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

1. Eliminate prefixes, infixes, suffixes:

Suffixes

Form	Meaning
א-	Aram. conjugation: **past or present**
ה-	Heb. conjugation: **past, *'she did'* or present *'I/you/she is'***
ה-	Heb. pronoun: *'her, hers'*
הם-	Heb. possessive pronoun: *'their (m.)'*
הן-	Heb. possessive pronoun: *'their (f.)'*
ו-	Heb. conjugation: **past, *'they (m.) did'* or future, pl.**
ו-	Heb. Poss. pronoun: *'him, his'*
ות-	Heb. conj: present *'we/y'all/they (f.) are'* or Noun: **pl. f.**
י-	Heb. conjugation: **future, *'you (f) will'***
י-	Heb. pronoun: *'me, my'*
י-	Heb. noun: **pl. m. in construct state**
י-	Aram. noun: **pl. m.**
יה-	Aram. pronoun: *'him, his'*
יו-	Heb. pronoun: *'him'*
ים-	Heb. conj: present *'we/y'all/they (m.) are'* or Noun: **pl. m.**
ין-	Heb. conj: present *'we/y'all/they (m.) are'* or Noun: **pl. m.**
ך-	Heb. pronoun: *'you, your (singular)'*
כם-	Heb. pronoun: *'y'all, y'all's (m.)'*
כן-	Heb. pronoun: *'y'all, y'all's (f.)'*
נא-	Aram. conjugation: **present, *'I am'***
נו-	Heb. conjugation: **past, *'we did'***
נו-	Heb. direct object: *'him'* or *'us'*
ני-	Heb. direct object: *'me'*
ת-	Heb. conj: **past, *'you (singular)'* or present *'I/you/she is'***
ת-	Heb. noun: **singular, f. in construct state**
תי-	Heb. conjugation: **past, *'I did'***
תם-	Heb. conjugation: **past, *'y'all (m.) did'***
תן-	Heb. conjugation: **past, *'y'all (f.) did'***

Prefixes

Meaning	Form
Aram. preposition: *'on, about'*	א-
Aram. binyan: **af·el**	א-
conjugation: **future, *'I will'***	א-
Aram. binyan: **itp'·el and itpa·al**	אי-
Aram. binyan: **itp'·el and itpa·al**	את-
preposition: *'in, with'*	ב-
Aram. preposition: *'that, of'*	ד-
Heb. article: *'the'*	ה-
Heb. binyan: **hif·il, past**	ה-
Heb. binyan: **hitpa·el, past**	הת-
conjunction: *'and'*	ו-
conjugation: **future, *'he will, they will'***	י-
preposition: *'like, as'*	כ-
preposition: *'when'*	כש-
Heb. binyan: **nif·al, past and present**	נ-
conjugation: **future, *'we will'***	נ-
preposition: *'to, for'*	ל-
Heb. conjugation: **infinitive**	ל-
Aram. conj: **future or jussive, *'he will, we will'***	ל-
preposition: *'from'*	מ-
Heb.& Aram. conjugation: **present**	מ-
noun-ifier	מ-
Heb. binyan: **hitpa·el, present**	מת-
Aram. emphasis marker for participles	ק-
Heb. preposition: *'that, of'*	ש-
conj: **future, *'you will, y'all will, she will'***	ת-
noun-ifier	ת-

Infixes

— ו — —	— — ו —	— י — —	— — י —
passive participle pi·el gerund	pa·al, present tense pu·al	hif·il most Aramaic binyanim	pi·el gerund

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 —	— — נ
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? 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.