preceptaustin.org - mood, voice, tense it is under Greek reference guide

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#### ◆ Philippians 2:14 ▶

#### **Philippians 2 - Click for Chapter**

	3956 [e]	4160 [e]	5565 [e]	1112 [e]	2532 [e]	1261 [e]	
	Panta	poieite	chōris	gongysmōn	kai	dialogismōn	
14	Πάντα	ποιεῖτε	χωρὶς	γογγυσμῶν	καὶ	διαλογισμῶν	,
	All things	do	without	murmurings	and	disputings	
	Adj-ANP	V-PMA-2P	Prep	N-GMP	Conj	N-GMP	

Here is an example from the Hebrew of Genesis 1:1 The Strong's number is at the top (1254) followed by the transliterated word, the original Hebrew (or Greek), the meaning and the verb tense, voice, mood at the bottom (V-Qal-Perf-3ms). This pattern is the same for the Greek in the New Testament.

(1) TENSE OF VERB							
TENSE	ACTION	EXAMPLE & EXPLANATION					
PRESENT TENSE	CONTINUOUS ACTION HABITUAL ACTION OFTEN REFLECTS A LIFESTYLE	EXAMPLE OF PRESENT TENSE  1Peter 1:5-note who are protected (word study) (PPPMPA) (5746) by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time  PPPMPA = Present Tense, Passive Voice, Participle, Masculine, Plural, Accusative  From Peter's use of Present tense one can see that in context (see also discussion of context) he is referring to born again ones, describing them as those who are "continually being protected by the power (dunamis) of God". God's protection of His children isn't fickle, present one day and absent the next. You can see how even the most basic understanding of verb tense can add so much to the meaning.					

#### AORIST TENSE

**EFFECTIVE ACTION** 

SUCCESSFUL ACTION

SINGLE ACTION

**ONE-TIME ACTION** 

States that an action occurs without regard to its duration. It is analogous to a snapshot which captures an action at specific point in time.

In indicative mood, aorist can indicate punctiliar action (happens at a specific point in time) in past

### **EXAMPLE OF AORIST TENSE**

1Peter 1:3-note Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again (AAPMSN) (5660) to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

AAPMSN = Aorist Tense, Active Voice, Participle, Masculine, Sing., Nominative

The **Aorist tense** conveys the truth that the believer's new birth (indicative mood is mood of reality) has occurred at a point in the past without specifying when this event occurred. The **passive voice** indicates this new birth was produced by a Source outside of the recipient and in context that Source is "the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ".

#### PERFECT TENSE

ACTION COMPLETED at a SPECIFIC POINT of TIME in PAST (●) with results CONTINUING into the PRESENT (—▶). In certain contexts the results are PERMANENT.

Schematically illustrated by a "dot" (●) denoting a definite action in the past followed by a line (—▶) indicating effect of that action continuing into present



## **EXAMPLE OF PERFECT TENSE**

1Peter 1:4-note to *obtain* an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved (word study) (RPPFSA) (5772) in heaven for you

RPPFSA = Perfect Tense, Passive Voice, Participle, Fem, Sing, Accusative

In this verse Peter uses the **Perfect Tense** to convey the truth of the "living hope" (not "hope so" but a certain expectation of future good. Click more on "hope") that believers have an inheritance that has been reserved for us at a point of time in the past (when we were born again) and remains in a state of being "reserved". What a great picture. When taking a long road trip we have all had the misfortune of arriving at our motel late at night, only to discover that our reservation has been given away! Peter says that this "mistake" will not happen to believers when we reach our final destination in heaven, for our future home (and inheritance) have been reserved for us in the past and that reservation is valid for all eternity because the "reservation price" has been "paid in full" when Jesus' cried out "It is finished (notes)" (Jn 19:30).

#### IMPERFECT TENSE

#### REPEATED or CONTINUAL ACTION IN THE PAST

## **EXAMPLE OF IMPERFECT TENSE**

Acts 16:7 and after they came to Mysia, **they were trying** (3PIAI) (5707) to go into Bithynia, and the Spirit of Jesus did not permit them

3PIAI = 3rd Person, Plural, Imperfect Tense, Active Voice, Indicative Mood

The **Imperfect tense** denotes continuous, ongoing or repeated action in past. Thus the imperfect tense often "paints" a vivid picture of an action ("motion picture") as one which happens over and over. E.g., in Acts 16:7 Luke uses the **imperfect tense** to portray Paul attempting to enter Bithynia, being hindered in some way by the Holy Spirit and yet trying again and again to enter! Interesting! This dramatic picture gives us an intriguing insight into the heart of Paul that cannot be gleaned without a basic understanding of the **imperfect tense**. Doesn't the added insight help make this verse literally "come alive"? This is often the effect of the **imperfect tense**.

**Michael Heiser** on the **imperfect tense** = "The verb tense where the writer portrays an action in process or a state of being that is occurring in the past with no assessment of the action's completion."

Imagine repeated or extended activity as a motion-picture — relive the scene!

# (2) TRANSLATING TENSES INTO ENGLISH

Note: These are only general guidelines

# PRESENT IMPERATIVE

### PRESENT IMPERATIVE

Continually, habitually follow this command! The Present Imperative is often a call to a long-term commitment and calls for the attitude or action to be one's continual way of life (lifestyle). (See all NT occurrences of the present imperative - makes for an interesting study)

1Pe 2:17-note Honor (5657) all people, love (2PPAM) (5720) the brotherhood, fear (2PPPM) (5737) God, honor (2PPAM) (5720) the king

2PPAM: 2nd Person, Plural, Present Tense, Active Voice, Imperative Mood

These actions are not "suggestions" but commands to make each attitude/action our habitual practice. Remember that whatever God commands of us, He always provides the grace and empowerment in Christ Jesus and His Spirit so that we might be enabled to carry out the command.

