

Chapter 68

οἶδα - I know (I have found out, I have seen)

68.1 οἶδα (I know - I have seen) has the grammatical form of a Second Perfect, but without reduplication. The Aorist stem ἰδ- or εἰδ- is used as the Aorist for ὀράω - I see.

In some dictionaries this verb may be listed as εἶδω - I know, although it is not used as such in the Present tense. There were some variations in stem and personal endings over time. Classical as well as Koine forms are given below for future reference.

The stem originally had a digamma φιδ- hence the Latin vidēo - I see

68.2 The Perfect Indicative is

	Attic	Koine	Attic	Koine	
I know	οἶδα	οἶδα	ἴσμεν	οἶδαμεν	we know
you know	οἴσθα	οἴσθας	ἴστε	οἴδατε	you know
he/she/it knows	οἴδε(ν)	οἴδεν	ἴσασι(ν)	οἴδασιν	they know

Practice - until you can read and translate easily

1. πάντα γὰρ ταῦτα τὰ ἔθνη ἐπιζητοῦσιν,
οἴδεν γὰρ ὁ πατήρ ὑμῶν ὁ οὐράνιος
ὅτι χρῆζετε τούτων ἀπάντων.
The Gentiles search after all these things,
for your heavenly father knows (that)
you need all these. (*Matt. 6:32*)
2. εἰ οὖν ὑμεῖς πονηροὶ ὄντες οἴδατε
δόματα ἀγαθὰ διδόναι τοῖς τέκνοις ὑμῶν,
πόσῳ μᾶλλον ὁ πατήρ ὑμῶν . . . δώσει
ἀγαθὰ τοῖς αἰτοῦσιν αὐτόν ;
(τὸ δόμα - gift)
If you then, being evil, know
to give good gifts to your children,
how much more will your Father give
good (things) to those who ask (him)?
(*Matt. 7:11*)
3. οἱ μαθηταὶ λέγουσιν αὐτῷ, Οἴδας ὅτι
οἱ Φαρισαῖοι ἀκούσαντες τὸν λόγον
ἐσκανδαλίσθησαν ;
The disciples say to him, "Do you know that
the Pharisees were offended when they
heard the saying ? (*Matt. 15:12*)
4. ἀποκριθεὶς δὲ ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν,
Οὐκ οἴδατε τί αἰτεῖσθε.
Jesus (having answered) said, "You do not
know what you ask." (*Matt. 20:22*)
5. οἶδα πόθεν ἦλθον καὶ ποῦ ὑπάγω.
I know whence I came and whither I go.
(*John 8:14*)
6. ὑμεῖς δὲ οὐκ οἴδατε πόθεν ἔρχομαι
ἢ ποῦ ὑπάγω.
But you don't know whence I come
nor whither I go. (*John 8:14*)
7. Ῥαββί, οἶδαμεν ὅτι ἀπὸ θεοῦ ἐλήλυθας
διδάσκαλος.
Rabbi, we know that you have come (as)
a teacher from God. (*John 3:2*)
8. ὁ δὲ εἰσερχόμενος διὰ τῆς θύρας
ποιμὴν ἐστὶν τῶν προβάτων . . .
καὶ τὰ πρόβατα αὐτῷ ἀκολουθεῖ,
ὅτι οἴδασιν τὴν φωνὴν αὐτοῦ.
(ἀκολουθεῖ - remember that a Neuter Plural may take a singular verb)
The one entering by the door
is the shepherd of the sheep . . .
and the sheep follow him, because
they know his voice. (*John 10:2,4*)
9. ἀλλοτρίῳ δὲ οὐ μὴ ἀκολουθήσουσιν . . .
ὅτι οὐκ οἴδασιν τῶν ἀλλοτρίων
τὴν φωνήν.
They will not follow another (someone else)
because they do not know
the voice of others. (*John 10:5*)
10. ὑμεῖς προσκυνεῖτε ὃ οὐκ οἴδατε,
ἡμεῖς προσκυνοῦμεν ὃ οἶδαμεν.
You worship that which you do not know,
we worship that which we do know.
(*John 4:22*)

