

The Aorist Passive Indicative

A lesson for the *Paideia* web-app
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The Aorist Passive Forms

- There's nothing new to understand here
 - You already know how the passive voice works
 - The subject of the verb receives the action of the verb
- The aorist uses distinct forms for the passive voice
 - The present used the same forms for middle and passive
- Again, there are two kinds of aorist passive: 1st and 2nd
 - But most verbs become 1st aorist in the passive voice
 - Many 2nd aorist active verbs are 1st aorist in the passive
 - Only 32 verbs in the NT are 2nd aorist passives
 - Although some of them are 1st aorists in the active voice!



Parts of a First Aorist Passive Verb

Augment	Stem	Tense marker	Conn. vowel	Personal Ending	Complete form
ἐ	λυ	θ	η	ν	ἐλυθην



First Aorist Passive Examples

	Singular	Plural
1 st person	ἐλυθην I was loosed	ἐλυθημεν we were loosed
2 nd person	ἐλυθης you (singular) were loosed	ἐλυθητε you (plural) were loosed
3 rd person	ἐλυθη he/she/it was loosed	ἐλυθησαν they were loosed



Predictable Changes

Present	Aor. pass. Components	Aor. pass.	Translation	Comments
βλεπω	ἐ + βλεπ + θ + ην	ἐβλεφθην	I was seen	Stem vowel π softens to φ in front of the θ tense marker
διδωμι	ἐ + δο + θ + ην	ἐδοθην	I was given	This form is easy if you remember that the real stem is δο-.
ίστημι	ἐ + στα + θ + ην	ἐσταθην	I was stood	Again, easy if you remember the real stem στα-
καλεω	ἐ + κλε + θ + ην	ἐκληθην	I was called	Remember to use the aorist stem if there is any change (like ἐκλησα). The final ε of the stem lengthens to η in front of the tense marker, just as it does in the aorist active.



Irregular Aorist Passives

Present form	Aor. Stem	Aor. Passive	Translation	Comments
λαμβάνω	λαβ- (ἐλάβον)	ἐληφθην	I was taken	The only truly irregular thing here is that the alpha of the stem λαβ lengthens to η.
ὄραω	οπ-	ὠφθην	I was seen	The stem used here for ὄραω is actually borrowed from another (defunct) verb. The augment elides with the omicron and lengthens it to ω.
λέγω	επ- (εἶπον)	ἐλεχθην	I was spoken	This form is actually quite regular, but may be surprising because it does not use the aorist stem (as in εἶπον). Instead, the aorist passive reverts to the present stem λεγ-.



Parts of a Second Aorist Passive Verb

- Again, a verb's aorist active pattern doesn't dictate its aorist passive pattern

Augment	Stem	Tense marker	Conn. vowel	Personal Ending	Complete form
ἐ	γραφ	-	η	σαν	ἐγραφησαν



Second Aorist Passive Endings

	Singular	Plural
1 st person	-ην	-ημεν
2 nd person	-ης	-ητε
3 rd person	-η	-ησαν



Second Aorist Passive Examples

	Singular	Plural
1 st person	ἐγράφην I was written	ἐγράφημεν We were written
2 nd person	ἐγράφης you were written	ἐγράφητε you (plural) were written
3 rd person	ἐγράφη he/she/it was written	ἐγράφησαν they were written



Keep Learning

- You can learn more about aorist passive verbs here:
 - Mounce, *Basics of Biblical Greek* (3rd edition)
 - Aorist passive, 24.1-24.12 (pp. 213-215)

