

Chapter 30

The Imperfect Indicative Middle and Passive The Imperfect of εἰμί

30.1 In chapters 22 and 23 we met the Present Middle and Passive, and Deponent Verbs. Now we meet the Imperfect Middle/Passive, used for continuing or repeated action in the past.

In the Imperfect, the personal endings of the Middle and the Passive Voices are the same.

The rest of the sentence will help to determine whether the verb is to be translated as Middle or Passive.

Passive verbs are usually accompanied by a phrase such as ὑπὸ τοῦ "by" (someone) to indicate the agent who does the action.

e.g. ὁ Ἰησοῦς βαπτίζεται ὑπὸ τοῦ Ἰωάννου. Jesus is being baptized by John.

Deponent verbs are verbs which look as if they are passive - they use passive endings - but they are best translated as active. Deponent verbs often have a reflexive sense, of doing something to oneself.

e.g. ἔρχομαι εἰς τὸν οἶκον. I come/go (move myself) into the house.

30.2 Basic patterns for the Imperfect Middle/Passive

The Imperfect uses the same stem as the Present.

Note the augment (ε-) on the Imperfect, and the similarity between the Present and the Imperfect endings.

Contract verbs, e.g. φοβέομαι (I fear, am afraid) follow the usual rules for contraction.

If the stem of the verb begins with a vowel, the same contractions take place as for the Imperfect Active.

Compound verbs behave as for the Imperfect Active. (see Sections 29.4 and 29.5)

	-ω verbs	-άω verbs	-έω verbs	-όω verbs
1	ἐ-STEM-όμην	ἐ-STEM-ῶμην	ἐ-STEM-ούμην	ἐ-STEM-ούμην
2	ἐ-STEM-ου	ἐ-STEM-ῶ	ἐ-STEM-οῦ	ἐ-STEM-οῦ
3	ἐ-STEM-ετο	ἐ-STEM-ᾶτο	ἐ-STEM-εἶτο	ἐ-STEM-οὔτο
1	ἐ-STEM-όμεθα	ἐ-STEM-ώμεθα	ἐ-STEM-ούμεθα	ἐ-STEM-ούμεθα
2	ἐ-STEM-εσθε	ἐ-STEM-ᾶσθε	ἐ-STEM-εἶσθε	ἐ-STEM-οὔσθε
3	ἐ-STEM-οντο	ἐ-STEM-ῶντο	ἐ-STEM-οὔντο	ἐ-STEM-οὔντο

	Imperfect Passive of βαπτίζω		Imperfect Middle of πορεύομαι	
1.	I was being baptized	ἐβαπτίζομην	ἐπορευόμην	I was travelling
2.	you were being baptized	ἐβαπτίζου	ἐπορεύου	you were travelling
3.	he/she was being baptized	ἐβαπτίζετο	ἐπορεύετο	he/she/it was travelling
1.	we were being baptized	ἐβαπτίζόμεθα	ἐπορευόμεθα	we were travelling
2.	you were being baptized	ἐβαπτίζεσθε	ἐπορεύεσθε	you were travelling
3.	they were being baptized	ἐβαπτίζοντο	ἐπορεύοντο	they were travelling

Practice - until you can read and translate easily

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|---|--|
| 1. οἱ ἄνθρωποι ἐβαπτίζοντο ὑπὸ τοῦ Ἰωάννου. | The men were being baptized by John. |
| 2. ἡ ἀλήθεια ἐγνωρίζετο ἐν τῇ Ἀσίᾳ. | The truth was being revealed in Asia. |
| 3. ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἐξελέγετο τοὺς ἀποστόλους. | Jesus was choosing the apostles. |
| 4. ὁ στρατιώτης ἐπιλαμβάνετο τοὺς ἀδελφούς. | The soldier was arresting the brothers. |
| 5. ἐθεωρούμην τοὺς δεσμίους ἐν τῇ φυλακῇ. | I was watching the prisoners in the prison. |
| 6. αἱ χῆραι διεκονοῦντο
ὑπὸ τῶν διακόνων ; | Were the widows being cared for
by the deacons? |
| 7. ἀπελύου ὑπὸ τοῦ ἀγγέλου ; | Were you being loosed by the angel? |
| 8. ὁ Ἰησοῦς τυφλοῖς ἐχαρίζετο βλέπειν. | Jesus was (graciously) giving sight
to the blind. |

("was gracing to the blind to see" - compare Luke 7:21)

9. ὁ πατήρ εἰσεπορεύετο εἰς τὴν Ἱεροσόλυμα. The father was travelling (in)to Jerusalem.
 10. ἐφοβεῖσθε τοὺς στρατιώτας ; Were you afraid of the soldiers?
 Naί, ἐφοβούμεθα αὐτούς. Yes, we were afraid of them.