At one point, Luke, reporting a speech by Paul, uses the Attic form rather than the Koine :

11. Τὴν μὲν οὖν βίωσίν μου . . . All the Jews know
 ἴσασι πάντες οἱ Ἰουδαῖοι. my manner of life . . . (Acts 26:4)
 (ἡ βίωσις -εως - manner of life)

68.3 The Perfect Subjunctive and Optative Active

	Perfect Subjunctive	Perfect Optative
I might know	εἰδῶ	εἰδείην
you might know	εἰδῆς	εἰδείης
he/she/it might know	εἰδῆ	εἰδείη
we might know	εἰδῶμεν	εἰδείμεν or εἰδείημεν
y'all might know	εἰδῆτε	εἰδείτε or εἰδείητε
they might know	εἰδῶσι(ν)	εἰδείεν or εἰδείησαν

The Perfect Optative does not occur in the GNT.

Practice - until you can read and translate easily

1. ἵνα δὲ εἰδῆτε ὅτι ἐξουσίαν ἔχει ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς ἀφιέναι τὰς ἁμαρτίας - τότε λέγει τῷ παραλυτικῷ, Ἐγειρθεὶς ἄρον σου τὴν κλίνην καὶ ὕπαγει εἰς τὸν οἶκόν σου. So that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on the earth to forgive sins, - then he says (said) to the paralytic, "Having risen, take up your mattress and go off to your home." (Matt. 9:6)
2. ἡμεῖς δὲ οὐ τὸ πνεῦμα τοῦ κόσμου ἐλάβομεν ἀλλὰ τὸ πνεῦμα τὸ ἐκ τοῦ θεοῦ, ἵνα εἰδῶμεν τὰ ὑπὸ τοῦ θεοῦ χαρισθέντα ἡμῖν. We did not receive the spirit of the world but the Spirit from God, so that we might know the things granted by God to us. (1 Cor. 2:12)
 (χαρισθέντα = Aorist Participle Passive, Nominative/Accusative Neuter Plural of χαρίζομαι - I grant)
3. καὶ ἐὰν . . . εἰδῶ τὰ μυστήρια πάντα . . . ἀγάπην δὲ μὴ ἔχω, οὐδὲν εἰμι. And if I know all mysteries . . . but do not have love, I am nothing. (1 Cor. 13:2)
4. ἐὰν οὖν μὴ εἰδῶ τὴν δύναμιν τῆς φωνῆς, ἔσομαι τῷ λαλοῦντι βάρβαρος καὶ ὁ λαλῶν ἐν ἐμοὶ βάρβαρος. So then, if I do not know the meaning of the language, I will be (as) a foreigner to the one speaking, and the one speaking (will be) (as) a foreigner to me. (1 Cor. 14:11)
 ("τὴν δύναμιν τῆς φωνῆς" - lit. "the power of the sound/voice"
 ὁ βάρβαρος = barbarian, foreigner, non-Greek)
5. ἵνα δὲ εἰδῆτε καὶ ὑμεῖς τὰ κατ' ἐμέ, τί πράσσω, πάντα γνωρίσει ὑμῖν Τυχικός. So that you also may know (the things) about me, what I am doing, Tychicus will let you know. (Eph. 6:21)
6. Ταῦτά σοι γράφω, . . . ἵνα εἰδῆς πῶς δεῖ ἐν οἴκῳ θεοῦ ἀναστρέφεσθαι. I am writing these things to you, so that you may know how one ought to behave in the house(hold) of God. (1 Tim. 3:15)
7. Ταῦτα ἔγραψα ὑμῖν ἵνα εἰδῆτε ὅτι ζωὴν ἔχετε αἰώνιον. I wrote these things to you so that you may know that you have eternal life. (1 John 5:13)

68.4 The Pluperfect Indicative Active is

	Attic	Koine	Attic	Koine	
I knew	ἤδη	ἤδειν	ἤσμεν	ἤδειμεν	we knew
you knew	ἤδησθα	ἤδεις	ἤστε	ἤδειτε	y'all knew
he/she/it knew	ἤδει(ν)	ἤδει	ἤσαν	ἤδεισαν	they knew

