

1st Aorist Verbs

Chapter 11

Meaning

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

The 1st aorist expresses a **simple past event**.

It is called first aorist because it is the first of two main patterns for aorist forms.

Aorist Tense

"I loosed"

Imperfect Tense

"I **was** loosing"

The word "aorist" is from Greek (**ἀόριστος**), meaning "without boundaries," or "not defined."

Meaning

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1. Constativ Aorist

Presents the action as a whole without regard to its beginning or end, or the length of time it took to accomplish the action.

"Death **reigned** (**ἐβασίλευσεν**) from Adam until Moses" (**Rom 5:14**).

The reign of death extended over a long period of time, but by using the aorist verb, the action is summarized as a whole.

Meaning

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
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2. Inceptive Aorist

Emphasizes the beginning of a state or action.

"Jesus **began to weep** (**ἐδάκρυσεν**) (**John 11:35**).

The aorist form alone communicates the inception of the state. Words like "begin to" or "came to" are not always needed in Greek.

Meaning

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3. Epistolary Aorist

Used in epistles where the author writes from the perspective of the readers (past) although he is currently writing or sending the letter (present). It usually occurs with the verbs **γράφω** and **πέμπω**.

"I **am sending** (**ἔπεμψα**) [Tychicus] to you" (**Eph 6:22**).

Present	Active	λύω
	M/P	λύομαι
Imperfect	Active	ἔλυον
	M/P	ἐλυόμην
Future	Active	λύσω
	Middle	λύσομαι
	Passive	λυθήσομαι
Aorist	Active	ἔλυσα
	Middle	ἐλυσάμην
	Passive	ἐλύθην

1st Aorist **Active**
Indicative

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

λυσ

1. Stem

1st Aorist **Active**
Indicative

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

λυσα

1. Stem

2. Connecting Vowel

1st Aorist **Active**
Indicative

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

λυσαμεν

1. Stem

2. Connecting Vowel

3. Personal Ending

1st Aorist **Active**
Indicative

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

ἐλυσαμεν

1. Stem

2. Connecting Vowel

3. Personal Ending

4. Augment

1st Aorist **Active**
Indicative

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

ἐλύσαμεν

1. Stem

2. Connecting Vowel

3. Personal Ending

4. Augment

1st Aorist **Active**
Indicative

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Singular

Plural

1st Person

ἔλυσα

ἐλύσαμεν

2nd Person

ἔλυσας

ἐλύσατε

3rd Person

ἔλυσε(ν)

ἔλυσαν

The aorist has an **augment** and similar endings to the imperfect (except for the 1st per sg). Also, the 3rd per sg has **no alpha variable vowel**.

1st Aorist **Middle**
Indicative

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

λυσ

1. Stem

1st Aorist **Middle**
Indicative

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

λυσα

1. Stem

2. Connecting Vowel

1st Aorist **Middle**
Indicative

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

λυσαμεθα

1. Stem

2. Connecting Vowel

3. Personal Ending

1st Aorist **Middle**
Indicative

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

ἐλυσαμεθα

1. Stem

2. Connecting Vowel

3. Personal Ending

4. Augment

1st Aorist **Middle**
Indicative

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

ἐλυσάμεθα

1. Stem

2. Connecting Vowel

3. Personal Ending

4. Augment

1st Aorist **Middle**
Indicative

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Singular

Plural

1st Person ἐλυσάμην

ἐλυσάμεθα

2nd Person ἐλύσω

ἐλύσασθε

3rd Person ἐλύσατο

ἐλύσαντο

Notice: the 2nd person singular form has no alpha variable vowel.

Aorist **Passive**
Indicative

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

λυ

Start with
verb stem

Aorist **Passive**
Indicative

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

ελυ

1. Augment

Aorist **Passive**
Indicative

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

ελυθη

1. Augment

2. Addition of **θη** after the stem

Aorist **Passive**
Indicative

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

ελυθημεν

1. Augment

2. Addition of **θη** after the stem

3. Personal ending

Aorist **Passive**
Indicative

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

ἐλύθημεν

1. Augment

2. Addition of **θη** after the stem

3. Personal ending

Aorist **Passive**
Indicative

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

	Singular	Plural
1 st Person	ἐλύθην	ἐλύθημεν
2 nd Person	ἐλύθης	ἐλύθητε
3 rd Person	ἐλύθη	ἐλύθησαν

Morphology

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Like the imperfect, the augment communicates that the **action is in the past**

ἔλυον	"I was loosing"
ἔλυσα	"I loosed"
ἐθεράπευον	"I was healing"
ἐθεράπευσεν	"I healed"

Morphology

Ἐν 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 + ακουσα → ἤκουσα
ἐρωτάω → ε + ερωτησα → ἠρώτησα
ὀρίζω → ε + ορισα → ὤρισα

If the stem of the verb begins with the diphthong αι-, the alpha (α) lengthens to an eta (η), causing the iota (ι) to become subscripted (αἰτέιτε → ἡτήσατε).

Stem Variations

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Dentals	δ, ζ, θ, τ + σ → σ (ἐδόξα σα)
Velars	γ, κ, σκ/σσ, χ + σ → ξ (ἐδίω ξα)
Labials	π, β, πτ, φ + σ → ψ (ἐβλεψ α)

Contract verbs will usually lengthen the contract vowel: ἡγαπή**σθην**

Vocabulary

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

ἀναβαίνω, I go up, ascend (anabasis)
ἀπέρχομαι, I go away, depart
ἀποθνήσκω, I die (euthanasia)
βάλλω, I throw, cast out (ball, ballistic)
εἰσέρχομαι, I go in, enter

Vocabulary

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

ἐκβάλλω, I drive/send out
ἐσθίω, I eat
ἐξέρχομαι, I go out, depart, leave
εὕρισκω, I find, discover (heuristic, Eureka!)
καταβαίνω, I go down, descend

Vocabulary

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

πίνω, I drink
πίπτω, I fall
προσέρχομαι, I go to, approach
φέρω, I bear, carry (metaphor)
ἐπαγγελία, ἡ, promise