

Greek Quick Reference Guide


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GREEK VERBS QUICK REFERENCE

TENSE OF VERB

TENSE	ACTION	EXAMPLE & EXPLANATION
PRESENT TENSE	CONTINUOUS ACTION HABITUAL ACTION OFTEN REFLECTS A LIFESTYLE	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>1Peter 1:5 who are protected (PPMPA) (5746) by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time (Notes)</p> <p>PPMPA: Present Tense, Passive Voice, Participle, Masculine, Plural, Accusative</p> </div> <p>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 (<i>dunamis</i>) of God". God's protection of His children isn't fickle, present one day & absent the next. You can see how even the most basic understanding of verb tense can add so much to the meaning.</p> <p>Knowledge of the tense of a verb can sometimes be critical for accurate interpretation.</p> <p>For example note 1Jo 3:9: "No one who is born of God practices (present tense) sin (noun), because His seed abides in him and he cannot SIN (verb), because he is born of God."</p> <p>Look at the verb "SIN". At first glance the verse seems to imply that one who is "<i>born of God</i>" can never commit a sin and yet all genuine believers know that this is not a reality (cf 1Jo 1:8). When you understand that the verb SIN is in the present tense, it becomes clear that John is saying that one who is born of God cannot habitually commit sins as a way of life. The verb "practices" is also present tense and thus conveys the same thought. All believers commit sins but not habitually or as their lifestyle. Application: if one's lifestyle is that of continual sinning in the face of no desire for holiness, these individuals need to examine whether they are genuinely new creatures in Christ (2Co 5:17) born from above (2Co 13:5). And so one can see that in 1Jo 3:9 (as in most of 1John 3) the accurate interpretation of this passage is certainly aided by a proper understanding of verb tense.</p>

		<p>Depending on the context, the following adverbs may be useful to "amplify" the meaning of a verb in the present tense:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">"Continuously, constantly, habitually".</p> <p>Present Tense with the indicative mood represents contemporaneous action, as opposed to action in the past or future. In moods other than in the indicative mood, it refers only to continuous or repeated action.</p>
<p>AORIST TENSE</p>	<p>EFFECTIVE ACTION</p> <p>SUCCESSFUL ACTION</p> <p>SINGLE ACTION</p> <p>ONE-TIME ACTION</p> <p>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.</p> <p>In indicative mood, aorist can indicate punctiliar action (happens at a specific point in time) in past</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>1Peter 1:3 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,</p> <p>AAPMSN: Aorist Tense, Active Voice, Participle, Masculine, Sing., Nominative</p> </div> <p>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 & Father of our Lord Jesus Christ".</p> <p>Depending on the context the following adverbs may be useful to "amplify" the meaning of the action portrayed by the aorist tense:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">"Effectively, successfully, completely, even once, actually, really".</p> <p>AORIST TENSE is somewhat difficult to grasp, so don't be frustrated if you don't receive any glowing practical insights initially. If you continue to perform Word Studies (including verb tense, voice & mood) as an integral part of your Bible study, you will begin to appreciate the meaning of the aorist tense & you will begin to receive insights from this understanding.</p>
<p>PERFECT TENSE</p>	<p>ACTION COMPLETED at a SPECIFIC POINT of TIME in PAST (●) with results CONTINUING into the PRESENT (—▶). In certain contexts the results are PERMANENT.</p> <p>Schematically illustrated by a "dot" (●) denoting a definite action in the past followed by a line (—▶) indicating effect of that action continuing into present</p> <p style="text-align: center;">●————▶</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>1Peter 1:4: to <i>obtain</i> an inheritance which is imperishable & undefiled & will not fade away, reserved (RPPFSA) (5772) in heaven for you</p> <p>RPPFSA: Perfect Tense, Passive Voice, Participle, Fem, Sing, Accusative</p> </div> <p>In this verse Peter uses the Perfect Tense to convey the truth of the "living hope" (not "<i>hope so</i>" 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 "<i>paid in full</i>" when Jesus' cried out "It is finished" (Jo 19:30).</p> <p>Finished is also in the perfect tense and refers to Messiah's work of procuring for lost sinners a salvation from sin through the blood of His Cross.</p> <p>The entire sense of Jesus' poignant cry is "It was finished and as a result it is forever done!" "It stands finished!". The priests in the tabernacle always stood when ministering the sacrifices. But Jesus Christ our great High Priest is seated because His work is forever finished. He need never arise and offer another sacrifice because full payment for our sins has been paid in the past with His sacrificial blood and the effect of that payment will endure throughout eternity! This is indeed good news, beloved of the Lord!</p> <p>In short, the perfect tense is very expressive for it speaks of an action that took place in the past, which was completed in past time, and existence of its finished results. For instance one might say "I have closed the door" which speaks of a past completed action. But the implication is that as a result the door is still closed. Thus, the entire meaning is, "I have closed the door and it is closed at present." You can see how a simple understanding of the perfect tense can often amplify the meaning which may not be readily</p>

