

1. What is “aorist”?

(a) Short version. Aorist is both *time* and *aspect*.

The aorist is a *time-frame* (when it goes down) **and** an *aspect* (how it goes down).

- In the indicative (statements or questions about *facts*), aorist is *simple action* (aspect) *in past time*
- In the imperative and infinitive, aorist is *simple action*, period — just “do it!”
 - We’ll later see how aorist infinitives *sometimes* have to do with prior time. For now, ignore that
- In the participle, aorist is mostly simple action prior to main idea (prior to time of main verb), “having done” something before you do/did/will do something

(b) Long version.

Greek ἀοριστὸς χρόνος (*aoristos khronos*) = “undefined time/tense,” i.e.,

→ simple past time (indicative “fact telling”)

→ simple action w/o time reference (imperative, inf., ptc., etc.)

The “simple” part of “aorist” is referred to as its *aspect* (“simple” or “aoristic” aspect).

The “past” part is its time, *which sometimes does, sometimes doesn’t, kick in*.

- Aorist indicative (for now, at least) always = *simple past*:
 - τὸ ἀργύριον ἔλαβον = “I took (ἔλαβον) the money (τὸ ἀργύριον).” (Never “I was taking the money.” Never. This is important)
 - The aorist indicative is always augmented
 - ἔ-λαβον *I took* (λαμβάνω *take*)
 - ἀπ-έ-θανον *I died* (ἀπο-θνήσκω *die*)
 - ἦῤῥον/εὔῤῥον *I found* (εὕρισκω *find*)
- Aorist imperative always = *simple command*, “Do it!” (Past commands don’t exist. They violate the laws of physics.) *In the imperative, it’s all about aspect, not time.*
 - τὸ ἀργύριον λαβέ = “Take the money.” (Not “Be taking it,” which = present infinitive, λάμβανε)
 - But English doesn’t really care about the difference. λάμβανε or λαβέ, to English speakers it just looks like “take!”

The aorist imperative *is never augmented*

- Aorist infinitive for now is likewise all about aspect, *simple action*, not time. (Later, we’ll learn how it can relate to relative time.)

○ τὸ ἀργύριον λαβεῖν βούλομαι. “I want *to take* (λαβεῖν) the money.” (Not I want *to be taking* the money.)

The aorist infinitive *is never augmented*

- Aorist participles usually imply *simple action happening prior to the main verb*. (Sometimes for aorist participles, time is irrelevant, but the “simple” part of “simple action” is always relevant for any aorist.)
 - τὸ ἀργύριον λαβοῦσα/λαβών, χαίρω. “*Having taken* (λαβοῦσα/λαβών, “because I have taken,” etc.) the money, I am happy”
 - But English doesn’t like all the fuss, so you’ll often hear instead, “I’m happy taking the money.” In Greek, that’s still going to be an aorist participle, λαβοῦσα/λαβών

The aorist participle *is never augmented*

2. Formation of the aorist stem? Trick question: Memorize all aorist stems! Memorize all principal parts!

- Stem. We’re starting with the “second” aorist. *There simply is no rule for forming second aorist stems. Memorize all principle parts!!*
 - There is, though, a pattern. Thematic “second” aorists are usually just the root (sometimes doubled) with regular thematic past endings. That won’t, though, help you much. *Memorize all principle parts!!*
- Augment
 - *In the indicative*, the aorist stem has an augment in front of it, *but only in the indicative!* (To flag past time)
 - Aorists that are *not* indicative (aorist imperative, aorist infinitive, aorist participle, etc.) *never!!* augment, no matter the “time” part
 - You form the augment by. . .
 - Adding an epsilon in front of the stem (ἔ-λαβον), *but only for stems beginning with a consonant*
 - If the stem begins with a vowel, *lengthen the vowel* (ἄγω → ἤγαγον). If the vowel is already long, leave as is
 - Table of augments:

ἄ → η	ἱ → ἰ	ω → ω	ει → η (or ει)
ε → η	ο → ω	αι → η	ευ → ηυ (or ευ)
η → η	ῶ → ῶ	αυ → ηυ	οι → ω
 - *Compound verbs, augment (mostly) follows prefix*
 κατα-πίπτω “I fall down” → **κατ-έπεσον “I fell down.”**
 ἀν-άγω “I lead up” → **ἀν-ήγαγον “I led up.”**

