

Introduction to New Testament Greek

Week 12 – Verbs, Deponents & the First Aorist Middle and Passive Indicative & Liquid

The aim of this session is to introduce *Deponent Verbs* and then add to our learning of the *First Aorist* by looking at the *First Aorist Middle* and *Passive Indicative Verb*. We will then be in a position to consider *liquid verbs*.

As this will also be the last session in this section of the course, the appendices will outline what has not been covered as well as suggesting some tips for the keeping up the Greek in the months and years ahead.

Deponent Verbs

As we have learnt, verbs can appear in three voices – *active*, *middle* and *passive*. There are some verbs however that appear in the *middle* and *passive* but have no *active* form. These verbs are called *deponent verbs*. It is thought that sometime in the development of the Greek language that the *active* form was left aside in preference for the *middle* form.

The trick here however, is that *deponent verbs* may have *middle* or *passive* form, but they are *active* in meaning! For example - ἔρχομαι looks like a *middle/passive* due to its ending, but it is translated 'I come' – so *active* in meaning.

Most of the time, by virtue of the *verbal* or *present* stem, the *deponent verbs* will look very similar to the *present* form of the same word (e.g. εὐαγγελίζομαι (deponent) = 'I preach the gospel' where as εὐαγγελίζω (present) = 'I preach the gospel' – both are *active* in voice). On the rare occasion some verbs will have different meanings (e.g. ἄρχομαι (deponent) = 'I begin' where as ἄρχω (present) = 'I rule').

As you will notice from the Vocab List, it is not unusual for a *deponent verb* to also be a *compound verb*.

Deponent verbs have been introduced here because the *First Aorist Middle* is mainly found in *deponent* verbs.

First Aorist Middle & Passive Indicative Verbs

Previously we have learnt the difference between *Middle* and *Passive* voices – *Middle* occurs when the subject is participating in the action and *Passive* is when the action is being done to the subject. We have also learnt paradigms for the *Present Middle/Passive* and *Imperfect Middle/Passive* verbs as well as the *Future Middle* and *Future Passive* verbs. It is now time to turn to the *First Aorist Middle* and *Passive verb*.

There is not much new learning here. The construction of the *Aorist Middle* and *Passive* follows that of the *Aorist Active* – that is, the *Middle* takes the *aoristic morpheme* ('σα') after the verbal stem and before the *middle aorist* ending. The *Passive* similarly takes the *passive distinctive morpheme* ('θη') after the verbal stem and before the *passive aorist* ending.

All the rules for *augmentation of the initial vowels* and all the rules for *amalgamation of mutes* still apply.

So the paradigm for the *First Aorist Middle* and *Passive Verb* for λύω is:

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FIRST AORIST INDICATIVE VERB					
Num	Person	MIDDLE		PASSIVE	
<i>Sing</i>	1 st	ἐλυσάμην	I loosed myself	ἐλύθην	I was loosed
	2 nd	ἐλυσω ¹	you loosed yourself	ἐλύθης	you were loosed
	3 rd	ἐλύσατο	he/she loosed himself/herself	ἐλύθη	he/she was loosed
<i>Plu</i>	1 st	ἐλυσάμεθα	we loosed ourselves	ἐλύθημεν	we were loosed
	2 nd	ἐλύσασθε	you loosed yourself	ἐλύθητε	you were loosed
	3 rd	ἐλύσαντο	they loosed themselves	ἐλύθησαν	they were loosed

- Notice that the *First Aorist Middle* is the same as the *Imperfect Middle/Passive Indicative* except that it has the *aoristic morpheme* ('σα') added.
- Notice that in the *Aorist Passive* the action done to the subject has been completed or received in the past and so instead of translating it 'I was being loosed' (like in the imperfect) it is simply 'I was loosed'.

Bear in mind then, that when dealing with *Deponent Verbs* in the *Middle* or *Passive* form we are translating the verb with an *Active* voice. Otherwise stick to the usual form of translation for *middle* or *passive* words.

