

36. Aorist Participles

Lesson in a Nutshell

Aorist participles are based on the de-augmented aorist tense stem.

- Active voice will contain **ντ** or **σασα**. They follow the 3-1-3 pattern.
- Middle voice will contain **μεν**. They follow the 2-1-2 pattern.
- Passive voice will contain **θε**. They follow the 3-1-3 pattern.

Aorist participles convey undefined aspect.

In this chapter, we will learn how to recognize and translate aorist participles. Let's begin with recognition.

How To Parse an Aorist Participle

Aorist Participles								
active ντ, σασα, ντ 3-1-3			middle μενο, μενη, μενο 2-1-2			passive θεντ, θεισα, θεντ 3-1-3		
M (3)	F (1)	N (3)	M (2)	F (1)	N (2)	M (3)	F (1)	N (3)
λύσα ^ς	λύσα ^{σα}	λύσα ^ν	λυσαμέν ^{ος}	λυσαμέν ^η	λυσαμέν ^{ων}	λυθεί ^ς	λυθεί ^{σα}	λυθέν ^τ
λύσαν ^{τος}	λυσάσ ^{ης}	λύσαν ^{τος}	λυσαμέν ^{ου}	λυσαμέν ^{ης}	λυσαμέν ^{ου}	λυθέν ^{τος}	λυθείσ ^{ης}	λυθέν ^{τος}
λύσαν ^{τι}	λυσάσ ^η	λύσαν ^{τι}	λυσαμέν ^ω	λυσαμέν ^η	λυσαμέν ^ω	λυθέν ^{τι}	λυθείσ ^η	λυθέν ^{τι}
λύσαν ^{τα}	λύσα ^{σαν}	λύσα ^ν	λυσαμέν ^{ον}	λυσαμέν ^{ην}	λυσαμέν ^{ον}	λυθέν ^{τα}	λυθεί ^{σαν}	λυθέν ^τ
λύσαν ^{τες}	λύσα ^{σαι}	λύσαν ^{τα}	λυσαμένοι	λυσαμέν ^{αι}	λυσαμέν ^{αι}	λυθέν ^{τες}	λυθεί ^{σαι}	λυθέν ^{τα}
λυσάν ^{των}	λυσα ^{σῶν}	λυσάν ^{των}	λυσαμέν ^{ων}	λυσαμέν ^{ων}	λυσαμέν ^{ων}	λυθέν ^{των}	λυθέν ^{των}	λυθέν ^{των}
λύσα ^{σιν}	λυσά ^{σαις}	λύσα ^{σιν}	λυσαμένοι ^ς	λυσαμένοι ^ς	λυσαμένοι ^ς	λυθεί ^{σιν}	λυθεί ^{σαις}	λυθεί ^{σιν}
λύσαν ^{τας}	λυσά ^{σας}	λύσαν ^{τα}	λυσαμέν ^{ους}	λυσαμέν ^{ας}	λυσαμέν ^{αι}	λυθέν ^{τας}	λυθεί ^{σας}	λυθέν ^{τα}

Second Aorist Participles								
active ντ, ουσα, ντ 3-1-3			middle μενο, μενη, μενο 2-1-2			passive εντ, εισα, εντ 3-1-3		
M (3)	F (1)	N (3)	M (2)	F (1)	N (2)	M (2)	F (1)	N (2)
βαλώ ^ν	βαλού ^{σα}	βαλό ^ν	βαλόμ ^{ενος}	βαλομέ ^{νη}	βαλόμ ^{ενον}	γραφεί ^ς	γραφεί ^{σα}	γραφέν ^τ
βαλό ^{ντος}	βαλού ^{σης}	βαλό ^{ντος}	βαλομέ ^{νου}	βαλομέ ^{νης}	βαλομέ ^{νου}	γραφέν ^{τος}	γραφεί ^{σης}	γραφέν ^{τος}
βαλό ^{ντι}	βαλού ^{ση}	βαλό ^{ντι}	βαλομέ ^{νω}	βαλομέ ^{νη}	βαλομέ ^{νω}	γραφέν ^{τι}	γραφεί ^{ση}	γραφέν ^{τι}
βαλό ^{ντα}	βαλού ^{σαν}	βαλό ^ν	βαλομέ ^{νον}	βαλομέ ^{νην}	βαλομέ ^{νον}	γραφέν ^{τα}	γραφεί ^{σαν}	γραφέν ^τ
βαλό ^{ντες}	βαλού ^{σαι}	βαλό ^{ντα}	βαλομένο ^ι	βαλομέ ^{ναι}	βαλομέ ^{ναι}	γραφέν ^{τες}	γραφεί ^{σαι}	γραφέν ^{τα}
βαλό ^{ντων}	βαλου ^{σῶν}	βαλό ^{ντων}	βαλομέ ^{νων}	βαλομέ ^{νων}	βαλομέ ^{νων}	γραφέν ^{των}	γραφει ^{σῶν}	γραφέν ^{των}
βαλού ^{σιν}	βαλού ^{σαις}	βαλού ^{σιν}	βαλομένοι ^ς	βαλομέ ^{ναις}	βαλομένοι ^ς	γραφεί ^{σιν}	γραφεί ^{σαις}	γραφεί ^{σιν}
βαλό ^{ντας}	βαλού ^{σας}	βαλό ^{ντα}	βαλομέν ^{ους}	βαλομέ ^{νας}	βαλομέ ^{ναι}	γραφέν ^{τας}	γραφεί ^{σας}	γραφέν ^{τα}

