

Lesson 15 January 11-20
The Middle & Passive Voices
The Conjugation of εἶμι

1. So far we have been dealing with verbs in the **active** voice. Like English, Greek also has a **passive** voice. With the active voice, the subject of the verb performs the action on a direct object. With the passive voice, the subject of the verb is also the object of the action of the verb. For example:

Active

I am writing the book.
He carried the water.

Passive

The book is being written by me.
The water was carried by him.

Greek has a third voice, the **middle**. The middle voice is normally used when the subject performs the action of the verb with some special relevance for himself or herself. Many verbs in Greek have special meanings in the middle voice that must be learned along with the normal active meaning of a verb.

2. In the present, imperfect, and perfect, the middle and passive voices use the same forms. In the aorist and future the middle and passive use separate forms. We will learn the passive forms of these later.

3. As with the active forms, Greek uses different sets of endings for primary (present, future, perfect) and secondary (imperfect, aorist, pluperfect) tenses. Here are the basic endings of the middle/passive voice:

	<i>Primary</i>	<i>Secondary</i>
1st singular	-μαι	-μην
2nd singular	-σαι	-σο
3rd singular	-ται	-το
1st plural	-μεθα	-μεθα
2nd plural	-σθε	-σθε
3rd plural	-νται	-ντο
Infinitive	-σθαι	
Participle	-μενος, μένη, -μενον (declines like ἀγαθός)	

4. To form the middle/passive simply add the endings to the appropriate stem. Here are the conjugations of the present and future tenses with παιδεύω:

	<i>Present (middle & passive)</i>	<i>Future (middle only)</i>
1st singular	παιδεύομαι	παιδεύσομαι
2nd singular	παιδεύῃ/παιδεύει*	παιδεύσῃ/παιδεύσει*
3rd singular	παιδεύεται	παιδεύσεται
1st plural	παιδευόμεθα	παιδευσόμεθα
2nd plural	παιδεύεσθε	παιδεύσεσθε
3rd plural	παιδεύονται	παιδεύσονται

Infinitive	παιδεύεσθαι	παιδεύσεσθαι
Participle	παιδευόμενος, -η, -ον	παιδευσόμενος, -η, -ον

*The sigma of the second person singular drops out, resulting in the contraction of εαι to either η η or ει.

5. This applies to the imperfect and the aorist as well:

	<i>Imperfect (middle & passive)</i>	<i>1st Aorist (middle only)</i>	<i>2nd Aorist (middle only)</i>
1st singular	ἐπαιδευόμην	ἐπαιδευσάμην	ἐμαθόμην
2nd singular	ἐπαιδεύου*	ἐπαιδεύσω*	ἐμάθου*
3rd singular	ἐπαιδεύετο	ἐπαιδεύσατο	ἐμάθετο
1st plural	ἐπαιδευόμεθα	ἐπαιδευσάμεθα	ἐμαθόμεθα
2nd plural	ἐπαιδεύεσθε	ἐπαιδεύσασθε	ἐμάθεσθε
3rd plural	ἐπαιδεύοντο	ἐπαιδεύσαντο	ἐμάθοντο

Infinitive	<i>(no imperfect infinitive)</i>	παιδεύσασθαι	μαθέσθαι
Participle	<i>(no imperfect participle)</i>	παιδευσάμενος, -η, -ον	μαθόμενος, -η, -ον

*The sigma of the second person singular drops out, resulting in the contraction of εο to ου and of αο to ω.

6. Contract verbs follow the normal rules for contraction in the present and imperfect:

	<i>Present (middle & passive)</i>	φιλέω <i>Imperfect (middle & passive)</i>
1st singular	φιλοῦμαι (φιλέομαι)	ἐφιλούμην (ἐφιλεόμην)
2nd singular	φιλεῖ/φιλεῖ (φιλέη/φιλέει)	ἐφιλοῦ (ἐφιλέου)
3rd singular	φιλεῖται (φιλέεται)	ἐφιλεῖτο (ἐφιλέετο)
1st plural	φιλούμεθα (φιλεόμεθα)	ἐφιλούμεθα (ἐφιλεόμεθα)
2nd plural	φιλεῖσθε (φιλέεσθε)	ἐφιλεῖσθε (ἐφιλέεσθε)
3rd plural	φιλοῦνται (φιλέονται)	ἐφιλοῦντο (ἐφιλέοντο)

