_."

#	Verb	Conjugation	PGN	Root	Function
4	וַתִּפְקְחוּ	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> see ↓
✓	וַתִּפְקְחוּ	Wayyiqtol	3fp	פָּקַח	Middle — they were opened

3:10

וַאֲרָא כִּי־עֵרָם אֲנִי וְאֶחְבֵּא

"I was afraid, because I was naked, and [5] \_\_\_\_."

#	Verb	Conjugation	PGN	Root	Function
5	וְאֶחְבֵּא	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> see ↓
✓	וְאֶחְבֵּא	Wayyiqtol	1cs	חָבֵא	Reflexive — I hid myself

### Passage B — Genesis 6:6–12

6:6

וַיַּנְחֵם יְהוָה כִּי־עָשָׂה אֶת־הָאָדָם בְּאָרֶץ

"And the LORD [6] \_\_\_\_ that he [7] \_\_\_\_ man on the earth."

#	Verb	Conjugation	PGN	Root	Function
6	וַיִּנְחֹם	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> see ↓
✓	וַיִּנְחֹם	Wayyiqtol	3ms	נחם	Simple Action (Niphal-only) — relented
7	עָשָׂה	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> see ↓
✓	עָשָׂה	Perfect	3ms	עשה	NOT Niphal — Qal: he made/did; III-■

6:7

וַנְחַמְתִּי כִּי עָשִׂיתֶם

"I [8] \_\_\_\_\_ that I made them."

#	Verb	Conjugation	PGN	Root	Function
8	נִחַמְתִּי	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> see ↓
✓	נִחַמְתִּי	Weqatal	1cs	נחם	Simple Action (Niphal-only) — I regret

6:11

וַתִּשְׁחַת הָאָרֶץ ... וַתִּמְלֵא הָאָרֶץ חֲמָס

"The earth [9] \_\_\_\_\_ ... and the earth [10] \_\_\_\_\_ with violence."

#	Verb	Conjugation	PGN	Root	Function
9	וַתִּשְׁחַת	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> see ↓
✓	וַתִּשְׁחַת	Wayyiqtol	3fs	שחח	Passive — it was corrupted
10	וַתִּמְלֵא	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> see ↓
✓	וַתִּמְלֵא	Wayyiqtol	3fs	מלא	Passive — it was filled

6:12

וַהֲבֵינָה נִשְׁחַתָּה כִּי־הִשְׁחִית כָּל־בָּשָׂר

"and behold, it [11] \_\_\_\_\_, for all flesh had corrupted its way."

#	Verb	Conjugation	PGN	Root	Function
11	נִשְׁחַתָּה	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> see ↓
✓	נִשְׁחַתָּה	Weqatal	3fs	שחח	Passive — it was corrupt

6:21

וְהָיָה לָּךְ וּלְהֵם לְאֹכֶלָּה יֹאכְל

"it shall be food for you and for them — it shall [12] \_\_\_\_\_."

#	Verb	Conjugation	PGN	Root	Function
12	יֹאכְל	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> see ↓
✓	יֹאכְל	Imperfect	3ms	אכל	Passive — it shall be eaten

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**Passage C — Genesis 21:23–31**


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21:23

הַשְּׁבַעָה לִי בְּאֵלֵהֶם הֵנָּה

"[13] \_\_\_\_ to me by God here."

#	Verb	Conjugation	PGN	Root	Function
13	הַשְּׁבַעָה	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> see ↓
✓	הַשְּׁבַעָה	Imperative	2ms	שָׁבַע	Reflexive — Swear! (bind yourself by

21:24

וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְרָהָם אֲנֹכִי אֶשְׁבַּע

"And Abraham said, 'I [14] \_\_\_\_.'"

#	Verb	Conjugation	PGN	Root	Function
14	אֶשְׁבַּע	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> see ↓
✓	אֶשְׁבַּע	Imperfect	1cs	שָׁבַע	Reflexive — I will swear

21:31

כִּי שָׁם נִשְׁבָּעוּ שְׁנֵיהֶם

"For there [15] \_\_\_\_ both of them."

#	Verb	Conjugation	PGN	Root	Function
15	נִשְׁבָּעוּ	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> see ↓
✓	נִשְׁבָּעוּ	Weqatal	3mp	שָׁבַע	Reflexive — they swore (bound

### Bonus — Genesis 21:3, 21:8

21:3

אֲשֶׁר-נִוְלַד-לּוֹ

"who had been born to him"

21:8

וַיִּגְדַּל הַיֶּלֶד וַיִּגְמַל

"And the child [16] \_\_\_\_ and was weaned."

#	Verb	Conjugation	PGN	Root	Function
B1	נִוְלַד	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> see ↓
✓	נִוְלַד	Weqatal	3ms	וּלַד	Passive — who had been born
16	וַיִּגְדַּל	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> see ↓
✓	וַיִּגְדַּל	Wayyiqtol	3ms	גָּדַל	NOT Niphal — Qal: and he grew; plain
B2	וַיִּגְמַל	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> see ↓
✓	וַיִּגְמַל	Wayyiqtol	3ms	גָּמַל	Passive — was weaned

Items 6–8 (■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■ / ■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■) are both from ■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■, a verb that occurs almost exclusively in the Niphal. Items 13–15 all parse as Reflexive from ■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■ — notice how Imperative, Imperfect, and Weqatal all express the same oath-swearing action.

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Participle (1)	#3
Imperative (1)	#13
Non-Niphal (3)	#2 (Qal Wayyiqtol 3fs), #7 (Qal Perfect 3ms), #16 (Qal Wayyiqtol 3ms)