

Pāli Verbs

8 Kinds of Verbs in Pāli

- V-1 Present tense
- V-2 Request/ commend/ wishing
- V-3 should, ought to/ can, could/ may, might
- V-4 Hearsay (“It is said”)
- V-5/6 Past tense
- V-7 Future tense
- V-8 Too-late action/ Imaginary action

Note: In Pāli there are four kinds of tenses: present tense (*pacuppanna-kāla*), past tense (*atīta-kāla*), future tense (*anāgata-kāla*) and undesignated tense (*anutta-kāla*). Accordingly, among the eight kinds of verbs, present tense is V-1; future tense is V-7; and past tense is V-4, V-5, V-6, and V-8; the undesignated tense is V-2 and V-3.

The examples below are just for your understanding of a Pāli verb in comparison with its English counterpart.

12 Tenses in English—

1. Present	I go	<i>ahaṃ gacchāmi</i>
2. Present continuous	I'm going	<i>ahaṃ gacchanto homi</i>
3. Present perfect	I've gone	<i>ahaṃ gato</i>
4. Present perfect continuous	I've been going	<i>ahaṃ gacchanto homi</i>
5. Past	I went	<i>ahaṃ agacchiṃ</i>
6. Past continuous	I was going	<i>ahaṃ gacchanto ahoṣiṃ</i>
7. Past perfect	I had gone	<i>ahaṃ gato ahoṣiṃ</i>
8. Past perfect continuous	I had been going	<i>ahaṃ gacchanto ahoṣiṃ</i>
9. Future	I will go	<i>ahaṃ gacchissāmi</i>
10. Future continuous	I will be going	<i>ahaṃ gacchanto hessāmi</i>
11. Future perfect	I will have gone	<i>ahaṃ gato hessāmi</i>
12. Future perfect continuous	I'll have been going	<i>ahaṃ gacchanto hessāmi</i>

Present Participle in Pāli

Present participle in Pāli is a verbal noun (*kitaka*) composed of a verbal root and *-anta* or *-māna* suffix. It has all features of a noun: seven forms, two numbers, and three genders. So, “*-anta*” belongs to NG-6 if it is masculine or neuter, and NG-21 if it is feminine. As for “*-māna*” suffix, it belongs to NG-1/2/3 according to gender: NG-1 if masculine, NG-2 if neuter, and NG-3 if feminine.

Past Participle in Pāli

Past participle is a verbal noun (*kitaka*), which is often composed of a verbal root and “-*ta*” suffix. It has all features of a noun, seven forms, two numbers, and three genders. So, according to the context (*abhidheyyattha*), it belongs to NG-1 if masculine, NG-2 if neuter, and NG-3 if feminine.

Different formations of “-*ta*” suffix

- *nīta* (*nī + ta*) brought
- *jīta* (*ji + ta*) won
- *ñāta* (*ñā + ta*) knew
- *viññāta* (*vi + ñā + ta*) well-known
- *huta* (*hu + ta*) honored
- *suta* (*su + ta*) heard
- *bhūta* (*bhū + ta*) arose/ arisen
- *gīta* (*gā + ta*) sang/ sung
- *ṭhīta* (*ṭhā + ta*) stood
- *yācita* (*yāca + ta*) asked

“*ta*” with root ending deleted

- *Kata* (*kara + ta*) made/ done
- *gata* (*gamu + ta*) went/ gone
- *rata* (*ramu + ta*) enjoyed
- *muta* (*muna + ta*) experienced
- *bhutta* (*bhuja + ta*) ate/ eaten

“*ta*” (along with root ending) turns to *ddha*¹

- *kuddho* (*kudha + ta*) upset
- *yuddho* (*yudha + ta*) fight
- *siddho* (*sidha + ta*) accomplished
- *āraddho* (*ā-rabha + ta*) attempted
- *sannaddho* (*saṃ-naha + ta*) bound/ armored

“*ta*” (along with the root ending) turns to *kkha/ kka*

- *sukkha* (*susa + ta*) dried
- *rukkha* (*ruha + ta*) tree
- *pakka* (*paca + ta*) matured/ cooked
- *sakka* (*saka + ta*) capable
- *omukka* (*o-muca + ta*) undressed/ cast off

¹ Kitaka formula-53 (*dha-dha-bha-hehi dha-dhā ca*).

“ta” (along with root ending “ra”) turns into *iṅṅa*²

- *tiṅṅa* (*tara*+*ta*,) swum across
- *puṅṅa* (*pura* + *ta*) fulfilled
- *turita/ tuṅṅa* (*tura* + *ta*) harried
- *jiṅṅa* (*jara* + *ta*) decayed
- *ākiṅṅa* (*ā-kira* + *ta*) spread/ scattered

“ta” with the deletion of the root ending “ra”

- *kata* (*kara* + *ta*;) done/ made
- *sata* (*sara* + *ta*) remembered/ thought of
- *uddhaṭa* (*u-dhara* + *ta*) pulled up
- *bhata* (*bhara* + *ta*) brought up