3. Aorist Tense and Mood: Time-Aspect Table. λαμβάνω, "Take"

	<i>simple past</i>	<i>simple present</i>	<i>"time before"</i>
<i>aor. indicative</i>	ἔ-λαβ-ον τὸ ἄροτρον. I took the plow.		
<i>aor. infinitive</i>		ἐθέλω λαβ-εῖν τὸ ἄροτρον. I want to take the plow.	
<i>aor. imperative</i>		λαβ-ε τὸ ἄροτρον. Take the plow!	
<i>aor. participle</i>			λαβ-ὼν τὸ ἄροτρον, χαίρω. Having taken the plow, I'm glad.

4. Notes on principal parts and aorist stems.

- Memorize principal parts!
- For now, though, worry only about #s 1–3
- Check out the following (the aorist, new this chapter, **in red**):
 - λαμβάνω, "take"
 1. λαμβάνω (present system).
 2. λήψομαι (future middle system, no active future).
 - 3. ἔλαβον (aorist active/middle system).**
 4. εἰλήφα (active "perfect").
 5. εἴλημμαι (middle/passive "perfect").
 6. ἐλήφθην (aorist passive system).
 - λείπω, "leave" (leave a thing behind)
 1. λείπω (present system).
 2. λείψω (future active/middle system).
 - 3. ἔλιπον (aorist active/middle system).**
 4. λέλοιπα (active "perfect").
 5. λέλειμμαι (middle/passive "perfect").
 6. ἐλείφθην (aorist passive system).

5. 2nd aorist (thematic aorist) endings versus present endings.

	2 nd aorist		present	
	active	middle	active	middle
indic. 1 st	-ον	-όμην	-ω	-ομαι
2 nd	-ες	-ου	-εις	-ει
3 rd	-ε(ν)	-ετο	-ει	-εται
1 st	-ομεν	-όμεθα	-ομεν	-όμεθα
2 nd	-ετε	-εσθε	-ετε	-εσθε
3 rd	-ον	-οντο	-ουσι(ν)	-ονται
imper. sing.	-ε	-οῦ	-ε	-ου
imper. plur	-ετε	-εσθε	-ετε	-εσθε
inf.	-εῖν	-έσθαι	-ειν	-εσθαι
ptc	masc. -ών, -όντος etc.	-όμενος	-ων	-έμενος
	fem. -οῦσα, -ούσης	-ομένη	-ουσα	-εμένη
	neut. -όν, -όντος etc.	-όμενος	-ον	-έμενον

6. 2nd aorist active ἔλαβον versus 2nd aorist middle ἐγενόμην

	"take"	"become"
parts 1-3	λαμβάνω, λήψομαι, ἔλαβον	γίγνομαι, γενήσομαι, ἐγενόμην
	active 2 nd aorist, TOOK etc.	middle 2 nd aorist, BECAME etc.
indic. 1 st	ἔλαβ-ον	ἐγεν-όμην
2 nd	ἔλαβ-ες	ἐγέν-ου
3 rd	ἔλαβ-ε(ν)	ἐγέν-ετο
1 st	ἐλάβ-ομεν	ἐγεν-όμεθα
2 nd	ἐλάβ-ετε	ἐγέν-εσθε
3 rd	ἔλαβ-ον	ἐγέν-οντο
imper. sing.	λάβ-έ	γεν-οῦ
imper. plur	λάβ-ετε	γέν-εσθε
inf.	λάβ-εῖν	γεν-έσθαι
Ptc	λάβ-ών, λαβ-οῦσα, λάβ-όν (λαβ-ότντος etc.)	γεν-όμεν-ος, -η, -ον

7. **Principal parts with “irregular” stems — memorize!**

αἰρέω (take)

1. αἰρέω (present)
2. αἰρήσω (future)
3. εἶλον (aorist)

ἔρχομαι (go)