		<p>apparent in the English translation, because the perfect tense has no exact equivalent in English.</p> <p>In Matthew 4:4, our Lord answers Satan, "It is written" and "written" is in the perfect tense. Here Jesus quoted from Deuteronomy which had been written by Moses 1500 years before, but is still on record. David said, "Forever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven." A good translation would be "It stands written." It is the eternal word of God and you can stake your life on it forever!</p> <p>In Ephesians 2:8 we read, "For by the grace you saved" where "saved" is perfect tense. The picture therefore for every Christian is that each one was given a perfect salvation in past time when he or she believed, and as a result of that past completed work of Jesus Christ on the Cross and our past acceptance of the same, we at present are saved persons and will continue in that state eternally. A believer's present possession of salvation therefore is based upon one thing only -- what Jesus did on the Cross for us and our past acceptance of that work which means that the works of an individual, past or present, good or bad, do not enter into our acceptance or retention of salvation. Salvation is the alone work of Christ. The believer is the recipient which means that the believer is saved and saved forever, for the present results of the perfect tense are always present with the reader.</p>
<p>IMPERFECT TENSE</p>	<p>REPEATED or CONTINUAL ACTION IN THE PAST</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p>Acts 16:7 & after they came to Mysia, they were trying (3PIAI) (5707) to go into Bithynia, AND the Spirit of Jesus did not permit them</p> <p>3PIAI: 3rd Person, Plural, Imperfect Tense, Active Voice, Indicative Mood</p> </div> <p>The IMPERFECT tense can often paint a vivid picture of an action (a veritable "motion picture") which is repeated in the past -- the idea is that the action happens over & over & over -- 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 & yet trying again & again to enter! 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 "<i>come alive</i>"? This is often the effect of the IMPERFECT tense. Look at some other examples:.</p> <p>Mk 4:37 And there *arose a fierce gale of wind, and the waves were breaking over (imperfect tense) the boat so much that the boat was already filling up".</p> <p>Can't you picture yourself in the boat with the waves pounding again & again (imperfect tense conveys this picture) against the side and even beginning to fill the boat with water.</p> <p>These examples should help you see the wonderful added insights that are possible with just a simple understanding of the verb tenses.</p> <p>If you are intrigued, take some time & practice applying your new understanding to a few other NT verses that use the IMPERFECT tense & see if you do not glean some added insights which simply make some of these texts "come alive" as you envision the action suggested by the imperfect tense in each of the following verses (this exercise will be most beneficial if you read verses in context-click for context):</p> <p>Mt 2:4 "he began to inquire" (imperfect);</p> <p>Mt 26:59 "kept trying to obtain (imperfect) false testimony"</p> <p>Mt 27:23 "they kept shouting (imperfect) all the more"</p> <p>Mk 7:26 Now the woman was a Gentile, of the Syrophoenician race. And she kept asking (imperfect) Him to cast the demon out of her daughter." (what a vivid scene!).</p> <p>Acts 21:30 "they dragged (imperfect) him out of the temple"</p> <p>If you have meditated on (Click Primer on Meditation) the pictures portrayed by the over & over (imperfect tense) actions in each of the preceding verses you are beginning to see the incredible value of a simple understanding of this tense. You were probably familiar with each of the</p>

scenes depicted, but heretofore you had viewed them only as "black & white stills", whereas now illumined by your understanding of the imperfect tense, you have seen them as vividly "colorized motion pictures".

