

## Chapter 33

### The First Aorist

**33.1** The **Aorist** is the tense that implies a simple action - a complete action, or an act that took place at one point in time e.g. I did (something).

If an action in the past was continuous or repeated, Greek uses the **Imperfect**

e.g. I used to (do something), I was (doing something)

Greek is like English and German, in that verbs make their past tenses in different ways –

Some verbs have endings added to the stem, e.g. I call, I called.

English calls these **Weak** Verbs, Greek calls them **First Aorists**.

Some verbs alter the stem, e.g. I run, I ran.

English calls these **Strong** verbs, Greek calls them **Second Aorists**.

In the case of Verbs with a First Aorist form, the Present and the Aorist stems are usually identical.

However - Greek, like most languages, is developing with time, and words and grammar change.

Occasionally Greek writers, including some of the Classical authors and NT writers made 'mistakes' with their grammar, and used 1st Aorist endings on 2nd Aorist stems. Don't let this confuse you when you meet it - it's just the equivalent of someone mixing up English grammar and saying "I wented". In fact, some English verbs are currently flipping between Strong and Weak - do you say "it shone" or "it shined" ?

### 33.2 The basic pattern for the First Aorist Indicative Active

In forming the First Aorist Indicative, the augment  $\epsilon$ - denoting a past tense, is added to the front of the stem.

A sigma  $\sigma$ - goes on the end of the stem, and the personal endings are added after the sigma.

I	$\acute{\epsilon}$ -STEM- $\sigma\alpha$	$\acute{\epsilon}$ -STEM- $\sigma\alpha\mu\epsilon\nu$	we
you	$\acute{\epsilon}$ -STEM- $\sigma\alpha\varsigma$	$\acute{\epsilon}$ -STEM- $\sigma\alpha\tau\epsilon$	y'all
he/she/it	$\acute{\epsilon}$ -STEM- $\sigma\epsilon\nu$	$\acute{\epsilon}$ -STEM- $\sigma\alpha\nu$	they

Chant the endings  $\sigma\alpha$   $\sigma\alpha\varsigma$   $\sigma\epsilon\nu$   $\sigma\alpha\mu\epsilon\nu$   $\sigma\alpha\tau\epsilon$   $\sigma\alpha\nu$  until you have them memorized.

NOTE the predominant  $-\sigma\alpha-$  of the First Aorist. We will see the  $-\sigma\alpha-$  in the Aorist Infinitive, the Participle, and (at least the sigma) in the Imperative. When you see a  $-\sigma\alpha-$  think "**Simple Action**" or "AoriSt"

**Compound Verbs** (stem + prefix) (See Section 29.5)

If the prefix ends with a vowel, the vowel usually drops out and is replaced by the augment.

$\pi\epsilon\rho\iota-$  and  $\pi\rho\omicron-$  usually keep their vowels.

$\acute{\alpha}\nu\alpha-$  may become  $\acute{\alpha}\nu\eta-$ , and  $\kappa\alpha\tau\alpha-$  may become  $\kappa\alpha\tau\eta-$ .

Compound verbs with  $\acute{\epsilon}\upsilon-$  often do not have an augment, just use the personal endings for the tense.

If the prefix ends in a  $-\kappa$ , the  $-\kappa$  changes to a  $-\xi$  before the augment.

**Contract Verbs** (See Section 26.4)

Because of the sigma, contraction does not take place. However, for almost all contract verbs (except  $\kappa\alpha\lambda\epsilon\omega$  and its compounds) the ending vowel of the stem is broadened.

$\alpha$  becomes  $\eta$   $\epsilon$  becomes  $\eta$   $\omicron$  becomes  $\omega$   $\kappa\alpha\lambda\epsilon\omega$  does not broaden the  $\epsilon$

**Examples** : Read the following table **aloud** several times until you are familiar with the way First Aorists are formed.