# PRESENT IMPERATIVE w/ NEGATIVE

## PRESENT IMPERATIVE WITH A NEGATIVE

"STOP an action which is already going on". CEASE an act in progress.

Keep on refusing to do this and/or, stop doing this if it has already started!

1Pe 4:12-note Beloved, do not be surprised (2PPPM) (5744) at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you;

2PPPM: 2nd person, Plural, Present Tense, Passive voice, Imperative Mood

The implication is that they were being surprised by the fiery ordeals (but aren't we all frequently caught off guard by God's "pop tests"?) so Peter says stop doing this!'.

# AORIST IMPERATIVE

#### AORIST IMPERATIVE

Calls for a SPECIFIC, DEFINITE, DECISIVE choice. "DO THIS NOW, AT ONCE, ONCE FOR ALL and in one quick action (in contrast to present imperative which commands a habitual action). Often expresses a note of URGENCY. (See all the NT occurrences of the acrist imperative)

Check it off, get it done! Focus on the first opportunity to complete it!

1Pe 1:17-note If you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one's work, conduct (2PAPM) (5649) yourselves in fear during the time of your stay on earth;

2PAPM: 2nd person, Plural, Aorist Tense, Imperative Mood

# 3) VOICE OF VERB

# ACTIVE VOICE

As explained below the **Voice** highlights the relationship of the **subject** to the verbal **action**.

Verbs in active voice picture the subject as the one who performs or produces the action or exercises a certain activity. Active voice represents the action as being accomplished by the subject of the verb. The Active voice is the most common voice in the NT, occurring 20,697 times compared to 3500 for middle voice and 3933 for passive voice.

1Pe 1:13-note Therefore, gird (the loins of) your minds for action, keep sober (PAPMPN) (5723) in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

PAPMPN = Present Tense, Active Voice, Participle, Masc, Plural, Nominative

## PASSIVE VOICE

The passive voice conveys the idea that the SUBJECT is being ACTED UPON by an OUTSIDE force or power. SUBJECT is the RECIPIENT or the RECEIVER of the verbal action or effect. In English passive voice is usually indicated by the phrase "to be".

1Pe 1:15-note but like the Holy One Who called you, be (2PAPM) (5676) holy yourselves also in all your behavior

2PAPM = 2nd person, Plural, Aorist Tense, Passive Voice, Imperative Mood

Peter's point then is that it is not believers who make themselves holy (eg, by keeping a list of do's and don't's) but it is God Who makes us progressively more and more holy as we surrender our will to His sweet will. (See related topic: LORD Who Sanctifies)

Michael Heiser - The grammatical voice that signifies that the subject is being acted upon; i.e., the subject is the receiver of the verbal action. A verb in the passive voice with God as the stated or implied agent is often referred to as the "divine passive."

# MIDDLE VOICE

This voice means that the SUBJECT initiates the action and participates in the results of the action. In other words the subject is both doing and receiving the action. The middle voice indicates the subject performs an action upon himself or herself (reflexive action) or for their own benefit. E.g., "The boy groomed himself."

The middle voice is reflexive which describes an action directed back on the subject ("he perjured himself"). It is often translated with words like "-self" (himself, herself, themselves, etc).

Middle voice speaks of the personal involvement of the subject in the act or action.

1Pe 1:6-note In this you (yourselves) greatly rejoice (2PPMI) (5736) even though now for a little while, if necessary , you have been distressed by various trials

2PPMI = 2nd person, Plural, Present Tense, Middle Voice, Indicative Mood

1Pe 1:13-note Therefore, (you plural) gird (yourselves) (5671) (AMPMPN) (the loins of) your minds for action...

AMPMPN = Aorist Tense, Middle Voice, Participle, Masc., Plural, Nominative

#### (4) MOOD OF VERB

## INDICATIVE MOOD

**MOOD of CERTAINTY** = simply states a thing as being a FACT. There is no doubt that the action occurred. If an action really occurs or has occurred or will occur, it will be rendered in the indicative mood.

1Pe 1:8 -note and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice (5736) (2PPMI) with joy inexpressible and full of glory

2PPMI = 2nd person, Plural, Present Tense, Middle Voice, Indicative Mood

# IMPERATIVE MOOD

**COMMAND** = Calls for the recipient to perform a certain action by the order and authority of one commanding. Imperative mood can also indicate a request or entreaty (Lk 11:3)

1Pe 1:13-note Therefore, gird (the loins of) your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope (2PAAM) (5657) completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

2PAAM = 2nd Person, Aorist Tense, Active Voice, Imperative Mood

## SUBJUNCTIVE MOOD

**MOOD of PROBABILITY** (possibility, potentiality) = expresses an action which may or should happen but which is not necessarily true at present. In other words subjunctive expresses some doubt that an action occurred (or will occur). It suggests that the action is dependent upon some condition being met. This description is simplistic and for more detailed description click here (or here)

**Conditional sentences** (click summary of conditional sentences) of the third class (ean + the subjunctive) are all of this type, as well as many commands following conditional purpose clauses, such as those beginning with "hina." ("in order that")

1Pe 1:7 -note so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found (3SAPS) (5686) to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

3SAPS = 3rd person, Aorist Tense, Passive Voice, Subjunctive Mood

# OPTATIVE MOOD

**EXPRESSES A WISH or DESIRE** most often specifically indicates a PRAYER. In a few cases the optative mood expresses the STRONGEST POSSIBLE WISH regarding an event, especially in the phrase "May it never be" (NASB) with 15/16 uses by Paul (see Ro 6:2-note)

1Pe 1:2 according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure (5684) (3SAPO) [Literally = be multiplied]

3SAPO = 3rd person, Aorist Tense, Passive Voice, Optative Mood