

Chapter 30

The Imperfect Indicative Middle and Passive The Imperfect of εἶμι

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 ὑπό του "by" (someone) to indicate the agent who does the action.

e.g. ὁ Ἰησους βαπτίζεται ὑπο του Ἰωαννου. 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. ἐρχομαι εἰς τον 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. φοβεομαι (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	-αω verbs	-εω verbs	-οω verbs
1	ἐ-STEM-ομην	ἐ-STEM-ωμην	ἐ-STEM-ουμην	ἐ-STEM-ουμην
2	ἐ-STEM-ου	ἐ-STEM-ω	ἐ-STEM-ου	ἐ-STEM-ου
3	ἐ-STEM-ετο	ἐ-STEM-ατο	ἐ-STEM-ειτο	ἐ-STEM-ουτο
1	ἐ-STEM-ομεθα	ἐ-STEM-ωμεθα	ἐ-STEM-ουμεθα	ἐ-STEM-ουμεθα
2	ἐ-STEM-εσθε	ἐ-STEM-ασθε	ἐ-STEM-εισθε	ἐ-STEM-ουσθε
3	ἐ-STEM-οντο	ἐ-STEM-ωντο	ἐ-STEM-ουντο	ἐ-STEM-ουντο

	Imperfect Passive of βαπτίζω	Imperfect Middle of πορευομαι
1.	I was being baptized ἐβαπτίζομην	ἐπορευομην I was travelling
2.	you were being baptized ἐβαπτίζου	ἐπορευου you were travelling
3.	he/she was being baptized ἐβαπτίζετο	ἐπορευετο he/she/it was travelling
1.	we were being baptized ἐβαπτίζομεθα	ἐπορευομεθα we were travelling
2.	you were being baptized ἐβαπτίζεσθε	ἐπορευεσθε you were travelling
3.	they were being baptized ἐβαπτίζοντο	ἐπορευοντο they were travelling

Practice - until you can read and translate easily

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| 1. οἱ ἄνθρωποι ἐβαπτίζοντο ὑπο του Ἰωαννου. | The men were being baptized by John. |
| 2. ἡ ἀληθεια ἐγνωρίζοντο ἐν τη Ἀσια. | The truth was being revealed in Asia. |
| 3. ὁ Ἰησους ἐξελεγετο τους ἀποστολους. | Jesus was choosing the apostles. |
| 4. ὁ στρατιωτης ἐπιελαμβανετο τους ἀδελφους. | The soldier was arresting the brothers. |
| 5. ἐθεωρουμην τους δεσμιους ἐν τη φυλακη. | I was watching the prisoners in the prison. |
| 6. αἱ χηραι διηκονουντο ὑπο των διακωνων ; | Were the widows being cared for by the deacons? |
| 7. ἀπελυου ὑπο του ἀγγελου ; | Were you being loosed by the angel? |
| 8. ὁ Ἰησους τυφλοις ἐχαρίζετο βλεπειν. | Jesus was (graciously) giving sight to the blind. |

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

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

30.3 The Imperfect of εἶμι

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

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| 1. ἦν γὰρ διδασκῶν αὐτοὺς 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 ἁμαρτωλοὶ καὶ ἠκολούθουν αὐτῷ. | (For) there were many tax-collectors and sinners, and they were following him. (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. ἦμεθα ἐν τῷ πλοίῳ ἐπὶ τῆς θαλάσσης. | We were in the ship on the sea. |
| 7. ἦσαν γὰρ οἱ ἐρχόμενοι καὶ οἱ ὑπάγοντες πολλοί. | (For) there were many coming and going. (Mark 6:31) |
| 8. ὅτε γὰρ δούλοι ἦτε τῆς ἁμαρτίας, ἐλευθεροὶ ἦτε τῆς δικαιοσύνης. | (For) when you were slaves of sin, you were free of righteousness. (Rom. 6:20) |
| 9. ἦμεν ἐν ταύτῃ τῇ κώμῃ. | We were in this village. |
| 10. ἦτε γὰρ ὡς πρόβατα πλανώμενοι. | (For) you were being led astray like sheep. (1 Pet. 2:25) |

