

Click for Lesson 9 Index

9.5a: 1) *Conjugation of the First Aorist Indicative Active and Middle*
2) *The Aorist of consonantal stems*

To repeat the point with which we concluded 9.3:

The first person of the Aorist Indicative Active is the third principal part in the citation of a verb. From now on we can cite verbs with these three stems: Present - Future - Aorist:
πείθω, πείσω, ἔπεισα.

1) Now we need to understand how this First Aorist is formed. Both in the Active and in the Middle voices (for those verbs that have a middle voice) the Indicative Aorist is a past tense. Thus it will be formed with the following elements: augment (ε) + present stem (*παυ-*) + tense suffix (*-σα-*) + secondary or historical endings.

PRONOUNS	ACTIVE VOICE	MIDDLE VOICE
ἐγώ	ἔ-παυ-σα ¹	ἐ-παυ-σά-μην
σύ	ἔ-παυ-σα-ς	ἐ-παυ-σω ³
ἐκεῖνος	ἔ-παυ-σε ²	ἐ-παύ-σα-το
ἡμεῖς	ἐ-παύ-σα-μεν	ἐ-παυ-σά-μεθα
ὕμεῖς	ἐ-παύ-σα-τε	ἐ-παύ-σα-σθε
ἐκεῖνοι	ἔ-παυ-σα-ν	ἐ-παύ-σα-ντο

Notes:

- 1) No ending in the first person singular. Note the expected drop of the dental before σ
- 2) The α of the tense suffix changes to ϵ in the third person singular.
- 3) The original ending of the 2nd person sg in the Middle voice was actually the same for Imperfect and First Aorist: $-\sigma\omicron$. But between vowels σ tended to be dropped. When it dropped in the Imperfect, the following transformation took place (it is known as *vowel contraction*):

$\acute{\epsilon}\text{-}\acute{\pi}\alpha\acute{\upsilon}\text{-}\epsilon\text{-}\sigma\omicron > \acute{\epsilon}\text{-}\acute{\pi}\alpha\acute{\upsilon}\text{-}\epsilon\text{-}\omicron > \acute{\epsilon}\text{-}\acute{\pi}\alpha\acute{\upsilon}\text{-}\omicron\upsilon$ ($\omicron\upsilon$ is the normal phonetic result of $\epsilon + \omicron$).

In contrast, when it dropped in the Aorist, the α of the tense suffix gave a different result:

$\acute{\epsilon}\text{-}\acute{\pi}\alpha\acute{\upsilon}\text{-}\sigma\alpha\text{-}\sigma\omicron > \acute{\epsilon}\text{-}\acute{\pi}\alpha\acute{\upsilon}\text{-}\sigma\alpha\text{-}\omicron > \acute{\epsilon}\text{-}\acute{\pi}\alpha\acute{\upsilon}\text{-}\sigma\omega$ (ω is the normal phonetic result of $\alpha + \omicron$).

2) *The Aorist of consonantal stems*

When the present stem of a verb ends in a consonant, the regular first aorist produces an encounter of that consonant with s , and therefore the phonetic results are the same as those that occur in the regular future. Let us see some examples.

Dental stems: the dental drops. **$\kappa\omicron\lambda\acute{\alpha}\zeta\omega$, $\kappa\omicron\lambda\acute{\alpha}\sigma\omega$, $\acute{\epsilon}\kappa\omicron\lambda\alpha\sigma\alpha$.**

Labial stems: the consonants combine into ψ : $\gamma\rho\acute{\alpha}\phi\omega$, $\gamma\rho\acute{\alpha}\psi\omega$, $\acute{\epsilon}\gamma\rho\alpha\psi\alpha$ (to draw, write) $\lambda\epsilon\acute{\iota}\beta\omega$, $\lambda\epsilon\acute{\iota}\psi\omega$, $\acute{\epsilon}\lambda\epsilon\upsilon\psi\alpha$ (to nourish), etc.

Palatal stems: the consonants combine into ξ : $\tau\acute{\eta}\kappa\omega$, $\tau\acute{\eta}\xi\omega$, $\acute{\epsilon}\tau\eta\xi\alpha$ (to melt); $\pi\rho\acute{\alpha}\sigma\sigma\omega$ (Attic $\pi\rho\acute{\alpha}\tau\tau\omega$), $\pi\rho\acute{\alpha}\xi\omega$, $\acute{\epsilon}\pi\rho\alpha\xi\alpha$ (to carry out), etc.

Liquid stems are those ending in the present in μ ν λ ρ . When they encounter $-\sigma\alpha$ in the aorist, σ drops, but α remains. Thus results in a "first aorist without σ , or asigmatic." For example, the aorist of $\kappa\rho\acute{\iota}\nu\omega$ (to judge), is:

$\acute{\epsilon}\kappa\rho\iota\alpha$ $\acute{\epsilon}\kappa\rho\iota\alpha\varsigma$ $\acute{\epsilon}\kappa\rho\iota\epsilon$ $\acute{\epsilon}\kappa\rho\iota\alpha\mu\epsilon\nu$ $\acute{\epsilon}\kappa\rho\iota\alpha\tau\epsilon$ $\acute{\epsilon}\kappa\rho\iota\alpha\nu$

Similarly, in the middle voice of $\acute{\alpha}\pi\omicron\kappa\rho\acute{\iota}\nu\omicron\mu\alpha\iota$ (to answer), we have:

$\acute{\alpha}\pi\epsilon\kappa\rho\iota\acute{\nu}\alpha\mu\eta\nu$ $\acute{\alpha}\pi\epsilon\kappa\rho\acute{\iota}\nu\omega$ $\acute{\alpha}\pi\epsilon\kappa\rho\acute{\iota}\nu\alpha\tau\omicron$ $\acute{\alpha}\pi\epsilon\kappa\rho\iota\acute{\nu}\alpha\mu\epsilon\theta\alpha$ $\acute{\alpha}\pi\epsilon\kappa\rho\iota\acute{\nu}\alpha\sigma\theta\epsilon$
 $\acute{\alpha}\pi\epsilon\kappa\rho\acute{\iota}\nu\alpha\tau\omicron$

Note 4: The palatal consonant in a few verbs is "disguised" in the present, on account of phonetic transformations.

Go to [9.5b](#) for **EXAMPLES**