“ta” (along with root ending “mu”) turns into *nta*

- *kanta* (*kamu* + *ta*,) adored/ loved
- *khanta* (*khamu* + *ta*) forbore/ forborn
- *saṅkanta* (*saṅ-kamu* + *ta*) moved to somewhere
- *nikkhanta* (*ni-kamu* + *ta*) left/ renounced
- *vibbhanta* (*vi-bhamu* + *ta*) returned/ disrobed
- *santa* (*samu* + *ta*) calmed
- *danta* (*damu* + *ta*) tamed
- *tinta* (*timu* + *ta*) wetted

“ta” (along with root ending “ha”) turns into *ḷha*

- *ruḷha* (*ruha* + *ta*,) grew/ grown
- *gāḷha* (*gāhu* + *ta*) took/ taken
- *bāḷha* (*baha* + *ta*) strenuous
- *mūḷha* (*muha* + *ta*) deluded
- *gūḷha* (*guha* + *ta*) hid/ hidden

“ta” (along with root ending “sa”) turns into *ṭṭha*³

- *santusito/ santuṭṭha* (*saṅ-tusa*+*ta*) contented/ satisfied
- *bhassito/ bhaṭṭha* (*bhassa* + *ta*) talked
- *nāsita/ naṭṭha* (*sasa* + *ta*) destroyed
- *daṃsita/ daṭṭha* (*daṃsa* + *ta*) bit/ bitten
- *phussita/ phuṭṭha* (*phusa* + *ta*) touched

² Kitaka formula-59 (*bhidādito inna-anna-īnā vā*).

³ Kitaka formula-50 (*sādi-santa-puccha-bhanja-hansāhi ṭṭhoi*)

- *icchita/ iṭṭha (isu + ta)* desired/ cherished
- *vasito/ vuṭṭha (vasa + ta)* lived/ practiced
- *pavisita/ pavitṭha (u-visa + ta)* entered
- *dassito/ diṭṭha (disa + ta)* saw
- *uddissita/ udiṭṭha (u-disa + ta)* referred/ recommended
- *pahaṃsita/ pahaṭṭha (pa-haṃsa+ta)* elated
- *pucchita/ puṭṭha (puccha + ta)* asked/ questioned

“*ta*” (along with root ending “*pa*”) turns into *tta*

- *gutta (gupa + ta)* guarded
- *litta (lipa + ta)* smeared
- *tatta (tapa + ta)* heated/ intensive
- *āditta (ā-dīpa + ta)* burned
- *atto (apa + ta)* reached/ achieved
- *pamatta (pa-mada + ta)* crazy/ drunk
- *sutta (supa + ta)* slept

“*ta*” (along with root ending “*ra/ da*”) turns into *iṇṇa/ inna*

- *ciṇṇa (cara + ta,)* practiced/ trained
- *puṇṇa (pura + ta)* fulfilled
- *paṇunna (pa-nuda + ta)* plucked/ pulled out
- *ādinna (ā-dā + ta)* taken
- *bhinna (bhida + ta,)* broken
- *chinna (chidi + ta)* cut off
- *dinna (dā + ta)* given
- *nisinna (ni-sida + ta)* seated
- *khinna (khida + ta)* threw/ thrown

“*ta*” (along with root ending “*da*”) turns into *anna*

- *channa (chada + ta,)* covered
- *pasanna (pa-sīda + ta)* pleased
- *uppanna (u-pada + ta)* arisen
- *samāpanna (saṃ-ā-pada + ta)* absorbed
- *ruṇṇa (rudi + ta)* cried

“*ta*” turns into *īṇa/ īna/ ina/ ūna*

- *khīṇa (khī + ta)* run out/ faded away
- *pahīṇa (pa-hā + ta,)* eradicated/ rejected
- *līṇa (lī + ta)* withdrew/ withdrawn back
- *pīṇa (pī + ta)* well-fed

- *jina/ jota (ji + ta)* won/ conquered
- *lūna (lū + ta)* cut off

Below are some examples of “-ta” suffix (Past Participle) from Pāli Texts—

***Buddho** so bhagavā bodhāya dhammaṃ deseti.*
Having realized the Buddha teaches us dhamma for realization.

***Danto** so bhagavā damathāya dhammaṃ deseti.*
Having been tamed the Buddha teaches us dhamma for being tamed.

***Santo** so bhagavā samathāya dhammaṃ deseti.*
Having been peaceful the Buddha teaches us dhamma for peacefulness.

***Tiṇṇo** so bhagavā taraṇāya dhammaṃ deseti.*
Having swum across the Buddha teaches us dhamma for swimming across.

***Parinibbuto** so bhagavā parinibbānāya dhammaṃ deseti.*
Having been tranquil the Buddha teaches us dhamma for tranquility

“***Vimuttasmiṃ vimuttam**’iti nāṇaṃ hoti. ‘Khīnā jāti, yusitam brahma-cariyaṃ, katam karaṇīyaṃ, nāparaṃ itthatthāyā’ti pajānāti.*”

“When liberated, there arises realization thus, ‘Liberated.’ He fully understands, ‘Rebirth is exhausted; the holy life has been well lived; what should be done has been done; there is nothing more to be done for this purpose.’”

*Kim me ekena **tiṇṇena**, purisena thāma-dassinā
 Sabbaññutaṃ pāpuṇitvā, santāressaṃ sa-devakaṃ.*

What for me (to do) with a man who is strong but swims alone (across the ocean);
 Having attained omniscience I will help the world to swim across.