

Aorist, Perfect & Pluperfect

Chapter 9

Aorist Tense

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Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Constative Aorist

An action is portrayed in its entirety without regard to its beginning or end, or the length of time it took to accomplish the action.

ἐβασίλευσεν ὁ θάνατος ἀπὸ Ἀδὰμ μέχρι Μωϋσέως

Death **reigned** from Adam to Moses
(Rom 5:14).

Aorist Tense

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Inceptive Aorist

Emphasizes the beginning of an action or a state. This is sometimes called the ingressive aorist (add “began” or “came/became”).

ἐπτώχευσεν πλούσιος ὢν

Although He was rich...He **became poor**
(2 Cor 8:9).

Aorist Tense

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Culminative Aorist

Emphasizes the cessation of an action or state.

ἐγὼ γὰρ ἐμαθον...αὐτάρκης εἶναι

For I **have learned** to be content
(Phil 4:11).

Aorist Tense

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Gnomic Aorist

A statement that is timeless, universal, or generally true.

ἐδικαιώθη ἡ σοφία ἀπὸ πάντων τῶν τέκνων αὐτῆς

Wisdom **is vindicated** by all her children
(Luke 7:35).

Aorist Tense

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ὁ λόγος

Epistolary Aorist

The author writes from the perspective of the readers and thus uses the aorist instead of the expected present (typically used with ἔγραψα or ἔπεμψα).

ἐγὼ Παῦλος ἔγραψα τῇ ἐμῇ χειρὶ

I, Paul, **write** this with my own hand
(Philim 19).

Aorist Tense

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ὁ λόγος

Futuristic Aorist

Describes an event that has not yet taken place as if it had already occurred.

ἔλθεν κύριος ἐν ἁγίαις μυριάσιν αὐτοῦ

The Lord **comes** with thousands of His holy ones
(Jude 14).

Aorist Tense

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Dramatic Aorist

Refers to an event that recently occurred, having present consequences (look for contextual markers, especially ἄρτι and νῦν).

ἡ θυγάτηρ μου ἄρτι ἐτελεύτησεν

My daughter **has just died**
(Matt 9:18 ESV).

Perfect Tense

Perfect Tense

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Intensive Perfect

Emphasizes the **present state** of the verb brought about by a past action.

ἀφένται σοι αἱ ἁμαρτίαι σου

Your sins **are forgiven** you
(Luke 5:20).

Perfect Tense

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Consummative Perfect

Emphasizes the **completed action** that brought about the resulting state.

τὸν καλὸν ἀγῶνα ἠγώνισμαι

I have fought the good fight
(2 Tim 4:7).

Perfect Tense

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Dramatic Perfect

Vividly portrays a past event or state of affairs.

ἀπελθὼν πέπρακεν πάντα ὅσα εἶχεν

he went and **sold** everything he had
(Matt 13:46).

Perfect Tense

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Present State Perfect

Used with certain verbs that lost their perfect significance and conveys a present tense form meaning (οἶδα, ἔστηκα, πέποιθα, and μέμνημαι).

τὰς ἐντολὰς οἶδας

You know the commandments
(Mark 10:19).

Perfect Tense

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Gnomic Perfect

Communicates a customary or general truth.

ὁ δὲ μὴ πιστεύων ἤδη κέκριται

but anyone who does not believe **is** already **judged**
(John 3:18).

Perfect Tense

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Iterative Perfect

The action of the verb occurred at intervals.

ὁ ἐωράκαμεν τοῖς ὀφθαλμοῖς ἡμῶν

What **we have seen** with our eyes
(1 John 1:1).

Pluperfect Tense

Pluperfect Tense

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Intensive Pluperfect

Emphasizes the **(past) results** brought about by a past action.

εἰς ὃν πεπιστεύκεισαν

in whom **they had believed**
(Acts 14:23).

Pluperfect Tense

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Consummative Pluperfect

Emphasizes the completion of a past action.

οἱ μαθηταὶ αὐτοῦ ἀπελγύθεισαν εἰς τὴν πόλιν

His disciples **had gone** into town
(John 4:8).

Pluperfect Tense

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Past State Pluperfect

Used with certain verbs that lost their pluperfect significance and convey a past state with no antecedent action (οἶδα [ᾔδειν], ἵστημι, εἴωθα, πείθω, and παρίστημι).

ὅτι ᾔδεισαν αὐτόν

Because **they knew** Him
(Mark 1:34).