DOWNLOAD InstaVerse the nifty simple Bible Verse pop up tool will make it easy to read every cross reference in this study quickly, in context and in the Version you prefer (Note: Only KJV is free)

TRANSLATING INTO ENGLISH

Note: These are just general guidelines

PRESENT IMPERATIVE	<p>CONTINUALLY, habitually follow this COMMAND! Often a call to LONG-TERM COMMITMENT. This combination in a verb calls for a constant & continual way of life.</p> <p>1Pe 2:17 Honor (5657) all people, love (2PPAM) (5720) the brotherhood, fear (2PPPM) (5737) God, honor (2PPAM) (5720) the king</p> <p>2PPAM: 2nd Person, Plural, Present Tense, Active Voice, Imperative Mood</p> <p>These actions are not "suggestions" but are commands to make each one the habit of our life. But remember that whatever God commands of us, He always provides the grace & empowerment to us in Christ Jesus & His Spirit that we might be enabled to carry out the command.</p>
PRESENT IMPERATIVE w/ NEGATIVE	<p>"STOP an action which is already going on". CEASE an act in progress.</p> <p>1Pe 4:12 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;</p> <p>2PPPM: 2nd person, Plural, Present Tense, Passive voice, Imperative Mood</p> <p>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!.</p>
AORIST IMPERATIVE	<p>Calls for a SPECIFIC, DEFINITE, DECISIVE choice. "DO THIS NOW, AT ONCE, ONCE FOR ALL & in one quick action (in contrast to present imperative which commands a habitual action) Often expresses a note of URGENCY.</p> <p>1Pe 1:17 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;</p> <p>2PAPM: 2nd person, Plural, Aorist Tense, Imperative Mood</p>

VOICE OF VERB

ACTIVE VOICE	<p>Verbs in active voice picture the SUBJECT as the DOER or PERFORMER of the action. It represents the action as being accomplished by the subject of the verb.</p> <p>1Pe 1:13 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.</p> <p>PAPMPN: Present Tense, Active Voice, Participle, Masc, Plural, Nominative</p>
	<p>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".</p>

<p>PASSIVE VOICE</p>	<p>1Pe1:15 but like the Holy One Who called you, be (2PAPM) (5676) holy yourselves also in all your behavior</p> <p>2PAPM: 2nd person, Plural, Aorist Tense, Passive Voice, Imperative Mood</p> <p>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)</p>
<p>MIDDLE VOICE</p>	<p>This voice means that the SUBJECT initiates the action and participates in the results of 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." "Reflexive" - of, relating to, or constituting an action (as in "he perjured himself") directed back on the agent or the grammatical subject - often translated with words like "-self" (himself, herself, themselves, etc).</p> <p>1Pe 1:6 In this you (yourselves) greatly rejoice (2PPMI) (5736) even though now for a little while, if necessary , you have been distressed by various trials</p> <p>2PPMI: 2nd person, Plural, Present Tense, Middle Voice, Indicative Mood</p> <p>1Pe 1:13 Therefore, (you) gird (yourself) (5671) (AMPMPN) (the loins of) your minds <i>for action...</i></p> <p>AMPMPN: Aorist Tense, Middle Voice, Participle, Masc., Plural, Nominative</p>

MOOD OF VERB

<p>INDICATIVE MOOD</p>	<p>MOOD of CERTAINTY = simply states a thing as being a FACT. If an action really occurs or has occurred or will occur, it will be rendered in the indicative mood.</p> <p>1Pe 1:8 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</p> <p>2PPMI: 2nd person, Plural, Present Tense, Middle Voice, Indicative Mood</p>
<p>IMPERATIVE MOOD</p>	<p>COMMAND = Calls for the recipient to perform a certain action by the order & authority of one commanding. Imperative mood can also indicate a request or entreaty (Lu 11:3)</p> <p>1Pe 1:13 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.</p> <p>2PAAM: 2nd Person, Aorist Tense, Active Voice, Imperative Mood</p>
<p>SUBJUNCTIVE MOOD</p>	<p>MOOD of PROBABILITY (possibility, potentiality) = expresses an action which may or should happen but which is not necessarily true at present. Suggests that the action is dependent upon some condition being met. This description is simplistic and for more detailed description click here (or here)</p> <p>Conditional sentences (click for 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")</p> <p>1Pe 1:7 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;</p> <p>3SAPS: 3rd person, Aorist Tense, Passive Voice, Subjunctive Mood</p>

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)

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 & peace be yours in the fullest measure (5684) (**3SAPO**) [Literally = be multiplied]

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

LINKS TO SITES ON GREEK GRAMMAR

Greek Word Studies: links to in depth word studies on site (new words added weekly)

The Greeks Had a Word for It: excellent summary chapter from the book Basics of Biblical Interpretation by Bob Smith

Greek Grammar: compilation based primarily on Mounce. There are other areas of this website that express opinions I do not agree with but the Greek seems to be objective and accurate. As always be a Berean on my site or any other internet site (Acts17:11)

Learning NT Greek - click index on left side of page to open specific subject. Nice feature is you can read a simple explanation and if you desire more detail you can read an intermediate/advanced explanation, including [Subjunctive Mood](#).

