MI-Verbs: Athematic Aorists

1. Aorist of μι-Verbs. The aorist systems of the μι-verbs that you have learned contain forms derived from various origins. (1) Some forms are straightforwardly athematic forms (called strong aorist or “second” aorist); that is, secondary μι-verb personal endings are added directly to the simplest form of the verb root (with augment added in the indicative): for example, ἔστην (from στή-), inf. στῆναι. In many cases, athematic aorists of this type have intransitive or quasi-passive meanings (e.g., ἔστην, I stood, ἔβην, I walked, ἐάλων, I was captured). (2) Some forms (in Attic, normally the singular active forms only) have weak-aorist α-endings added to a stem that has the suffix κ (e.g., ἔθηκα, I placed, ἔδωκα, I gave). (3) Some forms are true weak (first) aorist forms with suffix σ (e.g., ἔστησα, I caused to stand [from στή- + σ-], inf. στῆσαι; ἔδειξα, I showed).

2. Aorist of the Major μι-Verbs

(SECOND) AORIST ACTIVE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>τίθημι</th>
<th>ἕημι</th>
<th>δίδωμι</th>
<th>ἱστημι</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>“place”</td>
<td>“let go”</td>
<td>“give”</td>
<td>“stand”</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>θε-, θηκ-</th>
<th>έ-, ἤκ-</th>
<th>δο-, δωκ-</th>
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<tr>
<td>infinitive:</td>
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<td>δοῦναι</td>
<td>στῆναι</td>
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<td>ἔδωκα</td>
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<td>ἔδωκα(v)</td>
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<td>ἔστησε</td>
<td>ἔστησε</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

|       | ἔδειξα | ἔδειξα | ἔδειξα | ἔδειξα | ἔδειξα | ἔδειξα | ἔδειξα | ἔδειξα |

|       | ἔστησαν | ἔστησαν | ἔστησαν | ἔστησαν | ἔστησαν | ἔστησε | ἔστησε | ἔστησε |

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(SECOND) AORIST MIDDLE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>τῖθημι</th>
<th>ἵημι</th>
<th>διδωμι</th>
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<tr>
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<td>θε-</td>
<td>ē-</td>
<td>δο-</td>
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<td>ἀφέσθαι</td>
<td>δόσθαι</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
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<td>2nd</td>
<td>ἐθοῦ</td>
<td>ἄφεισο</td>
<td>ἐδοῦ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>ἐθετο</td>
<td>ἄφειτο</td>
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<th>(d.</th>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>ἐθεσθην</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>pl.</th>
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<th>3rd</th>
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<td>ἄφειμεθα</td>
<td>ἐδομεθα</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>ἐθεσθηε</td>
<td>ἄφεισθηε</td>
<td>ἐδοσθηε</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>ἐθεντο</td>
<td>ἄφειντο</td>
<td>ἐδοντο</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes: (1) In Attic ἵημι has no athematic aorist middle (see next paragraph). (2) The aorist of ἵημι is shown in a compound since the simple verb is not used in the aorist in Attic prose; recall that the accent cannot precede the first preverb (augment [U16.3, at end]), hence the accentuation of ἄφηκα, etc.; the εί of the aor. ind. represents augmented ε (recall that a consonant has been lost from this root). The aor. act. inf. of ἵημι differs from the pres. act. inf. of ειμί only in the breathing: contrast ἄφειναι = to let go (aor.) with ἄπειναι = to be absent (pres.). (3) The aorist active infinitives of τῖθημι, ἵημι, διδωμι are derived from forms with alternative ending -έναι, with contraction.

3. The Two Aorists of ἵημι. The verb ἵημι and its compounds have two aorists: a transitive weak (first) aorist, causative in meaning, sharing the transitive meanings of the present, imperfect, and future active; and an intransitive strong (second) aorist, sharing the intransitive or quasi-passive meanings of the present, imperfect, and future middle/passive.

Ex. τοῦτον καταστήσαμεν κριτήν. (trans. 1st aor.) We appointed this man judge. (We caused this man to be established as judge.)

οὗτος κριτὴς κατέστη. (intrans. 2nd aor.) This man became (was appointed, was established as) judge.