Practice - until you can read and translate easily

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|---|--|
| 1. κἀγὼ οὐκ ᾔδειν αὐτόν. | And I did not know him. (<i>John 1:31</i>) |
| 2. ἐκεῖνο δὲ γινώσκετε ὅτι εἰ ᾔδει ὁ οἰκοδεσπότης ποῖα φυλακῆ ὁ κλέπτῃς ἔρχεται, ἐγρηγόρησεν ἄν καὶ οὐκ ἄν εἶασεν διορυχθῆναι τὴν οἰκίαν αὐτοῦ.
(διορυχθῆναι = "to be broken into", Aorist Infinitive Passive of διορύσσω - I dig through - the thief would enter by digging through a wall) | Know this, that if the householder had known at what watch of the night) the thief (comes) was coming, he would have watched and would not have let his house be broken into. (<i>Matt. 24:43</i>) |
| 3. Τί ὅτι ἐζητεῖτέ με ; οὐκ ᾔδειτε ὅτι ἐν τοῖς τοῦ πατρός μου δεῖ εἶναί με ; | Why were you seeking me? Did you not know that I must be in (about) the things of my Father? (<i>Luke 2:49</i>) |
| 4. τὰ δαιμόνια ᾔδεισαν τὸν Χριστὸν αὐτὸν εἶναι. | The demons knew him to be the Christ. (<i>see Luke 4:41</i>) |
| 5. Πονηρὲ δοῦλε, . . . ᾔδεις ὅτι θερίζω ὅπου οὐκ ἔσπειρα. | Wicked slave, you knew that I harvest where I do not sow. (<i>Matt. 25:26</i>) |
| 6. ᾔδει γὰρ ἐξ ἀρχῆς ὁ Ἰησοῦς . . . τίς ἐστὶν ὁ παραδῶσων αὐτόν. | For Jesus knew from the beginning who was the one betraying him. (<i>John 6:64</i>) |
| 7. ἔφη δὲ ὁ Παῦλος, Οὐκ ᾔδειν, ἀδελφοί, ὅτι ἐστὶν ἀρχιερεὺς. | Paul said, "I did not know, brothers, that he is a High Priest." (<i>Acts 23:5</i>) |
| 8. οὐ μέντοι ᾔδεισαν οἱ μαθηταὶ ὅτι Ἰησοῦς ἐστίν. | The disciples did not yet know that it was Jesus. (<i>John 21:4</i>) |
| 9. ἀπεκρίθη Ἰησοῦς καὶ εἶπεν αὐτῇ, Εἰ ᾔδεις τὴν δωρεάν τοῦ θεοῦ . . . | Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God . . ." (<i>John 4:10</i>) |
| 10. αὐτὸς δὲ ᾔδει τοὺς διαλογισμοὺς αὐτῶν . . . | But he knew their thoughts. (<i>Luke 6:8</i>) |

68.5 The Future Indicative of οἶδα is rare in the New Testament

	Attic	Koine	Attic	Koine	
I shall know	εἴσομαι	εἰδήσω	εἰσόμεθα	εἰδήσομεν	we shall know
you will know	εἴση	εἰδήσεις	εἴσεσθε	εἰδήσετε	you will know
he/she/it will know	εἴσεται	εἰδήσει	εἴσονται	εἰδήσουσιν	they will know

Practice - until you can read and translate easily

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| 1. καὶ οὐ μὴ διδάξωσιν ἕκαστος . . . τὸν ἀδελφὸν αὐτοῦ λέγων, Γνωθὶ τὸν κύριον, ὅτι πάντες εἰδήσουσίν με. | And they will not each teach his brother, saying, "Know the Lord.", because they will all know me. (<i>Heb. 8:11</i>) |
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68.6 The Imperatives are

2nd. person singular	ἴσθι	ἴστε	2nd. person plural
3rd. person singular	ἴτω	ἴτων	3rd. person plural

There is the possibility of confusion with the Attic form of the 2nd Person Plural Perfect Indicative, and with the Imperatives of εἰμί

2nd. person singular	ἴσθι	ἔσθε	2nd. person plural
3rd. person singular	ἔστω	ἔστων	3rd. person plural

However, the context will be a guide to the correct translation.

