

Lesson 12 – The Waw Consecutive & Conversive

The Waw Consecutive & Conversive

1. When the waw is added to perfect and imperfect verbs, it can function in two different ways:
 - a. The waw can be a simple waw conjunction which is pointed with a shewa (:).
 - b. The waw can also be a waw consecutive, which functions not only as a conjunction, but also changes the meaning, but not the analysis, of the verb tense.
2. Some grammarians refer to this kind of waw as a waw consecutive when it changes the meaning of a perfect to an imperfect and waw conversive when it changes the meaning of an imperfect to a perfect.
3. Waw consecutive on a perfect verb.
 - a. When the waw consecutive is attached to a perfect (complete action) verb, it changes the verb's meaning to that of an imperfect (incomplete action) verb.
 - b. The waw consecutive on a perfect verb is pointed the same as the waw conjunction. The context of a perfect verb with a waw determines whether a waw conjunction or a waw consecutive is intended.
4. Waw consecutives on an imperfect verb.
 - a. When the waw consecutive is attached to an imperfect verb, it changes the verb's meaning to that of a perfect (complete action) verb.
 - b. The waw consecutive on an imperfect verb is typically pointed with a pathah followed by a Daghesh-forte.