

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 - ἐλεύσομαι - ἦλθον" etc. automatically.

	Present	Future	Aorist
I take	αἰρέω	αἰρήσω	εἶλον
I come/go	ἔρχομαι	ἐλεύσομαι	ἦλθον
I eat	ἐσθίω	φάγομαι	ἔφαγον
I say	λέγω	ἔρω	εἶπον
I see	ὁράω	ὄψομαι	εἶδον
I suffer	πάσχω	πείσομαι	ἔπαθον
I drink	πίνω	πίομαι	ἔπιον
I run	τρέχω	(θρέζομαι or δραμοῦμαι)	ἔδραμον
I carry, bring	φέρω	οἴσω	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), εἶπ- 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 λέγω - 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

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| 1. ἐγὼ εἶπον, Ποιεῖτε τὰ καλά. | I said, "Do (the) good (things)." |
| 2. αἱ ἀδελφαὶ εἶπον, Ἀγαπᾶτε τὸν θεόν. | The sisters said, "Love God." |
| 3. ἠνέγκομεν τοὺς ἄρτους εἰς τὴν οἰκίαν
καὶ ἐφάγομεν 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. Ναί, ἐγὼ ἦλθον εἰς τὴν ἔρημον
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 ἔρχεται. | We said to the sinners, "Christ is coming." |
| 8. εἶδεν αὐτὸν ὁ πατὴρ αὐτοῦ
καὶ ἔδραμεν πρὸς αὐτόν. | And his father saw him
and ran to(wards) him. |
| 9. εἶδομεν αὐτοῦ τὸ σημεῖον
καὶ ἦλθομεν προσκυνεῖν αὐτῷ. | We saw his sign,
and came to worship him. (<i>see Matt.2:2</i>) |
| 10. εἶπεν δὲ αὐτῷ ὁ διάβολος,
Εἰ υἱὸς εἶ τοῦ θεοῦ, εἰπέ τῷ λίθῳ τούτῳ
ἵνα γένηται 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>) |
- (*εἶπέ* is the Aorist Imperative of λέγω, γένηται 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 κατέφαγον τοὺς ἄρτους. | The soldiers devoured (ate up) the loaves. |
| 2. ἡμεῖς προήλθομεν 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 κύριος ἐπεῖδεν τὰ παιδιά. | The Lord took notice of the children. |
| 5. καὶ ἀπῆλθον ἐν τῷ πλοίῳ
εἰς ἔρημον τόπον κατ' ἰδίαν. | And they went away in the boat
(in)to a desert place by themselves. (<i>Mark 6:32</i>) |
| 6. καὶ ὁ Ἰησοῦς κατήλθεν
εἰς Καφαρναούμ. | And Jesus went down
to Capernaum. (<i>Luke 4:31</i>) |
| 7. ὁ χιλιάρχος κατέδραμεν ἐπ' αὐτούς. | The tribune ran down (on)to them. (<i>see Acts 21:32</i>) |

