

Here are examples of past definite temporal clauses with prior action and with simultaneous action:

- Prior action:* **ἐπεὶ τὸ βιβλίον ἔγραψεν, τοὺς πολίτας ἐδίδαξεν.**
After he wrote the book, he taught the citizens.
- ἐπεὶ εἰς τὴν νῆσον ἐπέμφθη, τοὺς πολίτας ἐδίδαξεν.**
When he was sent to the island, he taught the citizens.
After he was sent to the island, he taught the citizens.
- Simultaneous action:* **ὅτε τὸ βιβλίον ἔγραφεν, τοὺς πολίτας ἐδίδαξεν.**
When he was writing the book, he taught the citizens.
- ὅτε τὸ βιβλίον ἔγραψεν, τοὺς πολίτας ἐδίδαξεν.**
When he wrote the book, he taught the citizens.

Remember that the conjunctions *ἐπεὶ* and *ἐπειδὴ* can also mean “since, because” and introduce causal clauses (cf. Vocabulary Note to Unit 3).

The remaining three types of temporal clauses here presented correspond to the protases of three types of conditional sentences; the main clauses of sentences with these temporal clauses correspond to the apodoses of conditional sentences (cf. Section 41.7).

2. PRESENT GENERAL TEMPORAL CLAUSE

Verb of temporal clause (protasis): present or aorist subjunctive
 (negative *μή*)

Verb of main clause (apodosis): present indicative
 (negative *οὐδ*)

Temporal conjunctions:

Prior action: **ἐπειδάν** (= *ἐπειδὴ* + *άν*)
 “after, when, whenever”
 + aorist subjunctive

Simultaneous action: **ὅταν** (= *ὅτε* + *άν*)
 “when, whenever”
 + present or aorist subjunctive

Here are examples of present general temporal clauses with prior action and with simultaneous action:

Prior action: **ἐπειδὴν εἰς τὴν νῆσον πεμφθῆ, τοὺς πολίτας διδάσκει.**
Whenever he is sent to the island, he teaches the
citizens.

Simultaneous action: **ὅταν βιβλίον γράφῃ, τοὺς πολίτας διδάσκει.**
Whenever he is writing a book, he teaches the citizens.

ὅταν βιβλίον γράψῃ, τοὺς πολίτας διδάσκει.
Whenever he writes a book, he teaches the citizens.

3. PAST GENERAL TEMPORAL CLAUSE

Verb of temporal clause (protasis): present or aorist optative
(negative μή)

Verb of main clause (apodosis): imperfect indicative
(negative οὐ)

Temporal conjunctions:

Prior action: **ἐπεὶ, ἐπειδὴ, “after, when, whenever”**
+ aorist optative

Simultaneous action: **ὅτε, “whenever”**
+ present or aorist optative

Here are examples of past general temporal clauses with prior action and with simultaneous action:

Prior action: **ἐπεὶ εἰς τὴν νῆσον πεμφθείη, τοὺς πολίτας ἐδίδασκεν.**
Whenever he was sent to the island, he taught the
citizens.

When he was sent to the island, he used to teach the
citizens.

Simultaneous action: **ὅτε βιβλίον γράφοι, τοὺς πολίτας ἐδίδασκεν.**
Whenever he was writing a book, he taught the
citizens.

Whenever he was writing a book, he used to teach
the citizens.

ὅτε βιβλίον γράψειεν, τοὺς πολίτας ἐδίδασκεν.
Whenever he wrote a book, he taught the citizens.

4. FUTURE MORE VIVID TEMPORAL CLAUSE

Verb of temporal clause (protasis): present or aorist subjunctive
(negative *μή*)

Verb of main clause (apodosis): future indicative
(negative *οὐ*)

Temporal conjunctions:

Prior action: **ἐπειδάν**, “after, when”
+ aorist subjunctive

Simultaneous action: **ὅταν**, “when”
+ present or aorist subjunctive

Here are examples of future more vivid temporal clauses with prior action and with simultaneous action:

Prior action: **ἐπειδάν εἰς τὴν νῆσον πεμφθῆ, τοὺς πολίτας διδάξει.**
After he is sent to the island, he will teach the
citizens.

Simultaneous action: **ὅταν βιβλίον γράφῃ, τοὺς πολίτας διδάξει.**
When he is writing a book, he will teach the citizens.
ὅταν βιβλίον γράψῃ, τοὺς πολίτας διδάξει.
When he writes a book, he will teach the citizens.

98. GENITIVE ABSOLUTE

The circumstantial participles already introduced agree with nouns or pronouns, expressed or implied, whose case is determined, separately, by their function in a sentence (cf. Section 70).

θύων ὁ ἱερεὺς ὑπὸ τοῦ δήμου τιμᾶται.
Sacrificing, the priest is honored by the people.

λυθέντες ὁμῶς τοῖς θεοῖς οὐ θύομεν.
Released, nevertheless we do not sacrifice to the gods.
Although released, nevertheless we do not sacrifice to the gods.

In the first example the participle agrees with the subject of the sentence, ὁ ἱερεὺς. In the second example the participle agrees with the subject of the verb θύομεν, which is not separately expressed.