

Chapter 22

The Present Middle - Deponent Verbs

ἔρχομαι - I come/go ἄρχομαι - I begin
γίνομαι - I am, I happen, I become ἐγένετο - it happened

22.1 So far we have met verbs in the Active Voice - the subject of the sentence does the action of the verb. Now we come to the Middle Voice, which is similar to the English Reflexive, except that Greek uses a set of personal endings added to the verb stem, rather than a reflexive pronoun.

In the **Active Voice**, the action of the verb goes from the subject to the object :
e.g. "The dog chases the cat." "The students were reading the book."

In the **Passive Voice**, the action of the verb is received by the subject :
e.g. "The cat is being chased by the dog." "The book was being read by the student."

In the **Middle Voice**, the subject is involved in both the action and the reception of the verb. Some English verbs can be used with a "Middle" sense, but we are usually unaware of this when we use them.

e.g. "The dog lies (itself) down." "I get (myself) up." "Move (yourself) out of the way!"

22.2 The Present Indicative Middle

For the Present tense, the Greek Middle endings are exactly the same as those for the Passive, so when we learn this set, we learn both the Present Middle and the Present Passive.

	Singular	Plural	
I	STEM-ομαι	STEM-ομεθα	we
you	STEM-η	STEM-εσθε	you
he/she/it	STEM-εται	STEM-ονται	they

Chant the sequence -ομαι -η -εται -ομεθα -εσθε -ονται until it is as familiar as the sequence we learned for the Active -ω -εις -ει -ομεν -ετε -ουσιν

The only endings likely to give trouble are the -εται -ονται pair.

It helps to remember that the ending with the fewer letters goes with the fewer people.

Most of the verbs that we have learned so far are not used with Middle endings - we seldom see them used in a reflexive sense, with Middle endings. However, there are some verbs, often to do with motion, for which there is no Active set of endings - they only use the Middle set. These verbs are called **Deponent Verbs**. Because the personal endings for the Middle are the same as those of the Passive, at first glance Deponent Verbs look as if they should be translated as a Passive. However, they only make sense when translated as Active.

"A Deponent Verb is a Verb which looks Passive, but is translated as Active"

22.3 Deponent Verbs - ἔρχομαι and its compounds

One of the most frequent Deponent verbs in the New Testament is ἔρχομαι - I come, I go, I move myself. English uses two verbs, "I come", and "I go", where Greek only uses one. The English "I come" implies movement towards an observer; "I go" implies movement away from an observer. The movement is the same in both cases, so Greek logically uses just one verb.

	Singular	Plural	
I come/go	ἔρχομαι	ἔρχομεθα	we come/go
you come/go	ἔρχη	ἔρχεσθε	you come/go
he/she/it comes/goes	ἔρχεται	ἔρχονται	they come/go

ἔρχομαι is very versatile, in that it combines with prepositions to give the direction of the movement. The preposition is attached to the front of the stem, and the verb is listed in its "compound" form in dictionaries.

Practice - until you can read and translate easily

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|---|---|
| 1. ἐρχομεθα κηρυσσοντες το εὐαγγελιον. | We come/go, preaching the Gospel. |
| 2. ὁ Παυλος ἐρχεται μαρτυρων τῷ Ἰησοῦ. | Paul comes/goes, witnessing to Jesus. |
| 3. εἰσερχομαι εἰς τον οἶκον. | I enter the house. |
| 4. ἐξερχομεθα ἐκ του ιερου. | You (plural) come/go out of the temple. |
| 5. οἱ ἅγιοι προσερχονται προς τον ιερον. | The saints approach the temple. |
| 6. ἐρχεται ὁ ἄγγελος ἔχων το βιβλιον. | The angel with (having) the book comes/goes/arrives. |
| 7. ὁ Πητρος και ὁ Μαρκος διερχονται
δια της Γαλιλαιας ποιουντες τα καλα. | Peter and Mark go/come
through the Galilee doing good (deeds). |
| 8. ἀπερχη ἀπο της κωμης ; | Are you coming/going from the village? |
| 9. οὐκ ἐρχομαι ἵνα τον κοσμον κρινω. | I do not come to judge the world. |
| 10. ὁ Παυλος ἀνέρχεται εἰς την Ἱερουσαλημ. | Paul goes up (in)to Jerusalem. |

22.4 The simple past tense of ἐρχομαι and its compounds

ἐρχομαι is similar to λεγω, in that it uses more than one verb stem to build its various tenses.