30.3 The Imperfect of εἰμί

The verb "to be" is irregular. As a copulative verb it does not have a Passive voice, however, the Personal endings for the Imperfect are similar to those for the Imperfect Middle/Passive of regular verbs.

	Singular	Plural	
1.	I was ἦμην	ἦμεν or ἦμεθα	we were
2.	you were ἦς or ἦσθα	ἦτε	you were
3.	he/she/it was ἦν	ἦσαν	they were

Practice - until you can read and translate easily

1. ἦν γὰρ διδάσκων αὐτούς ὡς ἐξουσίαν ἔχων. (For) He was teaching them like (one) having authority. (Matt. 7:29)
2. καὶ σὺ ἦσθα μετὰ Ἰησοῦ τοῦ Γαλιλαίου. You also were with Jesus of Galilee. (Matt. 26:69)
3. Οὗτος ἦν μετὰ Ἰησοῦ τοῦ Ναζωραίου. This one (he) was with Jesus of Nazareth. (Matt. 26:71)
4. ἦσαν γὰρ πολλοὶ τελῶναι καὶ ἁμαρτωλοί, . . . καὶ ἠκολούθουν αὐτῷ. (For) there were many tax-collectors and sinners, and they were following him. (πολλοί = Masculine Nominative plural of πολύς πολλή πολύ - much, many) (see Mark 2:15)
5. ἦν τὸ πλοῖον ἐν μέσῳ τῆς θαλάσσης. The ship was in the middle of the sea. (Mark 6:47)
6. καὶ λέγετε· Εἰ ἦμεθα ἐν ταῖς ἡμέραις τῶν ἀνθρώπων ἐκείνων, οὐκ ἂν ἦμεθα αὐτῶν κοινωνοὶ ἐν τοῖς θανάτοις τῶν προφητῶν. And you say, "If we were (living) in the days of those men, we would not be their companions in the deaths of the prophets. (see Matt. 23:30)
7. ἦσαν γὰρ οἱ ἐρχόμενοι καὶ οἱ ὑπαγόντες πολλοί. (For) there were many coming and going. (Mark 6:31)
8. ὅτε γὰρ δοῦλοι ἦτε τῆς ἁμαρτίας, ἐλεύθεροι ἦτε τῇ δικαιοσύνῃ. (For) when you were slaves of sin, you were free of righteousness. (Rom. 6:20)
9. καὶ γὰρ ὅτε πρὸς ὑμᾶς ἦμεν, προελέγομεν ὑμῖν ὅτι μέλλομεν θλίβεσθαι. (For) when we were with you, we used to tell you that we were about to be in trouble. (θλίβεσθαι = Aorist Middle Infinitive of θλίβω - I crush, Middle - am in trouble) (1 Thess. 3:4)
10. ἦτε γὰρ ὡς πρόβατα πλανώμενοι. (For) you were like sheep being led astray. (1 Pet. 2:25)

30.4 Sentences for reading and translation

1. ἡ μήτηρ ἠγαπᾶτο ὑπὸ τῶν υἱῶν αὐτῆς.
2. ἡμεῖς ἐπορευόμεθα εἰς τὴν Γαλιλαίαν κηρύσσοντες τὸ εὐαγγέλιον.
3. οὐκ ἐφοβούμεν τοὺς ληστές οἱ γὰρ στρατιῶται σὺν ἐμοὶ ἦσαν.
4. οἱ Ῥωμαῖοι ἐμισοῦντο ὑπὸ τῶν Ἰουδαίων, καὶ οἱ Ἰουδαῖοι ἐφοβοῦντο τοὺς Ῥωμαίους.
5. ὑμεῖς ἐξεπορεύεσθε τῆς Ἰουδαίας ἀλλ' ἐγὼ εἰσεπορευόμην αὐτήν.
6. οἱ νεανῖαι ἐδίδασκοντο ὑπὸ τῶν πρεβυτέρων ;
7. ὁ δέσμιος ἐφυλάσσετο ὑπὸ τῶν στρατιωτῶν.
8. ὁ πατήρ ἐθεᾶτο τοὺς υἱοὺς αὐτοῦ.
9. ἡ ἀλήθεια ἀπεκαλύπτετο ὑπὸ τοῦ Ἰωάννου.
10. οἱ κλέπται κατεκρίνοντο ὑπὸ τοῦ κριτῆς.