30.4 Sentences for reading and translation

1. ἡ μήτηρ ἠγάπατο ὑπὸ τῶν υἱῶν αὐτῆς.
2. ἡμεῖς ἐπορευόμεθα εἰς τὴν Γαλιλαίαν κηρυσσόντες τὸ εὐαγγέλιον.
3. οὐκ ἐφοβούμεν τοὺς ληστας οἱ γὰρ στρατιῶται σὺν ἔμοι ἦσαν.
4. οἱ Ῥωμαῖοι ἐμίσουντο ὑπὸ τῶν Ἰουδαίων, καὶ οἱ Ἰουδαῖοι ἐφοβούντο τοὺς Ῥωμαίους.
5. ὑμεῖς ἐξεπορευέσθε τῆς Ἰουδαίας ἀλλ' ἐγὼ εἰσεπορευομένην αὐτήν.
6. οἱ νεανίαι ἐδίδασκοντο ὑπὸ τῶν πρεβυτέρων ;
7. ὁ δεσμός ἐφυλάσσετο ὑπὸ τῶν στρατιωτῶν.
8. ὁ πατήρ ἐθεάτο 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 πενθούντες,	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.

γεγραπται	It has been written	(Perfect Passive of γράθω - I write)
εὐθείας	straight	(Feminine Accusative plural of εὐθύς, -εια, -υ - straight, upright)
εἰς ἄφεσιν	for the forgiveness/remission	(Accusative of ἡ ἄφεσις - remission)
πασα	all	(Feminine Nominative singular of πας, πασα, παν - each, every, all)
παντες	all	(Masculine Nominative plural of πας, πασα, παν - each, every, all)
ἐνδεδυμενος	clothed	(a Perfect Middle Participle of ἐνδύω - I put on, clothe)
τριχας	hairs	(Acc. plural of ἡ θριζ - hair, used here for material made from hair)
καμηλου	of a camel	(Genitive of ὁ καμηλος - camel)
δερματινην	(made of) leather, skin	(δερματινος, -η, -ον - of leather. το δερμα - skin)
ὀσφυν	waist, loins	(Accusative singular of ἡ ὀσφυς - waist, loins)
ἀκριδας	locusts	(Accusative plural of ἡ ἀκρις - locust)
μελι	honey	(Accusative of το μελι - honey)
ἀγριον	wild	(ἀγριος, -α, -ον - wild, from ὁ ἀγρος - field)
ἐκηρυσσεν	he preached, proclaimed	(simple past of κηρυσσω - I preach)
ὁ ἰσχυροτερος	(one, someone) greater	(comparative of ἰσχυρος, α, -ον - strong)
κυψας	having bent down	(Aorist participle of κυπτω - I bend, stoop down)
ἱμαντα	straps	(Accusative plural of ὁ ἶμας, -αντος - strap)
ἐβαπτισα	I baptized	(simple past of βαπτίζω - I baptize)
ὕδατι	in/with water	(Dative singular of το ὕδωρ - water)
πνευματι	in/with (the) Spirit	(Dative singular of το πνευμα - spirit, wind, breath)

30.7 Vocabulary to learn

βοάω	I shout out	
		(originally used for a calf bawling for its mother. ὁ βους - ox, cow)
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	
το χωρίον	piece of land, field	
		(do not attempt to use other cases of the following nouns yet)
ἡ ἄφεσις	remission, forgiveness	
το βάπτισμα	baptism	
το δέρμα	skin, leather	(hence dermatology, dermatitis, hypodermic)
ὁ πούς	foot	
το ὕδωρ	water	(hence Hydrogen, hydrate)
το ὑπόδημα	sandal	(from ὑπο - under, and ὁ πους, ποδος - foot)