The simple past tense of ἐρχομαι is not deponent, but uses the ἦλθ- stem with a normal active past set of endings. We have already learned some of these endings in Section 17.3.

"he/she/it went/came" = ἦλθεν, and "we went/came" = ἦλθομεν.

Practice - until you can read and translate easily

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| 1. ὁ Ἰωαννης ἦλθεν κηρυσσων ἐν τη ἐρημῳ. | John came/went preaching in the desert. |
| 2. ὁ Ἰησους προσηλθεν τῷ Ἰωαννῇ. | Jesus came/went to (wards) John. |
| 3. ἐγὼ και Λουκας εἰσηλθομεν
εἰς την συναγωγην. | Luke and I went/came
into the synagogue. |
| 4. οὗτος ὁ ἄνθρωπος ἐξηλθεν ἐκ της φυλακης. | This man came/went out of the prison. |
| 5. προσηλθεν το παιδιον ἐκεινο τῷ Ἰησοῦ ; | Did that child come/go to (wards) Jesus? |
| 6. ἡ χηρα οὐκ εἰσηλθεν εἰς την κωμην. | The widow did not come/go into the village. |
| 7. ὁ γεωργος ἐξηλθεν ἐκ της κωμης
και εἰσηλθεν εἰς τους ἀγρους. | The farmer came/went out of the village
and came/went into the fields. |
| 8. προσηλθομεν τῷ Ἰησοῦ. | We came/went to Jesus. |
| 9. ὁ Παυλος ἀνήλθεν ἐπὶ το πλοιον. | Paul went up (went to sea) on the boat. |
| 10. ὁ διαβολος προσηλθεν και εἶπεν τῷ Ἰησοῦ,
Εἰ υἱος εἶ του θεου . . . | The devil came/went to Jesus and said,
"If you are a/the Son of God . . ." |

22.5 The Present Indicative Middle of Contract Verbs

The -εω, -αω, and -οω verbs contract the vowels as usual. The most frequent Deponent Contract verbs in the New Testament are φοβεομαι - I fear, I am afraid, and ἀρνεομαι - I deny

I am afraid	φοβουμαι	φοβουμεθα	we are afraid
you are afraid	φοβη	φοβεισθε	you are afraid
he/she/it is afraid	φοβειται	φοβουνται	they are afraid

Practice - until you can read and translate easily

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| 1. ὁ Ἡρωδης φοβειται τον λαον. | Herod fears the people. |
| 2. οὐ φοβουμαι τα κακα
ὅτι ὁ κυριος μετα μου ἐστιν. | I do not fear (the) bad things,
because the Lord is with me. |
| 3. φοβουμεθα τους στρατιωτας τους Ῥωμαιους. | We fear the Roman soldiers. |
| 4. οἱ Φαρισαιοι φοβουνται τους ὄχλους ; | Are the Pharisees afraid of the crowds? |
| 5. φοβη τον κριτην ὅτι ληστης εἶ. | You fear the judge, because you are a robber. |

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| 6. φοβεῖσθε ὅτι οἱ ἐχθροὶ ὑμῶν
ἰσχυροὶ εἰσιν. | You are afraid, because your enemies
are strong. |
| 7. ὁ Πέτρος ἀρνείται τὸν Ἰησοῦν
ὅτι φοβείται τὸν λαόν. | Peter denies Jesus
because he fears the people. |
| 8. οἱ ἁμαρτωλοὶ ἀρνούνται
τὴν ἀληθειαν τοῦ εὐαγγελίου. | The sinners deny
the truth of the Gospel. |
| 9. ἀρνούμαι τοὺς πειρασμοὺς τοῦ κόσμου. | I deny (reject) the temptations of the world. |
| 10. ἀρνεῖσθε τὸν κόσμον καὶ τὸν διαβόλον ; | Do you deny the world and the devil? |

