

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: ט ז ג ר צ פ ע ט ט ח ז ג (ט is very rarely an infix)

1. Eliminate prefixes, infixes, suffixes:

Suffixes	Prefixes
א- Aram. conjugation: past or present	Aram. preposition: ' on, about ' א-א
ה- Heb. conjugation: past, 'she did' or present 'I/you/she is'	Aram. binyan: afel א-א
ה- Heb. pronoun: ' her, hers '	conjugation: future, 'I will' א-א
הם- Heb. possessive pronoun: ' their (m.) '	Aram. binyan: itp'el and itpa'al א-י
הן- Heb. possessive pronoun: ' their (f.) '	Aram. binyan: itp'el and itpa'al א-ת
ו- Heb. conjugation: past, 'they (m.) did' or future, pl.	preposition: ' in, with ' ב-ב
ו- Heb. Poss. pronoun: ' him, his '	Aram. preposition: ' that, of ' ד-ד
ון- noun-ifier	Heb. article: ' the ' ה-ה
ות- Heb. conj: present 'we/y'all/they (f.) are' or noun: pl. f.	Heb. binyan: hifil, past ה-ה
י- Heb. conjugation: future, 'you (f.) will'	Heb. binyan: hitpa'el, past ה-ת
י- Heb. pronoun: ' me, my '	conjunction: ' and ' ו-ו
י- Heb. noun: pl. m. in construct state	conjugation: future, 'he will, they will' י-י
י- Aram. noun: pl. m.	preposition: ' like, as ' כ-כ
יה- Aram. pronoun: ' him, his '	preposition: ' when ' כ-ש
יו- Heb. pronoun: ' him '	preposition: ' to, for ' ל-ל
ים- Heb. conj: present 'we/y'all/they (m.) are' or Noun: pl. m.	Heb. conjugation: infinitive ל-ל
ין- Heb. conj: present 'we/y'all/they (m.) are' or Noun: pl. m.	Aram. conj: future or jussive, 'he/we will' ל-ל
יית- noun-ifier	Aram. conj: future or jussive, 'he/we will' ל-י
ך- Heb. pronoun: ' you, your (singular) '	Aram. conjugation: p'al infinative ל-מ
כם- Heb. pronoun: ' y'all, y'all's (m.) '	preposition: ' from ' מ-מ
כן- Heb. pronoun: ' y'all, y'all's (f.) '	Heb.& Aram. conjugation: present מ-מ
נא- Aram. conjugation: present, 'I am'	noun-ifier מ-מ
נו- Heb. conjugation: past, 'we did'	Heb. binyan: hitpa'el, present מ-ת
נו- Heb. direct object: ' him' or 'us '	Heb. binyan: nifal, past and present נ-נ
ני- Heb. direct object: ' me '	conjugation: future, 'we will' נ-נ
נו- Aram. possessive pronoun: ' our '	Aram. emphasis marker for participles ק-ק
ת- Heb. conj: past, 'you (singular)' or present 'I/you/she is'	Heb. preposition: ' that, of ' ש-ש
ת- Heb. noun: singular, f. in construct state	conj: future, 'you will, y'all will, she will' ת-ת
תי- Heb. conjugation: past, 'I did'	noun-ifier ת-ת
תם- Heb. conjugation: past, 'y'all (m.) did'	
תן- Heb. conjugation: past, 'y'all (f.) did'	

Infixes

- 1 - - passive participle pi'el gerund	- - 1 - pa'al, present tense pu'al	- ' - - hifil most Aramaic binyanim	- - ' - pi'el gerund
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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 - -	- 1 -	- - 1
ה - -		- - י
א - -		- - א (only in Aramaic)

In addition to the weak letters above, words built from roots of the form פלל (in which the second and third root letter are the same) often drop one of the repeated root letters. These are called **geminate roots**.

3. Eliminated everything and still have **four letters left**? A small number of Hebrew and Aramaic words have four-letter roots.
4. Still stuck? Try looking up the word as is in Jastrow, or take a look at your Hint Sheet to see if there are any special notes about this word.