Once again, the sheer number of forms may cause an allergic reaction! Hopefully by now you're seeing that there are only a few patterns behind all these forms.



Remember: We are just trying to discover the **tense** and **voice**, **case**, **number** and **gender**.

Before going on, look at the Aorist Participle table. How many patterns can you already recognize?

Tense

Aorist tense is recognized in the ways we have already learned.

- ➔ **σα** (active and middle) and **θε**¹ (passive) are the big giveaways for first aorists.
- ➔ The stem change is the giveaway for second aorists.

Voice

We recognize the voice from the participle morpheme. Most of these forms are similar to forms we already know.

- ➔ **Active**: **ντ** or **σασα** (**ουσα** in the second aorist).
- ➔ **Middle**: **μεν**.
- ➔ **Passive**: **θε** (just **ε** in the second aorist passive).

Case, Number, Gender

Aorist active participles follow the 3-1-3 pattern of declension.

Aorist middle participles follow the 2-1-2 pattern of declension.

Aorist passive participles follow the 3-1-3 pattern of declension.

¹ In the participle it is **θε**, rather than **θη**, as we have come to expect everywhere else.

At the risk of being too repetitive, here is a comparison with **πάς** (which follows the 3-1-3 pattern), and the article (which follows the 2-1-2 pattern).

Comparison of the aorist active participle with **πάς**

(after) loosing ντ, σασα		
M (3)	F (1)	N (3)
λύ σα ς	λύ σα σα	λύ σαν
λύ σαν τος	λυ σά σης	λύ σαν τος
λύ σαν τι	λυ σά ση	λύ σαν τι
λύ σαν τα	λύ σα σαν	λύ σαν
λύ σαν τες	λύ σα σαι	λύ σαν τα
λυ σάν των	λυ σασ ῶν	λυ σάν των
λύ σα σιν	λυ σά σαις	λύ σα σιν
λύ σαν τας	λυ σά σας	λύ σαν τα

24 forms of πάς (3-1-3)			
	3 masc	1 fem	3 neut
N	πάς	πάσα	πάν
G	παντος	πασης	παντος
D	παντι	παση	παντι
A	παντα	πασαν	παν
N	παντες	πασαι	παντα
G	παντων	πασων	παντων
D	πασιν _[v]	πασαις	πασιν _[v]
A	παντας	πασας	παντα

Comparison of the aorist middle participle with the article

middle σαμενο, σαμενη, σαμενο 2-1-2		
M (2)	F (1)	N (2)
λυ σά μενος	λυ σά μενη	λυ σά μενων
λυ σά μενου	λυ σά μενης	λυ σά μενου
λυ σά μενω	λυ σά μενη	λυ σά μενω
λυ σά μενον	λυ σά μενην	λυ σά μενον
λυ σά μενοι	λυ σά μεναι	λυ σά μενα
λυ σά μενων	λυ σά μενων	λυ σά μενων
λυ σά μενοις	λυ σά μεναις	λυ σά μενοις
λυ σά μενους	λυ σά μενας	λυ σά μενα

The Article				
		M (2)	F (1)	N (2)
Singular	Nominative "the"	ὁ	ἡ	τό
	Genitive "of the"	τοῦ	τῆς	τοῦ
	Dative "to the"	τῷ	τῇ	τῷ
	Accusative the	τόν	τήν	τό
Plural	Nominative "the"	οἱ	αἱ	τά
	Genitive "of the"	τῶν	τῶν	τῶν
	Dative "to the"	τοῖς	ταῖς	τοῖς
	Accusative "the"	τούς	τάς	τά

Comparison of the aorist passive participle with **πάς**

(after) being loosed θεντ, θεισα		
M (3)	F (1)	N (3)
λυ θεί ς	λυ θεί σα	λυ θέν
λυ θέν τος	λυ θεί σης	λυ θέν τος
λυ θέν τι	λυ θεί ση	λυ θέν τι
λυ θέν τα	λυ θεί σαν	λυ θέν
λυ θέν τες	λυ θεί σαι	λυ θέν τα
λυ θέν των	λυ θέν των	λυ θέν των
λυ θει σιν	λυ θεί σαις	λυ θει σιν
λυ θέν τας	λυ θεί σας	λυ θέν τα

24 forms of πάς (3-1-3)			
	3 masc	1 fem	3 neut
N	πάς	πάσα	πάν
G	παντος	πασης	παντος
D	παντι	παση	παντι
A	παντα	πασαν	παν
N	παντες	πασαι	παντα
G	παντων	πασων	παντων
D	πασιν _[v]	πασαις	πασιν _[v]
A	παντας	πασας	παντα

Let's Practice

Here are a few examples to demonstrate.

