

# Hints for Finding the Root

Roots usually have 3 letters. Eliminate prefixes, infixes and/or suffixes to find your 3-letter root. These letters are always root no matter where they appear in the word: ז ט פ ע ס ט ה ז (ט is very rarely an infix)

1. Eliminate prefixes, infixes, suffixes:

Suffixes		Prefixes	
א-	past or present tense marker (Aramaic)	on, about (Aramaic)	-א
ה-	past or present tense marker	marker of binyan <i>afel</i> (Aramaic)	-א
ה-	her, hers	I, future	-א
הם-	them, their (masc.)	marker of binyanim <i>itpa'el</i> and <i>itpe'al</i> (Aramaic)	-אי
הן-	them, their (fem.)	marker of binyanim <i>itpa'el</i> and <i>itpe'al</i> (Aramaic)	-את
ך-	past or future tense marker	in, with	-ב
ך-	him, his	that, of (Aramaic)	-ד
ות-	noun and present tense plural (fem.)	the (Hebrew)	-ה
י-	past or future tense marker	marker of binyan <i>hifil</i> (Hebrew)	-ה
י-	me, my	marker of binyan <i>hitpa'el</i> (Hebrew)	-הת
י-	masculine plural noun in construct state	and	-ן
י-	masculine plural noun (Aramaic)	future tense marker	-י
יה-	him, his (Aramaic)	like, as	-כ
ין-	him	when	-כש
ים-	noun and present tense pl., masc.	marker of binyan <i>nifal</i> (Hebrew)	-נ
ין-	noun and present tense pl., masc. (rabbinic Heb.)	we, future	-נ
ך-	you, your (singular)	to, for	-ל
כם-	you, your (plural, masc.)	infinitive marker	-ל
כן-	you, your (plural, fem.)	future or jussive marker (Aramaic)	-ל
נא-	I, present (Aramaic)	from	-מ
נו-	we, past (Hebrew)	marker of binyan <i>pi'el</i> or <i>hifil</i> (Hebrew)	-מ
נו-	him, direct object (Hebrew)	marker of binyan <i>afel</i> (Aramaic)	-מ
ני-	me, direct object (Hebrew)	marker of binyan <i>hitpa'el</i> (Hebrew)	-מת
ת-	you (singular), past	emphasis marker (Aramaic)	-ק
ת-	construct form of fem. singular noun	that, of (Hebrew)	-ש
תי-	I, past	future tense marker	-ת
תם-	you (plural, masc.), past		
תן-	you (plural, masc.) past		

## Infixes

- ן - -	- - ן -	- ' - -	- - ' -
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2. Only two letters left? The following letters are weak and tend to fall out: ה ו א י נ. They typically fall out from the following positions:

3rd position	2nd position	1st position
י - -	- ו -	- - ו
ה - -		- - ה
א - -		- - א (only in Aramaic)

3. Still stuck? Look up the word as you find it in the text. If you find your word, make note of its root (Jastrow marks the root with a √), which you should then look up as well.