

Lesson 19

Ω-Verbs: Second Aorist Active and Middle Indicative, Second Aorist Active and Middle Infinitives, Second Aorist Active and Middle Imperative; Reflexive Pronouns

γνῶθι σαυτόν (Know thyself)
—one of Thales' sayings, quoted by Diogenes Laertius 1.40
and said to have been inscribed on Apollo's temple at Delphi

114. **Second (Asigmatic) Aorists.** Second aorists (also known as asigmatic or strong aorists) lack the distinctive σα of first aorists. Of the verbs you have learned so far, only the following five (and their compounds) have second aorists:

βάλλω	βαλῶ	ἔβαλον (compound: προσέβαλον)
εὐρίσκω	εὐρήσω	εὔρον/ἠῦρον
ἔχω	ἔξω/σχήσω	ἔσχον
λείπω	λείψω	ἔλιπον (compound: ἀπέλιπον)
φεύγω	φεύξομαι	ἔφυγον

Notice that either spelling, εὔρον or ἠῦρον, can be used for the aorist of εὐρίσκω. ἔσχον, the aorist of ἔχω, means “I got hold of”; cf. the imperfect εἶχον (“I had, I possessed”).

Two verbs from previous lessons have both a second aorist and a first aorist:

λέγω	ἐρῶ/λέξω	εἶπον/ἔλεξα
φέρω	οἶσω	ἤνεγκα/ἤνεγκον

There is no difference in meaning between first and second aorist in either verb. Attic Greek much prefers εἶπον to ἔλεξα (which is why we put εἶπον first). ἤνεγκα is missing its σ, but in all other respects is conjugated like a regular first aorist.

