

Imperfect Indicative Verbs

Chapter 6

Meaning

Εν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ
λόγος

The meaning of the imperfect tense

The imperfect communicates **ongoing action in past**.

Present Tense

"I **am** loosing"

Imperfect Tense

"I **was** loosing"

Meaning

Εν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ
λόγος

The imperfect aspect is the same as the present, which often signifies a **progressive** action.

λύετε



ἐλύετε

"you are loosing"

"you were loosing"

λυόμεθα



ἐλυόμεθα

"we are being loosed"

"we were being loosed"

Meaning

Εν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ
λόγος

Imperfect Tense-Form

Progressive Imperfect: Progressive action in the past: "and many rich **were putting** in much [money]," **καὶ πολλοὶ πλούσιοι ἐβάλλον πολλά** (Mark 12:41).

Inceptive Imperfect: Emphasizes the beginning of an action or state (add: "began" or "started"): "he stood and **began to walk**," **ἔστη καὶ περιπάτει** (Acts 3:8).

Iterative Imperfect: Conveys repeated or customary action in the past (add: "kept on," "repeatedly," or "continually"): "he solemnly testified and **kept on exhorting them**," **διεμαρτύρατο καὶ παρεκάλει αὐτούς** (Acts 2:40).

Imperfect **Active** Indicative

Εν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ
λόγος

λυ

1. Stem

Imperfect **Active** Indicative

Εν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ
λόγος

λυο

1. Stem

2. Connecting Vowel

Imperfect **Active**
Indicative

Εν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

λυομεν

1. Stem

2. Connecting Vowel

3. Personal Ending

Imperfect **Active**
Indicative

Εν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

ελυομεν

1. Stem

2. Connecting Vowel

3. Personal Ending

4. Augment

Imperfect **Active**
Indicative

Εν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

ἐλύομεν

1. Stem

2. Connecting Vowel

3. Personal Ending

4. Augment

Imperfect **Active**
Indicative

Εν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

	Singular	Plural
1 st Person	ἔλυον	ἐλύομεν
2 nd Person	ἔλυες	ἐλύετε
3 rd Person	ἔλυε(ν)	ἔλυον

Notice: 1st person sg and the 3rd person pl share the same forms.
Also, the 1st and 2nd person pl endings are the same as the present.

Imperfect **Middle/Passive**
Indicative

Εν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

λυ

1. Stem

Imperfect **Middle/Passive**
Indicative

Εν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

λυο

1. Stem

2. Connecting Vowel

Imperfect **Middle/Passive**
Indicative

Εν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

λυομεθα

1. Stem

2. Connecting Vowel

3. Personal Ending

Imperfect **Middle/Passive**
Indicative

Εν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

ελυομεθα

1. Stem

2. Connecting Vowel

3. Personal Ending

4. Augment

Imperfect **Middle/Passive**
Indicative

Εν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

ἐλυόμεθα

1. Stem

2. Connecting Vowel

3. Personal Ending

4. Augment

Imperfect **Middle/Passive**
Indicative

Εν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

	Singular	Plural
1 st Person	ἐλυόμην	ἐλυόμεθα
2 nd Person	ἐλύου	ἐλύεσθε
3 rd Person	ἐλύετο	ἐλύοντο

Again, the 1st and 2nd person pl endings are the same as the present.

Augment

Εν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

The augment is a time indicator:
it communicates that the **action is in the past**

If the verb begins with a **consonant**, the augment (ἐ) is put in front of the stem.

ἔλυον

Augment

Εν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

Augments and verbs beginning with vowels

If a verb begins with a vowel, the **vowel** is lengthened to an **eta (η)** or an **omega (ω)**.

ἀκούω → ε + ακουον → ἤκουον
 ἔρχομαι → ε + ερχομην → ἤρχόμην
 ὀφείλω → ε + οφειλον → ὤφειλον

Most imperfects lengthen from α- or ε -, not ο-.

Augment

Εν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

Augments and verbs beginning with vowels

If the vowel begins with the diphthong **-αι**, then the iota (ι) becomes subscripted.

αἰτοῦμαι → ἡτοῦμην

Verbs beginning with **η-**, **ι-**, **υ-**, or **ω-** do not usually change the beginning vowel when the augment is added.

Augment

Εν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

Augments and verbs beginning with vowels

Because the true stem of ἔχω is **σεχ-**, it changes to **εἶχον** not **ἦχον**.

σεχ → εσεχον → εεχον → εἶχον

Hint: If a verb begins with eta (η), assume it is an augmented.

The use of οὐ

Εν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

The negative particle οὐ negates a verb

οὐ λύει → "I am **not** loosing"

If the verb begins with a **vowel** and a **smooth breathing mark**, a kappa (κ) is added:

οὐκ ἔλυεν → "He was **not** loosing"

The use of οὐ

Εν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

The negative particle οὐ negates a verb

If the verb begins with a **vowel** and a **rough breathing mark**, a chi (χ) is added:

οὐχ ὑπάγω → "I am **not** departing"

οὐχί is used for stress or emphasis: **No!**

Irregular Nouns

Εν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

Other Irregular Nouns

Some nouns like **μαθητής** ("disciple") and **προφήτης** ("prophet") are first declension nouns that have feminine forms (except for the nom. and gen. singular), but are masculine in gender.

Because these nouns are masculine in gender, they will be modified by masculine articles & adjectives.

τὸν ἀγαθὸν μαθητὴς "the good disciple"

Irregular Nouns

Εν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

Case Art. Singular Art. Plural

N.	ὁ μαθητής	οἱ μαθηταί
G.	τοῦ μαθητοῦ	τῶν μαθητῶν
D.	τῷ μαθητῇ	τοῖς μαθηταῖς
A.	τὸν μαθητὴν	τούς μαθητάς

Notice: the **genitive singular** follows the masculine pattern.

Vocabulary

Εν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ
λόγος

ἀγαπάω, I love

γεννάω, I give birth to, bear, beget
(genealogy)

ἐπερωτάω, I ask

ἐρωτάω, I ask, question, request

αἰτέω, I ask, demand

Vocabulary

Εν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ
λόγος

ἀκολουθέω, I follow (acolyte)

ζητέω, I seek, look for

καλέω, I call, invite, name (call)

λαλέω, I speak, say (glossolalia)

μαρτυρέω, I testify, bear witness
(martyr)

Vocabulary

Εν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ
λόγος

παρακαλέω, I call, urge, comfort

περιπατέω, I walk, live (peripatetic)

ποιέω, I do, make (poet)

φοβέομαι, I am afraid, fear, respect
(phobia)

πληρόω, I fill, fulfill, complete