

A Few Notes on the Qal Perfect Paradigm

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3ms	קָ טַל
3fs	קָ טַ לָהּ
2ms	קָ טַלְ תָּ
2fs	קָ טַלְתָּ
1cs	קָ טַלְ תִּי
3cp	קָ טַ לוֹ
2mp	קָ טַלְ תֶּם
2fp	קָ טַלְ תֶּן
1cp	קָ טַלְ נוּ

(Accents in the above forms are on the ultima unless otherwise noted.)

(3ms)

The 3ms is the base form from which all the other forms are built.

(Sufformative = v)

In the 3fs and 3cp, the sufformative consists entirely of a vowel (הָ in the 3fs and וֹ in the 3cp). Somewhat surprisingly, the Qamets remains in the open propretoneic syllable of these forms, but the Pathach in the open *pretonic* syllable reduces to Vocal Shewa.

(Sufformative = Cv)

In the 2ms, 1cs, and 1cp, we are simply adding a new syllable (which happens to be open: Cv) to the 3ms base form. The accent remains on the syllable טַל and therefore the vowels in the first two syllables of these forms do not change.

The 2fs form has the same vowel pattern as the 2ms, 1cs, and 1cp, but it is a bit anomalous. It has only two syllables, and the second of these violates the rule that a syllable cannot contain contiguous (i.e., side-by-side) consonants. קַטַּלְתָּ transliterates as follows: qā | taltt . Both Shewas in the second syllable here are silent and (for an etymological reason) the Daghes in the Taw is a Forte; thus the form actually ends in three consonants (ltt). (Thus, the 2fs Sufformative is not Cv but CC! But since its vowel pattern is the same as that of the 2ms, 1cs, and 1cp, I have included it with them.)

(Sufformative = CvC)

In the 2mp and 2fp, we are again adding a new syllable (which this time happens to be closed: CvC) to the 3ms base form. Unlike in the red forms, however, the accent in the 2mp and 2fp moves to the final syllable (תֶּם or תֶּן). This causes the vowel in the first syllable of these forms to reduce, as we would expect, since this syllable is now an open propretoneic. The 2mp and 2fp are the only forms in the paradigm in which propretoneic reduction occurs. In every other form the vowel in the first syllable is Qamets.