

Chapter 31

The Weirdos (part 2) - The Aorist

31.1 In chapter 28 we met the "The Weirdos" - verbs which use multiple stems for their tenses.

Re-read Sections 28.1 and 28.2 before proceeding to this chapter.

Make sure that you have learned the first three "**Principal Parts**" of the weirdos - these are the stems for the Present, the Future, and the Aorist Active.

31.2 Distinction between Present and Aorist aspects

The **Present stem in Greek implies a continuing or repeated action**, and is used not only for the Present tense, but also for the Imperfect, and often for the Future tense. An action in the Future has not yet begun, and so has not yet come to completion. Besides the Present Indicative and Present Subjunctive (chapters 3, 21), there are Present Imperatives - "Be doing something!" (chapter 17), Present Infinitives - "to be doing something" (chapter 19), and Present Participles - "doing something" (chapter 20).

So the Present Stem of a verb is used for more than just the Present Indicative Active.

The **Aorist stem in Greek implies a simple action**. The Aorist usually implies that an action took place only once, or that it is complete, hence it is commonly used for simple statements of past actions - "I did something".

However, it would be a mistake to think of the Aorist as always implying a past action. There is an Aorist Subjunctive - "if something should happen (once)", and Aorist Imperatives - "Do something! (once)", Aorist Infinitives - "to do something (once)", and Aorist Participles - "having done something". These all act quite similarly to the forms we have already learned, except that they are built on the Aorist stem and have slightly different endings.

At this point it should be mentioned that there are two sets of personal endings of the Aorist Indicative.

1. The first set is used for verbs whose stems are the same in both the Present/Imperfect and the Aorist. Because the stems are the same, Greek uses a different set of endings to make the distinction between the Imperfect and the Aorist Indicatives. This set is called the "**First Aorist**" - we will meet it later.
2. The second set is used for verbs which have different stems for the Present/Imperfect and the Aorist. Because the stems are different, there is no need to use a different set of endings for the Imperfect and the Aorist. This set is called the "**Second Aorist**", for which the personal endings are exactly the same as the Imperfect endings which we have already learned.

31.3 The Weirdos : Learn this table

Learn the rows, until you can chant "I come/go - ἔρχομαι - ἔλευσομαι - ἦλθον" etc. automatically.

| | Present | Future | Aorist |
|----------------|---------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| I take | αἴρω | αἴρησω | εἶλον |
| I come/go | ἔρχομαι | ἔλευσομαι | ἦλθον |
| I eat | ἔσθιω | φαγομαι | ἔφαγον |
| I say | λέγω | ἔρω | εἶπον |
| I see | ὄραω | ὄψομαι | εἶδον |
| I suffer | πασχω | πεισομαι | ἔπαθον |
| I drink | πινω | πιομαι | ἔπιον |
| I run | τρέχω | (θρεξομαι or δραμουμαι) | ἔδραμον |
| I carry, bring | φέρω | οἶσω | ἦνεγκον or ἦνεγκα |

The Future forms of τρέχω are not used in the Greek New Testament - they are included here for completeness, for those who may wish to extend their reading to other texts.

The Aorist of φέρω can take two sets of endings (either First Aorist endings, or Second Aorist endings, both built on the ἦνεγκ- stem).

Occasionally the Aorist of λέγω will use the First Aorist endings in -α also.

Although we learn the Aorists in the forms they have when used in the Indicative (with an augment ε-)

the true Aorist stems are

ἐλ- (take), ἐλθ- (come/go), φαγ- (eat), εἰπ- or ἐρ- (say), ἰδ- (see), δραμ- (run), ἐνεκ- (bear)
 These forms will appear in the Infinitives, the Imperatives, and the Participles.

The ἐρ- stem for "say" originally had a digamma, φερ-, hence Latin "verbum" (word), and English words such as verb, verbal, verbose.

