

12.3.3 The Imperfect tense / Παρατατικός

The verbs in “Παρατατικός” express duration and repetition in the past. The Imperfect tense stresses the continuing nature of the action or the event taken place in the past. Therefore it is used

- to indicate a habitual action or event occurred in the past
Πέρυσι κάθε Κυριακή έπαιζα γκολφ. I was playing golf every Sunday last year.
- to describe an event that took place over an extended period of time
Χτες διάβαζε όλη μέρα. He was studying the whole day yesterday.
- to describe an action that was ongoing when something else took place
Καθώς διάβαζε, χτύπησε το τηλέφωνο. While he was studying, the telephone rang.

12.3.3.1 Formation of the Imperfect tense of the active voice

Characteristics

The personal endings of the “Παρατατικός” are the same as in the Past tense, the “Αόριστος”: **-α, -ες, -ε, -αμε, -ατε, -αν**. The A verbs bear the stress mark on the third-to-last syllable while the B verbs on the second-to-last syllable except the first and the second person plural where the stress mark is to be found on the third-to-last syllable.

Group A, 1st conjugation

The augment (prefix) “έ-”

The verbs of the 1st conjugation take an augment. The same rules apply as in the past tense, the “Αόριστος”, see above the use of the augment in the Past tense.

Formation steps

The verbs διαβάζω (read) and γράφω (write) are used as example:

1. Find the present stem of the verb (omit -ω)

| | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| διαβάζω – διαβαζ- | γράφω – γραφ- |
|-------------------|---------------|

2. Place the personal endings (**-α, -ες, -ε, -αμε, -ατε, -αν**) after the present stem and put the stress mark on the third-to-last syllable. If the verb has two syllables, place the augment “έ-” (before the present stem with the stress mark on it). **Notice** that the first and the second person plural do not take the augment.

| | |
|------------|-----------|
| διάβαζ-α | έ-γραφ-α |
| διάβαζ-ες | έ-γραφ-ες |
| διάβαζ-ε | έ-γραφ-ε |
| διαβάζ-αμε | γράφ-αμε |
| διαβάζ-ατε | γράφ-ατε |
| διάβαζ-αν | έ-γραφ-αν |

The verbs used above are conjugated in the table below:

| | | | |
|-----------|------------------|---------|------------------|
| διάβαζα | I was reading | έγραφα | I was writing |
| διάβαζες | you were reading | έγραφες | you were writing |
| διάβαζε | ... | έγραφε | ... |
| διαβάζαμε | | γράφαμε | |
| διαβάζατε | | γράφατε | |
| διάβαζαν | | έγραφαν | |

Group B, 2nd conjugation

Characteristics

The verbs of the 2nd conjugation take before the personal endings the letter combination “-ουσ-” and bear the stress mark on the second-to-last syllable except the first and the second person plural. Moreover these verbs do not take the augment “έ-”.

Formation steps

The verbs αγαπώ (love) and τηλεφωνώ (telephone) are used as example:

1. Find the present stem of the verb (omit -ω)

| B1 | B2 |
|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| αγαπώ – αγαπ- γελώ – γελ- | τηλεφωνώ – τηλεφων- |

2. Place the letter combination “-ουσ-” after the present tense stem.

| B1 | B2 |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| αγαπ-ουσ- γελ-ουσ- | τηλεφων -ουσ- |

3. Place the personal endings (**-α, -ες, -ε, -αμε, -ατε, -αν**) in the end and put the stress mark on the second-to-last syllable. **Notice** that the first and the second person plural bear the stress mark on the third-to-last syllable.

| B1 | B2 |
|----------------------------------------|------------------------|
| αγαπ-ούσ-α γελ-ούσ-α | τηλεφων-ούσ-α |
| αγαπ-ούσ-ες γελ-ούσ-ες | τηλεφων-ούσ-ες |
| αγαπ-ούσ-ε γελ-ούσ-ε | τηλεφων-ούσ-ε |
| αγαπ-ούσ-αμε γελ-ούσ-αμε | τηλεφων-ούσ-αμε |
| αγαπ-ούσ-ατε γελ-ούσ-ατε | τηλεφων-ούσ-ατε |
| αγαπ-ούσ-αν γελ-ούσ-αν | τηλεφων-ούσ-αν |