Exercises

1. Parse the following Greek words. The vocab list will help with meaning.

Inflected Word	Tense	Voice	Mood	Person	Number	Lexical form	Inflected Meaning
ἠρνήσατο	Aor	Mid Dep	Ind	3 rd	Sing	ἀρνέομαι	He denied
ἔδεξάμεθα							
ἐκαθαρίσθη							
ἐβλέψασθε							
ἐφοβήθης							

¹ ἐλυσω is a contraction of ἐ-λυ-σα-(σ)ο.

συνήχθησαν							²
Inflected Word	Tense	Voice	Mood	Person	Number	Lexical form	Inflected Meaning

Liquid Stem Verbs

Finally and with particular reference to *Future* and *Aorist* tense verbs, there is a special irregularity that the student must be aware of in understanding the Greek verb system. It involves verbs whose stems end in one of the following 'liquid' consonants:

λ, μ, ν, ρ

The issue - Greek does not accept a sigma (‘σ’) after these consonants!

This is a little tricky. Several things occur.

Liquid Futures

- When dealing with *liquid stems* – instead of adding a simple *future time morpheme* (‘σ’) to form the *future*, an ‘εσ’ is added which is followed by the *connecting vowel*.
- But...the sigma (‘σ’) does like to stand between two vowels so it leaves!
- Which means that two vowels meet – and so they *contract* (following our rules for contraction!)

(e.g. μένω reforms as μέν + εσ + ομεν = μένεσομεν ► μένεομεν ► μενοῦμεν)

Notice how we now have a word which looks very like the *Present Active Indicative contract verb*. The way to distinguish is to take note of the *circumflex*. With *liquid future verbs* it always appears over the *contracted vowels*.

Liquid Aorists

If you can handle the *liquid future*, you will handle the *liquid aorist*!

- Form the *aorist* as you normally would – *Augment + verb stem + aoristic morpheme + aorist ending*.
- When dealing with *liquid stems* – instead of adding the *aoristic time morpheme* (‘σα’) to form the *aorist*, only add the ‘α’ and then sometimes modify the verb stem.

(e.g. μένω reforms as ἐ + μείν + α + μεν = ἐμείναμεν)

² KEY: 1. ἠρνήσατο, Aor, Mid Dep, Ind, 3rd, Sing, ἀρνέομαι, he/she/it denied; 2. ἐδεξάμεθα Aor, Mid, Ind, 1st, Plu, δεχομαι, We received ourselves; 3. ἐκαθαρίσθη, Aor, Pass, Ind, 3rd, Sing, καθαρίζω, he/she/it was cleansed; 4. ἐβλέψασθε, Aor, Mid, Ind, 2nd, Plu, βλέπω, you saw yourself; 5. ἐφοβήθης, Aor, Pass Dep, Ind, 2nd, Sing, φοβέομαι, you feared; 6. συνήχθησαν, Aor, Pass, Ind, 3rd, Plu, σύαγω, they were gathered;

Notice that in this *aorist liquid* form the ϵ has changed to $\epsilon\iota$.³

The good news is that *liquid stems* only affect the *future* and *aorist* tenses.

Exercises

1. Conjugate the *Aorist Middle Indicative* of⁴:

- 2nd person singular of **ἐγείρω**
- 3rd person singular of **ἐκβάλλω**
- 1st person plural of **σπείρω**
- 2nd person plural of **μένω**
- 3rd person plural of **ἀποκρίνομαι**

2. Conjugate the *Future Active Indicative* of⁵:

- 2nd person singular of **αἴρω**
- 3rd person singular of **κρίνω**
- 1st person plural of **ὀφείλω**
- 2nd person plural of **λαμβάνω**
- 3rd person plural of **χαίρω**

3. Mark and translate the following verses⁶:

³ How do you know when to modify the verb or not? I am afraid this will become easier when the *irregular verb principal parts table* is introduced and that is not for a few sessions yet!

