

Sequential Verb Forms in Hebrew: Varying Terminology

1. Waw Consecutive

Focus on narrative sequences (e.g. Ross; Seow; Weingreen).

	Non-Sequential	Sequential
Past	Perfect (+/- Waw Conjunctive)	Preterite¹ + Waw Consecutive
Future	Imperfect (+/- Waw Conjunctive)	Perfect + Waw Consecutive

2. Waw Conversive

Focus on the apparent reversal of meaning (e.g. Kittel/Hoffer/Wright; Lambdin).

	Non-Sequential	Sequential
Past	Perfect	Imperfect + Waw Conversive
Future	Imperfect	Perfect + Waw Conversive

Perfect	Converted Imperfect
Imperfect	Converted Perfect

3. Waw Inversive

Focus on the apparent reversal of meaning (e.g. Joüon/Muraoka²).

	Non-Sequential	Sequential
Past	Perfect	Inverted Future
Future	Future	Inverted Perfect

4. Waw Relative

Focus on the relation between verbs (e.g. Waltke/O'Connor).

	Non-Sequential	Sequential
Past	Suffix Conjugation	Relative Waw + Prefix Conjugation
Future	Prefix Conjugation	Relative Waw + Suffix Conjugation

1. Others will call this the "Imperfect"+ Waw Consecutive.

2. Joüon/Muraoka prefer the term 'inverted' because it "has the advantage of including both inversion of meaning and inversion (shifting) of stress as in w-qatalti" (Paul Joüon S. J., *A Grammar of Biblical Hebrew*, trans. and rev. T. Muraoka (Rome: Editrice Pontificio Istituto Biblico, 1996), 387.

5. Vav Ha-Hippux

Historical term (e.g. Buth).

	Non-Sequential	Sequential ³
Past	Past	Sequential Past
Future	Future	Sequential Future

	Definite Tense-Aspect	Sequential Past Tense
	Indefinite Tense-Aspect	Sequential Future Tense

6. Transliteration

Focus on form rather than function (e.g. Buth; Joüon/Muraoka; Seow; Waltke/O'Connor).

	Non-Sequential	Sequential
Past	<i>qatal</i>	<i>wayyiqtol</i>
Future	<i>yiqtol</i>	<i>weqatal</i> ⁴
	<i>weyiqtol</i> ⁵	

	קָטַל (or פָּקַד)	וַיִּקְטַל (or וַיִּפְקַד)
	יִקְטַל (or יִפְקַד)	וְיִקְטַל (or וְיִפְקַד)
	וַיִּקְטַל (or וַיִּפְקַד)	

Frequency of Occurance⁶

	Non-Sequential	Sequence
Past	<i>qatal</i> 27%	<i>wayyiqtol</i> 29%
Future	<i>yiqtol</i> 28%	<i>weqatal</i> 13%
	<i>weyiqtol</i> 3%	

3. The sequential forms all include the vav ha-hippux or "vav of overturning."

4. The term *weqatal* does not distinguish between Perfect + Waw Consecutive and Perfect + Waw Conjunctive. Some will use the term *weqatalitü* to refer to the Perfect + Waw Consecutive (e.g. Joüon/Muraoka). This term emphasizes the accent shift that occurs in the 2nd masculine singular and 1st common singular forms of most verbs.

5. I.e. the Imperfect (not Preterite) + Waw Conjunctive.

6. Bruce K. Waltke and M. O'Connor, *An Introduction to Biblical Hebrew Syntax* (Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 1990) 456.

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