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| 8. ἐν ταύταις ταῖς ἡμέραις κατήλθον ἀπὸ Ἱεροσολύμων προφῆται. | In those days (at that time) prophets came down from Jerusalem. (see Acts 11:27) |
| 9. ὁ Δαυὶδ εἰσῆλθεν εἰς τὸν οἶκον τοῦ θεοῦ καὶ τοὺς ἄρτους ἔφαγεν. | David went into the House of God and ate the loaves. (see Luke 6:4) |
| 10. καὶ εἰσῆλθεν εἰς Ἱεροσόλυμα εἰς τὸ ἱερόν· καὶ . . . ἐξῆλθεν εἰς Βηθανίαν. . . | 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 λέγω and ἐσθίω 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. καὶ ἰδοὺ ὁ ἀστὴρ ὃν εἶδον . . . προῆγεν αὐτούς. | And behold, the star which they saw (had seen) . . . led (was leading) them. (Matt. 2:9) |
| 2. καὶ ἰδοὺ προσέφερον αὐτῷ παραλυτικόν. | And behold, they brought (were bringing) a paralytic to him. (see Matt. 9:2) |
| 3. καὶ ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἶδεν ἄνθρωπον, Μαθθαῖον λεγόμενον, καὶ λέγει αὐτῷ, Ἀκολουθεῖ μοι. | And Jesus saw a man, called Matthew, and said (says) to him, "Follow me." (see Matt. 9:9) |
| 4. καὶ οἱ Φαρισαῖοι ἔλεγον τοῖς μαθηταῖς αὐτοῦ, Διὰ τί μετὰ τῶν τελωνῶν καὶ ἁμαρτωλῶν ἐσθίει ὁ διδάσκαλος ὑμῶν ; | 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 γὰρ Ἰωάννης μήτε ἐσθίων μήτε πίνων καὶ λέγουσιν, Δαιμόνιον ἔχει. | For John came, neither eating nor drinking, and they said (say) "He has a demon." (Matt. 11:18) |
| 6. καὶ περιέδραμον ὅλην τὴν χώραν ἐκεῖνην . . . ὅπου ἤκουον ὅτι ἐστίν. | And they ran all around that region where they heard (were hearing) that he was (is) (see Mark 6:55) |
| 7. ἐξῆλθεν οὖν ὁ Πέτρος καὶ ὁ ἄλλος μαθητής, καὶ ἦρχαντο εἰς τὸ μνημεῖον. ἔτρεχον δὲ οἱ (μαθηται) καὶ ὁ ἄλλος μαθητής προέδραμεν τοῦ Πέτρου καὶ ἦλθεν πρῶτος εἰς τὸ μνημεῖον. | 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 μαθητής κατήλθεν ἀπὸ Ἱεροσολύμων ;
- ὁ Τιμόθεος καὶ ὁ Τίτος προῆλθον ἡμᾶς εἰς τὴν Ἀσίαν.
- προσηνέγετε τὰ παιδιά τῷ Ἰησοῦ ;
- Ναί, προσηνέγομεν αὐτὰ αὐτῷ.
- οὐκ εἰσήνεγκες ἡμᾶς εἰς πειρασμόν.
- ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν τοῖς μαθηταῖς αὐτοῦ, Ἀκολουθεῖ μοι.
- ἐγὼ εἶδον τὸν κύριον ἀλλὰ συ οὐκ εἶδες αὐτόν.
- ἡμεῖς ἐδράμομεν πρὸς τὸν Ἰωάννην ὑμεῖς δὲ οὐκ συνεδράμετε ἡμῖν.
- ἡ μήτηρ ἐξῆλθεν ἐκ τοῦ οἴκου καὶ εἰσῆλθεν εἰς τὴν συναγωγὴν.
- ὁ ἀστὴρ προῆλθεν αὐτοὺς πρὸς τὴν κόμην.

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

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.
μακάριοι οἱ πραεῖς,	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.

Ἰεριχῷ	Jericho
ἐκπορευομένου αὐτοῦ	"while he was travelling out of"
ὁ προσαίτης	beggar (from προσαιτέω - I beg, from πρὸς + αἰτέω - I ask for)
ἐκάθητο	(he) was sitting (Imperfect of κάθημαι - I sit)
ἀκούσας	having heard (Aorist Participle of ἀκούω - I hear)
ὁ Ναζαρηνός	Nazarene - someone from Nazareth.
ἤρξατο	(he) began (Aorist of ἄρχομαι - I begin)
ἐλέησον	be merciful to! (Aorist Imperative of ἐλέεω - I show mercy)
πολλοὶ	many (Masculine Nom. Plural of πολὺς, πολλή, πολύ - much, many)
σιωπήσῃ	he should be silent - shut up! (Aorist Subjunctive of σιωπάω I am silent)
πολλῷ μάλλον	much more (πολύς, πολλή, πολύ - much, many; and μᾶλλον - more)
στάς	having stood still, having stopped (Aorist Participle of ἵστημι - I stand)
φωνήσατε	call! (Aorist Imperative of φωνέω - I call)
ἀποβαλῶν	having thrown off (Aorist Participle of ἀποβάλλω - I throw off)
ἀναπηδήσας	having jumped up (Aorist Participle of ἀναπηδάω - I spring up)
ἀποκριθεὶς	having answered (Aorist Participle of ἀποκρίνομαι - I answer)
Ῥαββουνι	My Master! (Aramaic, emphatic form of ῥαββί)
ἀναβλέψω	I may see again (Aorist Subjunctive of ἀναβλέπω - I look up, see again)
σέσωκεν	(it) has saved (Perfect of σώζω - I save)
ἀνεβλέψεν	(he) saw (Aorist Indicative of ἀναβλέπω - I look up, see again)

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
ἐπανέρχομαι	I return
ἐπεισέρχομαι	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 (Aorist ἐπέϊδον - I took notice of)
καθοράω	I perceive clearly
προοράω	I see ahead of time Middle - I keep my eye on
συνοράω	I realize, become aware of
ὕπεροράω	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>)