

Dr. Shirley's Greek Courses

Grammar - The Second Aorist Indicative Active

The **Aorist** is the tense that implies a completed action, or an act that took place at one point in time (eg: “I did something”). If an action was continuous or repeated (eg. “I used to do something”, “I was doing something”) Greek uses the **Imperfect**.

Greek is like English and German, in that verbs make their past tenses in different ways –
“Weak” verbs have endings added to the stem, eg. I call, I called. Greek calls these **“First Aorists”**
“Strong” verbs alter the stem, eg. I bring, I brought. Greek calls these **Second Aorists**.

Although the “Present Stem” is the one with which we are generally more familiar, and the one used for dictionary entries, the “Aorist Stem” is probably the original Verbal Stem.

The Present Stem has usually been derived from the Aorist by lengthening - duplication of a letter, as in βαλ– going to βαλλ–, or addition of letters, as in λαβ– going to λαμβαν–

Common Second Aorists : (the endings are the same as the Imperfect)

	Present	2nd Aorist		Present	2nd Aorist
I lead	ἄγω	ἤγαγον	I led	I come/go	έρχομαι ἤλθον
I sin	ἁμαρτανω	ἤμαρτον	I sinned	I eat	ἔσθιω ἔφαγον
I die	ἀποθνησκω	ἀπεθانون	I died	I say	λέγω εἶπον
I throw	βαλλω	ἔβαλον	I threw	I see	ὄραω εἶδον
I find	εὔρισκω	ευρον	I found	I run	τρέχω ἔδραμον
I have	ἔχω	ἔσχον	I had	I carry	φέρω ἤνεγκα
I leave	καταλείπω	κατέλιπον	I left		or ἤνεγκον
I take	λαμβάνω	ἔλαβον	I took		
I learn	μανθάνω	ἔμαθον	I learnt		
I suffer	πάσχω	ἔπαθον	I suffered		
I drink	πίνω	ἔπιον	I drank		
I fall	πίπτω	ἔπεσον	I fell		
I flee	φεύγω	ἔφυγον	I fled		

The endings of the Second Aorist Active are the same as those of the Imperfect Active, eg :

	Present		Imperfect		(2nd) Aorist
I throw	βαλλω	I was throwing	ἔβαλλον	I threw	ἔβαλον
you throw	βαλλεις		ἔβαλλες		ἔβαλες
he/she/it throws	βαλλει		ἔβαλλεν		ἔβαλεν
we throw	βαλλομεν		ἔβαλλομεν		ἔβαλομεν
you-all throw	βαλλετε		ἔβαλλετε		ἔβαλετε
they throw	βαλλουσιν		ἔβαλλον		ἔβαλον
Participles :					
throwing	βαλλων		having thrown		βαλων