	Present		Aorist	
I beget	$\gamma\epsilon\nu\nu\alpha\omega$	$\acute{\epsilon}\gamma\epsilon\nu\nu\eta\sigma\alpha$	I beget	
I serve	$\delta\iota\alpha\kappa\omicron\nu\epsilon\omega$	$\delta\iota\eta\kappa\omicron\nu\eta\sigma\alpha$	I served	
I call	$\kappa\alpha\lambda\epsilon\omega$	$\acute{\epsilon}\kappa\alpha\lambda\epsilon\sigma\alpha$	I called	
I walk around	$\pi\epsilon\rho\iota\pi\alpha\tau\epsilon\omega$	$\pi\epsilon\rho\iota\epsilon\pi\alpha\tau\eta\sigma\alpha$	I walked around	
I do, act	$\pi\omicron\iota\epsilon\omega$	$\acute{\epsilon}\pi\omicron\iota\eta\sigma\alpha$	I did, acted, made	

**Practice** - until you can read and translate easily

- |  |  |               |
|--|--|---------------|
| 1. ὁ Ἀβρααμ ἐγέννησεν τὸν Ἰσαακ.   | Abraham begat Isaac.   | (Matt. 1:2)   |
| 2. Κυριε, ποτε σε εἶδομεν . . .<br>ξενον ἢ γυμνον . . ἢ ἐν φυλακῇ<br>καὶ οὐ διηκονησαμεν σοι ; | Lord, when did we see you . .<br>a stranger, or naked, . . or in prison,<br>and did not serve you? | (Matt. 25:44) |
| 3. ὁ βασιλεὺς ἐρεῖ αὐτοῖς,<br>Ἄμην λεγῶ ὑμῖν, . . .<br>ἐμοὶ ἐποίησατε.                         | The king will say to them,<br>"Truly I say to you . . .<br>you did it to me."                      | (Matt. 25:40) |
| 4. καὶ προσήλθον αὐτῷ τυφλοὶ καὶ χωλοὶ<br>ἐν τῷ ἱερῷ, καὶ ἐθεραπεύσεν αὐτούς.                  | And blind and lame (men) came to him in the<br>temple, and he healed them.                         | (Matt. 21:14) |
| 5. οἱ δὲ μαθηταὶ ἐπετίμησαν αὐτοῖς.  | But the disciples rebuked them.  | (Matt. 19:13) |
| 6. μετὰ ταῦτα ἐφάνησεν ἑαυτὸν<br>παλιν ὁ Ἰησοῦς τοῖς μαθηταῖς<br>ἐπὶ τῆς θαλάσσης.             | After these things, Jesus revealed himself<br>again to the disciples<br>on (at) the sea.           | (John 21:1)   |
| 7. ὁ δὲ Ἰησοῦς ἀνεχώρησεν ἐκεῖθεν.   | But Jesus went away from there.  | (Matt. 12:15) |
| 8. ἡ θυγατὴρ μου ἄρτι ἐτέλευτησεν.   | My daughter died just now.   | (Matt. 9:18)  |
| 9. ἐτέλεσεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς διατασσῶν<br>τοῖς μαθηταῖς αὐτοῦ.   | Jesus finished commanding (giving orders)<br>to his disciples.                                     | (Matt. 11:1)  |
| 10. καὶ ἀνέβησαν εἰς τὸν οὐρανὸν<br>ἐν τῇ νεφέλῃ καὶ ἐθεώρησαν αὐτούς<br>οἱ ἐχθροὶ αὐτῶν.      | And they went up into heaven<br>in the cloud, and their enemies saw them.                          | (Rev. 11:12)  |

