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The Imperfect Passive

Memory Verse:

Ὡς ὡραῖοι οἱ πόδες τῶν
εὐαγγελιζομένων εἰρήνην,
Τῶν εὐαγγελιζομένων τὰ ἀγαθά.

ΠΡΟΣ ΡΩΜΑΙΟΥΣ 10·15

day 1: Vocabulary and derivative work

Vocabulary:

ἕκαστος	each, every
ὑπάγω (ὑπάξω)	I depart
φοβέομαι (φοβοθήσομαι)	I fear
ἀσπάζομαι	I greet, salute
ἀλλήλων	each other, one another

As you can see, three of your words are verbs. Two of these verbs are deponent (remember, deponent verbs take a passive form, but an active meaning). ἕκαστος is an adjective which can be declined to show any gender or case. Finally, ἀλλήλων is an unusual word, because it can only be partially declined. If you look at the ending on this word, you should recognize it as the genitive plural ending. The lexical form takes this ending because this word cannot be used in a singular sense or in the nominative case (thus, no singular or nominative endings are needed). The same is true in English. You could not create a sentence where *each other* would be the subject (nominative case) or where it would be used to refer to one person.

The complete paradigm for ἀλλήλων looks like this:

	masculine	*feminine*	*neuter*
N			
G	ἀλλήλων	ἀλλήλων	ἀλλήλων
D	ἀλλήλοις	ἀλλήλαις	ἀλλήλοις
A	ἀλλήλους	ἀλλήλας	ἀλλήλα

Review vocabulary:

θεραπεύω (θεραπεύσω)	I heal
διώκω (διώξω)	I persecute
εὑρίσκω (εὑρήσω)	I find
ὁ θρόνος	the throne
κόπτω (κόψομαι)	I cut
ἡ γραφή	the writing, Scripture
ἡ παραβολή	the parable
ἡ εἰρήνη	the peace
ἡ ἐντολή	the commandment
ἡ ζωή	the life

day 2: Forming the Imperfect Passive

You will need to memorize the following paradigm so that you can conjugate other verbs in the imperfect passive.

ἐλυόμην	I was being loosed	1st	ἐλυόμεθα	we were being loosed
ἐλύου	you were being loosed	2nd	ἐλύεσθε	you were being loosed
ἐλύετο	he was being loosed	3rd	ἐλύοντο	they were being loosed

You should be able to identify the verb stem in the above conjugation. It is the stem λυ, meaning loose or destroy. Notice that the imperfect augment, the epsilon, appears before the stem. Now, you should be able to see the endings.[1] Read through the entire paradigm twice, and then read just the endings twice. Remember that when you conjugate a verb, you will need to add the augment as well as the endings.

Finally, now that you know the imperfect passive endings, you can use them to put

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1 The endings you see above are actually the joining vowel and the endings together. There is usually a joining vowel (either omicron or epsilon) between the verb stem and the ending, but because this vowel sometimes combines with the ending to create a new letter/letters, I find that it is easier to memorize the combination together as a single ending.

any deponent verb in the imperfect tense. These verbs will still be translated in the active voice, but they will look like the verbs above.

day 3: Using the Imperfect Passive

The translations in the exercise above should make it clear to you how the imperfect passive is formed. The passive voice shows that the subject was receiving the action, just as in the present tense. The exercise in your workbook will help you to practice using and recognizing this voice in the imperfect tense. Before you start on the exercises, you will find it helpful to review the rules about joining an augment to verbs beginning with a vowel (the augment and vowel combine into the lengthened form of the vowel—ακούομαι → ἠκουόμην), and about joining an augment to a verb with a prefix (the augment appears between the prefix and the stem, replacing the last letter of the prefix if it is a vowel—παραλαμβάνομαι → παρελαμβανόμην).

day 4: Translating sentences

In your sentences today, watch for verbs in the present passive. Remember to identify the verb first, and then look for a noun in the nominative case. From there, identify the case and use of the remaining words in the sentence, and then translate.

day 5: Review

You should be able to conjugate a verb in both the present and imperfect passive voice.