Infinitive	φιλεῖσθαι	<i>(no imperfect infinitive)</i>
Participle	φιλούμενος, -η, -ον	<i>(no imperfect participle)</i>

	<i>Present (middle & passive)</i>	τιμάω <i>Imperfect (middle & passive)</i>
1st singular	τιμῶμαι (τιμάομαι)	ἐτιμῶμην (ἐτιμαόμην)
2nd singular	τιμᾶ (τιμάη/τιμάει)	ἐτιμῶ (ἐτιμάου)
3rd singular	τιμᾶται (τιμάεται)	ἐτιμᾶτο (ἐτιμάετο)
1st plural	τιμῶμεθα (τιμαόμεθα)	ἐτιμῶμεθα (ἐτιμαόμεθα)
2nd plural	τιμᾶσθε (τιμάεσθε)	ἐτιμᾶσθε (ἐτιμάεσθε)
3rd plural	τιμῶνται (τιμάονται)	ἐτιμῶντο (ἐτιμάοντο)

Infinitive	τιμᾶσθαι	<i>(no imperfect infinitive)</i>
Participle	τιμῶμενος, -η, -ον	<i>(no imperfect participle)</i>

δηλώω

	<i>Present (middle & passive)</i>	<i>Imperfect (middle & passive)</i>
1st singular	δηλοῦμαι (δηλόομαι)	ἐδηλούμην (ἐδηλοόμην)
2nd singular	δηλοῖ (δηλόη/δηλόει)	ἐδηλοῦ (ἐδηλόου)
3rd singular	δηλοῦται (δηλόεται)	ἐδηλοῦτο (ἐδηλόετο)
1st plural	δηλούμεθα (δηλοόμεθα)	ἐδηλούμεθα (ἐδηλοόμεθα)
2nd plural	δηλοῦσθε (δηλόεσθε)	ἐδηλοῦσθε (ἐδηλόεσθε)
3rd plural	δηλοῦνται (δηλόονται)	ἐδηλοῦντο (ἐδηλόοντο)
Infinitive	δηλοῦσθαι	(no imperfect infinitive)
Participle	δηλούμενος, -η, -ον	(no imperfect participle)

7. -μι verbs add the middle/passive endings directly to the weak form of the stem in the present, imperfect, and aorist. Note - while the sigma of the 2nd person singular is always present in the present and imperfect, it sometimes falls out in the aorist.

δίδωμι

	<i>Present (middle & passive)</i>	<i>Imperfect (middle & passive)</i>	<i>Aorist (middle only)</i>
1st singular	δίδομαι	ἐδιδόμην	ἐδόμην
2nd singular	δίδοσαι	ἐδίδοσο	ἔδου
3rd singular	δίδοται	ἐδίδοτο	ἔδοτο
1st plural	διδόμεθα	ἐδιδόμεθα	ἐδόμεθα
2nd plural	δίδοσθε	ἐδίδοσθε	ἔδοσθε
3rd plural	δίδονται	ἐδίδοντο	ἔδοντο
Infinitive	δίδοσθαι	(no imperfect infinitive)	δόσθαι
Participle	διδόμενος, -η, -ον	(no imperfect participle)	δόμενος, -η, -ον

τίθημι

	<i>Present (middle & passive)</i>	<i>Imperfect (middle & passive)</i>	<i>Aorist (middle only)</i>
1st singular	τίθεμαι	ἐτιθέμην	ἐθέμην
2nd singular	τίθεσαι	ἐτίθεσο	ἔθου
3rd singular	τίθεται	ἐτίθετο	ἔθετο
1st plural	τιθέμεθα	ἐτιθέμεθα	ἐθέμεθα
2nd plural	τίθεσθε	ἐτίθεσθε	ἔθεσθε
3rd plural	τίθενται	ἐτίθεντο	ἔθεντο
Infinitive	τίθεσθαι	(no imperfect infinitive)	θέσθαι
Participle	τιθέμενος, -η, -ον	(no imperfect participle)	θέμενος, -η, -ον