**NOTE** : Section 33.3 may be postponed until later in the course.

**33.3 Possibilities for Weirdness** : We have already met all these possibilities :

- i. If the stem begins with a vowel**, the augment causes the same changes as for the Imperfect. (See Section 29.4)  
If the stem begins with a *iota* the augment is often omitted.
- |             |                   |            |                 |
|-------------|-------------------|------------|-----------------|
| ε + α = η   | ε + ε = η         | ε + ο = ω  | ε + ι = ει or ι |
| ε + αι = η  | ε + ει = η        | ε + οι = ω |                 |
| ε + αυ = ηυ | ε + ευ = ευ or ηυ |            |                 |
- ii. Liquid Verbs** (stem ends in **-λ, -μ, -ν, or -ρ**) (See Section 27.1)  
The **-σ-** of the Aorist drops out, and there may be other minor changes to the stem, similar to what happens when forming the Future tense.
- iii. Verbs whose stems end in a guttural, labial, or dental** (See Section 27.5)
- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| Gutturals | <b>κ, γ, χ</b> combine with <b>σ</b> to give <b>ξ</b>          |
| Labials   | <b>π, β, φ</b> combine with <b>σ</b> to give <b>ψ</b>          |
| Dentals   | <b>τ, δ, θ</b> (or <b>ζ</b> ) <b>drop out when σ is added.</b> |

**Examples** : Read the following table **aloud** several times until you are familiar with the way First Aorists are formed. **Reading aloud** builds aural memory and helps to alert one to the "hidden sigmas" in ψ and ξ. Note that *πορεύομαι* is Deponent in the Present tense (uses Middle endings), but has Active endings in the Aorist.

	Present	Aorist	
I love	ἀγαπᾶω	ἠγάπησα	I loved
I announce	ἀγγέλλω	ἠγγείλα	I announced
I buy	ἀγοράζω	ἠγόρασα	I bought
I take up	αἴρω	ἠρά	I took up
I ask for	αἰτέω	ἠήτησα	I asked for
I announce	ἀναγγέλλω	ἀνηγγείλα	I announced
I see	βλέπω	έβλεψα	I saw

I write	γραφω	έγραψα	I wrote
I raise	έγειρω	ήγειρα	I raised
I wish	θελω (έθελω)	ήθελισα	I wished
I am strong, able	ισχυω	ισχυσα	I was strong, able
I dwell	κατοικεω	κατωκησα	I dwelt
I preach	κηρυσσω	έκηρυξα	I preached
I steal	κλεπτω	έκλεψα	I stole
I cry out	κραζω	έκραξα	I cried out
I remain	μενω	έμεινα	I remained
I dwell	οικεω	ώκησα	I dwelt
I swear	όμνω	ώμοσα	I swore (an oath)
I send	πεμπω	έπεμψα	I sent
I save	σφζω	έσωσα	I saved
I rejoice	χαιρω	έχαρησα	I rejoiced

**Practice** - until you can read and translate easily

1. ό Ίωσηφ έποίησεν ώς προσεταξεν  
αὐτῷ ό άγγελος κυριου. Joseph did as the angel of the Lord  
ordered him. (*see Matt. 1:24*)
2. οί όγλοι έδοξασαν τον θεον. The crowds glorified God. (*see Matt. 9:8*)
3. τότε ύπεστρεψαν εις Ίερουσαλημ. Then they returned to Jerusalem. (*Acts 1:12*)
4. ό Ίωαννης έπεμψεν προς τον κυριον  
λεγων, Συ ει. ό έρχομενος saying, "Are you the coming one (the one to come)  
ή άλλον προσδοκωμεν ; or do we await another ? (*Luke 7:19*)
5. ήρωτησαν αὐτον, Τίς έστιν ό άνθρωπος ; They asked him, "Who is the man?" (*John 5:12*)
6. ήραν οὖν τον λιθον. Then they took away the stone. (*John 11:41*)
7. ήλθεν αὐτου ό έχθρος και έπεσπειρεν  
ζιζανια άνα μεσον του σιτου His enemy came and (over-)sowed  
και άπηλθεν. darnel amongst the grain,  
and went away. (*Matt. 13:25*)
8. ώς ώμοσα έν τη όργη μου. . . As I swore in my wrath. (*Heb. 3:11*)
9. και ό δρακων έπολεμησεν  
και οί άγγελλοι αὐτου And the dragon fought,  
και οὐκ ισχυσεν. and his angels,  
and did not prevail. (*Rev. 12:7-8*)
10. και έπεστρεψα βλεπειν την φωνην  
ήτις έλαλει μετ' έμου. And I turned around to see the voice  
which was talking to (with) me (*Rev. 1:12*)  
( *έλαλει - Imperfect - the voice was talking for a period of time. ήτις - Relative Pronoun + τις* )

