
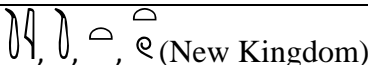
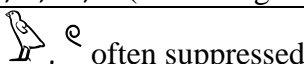
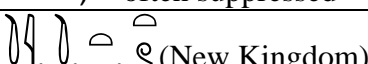
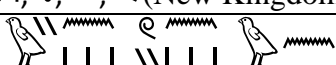

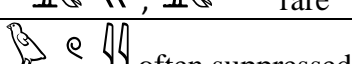


The Stative

The stative (old perfective¹ or pseudoparticiple²) is a verb form that generally expresses the resulting state of a prior completed action. For transitive verbs the action is performed *on its subject* (passive) (except for the verb *rh* “to know”), and for intransitive verbs (such as verbs of motion and adjective verbs) the action is performed *by its subject* (active). The stative verb forms always come with specific pronominal suffixes indicating person, number and gender:

Gender and Number	Transliteration	Sign
1S	.kw	
2S	.ti	 (New Kingdom)
3MS	.w	 often suppressed
3FS	.ti	 (New Kingdom)
1PL	.win	
2PL	.tiwni	 rare
3PL	.wi, .y	 often suppressed



In addition to the stative pronominal suffix, the subject of the stative is very often topicalized.

This is called the **subject + stative construction**:

(nominal or pronominal) subject + verb . stative ending

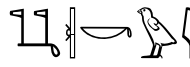

The stative ending agrees in gender and number with the topicalized subject. The subject + stative construction is often introduced by a particle (*iw*, *m.k*, *nḥmn* etc.) or an introductory word (*ḥ^c.n*, *wn.in*, *wn.hr* etc.) and the usual grammatical rules apply.

Examples of the stative with **transitive verbs**:


 *iw^c.kw* “I have been rewarded” [Urk. IV, 2, 2] (*iw^c* “reward” with the biliteral  *iw*);

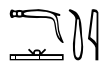
¹ In earlier Egyptian, (initial) first person stative was used to express completed (perfective) action: *ir.kw* “I did...;” see A. Loprieno, *Ancient Egyptian*, Cambridge University Press (2000), p. 80.


² Expressing the result of a completed action, some uses of the stative can be translated by English past participle.

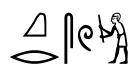
 *s3h.kw* “I have been endowed” [Urk. IV, 2, 4] (*s3h* “endow” with the phonogram  *s3h*);


 *dhn.kw* “I was appointed” [Urk. IV, 3, 9] (*dhn* “appoint, bow to”);


 *rdi.kw* “I was put on” [ShS. 39] (*rdi* “give, put, cause”);

 *mh.ti* “it is filled” [Harper I, 3] (*mhi* “fill”);


 *mh(.w)* “it was filled” [ShS. 116; Kamose Stela 2, 13];


 *krs.w(i)* “they are buried” [Harper II (vi, 2), 4] (*krs* “bury”);


 *nn.ti* “it was returned” [Kamose Stela 2, 27] (with the backwards walking legs determinative);


 *sdd.ti* “they are recited” [Harper II (vi, 2), 6].

More complex examples for the **subject + stative construction**:

 *iw(.i) rh.kw sst3 n mdw-ntr* “I know the secret of hieroglyphs” [Irtysen Stela 6-7]. The artisan-sculptor Irtysen asserts his skills. Even though *rh* “know” is transitive, it has active meaning; an exceptional case. *iw* is a particle signaling the beginning of the sentence.



 *h'i.n.tw h'w* “Then it was rejoiced” [Louvre Stela 269, 17] (with the transitive verb *h'i* “rejoice;” the impersonal suffix pronoun *.tw* should be *.f*).

“What of their places?”³ ...  *inbw.sn fh.wi* ... Their walls have been destroyed” [Harper II (vi, 2), 7]. (The verb *fh* can be transitive “loose, release, cast off, destroy, obliterate,” or intransitive “set out, depart.”⁴)



 *hr.i hz(.w)* “I was brave” [Stela of Khu-Sobek, 9]. (Egyptian idiom; lit. “my sight is blessed.” Baines,⁵ however, translates this as: “my face looked forward,” i.e. “confronting.”)


