

CHAPTER 11: THE AORIST TENSE

FIRST THREE PRINCIPAL PARTS OF VERBS

Verb stems ending with υ

ἀγρεύω,	ἀγρεύσω,	ἤγευσα	hunt, catch
δεύω,	δεύσω,	ἔδευσα	drench
θεραπέυω,	θεραπέύσω,	ἔθεράπευσα	serve, honor
θύω,	θύσω,	ἔθυσσα	sacrifice
λύω,	λύσω,	ἔλυσα	release; destroy
νεύω,	νεύσω,	ἔνευσα	nod, assent to
παύω,	παύσω,	ἔπαυσα	make stop
πορεύω,	πορεύσω,	ἐπόρευσα	make go
τοξεύω,	τοξεύσω,	ἐτόξευσα	shoot
χορεύω,	χορεύσω,	ἐχόρευσα	dance

Verb stems ending with ζ (or δ or θ)

ἀγοράζω,	ἀγοράσω,	ἠγόρασα	visit the market
ἀθροίζω,	ἀθροίσω,	ἠθροισα	gather, collect
ἀρπάζω,	ἀρπάσω,	ἤρπασα	seize, plunder
γυμνάζω,	γυμνάσω,	ἐγύμνασα	train, practice
ὀπλίζω,	ὀπλίσω,	ὤπλισα	equip, prepare
πιέζω,	πιέσω,	ἐπίεσα	press, oppress
σώζω,	σώσω,	ἔσωσα	save
σπεύδω,	σπεύσω,	ἔσπευσα	hurry, rush

Verb stems ending with β, π, πτ, or φ

ἀμείβω, ἀμείψω, ἤμειψα	exchange, trade
γράφω, γράψω, ἔγραψα	write, draw
δάπτω, δάψω, ἔδαψα	devour
κλέπτω, κλέψω, ἔκλεψα	steal
κρύπτω, κρύψω, ἔκρυψα	conceal, hide
μέλω, μέψω, ἔμελψα	sing
πέμπω, πέμψω, ἔπεμψα	send
ρίπτω, ρίψω, ἔρριψα	throw, hurl
τέρπω, τέρω, ἔτερω	delight, please
τρέφω, θρέψω, ἔθρεψα	feed, nourish
τρίβω, τρίψω, ἔτριψα	rub, thresh
τύπτω, τύψω, ἔτυψα	smack, strike

Verb stems ending with κ, σκ, or ττ

ἀλλάττω, ἀλλάξω, ἤλλαξα	change, alter
διώκω, διώξω, ἐδίωξα	chase, pursue
πράττω, πράξω, ἔπραξα	do, make
τάττω, τάξω, ἔταξα	order, arrange
φυλάττω, φυλάξω, ἐφύλαξα	guard
πλάττω, πλάσω, ἔπλασα	shape, mold

AORIST TENSE

Third principle part (including augment)

+ personal ending

	sing.	pl.
1	-α	-αμεν
2	-ας	-ατε
3	-ε	-αν

	sing.	pl.
1	ἔλυσα	ἐλύσαμεν
2	ἔλυσας	ἐλύσατε
3	ἔλυσε	ἔλυσαν

	sing.	pl.
1	ἔγραψα	ἐγράψαμεν
2	ἔγραψας	ἐγράψατε
3	ἔγραψε	ἔγραψαν

	sing.	pl.
1	ἔσωσα	ἐσώσαμεν
2	ἔσωσας	ἐσώσατε
3	ἔσωσε	ἔσωσαν

	sing.	pl.
1	ἔδιώξα	ἐδιώξαμεν
2	ἔδιώξας	ἐδιώξατε
3	ἔδιώξε	ἔδιώξαν

The aorist tense is formed from the third principal part of the verb. For the verbs we have studied, the third principal part is formed by adding an augment to the beginning of the stem, as in the imperfect tense, and a sigma to the end of the stem, as in the future tense. The aorist tense uses its own set of endings; notice that five of the forms include α in the ending. The endings all end in short vowels, which means that the accentuation will be the same as it is in the imperfect tense. The accent will always appear on the antepenult of the verb.

The aorist tense is the simple past tense. It is translated as *did*; for example, ἔλυσα = I released; ἔγραψα = I wrote.

There is no aorist tense of the verb εἰμί.

MORPHOLOGY EXERCISES

Translate the following verb forms.

- | | |
|---------------|------------------------|
| 1. ἐλύσατε | 11. ἐτύψαμεν |
| 2. ἔρριψας | 12. ἔτερψε |
| 3. ἔπεμψαν | 13. ἔταξα |
| 4. ἐφύλαξε | 14. ἔσωσας |
| 5. ἔθρεψαν | 15. ἔθυσαν |
| 6. ἔδευσε | 16. you (sing.) hunted |
| 7. ἐθεράπευσε | 17. he gathered |
| 8. ἐτόξευσαν | 18. you (pl.) nodded |
| 9. ἐσπεύσαμεν | 19. they devoured |
| 10. ἠγόρασε | 20. we sang |

