

## ENDINGS OF GREEK VERBS

We distinguish finite and infinite forms. **Finite forms** are those with personal endings (I, you, etc.). Personal endings, all of which have recessive accentuation, come in the following categories:

- active and middle;
- primary, secondary, and imperative.
  - primary: for present, future, and perfect indicatives; and all subjunctives.
  - secondary: for all augmented forms: imperfect, aorist, pluperfect; and all optatives.
  - **Only secondary indicatives** have augments.

### Overview of finite forms:

persons	active			middle		
	primary	secondary	imperative	primary	secondary	imperative
1sg	-ω, -μι	-ν	X	-μαι	-μην	X
2sg	-ις, -ς	-ς	∅	-σαι	-σο	-σο
3sg	-ι, -σι	∅	-τω	-ται	-το	-θω
1 pl	-μεν	-μεν	X	-μεθα	-μεθα	X
2 pl	-τε	-τε	-τε	-θε	-θε	-θε
3 pl	-σι, -ασι	-ν	-των	-νται	-το	-θων

X = form does not exist. ∅ = no ending follows the stem (+theme vowel, if applicable).

### General notes:

- Bad things happen to the primary active indicative endings in the sg, so that you often don't see them exactly like this. Bad things also happen to endings starting in -s plus vowel, such as the 2sg middle endings. Some of these then got 'restored'.
- Good news: look at the 1st and 2nd plural forms.
- More regularity: 2sg tends to have -s, 3pl tends to have -n. For 3rd sg/pl middle, watch -ται vs. -νται ; -το vs. -ντο.
- 1sg tends to have -m, but this goes to -n at the end of a word after a vowel. This, plus the loss of an original -t from -nt in the 3rd plural (Joanna's rap rule), makes some 1sg and 3pl endings coincide. Following a consonant, -m will 'vocalize' as -a! : e-lus-m --> ἔλυσσ
- Note that some paradigms come with theme vowels (λύω, ἤγαγον), some not.
- Subjunctive forms you recognize by their lengthened theme vowels (ω, η) (U 31)
- Optatives you recognize by the iotas (ι, ιη, ιε) and the secondary endings. (U 32)

## Non-finite forms

**If you conclude that a form is non-finite, there are two possibilities: The form is an infinitive, or it is a participle** (or it is a verbal adjective, to be introduced in unit 42). **There are far fewer infinitive forms than participle forms, so if you want to proceed by elimination, start with the infinitives:**

### Infinitives:

- Active infinitives come in various flavors: -ειν, -ναι, -(σ)αι
  - The inf. in -ειν will contract with preceding vowels, so that you can find τιμᾶν, δηλοῦν for a and o contracts, respectively. A circumflex on the ending can indicate a present or future contract (ποιεῖν, μενεῖν) but also a thematic aorist: φυγεῖν.
- Middle infinitives come in **one form only**: -σθαι
- Accentuation: has to be learned by type. Infinitives and participles do not have recessive accent like finite forms.
- The difference in accent between the present active infinitive of thematic verbs and that of thematic aorist forms provides you with an extra clue for identification: βάλλειν - βαλεῖν, φεύγειν - φυγεῖν show a slight difference in stem, but also a systematic difference in accent!

**Participles** are declined for number, case, and gender, and have persistent accentuation like nouns. Forms:

### Active participles

- in -ων, -ουσα, ον;
- in -ας, -ασα, -αν;
- in -εις, -εισα, -εν;
- in -ους, -ουσα, -ον; and
- in -υς, -υσα, -υν

are all declined like -ντ stems in masculine and neuter; like δόξα in feminine (this includes a fem.gen.pl. in -ῶν).

The perfect active participle in -ώς, -ότος; -ῦα, -ῦιας; ὄς, -ότος is declined like a dental stem in masculine and neuter (i.e., no lengthening in dat.pl.); like ὑγεία in feminine.

Middle participles in **one form only**: -μενος, -μένη, -μενον. They are declined like three-ending adjectives such as ἀγαθός, -ή, -ον. (*Adjective*, and therefore gen.pl. in all genders = -ων). Perfect middle participles are only different in accentuation: -μένος, -μένη, -μένον.

## VERB STEMS

Greek verbs predominantly show the following types of stems [And this is helpful to know because **verbs of similar types behave similarly** under stress:-) That is, their principal parts tend to look the same. Know λύω, and you'll know most 'vowel' stems. Alternatively, you may disregard the regularity and memorize the principal parts for every single Greek verb in existence. You choose!]

- Stems in vowels: λύ-ω, κελεύ-ω
- Stems in labial plosives: πέμπ-ω, τρίβ-ω, γράφ-ω
  - Strengthened labial plosives take the form -πτω:
    - κλέπτω with stem κλεπ-
    - βλάπτω with stem βλαβ-
- Stems in velar plosives: διώκ-ω, ἄγ-ω, ἄρχ-ω
  - Strengthened velar plosives take the form -ττω (or -σσω):
    - φυλάττω with stem φυλακ-
    - τάττω with stem ταγ-
- Stems in dental plosives: ψεύδ-ω, πείθ-ω
  - Strengthened dental plosives take the form -άζω or ίζω:
    - νομίζω with stem νομιδ-
- Stems in liquids: ἐθέλ-ω, μέν-ω, νέμ-ω, δέρ-ω
  - Strengthened liquid stems can show doubling of l, addition of i to the stem vowel, or lengthening of the stem vowel:
    - ἀγγέλλω, βάλλω with stems ἀγγελ-, βαλ-
    - φαίνω, φθείρω with stems φαν-, φθερ-
    - κρῖνω with stem κριν.

Besides these types of 'strengthening', there is a number of other present suffixes (additions at the end of the stem) and infixes (additions within the stem):

- Stems plus -νυ δείκνυμι (aor ἔ-δειξα)
- Stems plus -(ι)σκ ἀπο-θνήσκω εὐρ-ίσκω (aor ἀπ-έ-θαν-ο-ν, ηῦρ-ο-ν)
  - (-σκ- and pres. reduplication: γιγνώσκω) (aor ἔ-γνω-ν)
- Stems plus -n-; -ne-; -an; -n/m- +an:
  - τέμνω (aor ἔ-τεμ-ο-ν)
  - ἀφ-ικνέομαι, ὑπισχνέομαι (aor ἀφ-ικ-ό-μην ὑπ-ε-σχ-ό-μην)
  - ἁμαρτάνω (aor ἦμαρτον)
  - λαμβάνω, μανθάνω, πυνθάνομαι (aor ἔ-λαβ-ο-ν, ἔ-μαθ-ο-ν, ἐ-πυθ-ό-μην)
- Finally, a small group of verbs show *present reduplication*. The first consonant of the stem plus iota are affixed to the beginning of the stem (aspirated consonants lose their aspiration; s becomes h):
  - δί-δωμι, ἴ-ημι, τί-θημι, ἴ-στημι, γι-γνώσκω, γί-γνομαι, ἀνα-μι-μνήσκω