31.4 The basic pattern for the **Second Aorist Indicative Active** is

| | | | |
|----------------|-----------|-------------|-------|
| I | ἐ-STEM-ον | ἐ-STEM-ομεν | we |
| you (singular) | ἐ-STEM-ες | ἐ-STEM-ετε | y'all |
| he/she/it | ἐ-STEM-εν | ἐ-STEM-ον | they |

For λεγω - I say, this becomes

| | | | |
|----------------|-------|---------|------------|
| I said | εἶπον | εἶπομεν | we said |
| you said | εἶπες | εἶπετε | y'all said |
| he/she/it said | εἶπεν | εἶπον | they said |

Practice - until you can read and translate easily

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. ἐγὼ εἶπον, Ποιεῖτε τὰ καλά. | I said, "Do (the) good (things)." |
| 2. αἱ ἀδελφαὶ εἶπον, Ἀγαπάτε τὸν θεόν. | The sisters said, "Love God." |
| 3. ἤνεγκομεν τοὺς ἄρτους εἰς τὴν οἰκίαν καὶ ἐφαγομεν αὐτούς. | We brought the loaves into the house and we ate them. |
| 4. εἶδες τὸν Ἰωάννην ἐν τῇ ἐρήμῳ ; | Did you see John in the desert? |
| 5. Ναι, ἐγὼ ἦλθον εἰς τὴν ἐρήμον καὶ εἶδον τὸν Ἰωάννην ἐκεῖ. | Yes, I went into the desert and I saw John there. |
| 6. εἶπετε τῷ ἀνθρώπῳ, Ὁ Μεσσίας ἦλθεν εἰς τὴν Γαλιλαίαν. | You said to the man, "The Messiah went into Galilee". |
| 7. εἶπομεν τοῖς ἁμαρτωλοῖς, Ὁ Χριστὸς ἐρχεται. | We said to the sinners, "Christ is coming." |
| 8. εἶδεν αὐτὸν ὁ πατὴρ αὐτοῦ καὶ ἐδράμεν πρὸς αὐτόν. | And his father saw him and ran to(wards) him. |
| 9. εἶδομεν τὸ σημεῖον καὶ ἦλθομεν προσκυνεῖν αὐτῷ. | We saw his sign, and came to worship him. (<i>see Matt.2:2</i>) |
| 10. εἶπεν δε αὐτῷ ὁ διαβόλος, Εἰ υἱὸς εἶ τοῦ θεοῦ, εἶπε τῷ λίθῳ τούτῳ ἵνα γενηται ἄρτος. | The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, say to this stone that it should become bread. (<i>tell this stone to become bread</i>) (<i>Luke 4:3</i>) |
- (*εἶπε* is the Aorist Imperative of *λεγω*, *γενηται* is the Subjunctive of *γίνομαι*)

31.5 Compounds of the weirdos

There is no new grammar to learn, only extra vocabulary, building on the stems we already know.

Practice - until you can read and translate easily

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|--|---|
| 1. οἱ στρατιῶται κατεφαγον τοὺς ἄρτους. | The soldiers devoured (ate up) the loaves. |
| 2. ἡμεῖς προηλθομεν ἐπὶ τὸ πλοῖον. | We went ahead on(to) the boat. (<i>see Acts 20:13</i>) |
| 3. ὁ πατὴρ προσήνεγκεν τὸν υἱὸν αὐτοῦ τῷ Ἰησοῦ. | The father brought his son to Jesus. |
| 4. ὁ κυριὸς ἐπειδεν τὰ παιδία. | The Lord took notice of the children. |
| 5. καὶ ἀπηλθον ἐν τῷ πλοίῳ εἰς ἐρημον τόπον κατ' ἴδιαν. | And they went away in the boat (in)to a desert place by themselves. (<i>Mark 6:32</i>) |
| 6. καὶ ὁ Ἰησοῦς κατηλθεν εἰς Καφαρναουμ. | And Jesus went down to Capernaum. (<i>Luke 4:31</i>) |
| 7. ὁ χλιαρχὸς κατεδράμεν ἐπ' αὐτούς. | The tribune ran down (on)to them. (<i>see Acts 21:32</i>) |

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| 6. ἐν ταυταις ταις ἡμεραις κατηλθον ἀπο Ἱεροσολυμων προφηται. | In those days (at that time) prophets came down from Jerusalem. (see Acts 11:27) |
| 9. ὁ Δαυιδ εἰσηλθεν εἰς τον οἶκον του θεου και τους ἄρτους . . ἔφαγεν. | David went into the House of God and ate the loaves. (see Luke 6:4) |
| 10. και εἰσηλθεν εἰς Ἱεροσολυμα εἰς το ἱερον · και . . . ἐξηλθεν εἰς Βηθανιαν. . . | And he went into Jerusalem, into the temple, and . . . he went out to Bethany . . . (Mark 11:11) |

31.6 Use of Present, Imperfect, and Aorist of the weirdos

Greek tends to be more precise than English in the use of tenses. "Speaking" and "Eating" take place over a period of time, rather than being instantaneous - so Greek often uses the Present/Imperfect stem of λεγω and ἐσθιω where English would use the simple past "he said", "he ate".