		ἴημι		
		<i>Present (middle & passive)</i>	<i>Imperfect (middle & passive)</i>	<i>Aorist (middle only)</i>
1st singular	ἴεμαι	ἴεμην	εἶμην	
2nd singular	ἴεσαι	ἴεσο	εἶσο	
3rd singular	ἴεται	ἴετο	εἶτο	
1st plural	ἴεμεθα	ἴεμεθα	εἴμεθα	
2nd plural	ἴεσθε	ἴεσθε	εἴσθε	
3rd plural	ἴενται	ἴεντο	εἶντο	
Infinitive	ἴεσθαι	(no imperfect infinitive)	ἔσθαι	
Participle	ἴεμενος, -η, -ον	(no imperfect participle)	ἔμενος, -η, -ον	

		ἴστημι	
		<i>Present (middle & passive)</i>	<i>Imperfect (middle & passive)</i>
1st singular	ἴσταμαι	ἴστάμην	
2nd singular	ἴστασαι	ἴστασο	
3rd singular	ἴσται	ἴστατο	
1st plural	ἴστάμεθα	ἴστάμεθα	
2nd plural	ἴστασθε	ἴστασθε	
3rd plural	ἴστανται	ἴσαντο	
Infinitive	ἴστασθαι	(no imperfect infinitive)	
Participle	ἴστάμενος, -η, -ον	(no imperfect participle)	

		δείκνυμι	
		<i>Present (middle & passive)</i>	<i>Imperfect (middle & passive)</i>
1st singular	δείκνυμαι	ἐδείκνυμην	
2nd singular	δείκνυσαι	ἐδείκνυσσο	
3rd singular	δείκνυται	ἐδείκνυτο	
1st plural	δείκνυμεθα	ἐδείκνυμεθα	
2nd plural	δείκνυσθε	ἐδείκνυσθε	
3rd plural	δείκνυνται	ἐδείκνυντο	
Infinitive	δείκνυσθαι	(no imperfect infinitive)	
Participle	δείκνυμενος, -η, -ον	(no imperfect participle)	

8. In the aorist and future tenses, the middle and passive forms are built on different stems, and cannot be confused. In the present and imperfect however the middle and passive are identical. The context will normally provide indications about which voice is the correct one.

9. The middle voice is used where the subject of a verb is performing the action of the verb for his/her own benefit. Sometimes this means you should translate the middle voice with a reflexive pronoun:

Active

γράφεις τὸν λόγον
You write the speech
παιδεύομεν τὸν παῖδα
We teach the child
παύω παιδεύοντας
I stop them from teaching
παρασκευάζετε τὴν στρατίαν
You prepare the army

Middle

γράφῃ τὸν λόγον
You write the speech for yourself
παιδευόμεθα τὸν παῖδα
We teach the child for ourselves
παύω παιδεύων
I cease (stop myself) teaching
παρασκευάζεσθε τὴν στρατίαν
You prepare your army/the army for yourself

However, many verbs have special meanings in the middle voice, sometimes in addition to a “pure” middle meaning. These meanings are unpredictable and must be learned as part of the verb’s definition:

Middle

γράφῃ τὸν λόγον
You write the speech for yourself
παιδευόμεθα τὸν παῖδα
We teach the child for ourselves
πείθω ὑμᾶς
I persuade you

Special Middle

γράφῃ τὸν πολίτην
You indict the citizen
παιδευόμεθα τὸν παῖδα
We have the child educated
πείθομαι ὑμῖν
I obey you

10. The passive voice is used when the subject of the verb is also the recipient of the action of the verb. The person who performs the action, the **agent**, is placed in the genitive case with the preposition ὑπό. This is called the **genitive of agent**. Only verbs which take direct objects in the active voice (transitive verbs) can be used in the passive voice.

