

(continuing the imperfect tense usages)

The customary imperfect: the action was repeated in past time, the interval being more or less regular.

Acts 3:2..."Whom they used to lay daily at the gate of the temple"

This is sometimes called the "iterative" use.

The inceptive imperfect: indicating when the action in progress began.

Matthew 5:2..."And having opened his mouth, he taught (was teaching) them, saying..."

And there are others as well but these should keep us happy for the moment.

THE AORIST TENSE: A simple action describing the action in its entirety...a "fait accompli", so to speak. It is not geared to time but the sort of action...although by this very definition most aorists are "accomplished events"

John 1:12..."As many as received him.." L. 16-17, p. 8
Among the other uses of the Aorist we list the following:

The historical Aorist...a past event viewed in its totality of completeness...a single fact.

John 1:11..."he came to his own" L. 15, p. 8

The epistolatory Aorist...used when sending a communication et al and speaks of the letter as finished when, in fact, it has not been written at all!

1 John 2:14..."I have written to you..."

The Aorist used for the English perfect...more a matter of the way in which things must be translated into English.

Matthew 5:21..."you have heard" The form is aorist but it is only good English to translate it as a perfect in English.

THE FUTURE TENSE: Simple or continuing action in future time

John 14:16..."And I will ask the Father" (simple act) John 16:23...
"Verily, verily I say to you...whatsoever ye shall ask..."
(continuing action)

Among the future uses we note:

The Predictive Future...an action that has not yet happened will happen.

John 13:39..."the cock will not give his voice until you have denied me three times."