ΠΙΣΤΕΥΣΑΝΤΕΣ
(believing)

Let's break it into pieces to examine.

ΠΙΣΤΕΥ ΣΑ ΝΤ ΕΣ

- ➔ σα tells me this must be an aorist participle.
- ➔ ντ tells me this is an active participle.
- ➔ ες is the nominative plural, masculine case ending in the third declension.

So to parse ΠΙΣΤΕΥΣΑΝΤΕΣ we simply describe it as an aorist, active participle, nominative, plural, masculine.

Here's another:

ΠΙΣΤΕΥΣΑΜΕΝΑΙ
(believing for self)

breaking it into pieces...

ΠΙΣΤΕΥ ΣΑ ΜΕΝ ΑΙ

- ➔ σα tells me this must be an aorist participle.
- ➔ μεν tells me this is a middle participle.
- ➔ αι is the nominative plural, feminine case ending in the second declension.

So to parse ΠΙΣΤΕΥΣΑΜΕΝΑΙ we simply describe it as an aorist, middle participle, nominative, plural, feminine.

Here's another.

ΠΙΣΤΕΥΘΈΝΤΟΣ
(being believed)

breaking it into pieces...

ΠΙΣΤΕΥ ΘΈ ΝΤ ΟΣ

- ➔ θε tells me this must be an aorist passive participle.
- ➔ ος is the genitive singular, masculine or neuter case ending in the third declension.

So to parse ΠΙΣΤΕΥΘΈΝΤΟΣ we simply describe it as an aorist, passive participle, genitive, singular, masculine or neuter.

One more.

ΕΪΠΩΝ
(saying)

Let's break it into pieces.

ΕΪΠ ΩΝ

- ➔ The stem changed from λέγ to εἶπ. It is a second aorist.
- ➔ It uses the odd ων ending which is the active, nominative, singular, masculine form.

So to parse ΕΪΠΩΝ we simply describe it as a second aorist, active participle, nominative, singular, masculine.

That is how you parse an aorist participle.

Now let's look at some aorist participles in sentences. Remember that the only difference in meaning will be that of aspect.

How To Use The Aorist Participle

Adjectival Participle

σύ εἶ ὁ ἀνὴρ ὁ λαλήσας πρὸς τὴν γυναῖκα.
You are the man * speaking with the woman.

λαλήσας is an aorist, active participle, nominative, singular, masculine (from λαλέω).

- ★ λαλήσας is adjectival. It modifies ὁ ἀνὴρ.
- ★ The case, number and gender of the participle match the case, number and gender of the noun being modified (ὁ ἀνὴρ).
- ★ The underlined words are the participial phrase.
- ★ **IMPORTANT:** The adjectival participle almost always has the article.

Substantival Participle

ὁ πιστεύσας καὶ βαπτισθεὶς σωθήσεται¹.
The believing and baptized will be saved.
= The (one who) believes and is baptized will be saved.

πιστεύσας is an aorist, active participle, nominative, singular, masculine.

βαπτισθεὶς is an aorist, passive participle, nominative, singular, masculine.

- ★ πιστεύσας and βαπτισθεὶς are substantival. They are the subject of the verb.
- ★ The case, number and gender match the implied subject. (The man² who believes and is baptized.)
- ★ The smoothed out version adds the implied subject. This is a legitimate translation.
- ★ **IMPORTANT:** The substantival participle almost always has the article.

¹ From σώζω. Notice the future passive clue (θησ).

² Often, the masculine form is gender inclusive, much in the same way as in older English “mankind” referred to all humanity, not just males.

Adverbial Participle

ἐλθόντες εἰς τὴν οἰκίαν εἶδον τὸ παιδίον.

coming into the house, they saw the child.

ἐλθόντες is a (second) aorist, active participle, nominative, plural, masculine (from ἔρχομαι).

- ★ ἐλθόντες is adverbial. It tells us more about εἶδον.
- ★ The case, number and gender match “they” in “they saw.”
- ★ The underlined words are the participial phrase.
- ★ **IMPORTANT:** The adverbial participle **never** has the article.

Now try your hand at translating the sentences in the workbook. Again, do not become discouraged if you find these difficult. You will get the hang of it!