Active

παιδεύω αὐτόν
I teach him
οἱ Πέρσαι νικῶσιν ἡμᾶς
The Persians are conquering us
φέρει τὸ δῶρον
He carries the gift
πείθω ὑμᾶς
I persuade you

Passive

παιδεύεται ὑπὸ ἐμοῦ
He is taught by me
νικώμεθα ὑπὸ τῶν Περσῶν
We are being conquered by the Persians
φέρεται τὸ δῶρον ὑπὸ αὐτοῦ
The gift is carried by him
πείθεσθε ὑπὸ μοῦ
You are persuaded by me

11. While the forms of the middle and passive are identical in the present and imperfect, they can be easily distinguished in context. If a direct object is present, the verb must be a middle. If ὑπό + genitive is present, the verb is passive.

12. A number of verbs in Greek have active meanings, but use middle/passive forms. These are called deponent verbs. Some verbs in Greek have active forms in most tenses, but use the middle in the future or the present tense. These are called semi-deponents. Of the verbs we have seen so far, the following are semi-deponents:

ἀκούω	ἀκούσομαι
ἁμαρτάνω	ἁμαρτήσομαι
ἀποθνήσκω	ἀποθανοῦμαι
βλέπω	βλέψομαι
γελάω	γελάσομαι
εἶμι	ἔσομαι
ἐπαινέω	ἐπαινέσομαι
θαυμάζω	θαυμάσομαι
μανθάνω	μαθήσομαι
ὀράω	ὄψομαι
πάσχω	πείσομαι
τίκτω	τέξομαι
τυγχάνω	τεύξομαι

13. One very important verb in Greek is ἔρχομαι, to come or go. ἔρχομαι gets its principal parts from several different verbs stems. It is especially unusual in that it frequently uses forms from another verb, εἶμι. εἶμι is a reduplicating -μι verb that exists only in the present system. The stem is simply ι- and it is cognate with Latin *ire*.

	εἶμι	
	<i>Present</i>	<i>Imperfect</i>
1st singular	εἶμι	ἦα or ἦειν
2nd singular	εἶ	ἦεις or ἦεισθα
3rd singular	εἶσι	ἦει or ἦειν
1st plural	ἴμεν	ἦμεν
2nd plural	ἴτε	ἦτε
3rd plural	ἴασι	ἦσαν or ἦεσαν
Infinitive	ιέναι	(no imperfect infinitive)
Participle	ιών, ιούσα, ιόν	(no imperfect participle)

ἔρχομαι has its own future (ἐλεύσομαι) but frequently uses the present of εἶμι instead. The participle and infinitive of εἶμι frequently substitute for the present participle and infinitive of ἔρχομαι. And the imperfect of εἶμι is frequently used in place of the imperfect of ἔρχομαι.

Vocabulary

αίρέω, αίρήσω, είλον, ήρηκα, ήρημαι, ήρέθην to seize, take; (mid.) to choose
άρχω, άρξω, ήρξα, ήρχα, ήργμαι, ήρχθην (+ gen.) to rule, govern; (mid. + inf.) to begin
γίγνομαι, γενήσομαι, έγενόμην, γέγονα, γεγένημαι to become, be; to be born, come into existence
γράφω, γράψω, έγραψα, γέγραφα, γέγραμμαι, έγράφην to write; (mid.) to indict
είμι to come, go (frequently used as future of έρχομαι, see above)
έρχομαι, έλεύσομαι, ήλθον, έλήλυθα to come, go
ίστημι, στήσω, έστησα and έστην, έστηκα, έσταμαι, έστάθην to make stand, set up; (mid. & 2nd aorist) to stand, stand firm, stand still
λύω, λύσω, έλυσα, λέλυκα, λέλυμαι, έλύθην to loosen, set free, destroy; (mid.) to ransom
μισέω, μισήσω, έμίσησα, μεμίσηκα, μεμίσημαι, έμισήθην to hate
παιδεύω, παιδεύσω, έπαίδευσα, πεπαίδευκα, πεπαίδευμαι, έπαιδεύθην to teach; (mid.) to have (someone) taught
παρασκευάζω, παρασκευάσω, παρεσκεύασα, παρεσκεύακα, παρεσκεύασμαι, παρεσκευάσθην to prepare, equip, furnish; (mid.) prepare for oneself
παύω, παύσω, έπαυσα, πέπαυκα, πέπαυμαι, έπαύθην (+ supplementary pple.) to stop, bring to a stop; (mid. + supplementary pple.) to stop oneself, cease, desist from
πειθω, πείσω, έπεισα, πέπεικα, πέπεισμαι, έπέισθην to persuade, (+ acc. & inf.) to persuade to; (mid. + dat.) to obey
τιμάω, τιμήσω, έτίμησα, τετίμηκα, τετίμημαι, έτιμήθην to honor
φέρω, οίσω, ήνεγκον, ένήνοχα, ένήνεγμαι, ήνέχθην to bear, carry; (mid.) to carry away for oneself, to win, gain
φιλέω, φιλήσω, έφιλησα, πεφίληκα, πεφίλημαι, έφιλήθην to love; (+ inf.) to be fond of doing