22.6 Deponent Verbs - other verbs, using Vocabulary 22.13

Practice - until you can read and translate easily

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| 1. ὁ Πέτρος ἀποκρίνεται τῷ Ἰησοῦ
λεγων, Σὺ εἶ ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ θεοῦ. | Peter answers Jesus,
saying, "You are the Son of God." |
| 2. εἰσπορευομαι εἰς τὴν Γαλιλαίαν. | I am travelling (in)to Galilee. |
| 3. ἐκπορευομεθα ἐκ τῆς γῆς Ἰσραηλ. | We are travelling out of the land of Israel. |
| 4. οἱ ἁμαρτωλοὶ ἐκπορευονται πρὸς Ἰωάννην. | The sinners go out to(wards) John. |
| 5. οἱ Σαδδουκαῖοι ἀποκρίνονται καὶ λεγουσιν,
Οὐ φοβουμεθα τὴν προφητὴν. | The Sadducees answer and say,
"We do not fear the prophet." |
| 6. ὁ νεανίας πορεύεται πρὸς τὴν Ἱερουσαλήμ. | The young man travels to(wards) Jerusalem. |
| 7. πορευεσθε σὺν αὐτοῖς ; | Are you travelling with them? |
| 8. ὁ Ἰωάννης ἀποκρίνεται, Οὐκ εἰμι ὁ Ἠλίας. | John answers, "I am not Elijah." |
| 9. πορευῆ πρὸς ταυτὴν τὴν κωμὴν ; | Are you travelling to this village? |
| 10. Οὐ. πορευομαι πρὸς ἕτεραν κωμὴν. | No, I am travelling to another village. |

NOTE : Sections 22.7, 22.8 and 22.9 may be postponed until later in the course.

22.7 γινομαι and its compounds

γινομαι is another of the most frequent verbs in the New Testament. It can be translated as "I become, I happen, I am", and is one of the copulative verbs (review sections 5.5 and 5.6).

The Present stem of γινομαι, "γιν-" has the sense of continuous action (rather than something which happens just once, or which has already been completed), so translations should show that, if possible.

Practice - until you can read and translate easily

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| 1. γινομεθα μαθηταὶ τοῦ Ἰησοῦ. | We are becoming disciples of Jesus. |
| 2. οὐ γινεσθε δεσμιοὶ τοῦ Σατανα. | You are not becoming prisoners of Satan. |
| 3. γίνονται ψευσταὶ καὶ λησταί ; | Are they becoming liars and robbers? |
| 4. οὗτος ὁ νεανίας γινεται ἀπίστος. | This young man is becoming faithless. |
| 5. αὐτοὶ οὐ γίνονται ἀδικοὶ ἀλλὰ δικαιοί. | They are not becoming unrighteous,
but righteous. |
| 6. γινομαι καινος ἄνθρωπος ἐν Χριστῷ. | I am becoming a new man in Christ. |
| 7. γινῆ πλουσιος
ἐν τῇ βασιλείᾳ τοῦ οὐρανοῦ. | You are becoming rich in the
Kingdom of Heaven. |
| 8. ὁ Ἰησοῦς παραγίνεται διδασκὼν καὶ
θεραπευὼν ἐν ταῖς συναγωγαῖς. | Jesus comes teaching and
healing in the synagogues. |
| 9. οἱ μαθηταὶ παραγίνονται ἀπαγγελλοντες
τὸ εὐαγγέλιον τοῦ Χριστοῦ. | The disciples come, proclaiming
the Gospel of Christ. |
| 10. ὁ Ἰωάννης παραγίνεται κηρυσσὼν
καὶ βαπτίζων ἐν τῇ ἐρήμῳ. | John comes preaching
and baptizing in the desert. |

22.8 The simple past tense of γινομαι

At this point it will be good to learn the way of saying that something "happened" in the past.

γινομαι changes its stem to **γεν-** when indicating things which happened once, or which were completed in the past. For now, we will learn the most frequently used part of γινομαι :

ἐγενετο = it happened, it became, it came to pass, he/she/it/ was, there was

Practice - until you can read and translate easily

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|---|---|
| 1. ἐγενετο Ἰωαννης βαπτιζων ἐν τη ἐρημῳ. | John was baptizing in the desert. (<i>Mark 1:4</i>) |
| 2. και ἐγενετο ἐν ἐκειναις ταις ἡμεραις ἦλθεν ὁ Ἰησους ἀπο Ναζαρετ της Γαλιλαιας. | And it happened in those days (that) Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee. (<i>Mark 1:9</i>) |
| 3. και φωνη ἐγενετο ἐκ των οὐρανων. | And there was a voice from the heavens. (<i>Mark 1:11</i>) |
| 4. και ὁ λογος σαρξ ἐγενετο. | And the Word became flesh. (<i>John 1:14</i>) |
| 5. και σεισμος . . . ἐγενετο ἐν τη θαλασση. | And there was a storm on the sea. (<i>see Matt. 8:24</i>) |
| 6. σκοτος ἐγενετο ἐπι . . . την γην. | Darkness was over the land. (<i>see Matt. 27:45</i>) |
| 7. και ἐγενετο φωνη ἐκ της νεφελης. | And there was a voice out of the cloud. (<i>Mark 9:7</i>) |
| 8. ταυτα ἐν Βηθανια ἐγενετο περαν του Ἰορδανου, ὁπου ἦν ὁ Ἰωαννης βαπτιζων. | These (things) happened in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing. (<i>John 1:28</i>) |
| 9. και καθως ἐγενετο ἐν ταις ἡμεραις Νωε, . . . | And just as it was in the days of Noah . . . (<i>Luke 17:26</i>) |
| 10. ἐγενετο δε ἐν τῷ λεγειν αυτον ταυτα . . . | And it came to pass, while he was saying these things . (<i>Luke 11:27</i>) |

