

## Overview of Verbs

### Chapter 4

## Overview

Εν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

Verbs in **English** are somewhat **limited**.

They only communicate the action being performed: “**hunting**.” More words are needed to be more precise.

“**I am hunting**”



I

am

hunting

pronoun

helping verb

main verb

## Overview

Εν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

Verbs in **Greek** are very **compact**.

They communicate a considerable amount of information through a single word.

λύομεν → “we are loosing”

Greek verbs express both person and number through different **endings**.

## Person

Εν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

**Person** refers to the subject of the verbal idea.

First person: “I” or “we”

Second person: “you” [sg. or pl.]

Third person “he/she/it” or “they”

**1st person** – The subject is speaking.

**2nd person** – The subject is being spoken to.

**3rd person** – The subject is being spoken about.

## Number

Εν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

**Number** refers to how many things are related to the action of the verb.

	Singular	Plural
First	I	we
Second	you (sg)	you (pl)
Third	he, she, it	they

## Voice

Εν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

**Voice** indicates the way the subject relates to the action or state expressed by the verb.

- **Active:** the subject performs the action.
- **Middle:** the subject both performs and is affected by the action.
- **Passive:** the subject receives the action.

## Active Voice

Εν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

The subject of the verb **performs** the action.

**Transitive:** "I see a tree."  
**Intransitive:** "I am walking."

ἡγάπησεν ὁ θεὸς τὸν κόσμον

"God loved the world"

## Middle Voice

Εν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

The subject both **performs** the action and is in some way **affected** by the action.

**1) Reflexive:** The subject performs the action upon himself ("I see myself").

περιζώσεται

"he will dress himself"

## Middle Voice

Εν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

**2) Special Interest:** The subject may have some special interest in the action or benefit from the action ("I see for myself").

πάντα ὅσα προσεύχεσθε καὶ αἰτεῖσθε

"All things you pray and ask for"

## Middle Voice

Εν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

### Categories of Middle Voice Verbs

- **Reciprocity:** involves two parties (δέχομαι, ἀποκρίνομαι).
- **Movement** (έρχομαι, πορεύομαι).
- **Self-Involvement:** thinking, feeling, and deciding (λογίζομαι, βούλομαι).
- **Passivity:** the subject does not choose or cannot refuse to be the subject of the action (γίνομαι).

## Passive Voice

Εν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

The subject of the verb **receives** the action

### English Examples

**Active Voice:** "Elvis has left the building."

**Passive Voice:** "Captain, sensors report we are being scanned."

## Passive Voice

Εν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

### Greek Examples

**Active Voice:**

θεραπεύει τὴν γυναῖκα  
("He is healing the woman")

**Passive Voice:**

ἡ γυνὴ θεραπεύεται  
("The woman is being healed")

Notice: We don't know who the agent of the action is.  
The agent can be added to a passive verb by using ὑπό (+ gen):  
ἡ γυνὴ θεραπεύεται ὑπὸ τοῦ κυρίου

## Mood

Εν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

**Mood:** indicates an author's understanding of the verbal action's relation to reality—factual, possible, desired, commanded, contingent, etc.

Indicative

Subjunctive

Optative

Imperative

## Mood

Εν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

- **Indicative:** represents something as certain or asserted ("He went fishing" or "Will he go fishing?").
- **Subjunctive:** represents something as probable, contingent, or indefinite ("He might go fishing" or "whenever he goes fishing").
- **Optative:** represents something as possible or hoped for ("I wish he would go fishing").
- **Imperative:** represents something as requested or commanded ("Go fishing!" "Please, go fishing").

## Tense & Aspect

Εν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

**Tense:** Greek has 6 tense-forms.

- |                |           |                             |
|----------------|-----------|-----------------------------|
| • Present      | λύω       | "I am loosing" or "I loose" |
| • Imperfective | ἔλυον     | "I was loosing"             |
| • Future       | λύσω      | "I will loose"              |
| • Aorist       | ἔλυσα     | "I loosed"                  |
| • Perfect      | ἔλελυκα   | "I have loosed"             |
| • Pluperfect   | ἔλελύκειν | "I had loosed"              |

## Tense & Aspect

Εν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

**Aspect:** the subjective perspective or viewpoint from which an author communicates the action of the verb.

- **Imperfective Aspect** (present and imperfect tenses): the author depicts the action as ongoing or in process, without attention to the action's beginning or ending.
- **Perfective Aspect** (aorist tense): the author depicts the action as complete or as a whole.
- **Stative Aspect** (perfect and pluperfect tenses): the author depicts a state of affairs or ongoing relevance resulting from a previous action or state.

## Present Indicative of εἰμί

Εν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

**Copulative Verbs in English**

The verb "to be" is very irregular in English:

I am	I will be
you are	I was
he is	we were

## Present Indicative of εἰμί

Εν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

**Copulative Verbs in English**

The verb "to be" is called a "copulative" verb because it joins words together. As such, it does not take a direct object but a **predicate nominative**.

I am he  
They are good

### Present Indicative of εἰμί

Εν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ  
λόγος

	Singular	Plural
1 <sup>st</sup> Person	εἰμί	ἐσμέν
2 <sup>nd</sup> Person	εἶ	ἐστέ
3 <sup>rd</sup> Person	ἐστίν	εἰσίν

### Vocabulary

Εν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ  
λόγος

ἄγω, I lead, bring (pedagogical)  
βλέπω, I see, look at  
διδάσκω, I teach (didactic)  
ἐγείρω, I raise up  
κρίνω, I judge, condemn (critic)

### Vocabulary

Εν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ  
λόγος

μένω, I remain, abide, dwell (remain)  
ὑπάγω, I go away, depart  
δοῦλος, ὁ, slave (doula)  
θάνατος, ὁ, death  
ψυχή, ἡ, soul, life, living being  
(psychology)

### Vocabulary

Εν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ  
λόγος

ᾠρα, ἡ, hour (hour)  
εἰ, if, whether  
εἴτε, if, whether  
καθώς, as, just as, even as  
ὥς, as, like