

BASIC GREEK VERB TENSE VOICE MOOD (TVM) COMPARISON DATA SHEET

TENSE:	VOICE:	MOOD:
<p>PAST TENSE: See First Aorist Tense.*</p>	<p>PASSIVE VOICE: The passive voice represents the subject as being the recipient of the action. E.g., in the sentence, "The boy was hit by the ball, " the boy receives the action.</p>	<p>INDICATIVE MOOD: The indicative mood is a simple statement of fact. If an action really occurs or has occurred or will occur, it will be rendered in the indicative mood.</p>
<p>PERFECT TENSE: The perfect (or past-perfect) tense in Greek corresponds to the perfect tense in English, and describes an action which is viewed as having been <i>completed in the past, once for all</i> time, not needing to be repeated.</p>	<p>ACTIVE VOICE: The active voice represents the subject as the doer or performer of the action. e.g., in the sentence, "The boy hit the ball, " the boy performs the action.</p>	<p>IMPERATIVE MOOD: The imperative mood corresponds to the English imperative, and expresses a command to the hearer to perform a certain action by the order and authority of the one commanding. Thus, Jesus' phrase, "Repent ye, and believe the gospel" in Mark 1:15 is not an invitation, but an absolute command requiring full obedience on the part of all hearers.</p>
<p>AORIST TENSE, FIRST: The aorist tense is characterized by its emphasis on punctiliar action; that is, the concept of the verb is considered <u>*without regard for past, present, or future time.</u> <u>There is no direct or clear English equivalent for this tense, though it is generally rendered as a simple past tense in most translations.</u></p> <p>The events described by the aorist tense are classified into several categories by grammarians. The most common of these include a view of the action as having begun from a certain point ("inceptive aorist"), or having ended at a certain point ("cumulative aorist"), or merely existing at a certain point ("punctiliar aorist"). The categorization of other cases can be found in Greek reference grammars.</p> <p>The English reader or translator need not concern himself with most of these finer points concerning the aorist tense, since in most cases they cannot be rendered accurately in English translation, being fine points of Greek exegesis only. The common practice of rendering an aorist by a simple English past tense should suffice in most cases.</p>	<p>MIDDLE VOICE OR PASSIVE DEPONENT: The middle or passive deponent forms in almost all cases are translated as being in the active voice.</p>	<p>INFINITIVE MOOD: The Greek infinitive mood in most cases corresponds to the English infinitive, which is basically the verb with "to" prefixed, as "to believe."</p> <p>Like the English infinitive, the Greek infinitive can be used like a noun phrase ("It is better to live than to die"), as well as to reflect purpose or result ("This was done to fulfil what the prophet said").</p>
<p>AORIST TENSE, SECOND: The "second aorist" tense is identical in meaning and translation to the normal or "first" aorist tense. The only difference is in the form of spelling the words in Greek, and there is no effect upon English translation.</p>		<p>SUBJUNCTIVE MOOD: The subjunctive mood is the mood of possibility and potentiality. The action described may or may not occur, depending upon circumstances. Conditional sentences of the third class are all this type, as well as many commands following conditional purpose clauses, such as those beginning with "hina."</p>
<p>PRESENT TENSE: The present tense represents a simple statement of fact or reality viewed as occurring in actual time. In most cases this corresponds directly with the English present tense.</p>	<p>NO TENSE OR VOICE STATED: In almost all these cases, one can assume that the tense is <i>Present</i> and the voice is <u>Active, especially when the sense is that of a command (Imperative).</u></p>	<p>PARTICIPLE MOOD: The Greek participle corresponds for the most part to the English participle, reflecting "-ing" or "-ed" being suffixed to the basic verb form. The participle can be used either like a verb or a noun, as in English, and thus is often termed a "verbal noun."</p>
<p>FUTURE TENSE: The future tense corresponds to the English future, and indicates the contemplated or certain occurrence of an event which has not yet occurred.</p>		