(*see Sections 19.1 and 19.6 for this use of the Infinitive*)

22.9 Verbs which have both Active and Middle forms

ἀρχω, ἀρχομαι

ἐνδύω, ἐνδύομαι

Most verbs have either an Active or a Middle Voice, but a few verbs have both. Usually the difference between Active and Middle is equivalent to the difference between transitive and reflexive in English.

For example, ἐνδύω - "I clothe someone" and ἐνδύομαι - "I clothe myself".

One verb which has different meanings in the Active and Middle is ἀρχω - I rule, ἀρχομαι - I begin. The ἀρχ- stem has a sense of "being number one" - either as a leader, or as an originator.

Practice - until you can read and translate easily

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| 1. ἀρχομαι κηρυσσειν το εὐαγγελιον. | I start to preach the Gospel. |
| 2. ὁ Ἡρωδης ἀρχει των Ἰουδαιων. | Herod rules (over) the Jews. |
| 3. ἐνδυομεθα ἱματια καθαρα. | We put on clean clothes. |
| 4. ἐνδυομεν τους πτωχους ἱματιοις καθαροις. | We clothe the poor in/with clean clothes. |
| 5. ὁ Παυλος ἀρχεται γραφειν την ἐπιστολην. | Paul starts to write the letter. |
| 6. ἀρχομεθα ἀκολουθειν τῷ Ἰησου ; | Are we beginning to follow Jesus? |
| 7. ὁ Πητρος και ὁ Μαρκος ἀρχονται διδασκειν ἐν ταις συναγωγαίς. | Peter and Mark are starting to teach in the synagogues. |
| 8. οὗτος ὁ ἀνθρωπος οὐκ ἀρχεται ἀναγινωσκειν το βιβλιον εἰκεινο. | This man is not starting to read that book. |
| 9. ἀρχεσθε διακονειν ταις ἐκκλησιαίς ; | Are you starting to serve the churches? |
| 10. οἱ στρατιῳται ἐνδουσιν τον Ἰησουν τα ἱματια αὐτου. | The soldiers clothe Jesus (in/with) his (own) clothes. |

22.10 Sentences for reading and translation

1. ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἰσερχεται εἰς την Ἱερουσαλημ.
2. ὁ Ἰωαννης ἀποκρινεται λεγων, Οὐ πορευομαι εἰς την Γαλιλαιαν.
3. ἀρχομεθα διδασκειν και κηρυσσειν την ἀγγελιαν της βασιλειας.
4. οἱ μαθηται προσερχονται τῷ ἱερῷ και εἰσερχονται εἰς τον ἱερον.
5. ὁ ἀδελφος εἰσερχεται εἰς την οἰκιαν ἀλλ' ἡ ἀδελφη ἐξερχεται ἐκ της οἰκίας.
6. οἱ ἁμαρτωλοι ἀρνουνται την ἀληθειαν του εὐαγγελιου.
7. ὁ Ἰησοῦς παραγινεται παρα την θαλασσαν και καλει τους μαθητας αὐτου.
8. ἡμεῖς ἐρχομεθα κηρυσσοντες και διδασκοντες το εὐαγγελιον ἀλλ' ὑμεῖς ἀρνεισθε την ἀληθειαν.
9. φοβεισθε τουτους τους στρατιωτας ; Ναι, φοβουμεθα αὐτους.
10. γινομεθα πτωχοι ἐν τῷ κοσμῷ ἀλλα πλουσιοι ἐν τη βασιλεια των οὐρανων.

22.11 Writing Practice : Write the Greek text, while saying aloud (John 1:1-3)

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λογος,	In (the) beginning was the Word
και ὁ λογος ἦν προς τον θεον,	and the Word was with God
και θεος ἦν ὁ λογος.	and the Word was God.
οὗτος ἦν ἐν ἀρχῇ προς τον θεον.	He (this one) was in the beginning with God
παντα δι' αὐτου ἐγενετο,	all (things) happened (came into being) through him,
χωρις αὐτου ἐγενετο οὐδε ἐν. (ὁ γεγονεν.)	not one thing (that happened) happened without him.

