

c. The Pe waw / yodh system

(1) The irregularity

Yodh or Waw, in the initial position (the pe position) tends to coalesce with the preceding vowel. It blends in with it, so to speak, and while losing its own phonemic identification, it changes the character of the vowel.

- (a) This is marked by a two radical root with a preformative marked with a characteristically stronger vowel
- (b) There are the same three classes in this system that mark the Pe Nun system. In class I (just a few verbs) the yodh simply "drips off" when pointed with a shewa. This is confusing with the Class I pe nun and you may have to look twice in the lexicon until you have found it.
- (c) Occasionally the yodh/waw will act as a strong consonant and be retained (Niphal imperfect), but when pointed with a waw...it dies out.-.or something like that.
- (d) in general you should note the form of the verb on the Verb Charts.

(2) Identifying procedures

- (a) Watch for a longer preformative vowel than you would otherwise expect. Any that show a yodh combination are very suspect. Observe the following:

3 m.s. Q. Impf יִקְוֹטִי

but with Pe Yodh...

3 m.s. Q. Impf... יִיִקְוֹטִי

vowel ←

el. II pakt'ah

- (b) The clue is to see where, with only two radicals left to the stem, the irregularity is. So far...watch for the dagesh with pe nun, the long vowel with pe yodh.

(3) Representative forms

יִיִקְוֹטִי ...good ol' class 2, impf.

יִיִשׁוּב ...and this would be?

יִיִשׁוּב from הִיִּשָּׁב

יִיִשְׁבֵּי hiphil participle

הִיִּשְׁבֵּי hiphil infinitive

יִיִשָּׁב class III impv.