⁴ KEY: 1. ἤγειρα = 'you raised yourself'; 2. ἐξέβαλλω = 'he expelled himself' (note here the verb stem has modified and lost an λ); 3. ἐσπείραμεθα = 'we ourselves sow'; 4. ἐμέμνησθε = 'you yourself remained' (note the verb stem has modified from ϵ to $\epsilon\iota$); 5. ἀπεκρίναντο = 'They answered'.

Ἀρχὴ τοῦ εὐαγγελίου Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ υἱοῦ θεοῦ. Καθὼς (just as) γέγραπται (is written) ἐν τῷ Ἑσαΐα τῷ προφήτῃ, Ἴδοὺ (Behold) ἀποστέλλω τὸν ἄγγελόν μου πρὸ προσώπου σου, ὃς κατασκευάσει τὴν ὁδὸν σου· φωνὴ βοῶντος (crying out) ἐν τῇ ἐρήμῳ, Ἐτοιμάσατε τὴν ὁδὸν κυρίου, εὐθείας (at once) ποιεῖτε (make) τὰς τρίβους αὐτοῦ, ἐγένετο (he came) Ἰωάννης ὁ βαπτίζων (baptizing) ἐν τῇ ἐρήμῳ καὶ κηρύσσων (preaching) βάπτισμα (a baptism) μετανοίας εἰς ἄφεςιν ἁμαρτιῶν. καὶ ἐξεπορεύετο (came out) πρὸς αὐτὸν πᾶσα (all) ἡ Ἰουδαία χώρα καὶ οἱ Ἱεροσολυμίται πάντες (all) , καὶ ἐβαπτίζοντο (being baptized) ὑπ’ αὐτοῦ ἐν τῷ Ἰορδάνῃ ποταμῷ ἐξομολογούμενοι (confessing) τὰς ἁμαρτίας αὐτῶν.

Vocab List 11 – Deponent Verbs

Middle Form

ἀρνέομαι	I deny, disown (Mk 14:68)
ἄρχομαι	I begin (Lk 3:8)
ἀσπάζομαι	I greet (Mk 9:15)
δέχομαι	I receive (Mk 6:11)
ἐργάζομαι	I work (Mk 14:6)
ἔρχομαι	I come, go (Mk 1:7)
ἀπέρχομαι	I go away (Mk 1:20) ☐
διέρχομαι	I go through (Mk 4:35) ☐

⁵ KEY: 1. ἀίρεις = ‘you will carry’ (note this could also be the *Present Active Indicative 2nd Sing!* – except for the *circumflex*); 2. κρινεῖ = ‘he/she/it will judge’; 3. ὀφείλωμεν = ‘we will owe’; 4. λαμβάνετε = ‘you will take’; 5. χαίρωσιν = ‘they will rejoice’.

⁶ KEY: Mark 1:1-5

εἰσέρχομαι	I go into, enter (Mk 1:21) ▣	
ἐξέρχομαι	I go out (Mk 1:25) ▣	
προσέρχομαι	I come to, approach (Mk 1:31) ▣	
συνέρχομαι	I come together, gather (Mk 3:20) ▣	
εὐαγγελίζομαι	I preach the gospel (Rom 1:15)	
θεάομαι	I see, look at (Mk 16:11)	▣ = indicates a <i>Compound Verb</i>
καυχάομαι	I boast (Rom 2:17)	
λογίζομαι	I reckon, evaluate (Lk 22:37)	• = indicates a <i>Liquid Stem Verb</i>
προσεύχομαι	I pray (Mk 1:35) ▣	

Passive Form

βούλομαι	I will, wish (Mk 15:15) •
φοβέομαι	I fear, am afraid (Mt 21:26)

Mixed Forms

ἀποκρίνομαι	I answer (Mk 3:33) ▣ •
γίνομαι	I become (Mk 1:4) •
παραγίνομαι	I come, beside (Mk 14:43) ▣ •
πορεύομαι	I go, proceed (Mk 16:10)
ἐκπορεύομαι	I go out (Mk 1:5)

For this week:

1. Commit to memory the paradigms for the *First Aorist Middle and Passive Indicative Verb*.
2. Learn the Vocab from list 11 (and develop flash cards).
3. Establish a system that keeps you reading Greek over the long term.