Practice - until you can read and translate easily

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| 1. Ἴστε, ἀδελφοί μου ἀγαπητοί . . .
(<i>James 1:19 - from the context, an Imperative - it is followed by 3rd person Imperatives</i>) | Know (this), beloved brothers . . . |
| 2. ἴστε γὰρ ὅτι . . . θέλων κληρονομήσαι τὴν εὐλογίαν ἀπεδοκιμάσθη.
(<i>Heb. 12:17 - from the context, a statement of a fact which the hearers already know about Esau, hence an Indicative Active</i>) | You know that (wishing) when he wished to inherit the blessing he was rejected. |

3. τοῦτο γὰρ ἴστε γινώσκοντες, ὅτι . . .

For know this, knowing that . . .

For you know this, knowing that . . .

(Eph. 5:5 - this example is ambiguous, but the basic meaning is similar in both cases)

68.7 The Infinitive is εἰδέναι "to know"

Practice - until you can read and translate easily

1. καὶ ἀπεκρίθησαν μὴ εἰδέναι
πόθεν.

They answered that they did not know
from where (it was). (Luke 20:7)

2. ὁ δὲ (Ἰησοῦς) εἶπεν, Λέγω σοι, Πέτρε,
οὐ φωνήσει σήμερον ἀλέκτωρ
ἕως τρίς με ἀπαρνήσῃ εἰδέναι.

Jesus said, "I say to you, Peter, (that)
tomorrow the rooster will not crow
until you deny knowing me three times.
(see Luke 22:34)

3. λέγει αὐτῷ Θωμᾶς, Κύριε,
οὐκ οἶδαμεν ποῦ ὑπάγεις,
πῶς δυνάμεθα τὴν ὁδὸν εἰδέναι ;

Thomas said to him, "Lord,
we do not know where you are going.
How can we know the way ?" (John 14:5)

4. οὐ γὰρ ἔκρινά τι εἰδέναι ἐν ὑμῖν εἰ μὴ
Ἰησοῦν Χριστὸν καὶ τοῦτον ἐσταυρωμένον.

I decided to know nothing among you except
Jesus Christ, and him crucified. (1 Cor. 2:2)

5. θέλω δὲ ὑμᾶς εἰδέναι ὅτι παντὸς ἀνδρὸς
ἡ κεφαλὴ ὁ Χριστός ἐστιν.

I wish you to know that the head
of every man is Christ. (1 Cor. 11:3)

6. οὐ παύομαι εὐχαριστῶν ὑπὲρ ὑμῶν
μνησίαν ποιούμενος ἐπὶ τῶν προσευχῶν μου,
ἵνα ὁ θεὸς . . . δώῃ ὑμῖν πνεῦμα σοφίας
. . . πεφωτισμένους τοὺς ὀφθαλμοὺς τῆς
καρδίας ὑμῶν εἰς τὸ εἰδέναι ὑμᾶς τίς ἐστὶν
ἡ ἐλπίς τῆς κλήσεως αὐτοῦ.

I do not cease to give thanks for you,
making remembrance in my prayers,
that God might give you a spirit of wisdom,
having the eyes of your heart illumined
that you may know what is
the hope of his calling. (Eph. 1:16-18)

(ἡ μνησία - remembrance, a mention in prayer)

7. Θέλω γὰρ ὑμᾶς εἰδέναι ἥλικον ἀγῶνα
ἔχω ὑπὲρ ὑμῶν.

I want you to know how great an effort
I have on your behalf. (Col. 2:1)

8. ὁ λόγος ὑμῶν πάντοτε ἐν χάριτι, . . .
εἰδέναι πῶς δεῖ ὑμᾶς
ἐνὶ ἐκάστῳ ἀποκρίνεσθαι.

(Let) your word (be) always in charity, . . .
(so as) to know how you must answer
evry one. (Col. 4:6)

9. Ἐρωτῶμεν δὲ ὑμᾶς, ἀδελφοί, εἰδέναι
τοὺς κοπιῶντας ἐν ὑμῖν.