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1. From *ἐδε(σ)ο, with contraction; likewise ἐδου from *ἐδο(σ)ο.
2. Note that the 3rd pl. aor. act. ind. forms of ἵημι are identical in appearance, though derived from different combinations of elements: 1st aorist ἵησαν from augment ε- plus tense stem στησ- (= root στη- + weak aorist suffix σ) plus tense vowel σ plus personal ending ν; 2nd aorist ἵησαν from augment ε- plus tense stem στη- plus personal ending σαν.
There is no second aorist middle, but the first aorist middle is found:

{oip;Aouvoi tov Dmousothev katesthsanto strathvov.
The Athenians appointed Demosthenes as general for themselves.

4. Other Athematic Aorists. A few verbs which are ω-verbs in the present system have athematic (second) aorist conjugation (in the active only, no middle). The secondary personal endings are added to the simplest form of the verb root, with augment added. These aorists, like ἔστην, are usually intransitive or passive in sense (but ἔγνυων is transitive). Four aorists of this kind are found in Attic prose:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>verb</th>
<th>aor. stem:</th>
<th>aor. infin.:</th>
<th>1st</th>
<th>2nd</th>
<th>3rd</th>
<th>(d.) 2nd</th>
<th>(3rd)</th>
<th>pl.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>αλίσκομαι</td>
<td>ἀλω-</td>
<td>ἀλώναι</td>
<td>ἐλαών</td>
<td>ἐλαώς</td>
<td>ἐλαω</td>
<td>ἐλαωτων</td>
<td>ἐλαωτην</td>
<td>ἐλαωμεν</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>βθίνω</td>
<td>βθίναι</td>
<td>γνώσκω</td>
<td>γνώναι</td>
<td>δύω</td>
<td>δύναι</td>
<td>δύναμαι</td>
<td>δύνας</td>
<td>ἐδύμαν</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note that the aorist of αλίσκομαι has a passive translation in English, I was captured, etc., despite the active personal endings. There are also forms of this aorist with the initial syllables contracted: ἠλων, ἠλως, etc.

WHAT TO STUDY AND DO

1. Learn the aorist inflections presented above.
2. Learn the vocabulary of this unit.
3. Do the exercises of this unit.

1. There is also a transitive 1st aorist of δύω found in Attic prose (ἐδύσα, caused to enter or sink); in poetry and outside Attic one may also meet transitive 1st aorists ἐβησα, caused to go, and ἐγνωσα, caused to realize.
MI-Verbs: Athematic Aorists

VOCABULARY

nouns
βασιλεία, βασιλείας, f. kingdom, dominion; kingship, monarchy
ἐλευθερία, ἐλευθερίας, f. freedom, liberty
ἡσυχία, ἡσυχίας, f. quiet, rest, calm

adjectives
ἡσυχός, ἡσυχόν quiet, calm, inactive [Hesychast]
pικρός, πικρά, πικρόν sharp, pungent; bitter, painful; spiteful, mean [picrate]

verbs
ἀλύσκομαι, ἀλώσομαι, ἐάλων (or ἦλων) be captured, be seized [used as passive of ἄφρεω]
βαίνω, -βήσομαι, -έβην walk, step, go [basis]
ἀναβαίνω (ἀνα) go up; board (a ship), mount (a horse); go inland [anabasis]
διαβαίνω (δια) step across; go over, cross [diabetes]
καταβαίνω (κατα) step down; dismount; go down to the sea from inland [katabasis]
παραβαίνω (παρα) go beside; overstep, transgress, violate [parabasis]
συμβαίνω (συν) come together; come to an agreement, come to terms; (impersonal) come to pass, happen
ἀναγινώσκω (ἀνα) read (aloud), recite (from a written document)
διαγινώσκω (δια) know apart, distinguish; determine, decide (a suit) [diagnosis]
δύω (poetic δύων), -δύσω, -έδυσα and ἐδύω [ὑ in all three stems] (intrans. and non-causal, including 2nd aor.) enter; get into (clothes, armor); sink into the sea, set (of sun, stars) (trans. and causal, including 1st aor.) cause to enter, cause to sink (more commonly in compounds) [ecdysiast]
ἀποδύω (ἀπο) (act. and 1st aor.) strip off (someone else’s armor or clothes) (mid. and 2nd aor.) take off (one’s own clothes), undress
καταδύω (κατα) (intrans. and 2nd aor.) set (of sun); plunge into (causal 1st aor.) cause to sink (ships)
EXERCISES

