

Lesson 14

Imperfect Indicative Active

αὐτὸς γὰρ ἐγίνωσκεν τί ἦν ἐν τῷ ἀνθρώπῳ

For he himself was knowing what was in man. John 2:25

96. Imperfect Tense. Review what was said about tense in Lesson 1. Tense has a time element in the indicative mood (not subjunctive, imperative, etc.). Since the imperfect occurs only in the indicative, it always indicates the time of the action, which is past. However the main emphasis is still the kind of action. The imperfect represents the action as linear or continuous in the past. The imperfect, then, is the progressive past tense. It should usually be translated “was,” “were,” leaving the simple English past to translate the aorist. Used to will often give the sense in English. This continuous action may be customary, iterative (repeated at intervals), conative (attempted), or inceptive (beginning), etc., according to the context.

97. Formation of the Imperfect.

Stem. The imperfect is made from the stem of the first principal part of the Greek verb – the present tense. Thus the imperfect ἔλυον (I was loosing) is made from the stem of λύω.

The endings. The imperfect endings are the secondary endings, which in the active are

<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
1. -ν	-μεν
2. -ς	-τε
3. -	-ν/σαν

These are added to the stem by the ο/ε connecting vowel in ω verbs. The variable (connecting) vowel is ο before an ending beginning with μ or ν and ε before any other ending, including no ending at all as in ἔλυε.

Augment. In addition, the verb stem receives in the imperfect an extra syllable called an augment. This augment is thought to be an old temporal adverb “then.” Where the stem begins with a consonant, the augment is ε – and is added directly. This is called syllabic augment. Where the stem begins with a vowel, the augment contracts with the initial vowel, and this is called temporal augment.

98. Imperfect Indicative Active of λύω, I Loose.

<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
1. ἔλυον <u>I was loosing</u>	ἐλύομεν <u>We were loosing</u>
2. ἔλυες <u>You were loosing</u>	ἐλύετε <u>You were loosing</u>
3. ἔλυε <u>He, she, it was loosing</u>	ἔλυον <u>They were loosing</u>

The first person singular and third plural forms are alike, but the context will make clear which forms is being used.

99. Temporal augment. Verbs beginning with a vowel take temporal augments. Notice the general rules of augment in the following chart.

ε plus α > η
 ε plus ε > η (Except ἔχω, where it is εἶχον)
 ι, ο, υ lengthen > ι, ω, υ

Diphthongs combine first vowel and ι remains as subscript:

αι > η; ει > η (or may remain ει); οι > ω (a few remain οι); ευ > either ευ or ηυ.

Examples:

	<u>Present Tense</u>	<u>Imperfect Tense</u>
	ἄγω, <u>I lead</u>	ἤγουν, <u>I was leading</u>
	αἶρω, <u>I take up</u>	ἤρουν, <u>I was taken up</u>
	ἀκούω <u>I hear</u>	ἤκουον, <u>I was hearing</u>
	ἐγείρω, <u>I rise (raise) up</u>	ἤγειρον, <u>I was raising up</u>
	εὕρισκω, <u>I find</u>	εὕρισκον (ηὔρισκον), <u>I was finding</u>
But notice	ἔχω, <u>I have</u>	εἶχον, <u>I was having</u>
	θέλω, <u>I wish</u>	ἤθελον (old stem εθελ-), <u>I was wishing</u>
	μέλλω, <u>I am about</u>	ἤμελλον (old stem εμελλ-), <u>I was about</u>

100. Augment of Compound Verbs. When the verb is a compound with a preposition, the augment is placed before the stem of the verb and not before the preposition. Prepositions ending in a vowel (except πρό and περί) drop them before vowels.

παραλαμβάνω, <u>I take (receive)</u>	παρελάμβανον, <u>I was receiving</u>
κατεσθίω, <u>I eat</u>	κατήσθιον, <u>I was consuming</u>

101. Imperfect of Compound Verbs. The following are the forms of the three most frequent μι-Verbs. Forms in brackets are not found in the NT.