### 33.4 Sentences for reading and translation

1. οὕτως γαρ έδιωξαν τους προφητας τους προ ύμων. (*Matt. 5:12*)
2. ό Μαθθαιος ήκολουθησεν αὐτῷ. (*see Matt. 9:9*)
3. και ήκολουθησαν αὐτῷ όγλοι, και έθεραπευσεν αὐτους. (*see Matt. 12:15*)
4. και έλαλησεν αὐτοις έν παραβολαις λεγων,  
Ίδου έξηλθεν ό σπειρων του σπειρειν. (*see Matt. 13:3*)
5. άλλα δε έπεσεν επί τας άκανθας, και άνεβησαν αί άκανθαι και έπνιξαν αὐτα.  
( *άλλα is the Neuter Nominative Plural of άλλος, -η, -ον* ) (*Matt. 13:7*)
6. έχθρος άνθρωπος τουτο έποίησεν. (*Matt. 13:28*)
7. ότε έτελεσεν ό Ίησους τας παραβολας ταυτας, μετηρεν εκειθεν. (*Matt. 13:53*)
8. ό Ίησους άνεχωρησεν εκειθεν έν πλοιῳ εις έρημον τοπον κατ' ιδιαν. (*Matt. 14:13*)
9. οί μαθηται άπο του φοβου εκραζαν. (*see Matt. 14:26*)
10. οί δε έν τῷ πλοιῳ προσεκυνησαν αὐτῷ λεγοντες, Άληθως θεου υίος ει.  
(*Matt. 14:33*)

### 33.5 Writing Practice : Write the Greek text, while saying aloud (Matt. 5:3-6)

μακαριοι οἱ πτωχοι τῷ πνευματι,	Happy (are) the poor in spirit,
ὅτι αὐτῶν ἐστὶν ἡ βασιλεια 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,
ὅτι αὐτοὶ κληρονομησουσιν τὴν γην.	for they shall inherit the earth.
μακαριοι οἱ πεινωντες	Happy are the ones hungering
και διψωντες τὴν δικαιοσυνην,	and thirsting (for) righteousness

πεινωντες and διψωντες are Present participles of πειναω - I hunger for, and διψαω - I thirst

### 33.6 New Testament Passages for reading and translation : Mark 12:1-9

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.