³ Lichtheim’s translation.

⁴ Lichtheim translates this second sentence as “Their walls have crumbled” with the verb *fh* interpreted as intransitive.



Note: In earlier Egyptian, irrespective of transitivity, the stative expressed perfect tense. There are a handful of surviving examples of the stative of transitive verbs with *active* meaning (mostly in narrative in the 1st person) such as  *ib.kw* “I thought” [ShS. 57-58] (with the phonogram  *ib*).



Examples of the stative with **intransitive verbs**:


 *šm.kw* “I had gone” [ShS. 23] (*šmi* “go, walk” with the biliteral  *šm*);

 *mn.kw* “I moored” [Kamose Stela 2, 31] (*mn* “be set, be fixed, remain”);



 *mn(.w)* “it stuck” [Urk. IV, 8, 15];

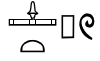
 *sdr.kw* “I lied” [ShS. 42-43] (*sdr* “lie down, spend the night, sleep” with the biliteral  *dr*);


 *ii.kw* “I have come” [Kamose Stela 2, 10] (*ii* “come, return” with the phonogram  *ii*);


 *ii.n(w)* “we returned” [ShS. 10];

 *ii.ti* “welcome” (lit. “you have come,” an Egyptian idiom) [Urk. VI, 611, 15];

 *hpr.t(i)* “you become” [ShS. 73] (*hpr* “happen, evolve, grow up, become,” with the ideogram  *hpr*);

 *hṭp.w(i)* “they rest” [Harper II (vi, 2), 4];

 *sw3(.w)* “it has passed” [Pr. I, 7] (*sw3* “pass”);

 *m(w)t(.ti)* “it died” [ShS. 38] (*mwt* “die,” the second *t* is suppressed);

⁵ J. Baines, The Stela of Khusobek: Private and Royal Military Narrative and Values, in Form und Mass, Beiträge zur Literatur, Sprache und Kunst des alten Ägypten, Otto Harrassowitz, Wiesbaden, pp. 43-61.

bdš.w(i) “they became weak” [Urk. IV, 8, 17] (*bdš* “become faint, weak, exhausted”);

sd3(.wi) “they tremble” [Urk. IV, 616, 8] (*sd3* “tremble” with the egret as a determinative for *sd3*);

hd(.w) “it was shining” [Kamose Stela 2, 32];

tni.kw “I grew old” [Urk. IV, 10, 5].

More complex examples for **subject + stative construction**:

ib.f htp.w “his heart is content” [Pr. I, 9] (*htp* “calm, content” with the ideogram *htp*).

ḥḥ.n.i ḥd.kw “Then I proceeded downstream” [Stela of Khu-Sobek, 22].

izwt.n ii.t(i) ḥd.t(i) “our crew has returned in safety” [ShS. 7] (with the phonogram *iz*, and *ḥd* “safe” with the biliteral *ḥd*. The 3FS stative endings are because *izwt* is a feminine noun. Two subject + stative constructions with shared subject.) The stative of the adjective-verb *ḥd* describes the quality of the subject (the crew) as the *result* of a prior action of “becoming safe.”

ib.i 3w(.w), ib.f 3w(.w) “I/he was happy,” etc. [Kamose Stela 2, 3; Urk. IV, 5, 13; see also Urk. IV, 612, 2; 613, 5] (*3wi* “long” is an adjective-verb, and *3wi ib* “be happy” is an Egyptian idiom, lit. “long of heart.”)

iriw sbḥt ḥ3m.y “the gatekeepers bowed down” [Stela of the Official Mentuhotep, UC14333, 4] (*iriw* is a plural prepositional nisbe: “those pertaining to.” Note the rare 3PL stative ending *y*.)