

ראה see                      עשה do, make      היה be

רָאִיתִי	הֵיִיתִי עָשִׂיתִי	I
רָאִיתָ	הֵיִיתָ עָשִׂיתָ	you (m. sg.)
רָאִיתְּ	הֵיִיתְּ עָשִׂיתְּ	you (f. sg.)
רָאָה	הָיָה עָשָׂה	he
רָאָתָה	הָיָתָה עָשָׂתָה	she
רָאִינוּ	הָיִינוּ עָשִׂינוּ	we
רָאִיתֶם	הָיִיתֶם עָשִׂיתֶם	you (m. pl.)
רָאִיתֶן	הָיִיתֶן עָשִׂיתֶן	you (f. pl.)
רָאוּ	הָיוּ עָשׂוּ	they

### Why are these verbs different from other verbs?

The verbs היה, עשה, and ראה are our first encounter with weak verbs. You will recall that one of the characteristics of a weak verb is the presence of a guttural (ע, ה, ה, א, and sometimes ר) in the stem. These three verbs are all classified as III-he (III-ה), because their third letter is ה.<sup>1</sup> Interestingly enough, all of these verbs also happen to be doubly weak, because more than one of their consonants is a guttural.

The main distinctive characteristics of III-he verbs are the following

1. The third consonant of the verb stem may originally have been a י, which only later evolved into a ה. This historical י reappears in the first and second person forms of these verbs (sg. and pl., both genders) instead of the ה.
2. The 3 f. sg. form substitutes a ת (an old feminine ending) for the ה of the stem.
3. Other forms with vocalic suffixes are shortened by dropping the final ה before adding the ending. In the Qal perfect, this only affects the 3 pl. form (“they”).

The other irregularities seen in these verbs are due to the fact that gutturals cannot take shevas.

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1. In some classification systems you will see these verbs classified as lamed-he verbs. This means that these verbs have a ה in the same position where the ל appears in the example verb פעל. The system of classifying weak verbs by reference to the verb פעל is an older system, but some modern grammars do use it, and some older grammars are considered classics and are still in use.

This means that in all places where we would normally expect a sheva, if the the consonant is a guttural, it will take a compound sheva, most usuallyְּ, but note that ה tends to take ׀ (see הלה above)