Greek also uses the "Historical Present" to bring an account to life for the reader.

So sometimes the translation needs to use a different tense to be "good English".

Practice - until you can read and translate easily

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|---|---|
| 1. και ἰδου ὁ ἀστηρ ὄν εἶδον . . . προηγεν αὐτους. | And behold, the star which they saw (had seen) . . . led (was leading) them. (Matt. 2:9) |
| 2. και ἰδου προσεφερον αὐτῷ παραλυτικον. | And behold, they brought (were bringing) a paralytic to him. (see Matt. 9:2) |
| 3. και ὁ Ἰησους εἶδεν ἀνθρωπον, Μαθθαιον λεγομενον, και λεγει αὐτῷ, Ἀκολουθει μοι. | And Jesus saw a man, called Matthew, and said (says) to him, "Follow me." (see Matt. 9:9) |
| 4. και οἱ Φαρισαιοι ἔλεγον τοις μαθηταις αὐτου, Δια τί μετα των τελωνων και ἁμαρτωλων ἐσθιει ὁ διδασκαλος ὑμων ; | And the Pharisees said (were saying) to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax-collectors and sinners? (see Matt. 9:11) |
| 5. ἦλθεν γαρ Ἰωαννης μητε ἐσθιων μητε πινων και λεγουσιν, Δαιμονιον ἐχει. | For John came, neither eating nor drinking, and they said (say) "He has a demon." (Matt. 11:18) |
| 6. και περιεδραμον ὄλην την χωραν ἐκεινην και ἠρξαντο . . . περιφερειν τους παραλυτικους ὅπου ἤκουον ὅτι ἐστιν. | And they ran all around that region and they began to carry the paralytics around (to) where they heard (were hearing) that he was (is) (see Mark 6:55) |
| 7. ἐξηλθεν οὖν ὁ Πητρος και ὁ ἄλλος μαθητης, και ἤρχοντο εἰς το μνημειον. ἐτρεχον δε οἱ (μαθηται) και ὁ ἄλλος μαθητης προεδραμεν του Πητρου και ἦλθεν πρῶτος εἰς το μνημειον. | Then Peter and the other disciple went out and they went (were going) to the tomb. The (disciples) were running and the other disciple ran ahead of Peter and came to the tomb first. (see John 20:3-4) |

31.7 Sentences for reading and translation

- ὁ μαθητης κατηλθεν ἀπο Ἱεροσολυμων ;
- ὁ Τιμοθεος και ὁ Τιτος προηλθον ἡμας εἰς την Ἀσιαν.
- προσηνεγκετε τα παιδια τῷ Ἰησῷ ;
- Ναι, προσηνεγκομεν αὐτα αὐτῷ.
- οὐκ εἰσηνεγκες ἡμας εἰς πειρασμον.
- ὁ Ἰησους εἶπεν τοις μαθηταις αὐτου, Ἀκολουθει μοι.
- ἐγὼ εἶδον τον κυριον ἄλλα συ οὐκ εἶδες αὐτον.
- ἡμεῖς ἐδραμομεν προς τον Ἰωαννην ὑμεῖς δε οὐκ συνεδραμετε ἡμῖν.
- ἡ μητηρ ἐξηλθεν ἐκ του οἴκου και εἰσηλθεν εἰς την συναγωγην.
- ὁ ἀστηρ προηλθεν αὐτους προς την κωμην.

31.8 Writing Practice : Write the Greek text, while saying aloud (Matt. 5:3-5)

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|---|---|
| μακαριοι οἱ πτωχοι τῷ πνευματι, | Happy (are) the poor in spirit, |
| ὅτι αὐτῶν ἐστὶν ἡ βασιλεία τῶν οὐρανῶν. | for theirs is the Kingdom of the Heavens. |
| μακαριοι οἱ πενθουντες, | Happy are the ones mourning, |
| ὅτι αὐτοὶ παρακληθησονται. | for they shall be encouraged. |
| μακαριοι οἱ πραεις, | Happy are the humble, |

31.9 New Testament Passage for reading and translation : Mark 10:46-52

In your Greek New Testament, read the passage aloud several times until you can read it without long pauses or stumbling. Then use the helps to translate it.