4. The verbs used above are conjugated in the following table:

| B1 | B2 |
|------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| αγαπούσα I was loving γελούσα I was laughing | τηλεφωνούσα I was telephoning |
| αγαπούσες you ... γελούσες you ... | τηλεφωνούσες you ... |
| αγαπούσε γελούσε | τηλεφωνούσε |
| αγαπούσαμε γελούσαμε | τηλεφωνούσαμε |
| αγαπούσατε γελούσατε | τηλεφωνούσατε |
| αγαπούσαν γελούσαν | τηλεφωνούσαν |

12.3.3.2 Formation of the Imperfect tense of the medio-passive voice

Group A, 1st conjugation

Characteristics

The endings of the Imperfect tense of the medio-passive voice of the verbs belonging to group A are:

-όμουν, -όσουν, -όταν, -όμαστε, -όσαστε, -ονταν

Formation steps

The verb πληρώνομαι (get paid) is used as example:

1. Find the present stem (omit -ω, -ομαι)

πληρώνω-πληρώνομαι – **πληρων-**

2. Place the endings after the stem -όμουν, -όσουν, -όταν, -όμαστε, -όσαστε, -ονταν

πληρων-όμουν

πληρων-όσουν

πληρων-όταν

πληρων-όμαστε

πληρων-όσαστε

πληρών-ονταν

Hieronder wordt bovenstaande werkwoord vervoegd:

πληρωνόμουν I was being (or getting) paid

πληρωνόσουν you were being paid

πληρωνόταν ...

πληρωνόμαστε

πληρωνόσαστε

πληρώνονταν

Group B, 2nd conjugation

Characteristics

The endings of the Imperfect tense of the medio-passive voice of the verbs belonging to group B are:

B1: **-ιόμουν, -ιόσουν, -ιόταν, -ιόμαστε, -ιόσαστε, -ιόνταν (-ούνταν)**

B2: **-όμουν, -όσουν, -όταν, -όμαστε, -όσαστε, -όνταν (-ούνταν)**

Arc. conj.: **-ούμουν, -ούσουν, -ούνταν, -ούμαστε, -ούσαστε, -ούνταν**

Formation steps

The verbs αγαπιέμαι (be loved), κοιμάμαι (sleep) and διηγούμαι (narrate) are used as example:

1. Find the present stem (omit -ώ, -ιέμαι, -άμαι, -ούμαι)

| B1 | B2 | Archaic conjugation |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| αγαπώ-αγαπιέμαι – αγαπ- | κοιμάμαι – κοιμ- | διηγούμαι – διηγ- |

2. Place the endings

-ιόμουν, -ιόσουν, -ιόταν, -ιόμαστε, -ιόσαστε, -ιόνταν (-ούνταν)

after the stem of the B1 verbs,

the endings

-όμουν, -όσουν, -όταν, -όμαστε, -όσαστε, -όνταν (-ούνταν)

after the stem of the B2 verbs

or the endings

-ούμουν, -ούσουν, -ούνταν, -ούμαστε, -ούσαστε, -ούνταν

after the stem of the archaic conjugation

| B1 | B2 | Archaic conjugation |
|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| αγαπ-ιόμουν αγαπ-ιόσουν αγαπ-ιόταν | κοιμ-όμουν κοιμ-όσουν κοιμ-όταν | διηγ-ούμουν διηγ-ούσουν διηγ-ούνταν |
| αγαπ-ιόμαστε αγαπ-ιόσαστε αγαπ-ιόνταν (-ιούνταν) | κοιμ-όμαστε κοιμ-όσαστε κοιμ-όνταν (-ούνταν) | διηγ-ούμαστε διηγ-ούσαστε διηγ-ούνταν |

The verbs used above are conjugated in the table below:

| B1 | B2 | Archaic conjugation |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| αγαπιόμουν I was being loved αγαπιόσουν you ... αγαπιόταν | κοιμόμουν I was sleeping κοιμόσουν you ... κοιμόταν | διηγούμουν I was narrating διηγούσουν you ... διηγούνταν |
| αγαπιόμαστε αγαπιόσαστε αγαπιόνταν (-ιούνταν) | κοιμόμαστε κοιμόσαστε κοιμόνταν (-ούνταν) | διηγούμαστε διηγούσαστε διηγούνταν |