GREEK TO ENGLISH TRANSLATION

1. τῷ γεωργῷ ἦν χρυσός.
2. ὁ γεωργὸς ἔκρυψε τὸν χρυσὸν ἐν τῇ σκηνῇ.
3. ὁ γεωργός· “φυλάξω τὸν ἐμὸν χρυσόν.”
4. ὁ κακοεργὸς τὸν τοῦ γεωργοῦ χρυσὸν οὐκ ἔκλεψε.
5. τῷ τοῦ ἀστοῦ υἱῷ ἦν παλτόν.
6. τὸ παιδίον ἔρριπτε τὸ παλτόν πρὸς τὰ δένδρα.
7. τὰ δένδρα παρὰ τῷ ποταμῷ ἦν.
8. ὁ υἱὸς τὸ παλτόν ἔρριψεν εἰς τὸν ποταμόν.
9. ὁ ἀστὸς τὸ παλτόν ἔσωσεν.
10. οἱ κακοεργοὶ τοὺς καρποὺς ἤρπαζον.
11. ὁ στρατηγὸς τοὺς γεωργοὺς ἠθροισεν,
οἱ γὰρ κακοεργοὶ τοὺς γεωργοὺς ἐπίεζον.
12. αἱ δμῳαὶ τὸν πυρὸν ἔτριψαν,
ἀλλὰ αἱ ἀμναὶ δάψουσι τὸν πυρὸν.
13. ὁ ἀετὸς ἦν ἐν τῇ ἀκμῇ τοῦ δένδρου.
14. ὁ κολοῖος ἔσπευσεν ἐκ τοῦ οὐρανοῦ.

15. αἱ τοῦ κολοιοῦ χηλαὶ ἔτυψαν τὴν τοῦ ἀετοῦ κεφαλὴν.
16. ὁ κολοῖος ἔρριψε τὰ τοῦ ἀετοῦ πτερὰ πρὸς τοὺς ἀγρούς.
17. ὁ γε ἀετὸς ἦν ψιλός.
18. ἔτυψας τὸν σὸν ἀδελφόν;
19. οὐδαμά. ἐν τῷ ἀγρῷ ἦν,
ὁ δὲ ἀδελφὸς ὁ ἐμὸς ἐν τῇ αὐλῇ αἰεὶ ἐστίν.
20. οἱ γε κακοεργοὶ τὸν σὸν ἀδελφὸν ἔτυψαν;
21. οὐδαμά. τὸν ἐμὸν ἀδελφὸν ἔτυψας.
22. νῦν τὴν σὴν κεφαλὴν τύψω.
23. ὁ κριὸς ἐδίωκε τὴν ἀμνὴν ἐκ τῶν ἀγρῶν.
24. ἡ ἀμνὴ ἔσπευδε πρὸς τὴν αὐλήν.
25. ἐν τῇ αὐλῇ ἦν σκηνή.
26. ἐν τῇ σκηνῇ ὁ γεωργὸς ἐσχόλαζεν.
27. ἡ τῆς ἀμνῆς βληχὴ ἔλυσε τὴν τοῦ γεωργοῦ σχολήν.
28. τῷ γεωργῷ ἦν παλτόν.
29. ὁ γεωργὸς ἔρριψε τὸ παλτόν πρὸς τὸν κριόν.
30. τὸ παλτόν τὴν τοῦ κριοῦ κεφαλὴν ἔτυπεν.

31. ἡ πληγὴ τὸν κριὸν ἔπαυσεν.
32. ἡ ἀμνὴ ἔσπευσεν εἰς τὴν σκηνήν.
33. ἔκλεψας τὴν ἐμὴν ἐπιστολήν;
34. τὴν ἐπιστολήν ἐν τῇ σκηνῇ ἔκρουσα.
35. νῦν, ἐκ τῆς σκηνῆς σπεύδεις.
36. τὴν σὴν ἐπιστολήν οὐκ ἔκλεψα.
37. ἡ ἀμνὴ ἐν τῇ σκηνῇ ἦν.
38. ἡ ἀμνὴ τὴν ἐπιστολήν ἔδαπτεν.
39. τὴν ἀμνὴν εἰς τὸν ἀγρὸν ἐδίωξα.
40. τὴν σὴν ἐπιστολήν ἔσωσα.
41. τὸν ἐμὸν τυρὸν ἔδαψας;
42. οὐδαμά. οὐ τὸν γε σὸν, ἀλλὰ τὸν ἐμὸν τυρὸν δάπτω.
43. ἡγρεύετε κριούς;
44. ναί, ἡγρεύομεν καὶ ἐτοξεύσαμεν κριόν.
45. ἔγραψας ἐπιστολήν;
46. ναί. ἐπιστολήν ἔγραψα καὶ τῇ ἐμῇ ἀδελφῇ ἔπεμψα.
47. οἱ μωροὶ ἔδαψαν τὴν κριθὴν καὶ τοὺς ἀδελφοὺς ἔτυψαν.

48. ὁ ἀδελφὸς ὁ ἐσθλὸς τοὺς μωροὺς ἐδίωξεν ἐκ τῆς ἐορτῆς.

49. διώξω τοὺς μωροὺς εἰς τὸν ποταμόν.

50. ὁ ποταμὸς δεύσει τοὺς μωρούς.

ENGLISH TO GREEK TRANSLATION

1. Did you (pl.) feed the lambs?
2. Yes, we fed the lambs.
3. Were you (sing.) in the fields yesterday?
4. Yes, I was chasing the jackdaws.
5. The jackdaws did not devour my crop yesterday.
6. Will you (s.) guard the fields today?
7. My brother is guarding the fields now.
8. Did you (pl.) dance in the feast?
9. We were dancing and singing.
10. We always please the goddess.