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Ἰεριχῶ | Jericho |
| ἐκπορευομενου αὐτου | "while he was travelling out of" |
| ὁ προσαιτης | beggar (<i>from προσαιτεω - I beg, from προς + αιτεω - I ask for</i>) |
| ἐκαθητο | (he) was sitting (<i>Imperfect of καθημαι - I sit</i>) |
| ἀκουσας | having heard (<i>Aorist Participle of ακουω - I hear</i>) |
| ὁ Ναζαρηνοσ | Nazarene - someone from Nazareth. |
| ἤρξατο | (he) began (<i>Aorist of αρχομαι - I begin</i>) |
| ἐλέησον | be merciful to! (<i>Aorist Imperative of ἐλεέω - I show mercy</i>) |
| πολλοι | many (<i>Masculine Nom. Plural of πολυς, πολλη, πολυ - much, many</i>) |
| σιωπηση | he should be silent - shut up! (<i>Aorist Subjunctive of σιωπαω I am silent</i>) |
| πολλῶ μαλλον | much more (<i>πολυς, πολλη, πολυ - much, many; and μαλλον - more</i>) |
| στασ | having stood still, having stopped (<i>Aorist Participle of ἵστημι - I stand</i>) |
| φωνησατε | call! (<i>Aorist Imperative of φωνεω - I call</i>) |
| ἀποβαλων | having thrown off (<i>Aorist Participle of ἀποβαλλω - I throw off</i>) |
| ἀναπηδησας | having jumped up (<i>Aorist Participle of ἀναπηδαω - I spring up</i>) |
| ἀποκριθεισ | having answered (<i>Aorist Participle of ἀποκρινομαι - I answer</i>) |
| Ῥαββουνι | My Master! (<i>Aramaic, emphatic form of ραββι</i>) |
| ἀναβλεψω | I may see again (<i>Aorist Subjunctive of ἀναβλεπω - I look up, see again</i>) |
| σεσωκεν | (it) has saved (<i>Perfect of σωζω - I save</i>) |
| ἀνεβλεψεν | (he) saw (<i>Aorist Indicative of ἀναβλεπω - I look up, see again</i>) |

31.10 Vocabulary to learn

Also - Refresh your memory of the verbs in Vocabulary 22 - ἔρχομαι and its compounds

| | |
|----------------|--|
| ἀντιπαρέρχομαι | I pass by on the other side of the road |
| ἐπανάρχομαι | I return |
| ἐπισέρχομαι | I come upon |
| ἐπέρχομαι | I come, come about |
| συνεισέρχομαι | I enter with, go in with |
| ἀντιλέγω | I oppose, contradict |
| ἐπιλέγω | I call, name Middle - I choose |
| καταλέγω | I enroll |
| προσλέγω | I answer, reply |
| συνεσθίω | I eat with |
| ἐφοράω | I take notice of, concern myself with (<i>Aorist ἐπειδον - I took notice of</i>) |
| καθοράω | I perceive clearly |
| προοράω | I see ahead of time Middle - I keep my eye on |
| συνοράω | I realize, become aware of |
| ὑπεροράω | I overlook, disregard |

| | |
|--------------|--|
| εἰστρέχω | I run into |
| κατατρέχω | I run down to |
| περιτρέχω | I run about |
| προστρέχω | I run up to |
| προτρέχω | I run on ahead |
| συντρέχω | I run together with, join with |
| ὑποτρέχω | I run under (the shelter of), away from the wind |
| ἀποφέρω | I take, carry away, lead away |
| εἰσφέρω | I carry in, bring in |
| ἐκφέρω | I bring out, produce |
| ἐπιφέρω | I bring upon, inflict |
| καταφέρω | I bring charges, vote against |
| παραφέρω | I take away, remove |
| περιφέρω | I carry about |
| προφέρω | I bring out, produce |
| ὑποφέρω | I bear up under, endure |
| προσαιτέω | I beg |
| σιωπάω | I am silent |
| ἡ Ἄσια | Asia (<i>the West coast of modern Turkey</i>) |
| ὁ προσαίτης | beggar |
| μᾶλλον | more |
| πολλῶ μᾶλλον | much more, all the more |
| πόσῳ μᾶλλον | how much more |
| ὁ ἀστήρ | star (<i>do not attempt to use cases other than the Nominative singular</i>) |