HOW TO DETERMINE VERB TENSE, VOICE & MOOD (TVM)

The easiest way to do this on the internet is to search a site that links the Scripture to STRONG'S classification of (TVM). Although there are several sites on the WWW that can facilitate study of (TVM), the "Interlinear Study Bible" from [studylight.org](#) is one of the most efficient search engines determine all the TVM's in a single chapter (if you find one faster & easier please email me). Let's walk through an example of how to determine the (TVM) for the verb "reserved" in 1 Peter 1:4.

1) For "Translation" select the "KJV Strong's Version" because the NASB notes do not have the Strong's #'s with the English, but only with the Greek verbs.

2) Enter "1 Peter 1" below & "perform search", which will retrieve the entire chapter in KJV and in the transliterated Greek.

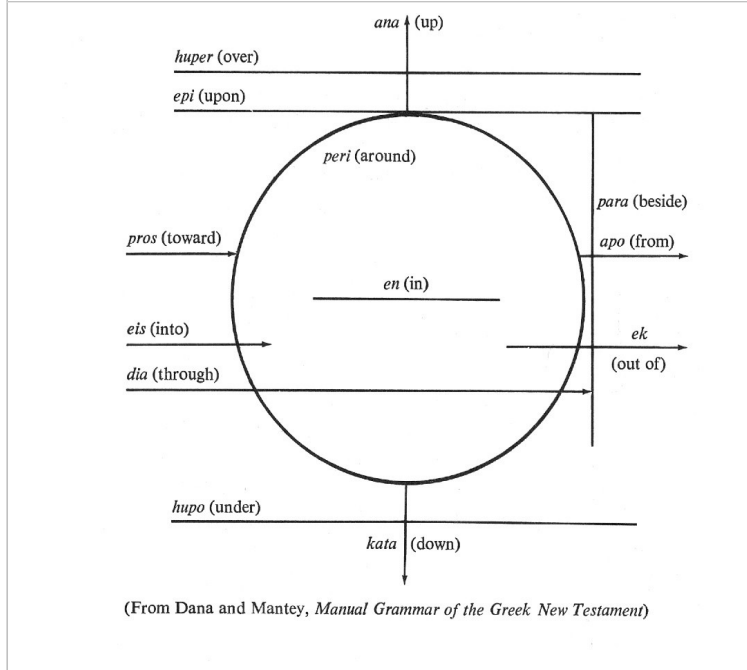
3) Scroll to verse 4 & note "reserved (5772)". The underlined word reserved links to the definition and Strong's # (5772) links to the (TVM). which in this case is "Perfect Passive Participle" with a brief description of each element.

HINT: Remember that if you are studying several passages in a chapter, to save time, retrieve the entire chapter by entering BOOK + CHAPTER #, WITHOUT a verse number. Then you can quickly determine the (TVM) on all the verbs.

Search	<input type="text" value="Search scripture"/>
Section	Whole Bible <input type="checkbox"/>
Translation	NAS Strong's Version <input type="checkbox"/>
	Old Testament Source <input type="radio"/> Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia (BHS) <input checked="" type="radio"/> Septuagint (LXX)
	New Testament Source

<input checked="" type="radio"/> Nestlé-Aland 26 Greek Text <input type="radio"/> 1894 Textus Receptus <input type="radio"/> 1991 Byzantine Greek Text
<input type="button" value="Perform Search"/>

DIAGRAM ILLUSTRATING USE OF GREEK PREPOSITIONS



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- OBSERVATION
- INTERPRETATION
- APPLICATION

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NAVIGATOR'S TOPICAL MEMORY SYSTEM (TMS): with "electronic flash cards" in various Bible translations

PERFORM A GREEK WORD STUDY - how to do a word study using Web-based resources

GREEK QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE - Greek verb tense, voice, mood

GREEK WORD STUDIES - list of in depth Greek word studies currently available on this website

BASICS OF BIBLE INTERPRETATION - Greek Hebrew Figures of speech (Online book by Bob Smith)

INTERPRETATION OF GOD'S WORD: Supernaturalistic, Naturalistic, Existentialistic, Dogmatic



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