We ask (beseech) you, brothers, to know
(recognize) those toiling amongst you.
(1 Thess. 5:12)

10. θεὸν ὁμολογοῦσιν εἰδέναι,
τοῖς δὲ ἔργοις ἀρνοῦνται.

They profess to know God, but by their deeds
they deny (him). (Titus 1:16)

68.8 The Perfect Participle is

	Singular			Plural		
	Masc.	Fem.	Neut.	Masc.	Fem.	Neut.
Nom.	εἰδὼς	εἰδυῖα	εἰδός	εἰδότες	εἰδυῖαι	εἰδότα
Acc.	εἰδότα	εἰδυῖαν	εἰδός	εἰδότας	εἰδυῖας	εἰδότα
Gen.	εἰδότος	εἰδυῖας	εἰδότος	εἰδόντων	εἰδυῖων	εἰδόντων
Dat.	εἰδότι	εἰδυῖα	εἰδότι	εἰδόσιν	εἰδυῖαις	εἰδόσιν

Practice - until you can read and translate easily

1. εἰδὼς δὲ τας ἐνθυμήσεις αὐτῶν
εἶπεν αὐτοῖς, Πᾶσα βασιλεία
μερισθεῖσα καθ' ἑαυτῆς ἐρημοῦται.

Knowing their thoughts, he said to them,
"Every kingdom (having been) divided
against itself is laid waste. (Matt. 12:25)

(μερισθεῖσα - Feminine Aorist Participle Middle/Passive of μερίζω - I divide

ἐρημοῦται - Present Indicative Middle/Passive of ἐρημόω - I lay waste, desolate)

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| 2. ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν αὐτοῖς, Πλανᾶσθε, μὴ εἰδότες τὰς γραφὰς μηδὲ τὴν δύναμιν τοῦ θεοῦ. | Jesus said to them, "You err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God. (Matt. 22:29) |
| 3. εἰδότες οὖν καλὸν ποιεῖν καὶ μὴ ποιοῦντι, ἁμαρτία αὐτῶ ἐστίν. | To the one knowing to do (a) good (thing) and not doing (it), it is sin (to him). (James 4:17) |
| 4. ἡ δὲ γυνὴ . . . εἰδυῖα ὃ γέγονεν αὐτῆς, ἦλθεν καὶ προσέπεσεν αὐτῶ καὶ εἶπεν αὐτῶ πᾶσαν τὴν ἀλήθειαν. | But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell before him and told him all the truth. (Mark 5:33) |
| 5. ὁ γὰρ Ἡρώδης ἐφοβεῖτο τὸν Ἰωάννην εἰδὼς αὐτὸν ἄνδρα δίκαιον καὶ ἅγιον. | For Herod feared John, knowing him (to be) a righteous and holy man. (Mark 6:20) |
| 6. καὶ κατεγέλων αὐτοῦ εἰδότες ὅτι ἀπέθανεν. | And they were laughing at him, knowing that she had died. (Luke 8:53) |
| 7. ἐγένετο δὲ ὡς ὥρων τριῶν διάστημα καὶ ἡ γυνὴ αὐτοῦ μὴ εἰδυῖα τὸ γεγονός εἰσῆλθεν.
(τὸ διάστημα - interval) | There was an interval of about three hours and his wife entered, not knowing what had happened. (Acts 5:7) |
| 8. ὁ δὲ εἰδὼς αὐτῶν τὴν ὑπόκρισιν εἶπεν αὐτοῖς, Τί με πειράζετε ; | But he, knowing their hypocrisy, said to them, "Why are you testing me ?" (Mark 12:15) |
| 9. καὶ καυχώμεθα ἐν ταῖς θλίψεσιν, εἰδότες ὅτι ἡ θλίψις ὑπομονὴν κατεργάζεται. | We rejoice in tribulation(s), knowing that tribulation produces endurance. (Rom. 5:3) |
| 10. εἰδὼς δὲ ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἐν ἑαυτῶ ὅτι γογγύζουσιν περὶ τούτου οἱ μαθηταὶ αὐτοῦ εἶπεν αὐτοῖς, Τοῦτο ὑμᾶς σκανδαλίζει ; | Jesus, knowing within himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, "Does this offend you?" (John 6:61) |

