

11.2: Aorist Imperative and Infinitive (Active and Middle voices)

Let us complete the charts of the Aorist Imperative and Infinitive, both in the Active and the Middle voice. The Aorist has past meaning only in the Indicative (where it has augment).¹ In the other moods and forms it does not denote past but it still retains its punctiliar aspect. An exception to be considered later is the Aorist Infinitive, which *in particular contexts* may represent a past action. We will ignore that possibility at this time. The following charts will compare Imperative and Infinitive Present and Aorist forms of *θεραπεύω* = to cure, giving the same translation for both. Notice the tense suffix of the Aorist: **-σα-**, except in the 2nd person singular, where the ending is **-σον**.

IMPERATIVE, ACTIVE VOICE: Present and Aorist compared

person number	Present	Aorist	Same translation:
2nd sg	θεράπευ-ε	θεράπευ- σον	Cure! (you sg)
3rd sg	θεραπευ-έ-τω	θεραπευ- σά -τω	Let him cure!
2nd pl	θεράπευ-ε-τε	θεραπεύ- σα -τε	Cure! (you pl)
3rd pl	θεραπευ-ό-ντων	θεραπευ- σά -ντων	Let them cure!

IMPERATIVE, MIDDLE VOICE: : Present and Aorist compared

person	Present	Aorist	Same translation:
2nd sg	θεοαπεύ-ου ²	θεοάπευ- σαι ³	Heal yourself!
3rd sg	θεοαπευ-έ-σθω	θεοαπευ- σά -σθω	Let him/her heal
2nd pl	θεοάπευ-ε-σθε	θεοαπεύ- σα -σθε	Heal yourselves!
3rd pl	θεοαπευ-έ-σθων	θεοαπευ- σά -σθων	Let them heal

INFINITIVES

Present Active	Aorist Active	Same translation:
θεοαπεύ-ειν	θεοαπεῦ- σαι ³	to cure
Present Middle	Aorist Middle	
θεοαπεύ-εσθαι	θεοαπεύ- σα -σθαι ⁴	to heal oneself

Notes

- 1) Sometimes it is necessary to translate the Greek aorist with our perfect, e.g. in a given context "He has come, worked, done, etc." may be more idiomatic than "He came, worked, did, etc."
- 2) This ending underwent the same transformations as that of the 2nd person sg Imperfect: **ε-σο > ε + ο > ου**
- 3) Sadly, these two forms differ only in their accent, and that only under certain conditions... Consider the context to decide which is which.
- 4) In an indirect statement the aorist infinitive *may* represent an action prior to that of the main verb, and then it may be translated with a past tense of the indicative. This will be studied later.