1. ἔρχομαι
2. εἶμι
3. ἦλθον

λέγω (say)

1. λέγω
2. λέξω
3. εἶπον

ὁράω (see)

1. ὁράω
2. ὄψομαι
3. εἶδον

φέρω (bear, carry)

1. φέρω
2. οἴσω
3. ἤνεγκον

8. **Chart: principal parts of verbs with 2nd aorists**

present	future	2 nd aorist (+ stem where not clear)	meaning
ἄγω	ἄξω	ἤγαγ-ον (ἀγαγ-)	lead
ἀμαρτάνω	ἀμαρτήσομαι	ἤμαρτ-ον (ἀμαρτ-)	miss, err
ἀπο-θνήσκω	ἀπο-θανοῦμαι	ἀπ-έ-θαν-ον	die
ἀφ-ικνέομαι	ἀφ-ίξομαι	ἀφ-ῖκ-όμην (ἰκ-, short ι)	arrive
αἰρέω	αἰρήσω	εἶλ-ον (έλ-)	take, capture
βάλλω	βαλῶ	ἔ-βαλ-ον	throw
γίγνομαι	γενήσομαι	ἐ-γεν-όμην	become
εἰσαγω	εἰσάξω	εἰσ-ήγαγ-ον (εἰσ-αγαγ-)	lead in
ἔπομαι	ἔψομαι	έ-σπ-όμην (σπ-)	follow
ἔρχομαι	εἶμι	ἦλθ-ον (έλθ-)	come, go
ἐρωτάω	ἐρῶ	ἦρ-όμην (έρ-)	ask
ἐσθίω	ἔδω	ἔ-φαγ-ον	eat

present	future	2 nd aorist (+ stem where not clear)	meaning
εύρισκω	εύρήσομαι	ἤϋρ-ον / εὔρ-ον (εύρ-)	find
ἔχω	ἔξω / σχήσω	ἔ-σχ-ον (σχ-)	have
κάμνω	καμοῦμαι	ἔ-καμ-ον	am tired
λαμβάνω	λήψομαι	ἔ-λαβ-ον	take
λανθάνω	λήσω	ἔ-λαθ-ον	escape notice
λέγω	ἐρῶ	εἶπ-ον (εἶπ-)	say, speak
λείπω	λείψω	ἔ-λιπ-ον	leave
μανθάνω	μαθήσομαι	ἔ-μαθ-ον	learn
ὁράω	ὄψομαι	εἶδ-ον (ιδ-)	see
πάσχω	πείσομαι	ἔ-παθ-ον	suffer
πίνω	πίομαι	ἔ-πι-ον	drink
πίπτω	πεσοῦμαι	ἔ-πεσ-ον	fall
πυνθάνομαι	πεύσομαι	ἐ-πυθ-όμην	inquire
τέμνω	τεμῶ	ἔ-τεμ-ον	cut
τρέχω	δραμοῦμαι	ἔ-δραμ-ον	run
τυγχάνω	τεύξομαι	ἔ-τυχ-ον	hit the mark
φέρω	οἴσω	ἦνεγκον (ἔνεγκ-)	carry
φεύγω	φεύξομαι	ἔ-φυγ-ον	flee

9. Vocab notes.

ὁ Ἄργος **δοκεῖ** μοι κύων εἶναι.

Argos **seems** to me be a dog. δοκεῖ + dat of reference (μοι “to me”) + inf. (εἶναι).

SPECIAL, IDIOMATIC USE: **δοκεῖ** μοι ἐπανελθεῖν (= aor. inf. “to return”) οἴκαδε.

It “seems” — i.e., **it seems good** — to me to return home. Special idiom, = . . .

I have decided to return home.

λαμβάν-ω (active) τὸ ἄροτρον (acc DO).

I take the plow.

λαμβάν-ομαι (middle) τῆς χειρὸς (gen) τοῦ πατρός.

w/ middle = take hold of.

I take hold of my father’s hand.

ἔπαθον πολλὰ ἀγαθὰ! (neut. acc. plur.; ἀγαθός, -ή, -όν = “good.”)

I have experienced good things. = . . .

Good things have happened to me!