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Bibliography

In putting this material together the following texts may have been consulted.

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- Gibson, R., *Introduction the Greek New Testament - Moore Theological College Lecture Notes*, Unpublished, 1998.
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Note to leader: Bring highlighters and interlinear Bible

Appendix 3 - Topic Areas to come in Greek Grammar

Congratulations. You have just completed 12 units of basic Greek grammar. It would be nice if you were near the end of your study of the basics of this wonderful language, but there is more to go!

The good news is that you have covered all the foundational principles for understanding and translating Greek. The exciting news is that there is still a little more learning to come.

With the intention to encourage (not depress), what follows is a list of topics that are still to be covered (not necessarily in this order)

- More Verbs
 - *Second Aorist Indicative*
 - *Perfect Active & Middle/Passive Indicative*
 - *Pluperfect Active & Middle Passive*
 - *Irregular Verb Principal Parts Table*

- Adjectives

- Negation

- More Verbs – the other *moods*
 - *Subjunctive*
 - *Imperative*
 - *Infinitive*

- Participles

- Adverb

- Nouns
 - *3^d declension nouns*
 - *Genitive Absolutes*

- More Pronouns
 - *Indefinite*
 - *Interrogative*
 - *Indefinite Relative*

- **μι** Verbs

- Textual criticism

- Research Tools

With each there is a little more vocab. All worth it as you get to know the Word of God even better by studying it in the original language.

Until we return – keep up the Greek!

Appendix 4 - Keeping up the Greek

By this stage you have learnt a great deal of Greek – the basics of Greek Grammar and most of the top 50 Greek words used in the New Testament (vocab). Well done and Praise God.

The challenge is to maintain and continue to develop your skill and understanding in reading Greek.

To help six tips:

1. Read some Greek every day.

- One of the great things about living for eternity is that you do not have to master everything yesterday! There are now days ahead which if used well will reinforce your Greek. You have enough of an understanding now to slowly work out a lot of the text of the New Testament. With the aid of a lexicon (like at the back of your Greek Bibles (UBS3/4)). Read slowly and don't read far. A few words on a sentence a day is great.

2. Revise a Verb or Noun Paradigm each week.

- Put together, the *Verb table* and the *Noun table* are overwhelming. Don't freak out and don't let it master you! To give you some perspective the *regular verb table* is made up of 38 paradigms. The *noun table* is made up of 11 declensions. Together that makes 49. One a week covers the whole lot in just short of a year. Surely revising one a week is not that hard.

3. Have Vocab learning happening all the time.

- The heart of Greek is the actual words themselves and so just keep revising the vocab. This may be an encouragement. 301 words occur more than 50 times in the New Testament (some occur thousands of times). Learn the 50 words (which are largely covered by the vocab lists you have done in this course) and you will have learnt a massive chunk of the New Testament. Now you just have to keep it up and gradually add to it. Consider using technology to help you (i.e. Screen savers vocab programs, mobile apps which have vocab displays etc.)

4. Don't use your English Bible or Interlinear until after you have finished each section you have allotted yourself.

- If you accept tip number 1 'Read some Greek every day' then work out what you aim to cover before you start. Finish that section before you turn to the English or the Interlinear to check yourself. In other words don't cheat yourself out of intentionally stretching yourself when the stretching will in fact aid your learning.

5. Have fun and thank God for the amazing privilege of studying his word.

- I don't think this really needs explaining!

6. Do it.

A great book to help with practical tips and practices for keeping up your Greek is: Constantine R. Campbell's *Keep Your Greek – Strategies for Busy People* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2010).