NOTE : The Aorist Participle

ιδῶν ἰδοῦσα ἰδόν

is used for "having seen", which in some contexts is equivalent to "knowing", "realizing"

Practice - until you can read and translate easily

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| 1. καὶ ἰδὼν ὁ Ἰησοῦς τὰς ἐνθυμήσεις αὐτῶν εἶπεν, Ἰνατί ἐνθυμεῖσθε πονηρὰ ἐν ταῖς καρδίαις ὑμῶν ;
(ἡ ἐνθύμησις - thought, deliberation ἐνθυμέομαι - I think, bear in mind, deliberate) | Jesus, knowing/having seen their thoughts, said "Why do you think evil (things) in your hearts ?" (Matt. 9:4) |
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68.9 Sentences for reading and translation

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| 1. ἀπεκρίθη Ἰησοῦς, Οὔτε ἐμὲ οἴδατε οὔτε τὸν πατέρα μου. | (John 8:19) |
| 2. εἰ ἐμὲ ἤδειτε, καὶ τὸν πατέρα μου ἂν ἤδειτε. | (John 8:19) |
| 3. οἶδά σε τίς εἶ, ὁ ἅγιος τοῦ θεοῦ. | (Mark 1:24) |
| 4. καὶ οὐκ ἤφειεν λαλεῖν τὰ δαιμόνια, ὅτι ἤδεισαν αὐτόν. | (Mark 1:34) |
| 5. ὁ δὲ Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν αὐτῶ, . . . τὰς ἐντολὰς οἶδας. | (Mark 10:18-19) |
| 6. ὁ δὲ Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν αὐτοῖς, Οὐκ οἶδατε τί αἰτεῖσθε. | (Mark 10:38) |
| 7. Διδάσκαλε, οἶδαμεν ὅτι ἀληθὴς εἶ. | (Mark 12:14) |
| 8. καὶ πάλιν ἐλθὼν εὔρεν αὐτοὺς καθεύδοντας . . . καὶ οὐκ ἤδεισαν τί ἀποκριθῶσιν αὐτῶ. | (Mark 14:40) |
| 9. καὶ νῦν ἰδοὺ δεδεμένος ἐγὼ τῷ πνεύματι πορεύομαι εἰς Ἱερουσαλήμ, τὰ ἐν αὐτῇ συναντήσοντά μοι μὴ εἰδώς. | (Acts 20:22) |

10. ἡμεῖς οὐ τὸ πνεῦμα τοῦ κοσμοῦ ἐλάβομεν ἀλλὰ τὸ πνεῦμα τὸ ἐκ τοῦ θεοῦ,
ἵνα εἰδῶμεν τὰ ὑπὸ τοῦ θεοῦ χαρισθέντα ἡμῖν. (1 Cor. 2:12)

68.10 Writing Practice : Write the Greek text while saying aloud : Philippians 4:7-8

Τὸ λοιπόν, ἀδελφοί, ὅσα ἐστὶν ἀληθῆ, ὅσα σεμνά, ὅσα δίκαια, ὅσα ἀγνά, ὅσα προσφιλῆ, ὅσα εὐφημα, εἴ τις ἀρετὴ καὶ εἴ τις ἔπαινος, ταῦτα λογίσεσθε .	Finally, brothers, whatever (things) are true, whatever (things) (are) honorable, whatever (things) (are) righteous, whatever (things) (are) holy whatever (things) (are) pleasing, whatever (things) (are) reputable if (there is) some virtue, if (there is) some praise reckon/think about these things.
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68.11 There is no passage for reading and translation.

68.12 Vocabulary to learn

ἐάω	I permit, allow
ἐπιζητέω	I search for, seek after, desire, crave
χρῆζω	I need, have need of
ὁ δεσπότης	master, slave owner, lord
ὁ οἰκοδεσπότης	householder, landowner
μέντοι	however, though, yet