δίδωμι: [ἐδίδουν], [ἐδίδους], ἐδίδου, [ἐδίδομεν], [ἐδίδοτε], ἐδίδοσαν (or –ουν).
 ἵστημι: ἵσταμην, [ἵστασο], ἵστατο, ἵστάμεθα, ἵστασθε, ἵσαντο.
 τίθημι: [ἐτίθην], [ἐτίθεις], ἐτίθει, [ἐτίθεμεν], [ἐτίθετε], ἐτίθεσαν.

Notice the augment on the present stem, which has its present reduplication, e.g., διδο-. Notice also the imperfect endings are added directly without a connection vowel. There is contraction in the singular.

102. Vocabulary.

ἀμὴν,	(adverb) <u>truly, verily, amen, certainly, assuredly</u>	καί. . . καί <u>both. . . and</u>
ἀπέχω,	<u>I keep off,</u> in middle, <u>have in full</u> (in receipts)	πάλιν, (adverb) <u>again</u>
ἀμαρτωλός, ὄν,	<u>sinful</u> ἄ-, <u>sinner</u>	παράγω, <u>I pass by</u>
ἐκβαίνω,	<u>I go, (come) out</u>	συνεσθίω, <u>I eat with</u>
ἰατρός, οὐ, ὄ,	<u>physician</u>	τελώνιον, ου, τό, <u>place of toll</u>
ἰσχυρός, ἄ, ὄν	<u>strong</u>	χρεία, ας, ἡ with verb ἔχω <u>to have need, need.</u>
κατεσθίω,	<u>I consume, eat</u>	

103. Exercises.I. Text A.

καὶ Ἰησοῦς περιεπάτει πάλιν παρὰ τὴν θάλασσαν. καὶ ὁ ὄχλος ἐξέβαινε πρὸς Ἰησοῦν καὶ ἐδίδασκε τὸν λαόν. Καὶ παρήγε καὶ ἔβλεπε Λευὶν τὸν τοῦ Ἀλφαίου ἐπὶ τὸ τελώνιον· λέγει δὲ αὐτῷ. καὶ ἠκολούθει αὐτῷ. αὐτὸς κατήσθιε ἐν τῇ οἰκίᾳ· οἱ δὲ τελῶναι καὶ οἱ ἁμαρτωλοὶ συνήσθιον τῷ Ἰησοῦ· αὐτοὶ γὰρ ἠκολούθουν αὐτῷ. καὶ οἱ Φαρισαῖοι ἔβλεπον ὅτι Ἰησοῦς ἐσθίει μετὰ τῶν ἁμαρτωλῶν καὶ τελωνῶν καὶ ἔλεγον τοῖς μαθηταῖς ὅτι μετὰ τῶν τελωνῶν καὶ ἁμαρτωλῶν ἐσθίει. ὁ δὲ λέγει οὐ χρεῖαν οἱ ἰσχυροὶ ἔχουσι ἰατροῦ.

II. Text B.

1. ἔχετε, εἶχετε, ἀπέχετε, ἀπείχετε· ἐσθίω, ἤσθιον, κατήσθιον.
2. ἄγει, ἦγε, εὐρίσκουσι, ἠύρισκον, μέλλει ἀπέχεσθαι, ἤμελλε ἀπέχεσθαι.
3. ὁ ὄχλος εἶχε χρεῖαν ἰατοῦ.
4. πάλιν οἱ Φαρισαῖοι παρήγον καὶ ἔβλεπον ὅτι Ἰησοῦς συνεσθίει σὺν τελώναις.
5. οἱ ἁμαρτωλοὶ καὶ οὐκ οἱ ἰσχυροὶ συνήσθιον σὺν χριστῷ.
6. ἀμὴν, ἀμὴν λέγω ὑμῖν ἀπέχονται τὸν μίσθον αὐτῶν.
7. ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἐδίδασκε καὶ τοὺς τελῶνας καὶ τοὺς ἁμαρτωλοὺς ὥστε αὐτοὺς μετανοεῖν.
8. ὁ χριστὸς παρήγε καὶ ἐκάλει τὸν τελώνην ἀκολουθεῖν αὐτῷ.

III. Translate.

1. You (plural) hear, you are heard, you were hearing.
2. The crowd was about to find salvation.
3. They were passing by and they were hearing the word.
4. Were we needing the physician?
5. The crowd was eating with Jesus and the apostles.