If you look at John 1: 3 in your printed New Testament, you will probably see some superscript notations around the last two words, directing you to notes at the foot of the page.

There is an ambiguity in the punctuation here (not in the words, but just where the break should come).

The sentence could stop at "οὐδε ἐν." (not one), in which case the sentence would end "not one thing happened without Him.", and the following "ὁ γεγονεν" would start the next sentence.

Or the sentence could continue to "ὁ γεγονεν", in which case it could be translated as above.

The footnotes (if they are given in your GNT) show which translations follow which option.

22.12 New Testament Passage for reading and translation : John 12:20-26

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

Ἕλληνες	Greeks	(the Greek name for Greece is Ἑλλάς. hence Hellenic, Hellenistic)
τινες	some	(Masculine plural of τις - someone, describing Ἕλληνες)
ἐκ των ἀναβαινοντων	amongst those going up	(Genitive plural Participle of ἀναβαινω - I go up)
προσκυνησωσιν	they might worship	(a Subjunctive of προσκυνεω - I worship)
ἐν τη ἑορτῃ	at the Feast	(in this instance, the Passover)
ἠρωτων	they were asking	(a past tense of ἐρωταω - I ask)
ιδειν	to see	
ἐληλυθεν	(it) has come	
δοξασθη	(he) might be glorified	(a Passive Subjunctive of δοξαζω - I glorify)
ὁ κοκκος	seed, ear of grain	
του σιτου	of grain	
πεσων	having fallen	(a Participle of πιπτω - I fall)
ἀποθανῃ	(it) should/might die	(a Subjunctive of ἀποθνησκω - I die)
πολυν	much, a lot of	(from πολυς, πολλη, πολυ - much, many, describing καρπον)
ἀπολλυει	(he) destroys/loses	(from ἀπολλυμι - I destroy)
φυλαξει	he will keep	(Future of φυλασσω - I keep)
ἐαν . . διακονῃ	if (he/she) would serve, be of service to	(διακονεω - I am of service to)
ἔσται	he/she will be	(Future of εἶμι - I am)
τιμησει	he will honor	(Future of τιμαω - I honor)

22.13 Vocabulary to learn

ἀποκρίνομαι	I answer, reply to	(takes Dative) (from ἀπο + κρίνω, I judge)
		(in order to give an answer, one must judge the circumstances and then give one's decision)
ἀρνέομαι	I deny	
ἄρχομαι	I begin	(ἡ ἀρχή - beginning)
ἄρχω	I rule	(takes Dative)
γίνομαι	I become, happen, am	
παραγίνομαι	I arrive, appear, come	
ἐνδύω	I dress, clothe (someone else)	
ἐνδύομαι	I put on (clothing)	
ἔρχομαι	I come/go, move myself	
ἀνέρχομαι	I come/go up, go up on a ship (from land to sea)	
ἀπέρχομαι	I come/go away from	
διέρχομαι	I come/go through	
εἰσέρχομαι	I come/go into, enter	
ἐξέρχομαι	I come/go out, exit, leave	
κατέρχομαι	I come/go down, come down to land (from a ship)	
παρέρχομαι	I come/go by, pass, pass by	
περιέρχομαι	I come/go around, sail around	
προέρχομαι	I come/go before, go ahead of	
προσέρχομαι	I come/go towards	(takes Dative)
συνέρχομαι	I come/go with	
πορεύομαι	I travel, proceed, go	
διαπορεύομαι	I go through, go by	
εἰσπορεύομαι	I come/go in, enter	
ἐκπορεύομαι	I come/go out from	
ἐμπορεύομαι	I make a profit of, exploit	
ἐπιπορεύομαι	I come to, upon	
παραπορεύομαι	I pass by, go through	
φοβέομαι	I fear, am afraid	
φέρω	I bear, carry	
		(in a legend, St. Christopher got his name because he carried the child Jesus across a river)
ἡ Βηθανία	Bethany	
ἡ σὰρξ	flesh	(do not attempt to use other cases yet)
ὁ σεισμός	earthquake, storm (on the sea)	(hence seismic)
το σκότος	darkness	(do not attempt to use other cases yet)
πολύς, πολλή, πολύ	much, many	(do not attempt to use other cases yet)