30.5 Writing Practice : Write the Greek text, while saying aloud (Matt. 5:3-4)

μακάριοι οἱ πτωχοὶ τῷ πνεύματι,	Happy (are) the poor in spirit,
ὅτι αὐτῶν ἐστὶν ἡ βασιλεία τῶν οὐρανῶν.	for theirs is the Kingdom of the Heavens.
μακάριοι οἱ πενθοῦντες,	Happy are the ones mourning,
ὅτι αὐτοὶ παρακληθήσονται.	for they shall be encouraged.

παρακληθήσονται is the future passive of παρακαλέω - I encourage, strengthen. A future passive is made by inserting -θησ- between the stem and the personal endings.

"Thee a theta think pathive"

30.6 New Testament Passage for reading and translation : Mark 1:1-8

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.

γέγραπται	It has been written	(Perfect Passive of γράθω - I write)
εὐθείας	straight	(Feminine Accusative plural of εὐθύς, -εῖα, -ύ - straight, upright)
εἰς ἄφεσιν	for the forgiveness/remission	(Accusative of ἡ ἄφεσις - remission)
πᾶσα	all	(Feminine Nominative singular of πᾶς, πᾶσα, πᾶν - each, every, all)
πάντες	all	(Masculine Nominative plural of πᾶς, πᾶσα, πᾶν - each, every, all)
ἐνδεδυμένος	clothed	(a Perfect Middle Participle of ἐνδύω - I put on, clothe)
τρίχας	hairs	(Acc. plural of ἡ θρίξ - hair, used here for material made from hair)
καμήλου	of a camel	(Genitive of ὁ καμήλος - camel)
δερματίνην	(made of) leather, skin	(δερματίνος, -η, -ον - of leather. τὸ δέρμα - skin)
ὀσφὺν	waist, loins	(Accusative singular of ἡ ὀσφύς - waist, loins)
ἀκρίδας	locusts	(Accusative plural of ἡ ἀκρίς - locust)
μέλι	honey	(Accusative of τὸ μέλι - honey)
ἄγριον	wild	(ἄγριος, -α, -ον - wild, from ὁ ἄγρος - field)
ἐκήρυσσεν	he preached, proclaimed	(simple past of κηρύσσω - I preach)
ὁ ἰσχυρότερος	(one, someone) greater	(comparative of ἰσχυρός, ἄ, -όν - strong)
κύψας	having bent down	(Aorist participle of κύπτω - I bend, stoop down)
ἱμάντα	straps	(Accusative plural of ὁ ἱμάς - strap)
ἐβάπτισα	I baptized	(simple past of βαπτίζω - I baptize)
ὔδατι	in/with water	(Dative singular of τὸ ὔδωρ - water)
πνεύματι	in/with (the) Spirit	(Dative singular of τὸ πνεῦμα - spirit, wind, breath)

30.7 Vocabulary to learn

βοάω	I shout out	(originally used for a calf bawling for its mother. ὁ βοῦς - ox)
γνωρίζω	I make known	
ἐκλέγομαι	I choose, select	
ἐξομολογέω	I confess, declare openly	
ἐπαγγέλλομαι	I promise, claim	
ἐπιλαμβάνομαι	I take hold of, seize arrest, take	
θεάομαι	I observe, look at	
κατασκευάζω	I prepare	
κατηγορέω	I accuse, bring charges against	
χαρίζομαι	I grant, bestow, pardon, deal graciously with	
ἡ ζώνη	belt	(hence "zone")
ἡ περίχωρος	surrounding region	(Second Declension Feminine)
ἡ χώρα	region, land, country	

ὁ κάμηλος camel
τὸ χωρίον piece of land, field

(do not attempt to use other cases of the following nouns yet)

ἡ ἄφεσις remission, forgiveness
τὸ βάπτισμα baptism
τὸ δέριμα skin, leather (*hence dermatology, dermatitis, hypodermic*)
ὁ πούς foot
τὸ ὕδωρ water (*hence Hydrogen, hydrate, hydrolysis*)
τὸ ὑπόδημα sandal (*from ὑπό - under, and ὁ πούς, ποδός - foot*)