ἤρξατο	(he) began	(Aorist of ἀρχομαι - I begin)
περιεθηκεν	(he) put around	(from περιτιθημι - I place/put around)
ὁ φραγμος	fence, hedge	
ὠρυξεν	(he) dug	(Aorist of ὀρυσσω - I dig)
το ὑποληνιον	wine-vat - the container which goes under the wine-press	
	( ὑπο, under + ἡ ληνος, press. A press was built on stones, with a hole in the ground for the vat)	
ὁ πυργος	tower, watch-tower	
ἐξεδετο	(he) leased, gave out	(from ἐκδιδωμι - I give out)
ἀπεδημησεν	(he) went away, left the country	
	(Aorist of ἀποδημεω - I emigrate; from ἀπο, from + δημοσ - one's one people)	
τῷ καιρῷ	at the time (of the harvest)	
παρα	from (with Genitive)	
λαβη	he might receive	(Aorist Subjunctive of λαμβανω - I receive, get, take)
λαβοντες	having received, taken	(Aorist Participle of λαμβανω - I receive, get, take)
	(Masculine Plural, therefore describing the tenant-farmers, not the landowner)	
ἔδειραν	they beat	(Aorist of δερω - I beat, flog)
κάκεινον	and that one	(και + ἐκεινος - that)
ἐκεφαλιωσαν	they wounded in the head	
	(Aorist of κεφαλιωω - I hit on the head, κεφαλη - head)	
ἠτιμασαν	they treated with disrespect, insulted	(Aorist of ἀτιμαζω - I insult)
ἀπεκτειναν	they killed	(Aorist of ἀποκτεινω - I kill)
και πολλους ἄλλους	and also many others	(Masculine Accusative plural)
οὓς	whom	(Relative Pronoun - see chapter 15)
μεν . . . δε	some . . . others	
δερωντες	beating	(Present Participle of δερω - I beat, flog)
ἀποκτεινοντες	killing	(variant spelling of Present Participle of ἀποκτεινω - I kill)
ένα	one	(Masculine Accusative singular of εἷς, μία, ἓν - one)
ἐσχατον	last	(Neuter Nominative singular of ἐσχατος -η, -ον - last, used as an Adverb)
ἐντραπησονται	they will respect	
	(Future Passive of ἐντρεπω - I put to shame, Passive - I respect)	
εἶπαν	(they) said	(variant spelling of εἶπον - see chapter 31)
ἀποκτεινωμεν	let us kill	(Present Subjunctive of ἀποκτεινω - I kill)
ἔσται	(it) will be	(Future of εἶμι - I am)
του ἀμπελωνος	of the vineyard	(Genitive of ὁ ἀμπελών)
ἀπολεσει	he will destroy, have someone put to death	(Future of ἀπολλυμι - I destroy)
δωσει	he will give	(Future of δίδωμι - I give)

### 33.7 Vocabulary to learn

ἀναχωρέω	I go away, withdraw
ἀποκτείνω	I kill
βασιλεύω	I rule, become king
δέρω	I beat, flog
ἐπισπείρω	I sow again, re-seed
θεωρέω	I observe, see ( <i>a theory is expounded for others to look at and check out</i> )
ἰσχύω	I am strong, strong enough, prevail, am able
κληρονομέω	I inherit
μεταίρω	I move away, remove ( <i>from μετα + αἶρω - I pick up</i> )
ὀμνύω	I swear (an oath)
πνίγω	I choke ( <i>Passive - I drown</i> )
πολεμέω	I fight, wage war ( <i>ὁ πόλεμος - war, hence polemic</i> )
προστάσσω	I command
τελευτάω	I am dying, am at the point of death
τελέω	I complete, finish, bring to an end
φυτεύω	I plant ( <i>hence the scientific prefix phyto-</i> )
χωρέω	I make room for, accept
χωρίζω	I separate, leave, depart
ἡ ἄκανθα	acanthus, thorn, thistle
το ζιζάνιον	lolium, darnel, "tares" - an inedible species of grass
ἡ κληρονομία	inheritance, property, possession
ὁ κληρονόμος	heir
ὁ κλῆρος	lot, share, portion
ὁ ξένος	stranger
το σιτίον	grain <b>Plural - food</b>
ὁ σῖτος	grain, wheat
ἕνδεκα	eleven ( <i>does not decline</i> )
κενός, -η, -ον	empty
ξένος, -η, -ον	strange, foreign, unusual
ἐκεῖθεν	from there ( <i>ἐκεῖ = there, -θεν suffix indicates motion away from</i> )
ἔτι	still
μέν	( <i>a particle used to show contrast, continuation of a series, or emphasis</i> )
μέν . . . δέ	one the one hand . . . on the other hand; either . . . or; some . . . others

(do not attempt to use cases other than the nominative singular for the following nouns yet)

ὁ ἀμπελῶν	vineyard
ὁ βασιλεύς	king
ὁ δράκων	dragon
ἡ θυγάτηρ	daughter ( <i>the "gh" in daughter is related to the γ in θυγάτηρ</i> )