άδικος, -ον unjust, unlawful; dishonest
αίτιος, -α, -ον culpable, responsible; (+ gen.) responsible for
πρώτος, -η, -ον first, (adv.) πρώτον

δειπνον, -ου τό main meal of the day, dinner
κλίμαξ, κλίμακος ή ladder
μοιχός, -ου ό adulterer
φόνος, -ου murder
χείρ, χειρός ή hand

γε enclitic post-positive particle at least, at any rate, indeed (emphasizes preceding word, often ironic)
ήδη adv. already, now; further; even, yet
οί μέν...οί δέ... Some...others...
πρός prep. (+ acc.) towards, to; against; (+ gen.) from, from the side of; (+ dat.) at, at the side of, in addition to
τί interrogative adv. why?
ύπό prep. (+ acc.) down; (+ gen.) by (personal agent); (+ dat.) close under; subject to

Greek to English Sentences

1. οἱ γε ἄνδρες ἤρχοντο μισεῖν τοὺς φιλουμένους ὑπὸ πασῶν τῶν γυναικῶν μοιχούς.
2. ὁ βασιλεὺς ἀεὶ ἐπέισατο τοῖς θεοῖς, ὑπὸ γὰρ τῆς μητρὸς εὖ ἐπαιδεύετο.
3. οἱ μὲν τιμῶνται τε ἐρῶνται τε ὑπὸ τῶν βελτίστων, οἱ δὲ οὐχ οἴοι τε τὸ δεῖπνον φέρεσθαι.
4. οἱ ἄδικοι ἔπαυσαν τοὺς πολεμίους λύοντας ἐκείνην τὴν πόλιν, ἀλλὰ οὐκ ἐπαύσαντο τοὺς ἀγαθοὺς προδιδόμενοι.
5. ἰσταμένη ὑπὸ τῆ κλίμακι οἴση πολλὴν κακὴν τύχην.
6. ἐπεὶ τιμῶμεν πρῶτον τοὺς νομοὺς, δεῖ ἡμᾶς γράφεσθαι τὸν πολίτην αἴτιον τοῦ φόνου.
7. τί παρασκευαζόμεθα δεῖπνον αὐτοῖς οἱ μισοῦσι πάντα;
8. ἐγὼ μὲν ὑπὸ τοῦ ἄρχοντος πείθομαι, σὺ δὲ οὐ · οὗτος γὰρ πολλάκις σε τῆ χειρὶ ἔβαλε.
9. ὁ Σωκράτης εἶσιν ἐκ τῆς πόλεως καὶ ὄψεται τοὺς ἀδίκους πολλὰ κακίῳ πράττοντας.

English to Greek Sentences

1. The wise men said that even the unjust who destroyed the city are able to become good.
2. I at least know that the virtuous woman was being seized by the most wicked adulterer.
3. By my hand I gained a great treasure, therefore I will sacrifice many bulls to the gods.
4. Some teach their children themselves, others are taught by their children.
5. When we went to the temple, we obeyed the soldiers honoring the gods with many gifts.