I. Translate precisely.

1. διεβήσαν
2. ἀπέδοσθε
3. ἐπιθέσθαι
4. ἀπέδυσας
5. ἀποδούναι
6. ἐφήκε
7. συμβήναι
8. ἐπεστήσατε
9. κατέθηκα
10. ἀπέδυς
11. κατέστησην
12. διέγνω
13. ἀποστήσαται
14. εἰλαμεν
15. ἐξίασι
16. ἐφέσθαι
17. ἀναγνώναι
18. ἢτε
19. ἀλώναι
20. παραβήσεσθαι
21. ἀπέδωκας
22. καβίσσῃ
23. συνέβαίνουν
24. ἀλίσκονται
25. παρέβης
26. ἔγνωσαν
27. κατέδυν
28. ἐπέθηκε
29. προείντο
30. μετέδοτε
31. ἦσαν
32. ἀνέθηκας
33. δεικνύναι
34. γυνώσονται
35. συνθείναι
36. ἠλώτε
37. κατεστῆσαμεν
38. ἐπέστη
39. ἐπέθου
40. παρέδοτο
41. διεγγράφωσκομεν
42. συνθέσθαι

II. Render into Greek.

1. Seven ships sank.
2. We sank ten triremes.
3. you (s.) were attacking
4. you (pl.) attacked
5. to betray (aor.)
6. we became [give two versions]
7. they were being captured
8. to let come to oneself (aor.)
9. you (pl.) will cross
10. you (s.) were attacking
11. they boarded
12. you (pl.) read aloud (aor.)
13. we handed over
14. you (s.) caused to revolt
15. They were all captured.
16. he transgressed
17. The king’s wife undressed.
18. we did not recognize
19. that young man aimed at being chaste.

III. Reading.

1. ἐν ἐκείνῳ τῷ πολέμῳ ἄλλα τε δεινὰ ἐγένετο ἐν ταῖς μάχαις καὶ Ἄλκαῖος ὁ ποιητὴς αὐτὸς μὲν ἐξέφυγε, τὴν δ’ ἀσπίδα ἐλίπες, οἱ δ’ Ἀθηναίοι αὐτὴν ἔλαβοι καὶ τοῖς θεοῖς ἀνέθεσαν.
2. οὕτω μὲν ἐκ παντὸς τρόπου [by every conceivable means] βούλονται με τῇ δίκῃ ἀλώναι, ὡμείς δ’ ὅπως ἐρεῖ παράγεσθε τοῖς ψευδέσι λόγοις ἀλλ’ ἀεὶ ζητείτε διαγυώνα τοὺς ἀληθῶς δικάιος καὶ τοὺς ἀδίκους.
3. καταβήσεσθαι μέλλων, ὥ ἄνδρες δικασταί, ἄλλα πρότερον βούλομαι ὀλίγα [a few (words)] ἐκατέροις εἰπεῖν, τοῖς τ’ ἐξ ἀστεως καὶ τοῖς ἐκ

1. Compound of ἐκ-: guess the meaning.
Πειραιῶς·1 ἐλπίζω γὰρ ὑμᾶς παραδείγματα [as examples] ἔξειν τὰς συμφορὰς αἱ ὑμῖν διὰ τούτων ἐγένοντο καὶ τὴν ψήφον δικαίως καὶ σοφῶς οἴσειν. οἱ μὲν ἐξ ἀστεώς χαλεπῶς ἤρχεσθε ὑπὸ τούτων καὶ διὰ τούτους ἀδελφοῖς [brothers] καὶ νιέσι καὶ πολίταις πόλεμον ἐπολεμεῖτε. 2 οἱ δ᾿ ἐκ Πειραιῶς ἐξεπέσετε3 ἐκ τῆς πατρίδος καὶ οὐ βραχύν χρόνον ἐδείσθε πάντων, καὶ χρημάτων καὶ φίλων, ἀλλὰ τέλος κατῆλθετε4 εἰς τὴν Ἀττικήν.


1. Peiraius, Πειραιεύς, gen. Πειραιῶς, was and is the port town of Athens. In 404/3 the Athenians were forced into civil war by the actions of the “Thirty Tyrants,” right-wing extremists who were installed as a puppet regime by the Lacedaemonians at the end of the Peloponnesian War (referred to in this adapted extract of an oration of Lysias as “these men”). The two sides in the strife eventually held Peiraius and the town (Athens) respectively.
2. πολεμέω = wage war with + dat.
3. Compound of ἐκ·: guess the meaning.
4. Compound of κατα·: guess the meaning.