

## Some Principle Parts and Their Morphologies

Present Active	Future Active <sup>1</sup>	Aorist Active <sup>2</sup>	Perfect Active <sup>3</sup>	Perfect Middle or Passive <sup>4</sup>	Aorist Passive <sup>5</sup>
βλέπω	βλέψω <sup>6</sup>	ἔβλεψα	ἔώρακα / ἔόρακα <sup>7</sup>	ὤμμαι	ὤφθην
γινώσκω	γνώσομαι <sup>8</sup>	ἔγνων <sup>9</sup>	ἔγνωκα <sup>10</sup>	ἔγνωσμαι <sup>11</sup>	ἔγνώσθην
γράφω	γράψω	ἔγραψα	γέγραφα	γέγραμμαι <sup>12</sup>	ἔγραφην
διδάσκω	διδάξω <sup>13</sup>	ἔδιδάξα	δεδίδαχα <sup>14</sup>	δεδίδαγμαι <sup>15</sup>	ἔδιδάχθην <sup>16</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The normal sign of the future is the addition of a σ before the verb ending proper.

<sup>2</sup> All secondary tenses (i.e. imperfect, aorist, and pluperfect) add an ε to the front of an initial consonant or lengthening an initial vowel or diphthong (augment). The aorist has two basic ending schemes. One adds σα to the stem (in the principal part), and the σ combines with labials and velars exactly as in the future. The other typically involves a stem change (not infrequently in the form of a lost or added letter) and the addition of the ending ον.

<sup>3</sup> The perfect active typically prefixes an \_ε to the verb (reduplication), where \_ stands for the beginning consonant of the verb and adds the ending κα or α to form the principle part. When the verb begins with a vowel, the reduplication often consists of the lengthening of the initial vowel. When the verb begins with two consonants, the reduplication often consists of simply prefixing an ε to the verb.

<sup>4</sup> The perfect middle or passive will reduplicate like the perfect active and typically adds a μαι ending to the stem of the verb.

<sup>5</sup> The aorist passive will typically augment like the active and add either a θην or ην ending.

<sup>6</sup> When the σ of the future follows a labial consonant (i.e. one pronounced with the lips)—β, π, or φ—the s combines with this consonant to form the double consonant ψ (NTGB §163).

<sup>7</sup> The verb βλέπω shares some of its principle parts with the verb ὄραω. The stem is actually *Forα*. The easiest way to understand the formation of the perfect is to see the reduplication irregularly as ε, hence *Forα* → ε*Forα* → εορα. The ο may or may not be lengthened to ω before adding the ending (MBG 270 n. 1).

<sup>8</sup> Sometimes, the *real* stem of a verb is not exactly the same as the *lexical* stem (i.e. the stem you use to find a verb in a lexicon). Here, the stem is γνο, which forms the present by γιγνοσκω (the stem being a μι form) → γινοσκω → γινωσκω → γίνωσκω (MBG 312 n. 6). However, it is probably easier to simply remember that the present active has an ι between the γ and the ν. Also, some verbs may be deponent (i.e. take a middle or passive ending with an active sense), but these will be studied later.

<sup>9</sup> An ω appears instead of the typical ο because the aorist is from a μι form.

<sup>10</sup> A short vowel immediately before a consonant in a verb ending will often lengthen, hence the stem γνο → γνω.

<sup>11</sup> Verbs may sometimes add a σ after the stem (MBG §46.5).

<sup>12</sup> A labial consonant before a μ changes into a μ (MBG §21.1).

<sup>13</sup> The verb stem is actually δακ, and the δι is prefixed after the fashion of μι verbs. When the σ of the future follows a velar consonant (i.e. one pronounced by touching the tongue to the velum, or soft palate)—κ, γ, or χ—the s combines with this consonant to form the double consonant ξ (NTGB §163).

<sup>14</sup> The stem apparently changes to δαχ for the perfect active.

Present Active	Future Active	Aorist Active	Perfect Active	Perfect Middle or Passive	Aorist Passive
ἔχω	ἔξω <sup>17</sup>	ἔσχον <sup>18</sup>	ἔσχηκα <sup>19</sup>	-	-
λαμβάνω	λήψομαι <sup>20</sup>	ἔλαβον	εἴληφα <sup>21</sup>	εἴλημαι	ἐλήμφθην <sup>22</sup>
λέγω	ἔρῶ <sup>23</sup>	εἶπον <sup>24</sup>	εἴρηκα <sup>25</sup>	εἴρημαι	ἐρρέθην / ἐρρήθην <sup>26</sup>
λύω	λύσω	ἔλυσα	λέλυκα	λέλυμαι	ἐλύθην

<sup>15</sup> The stem apparently changes to δαγ for the perfect middle or passive.

<sup>16</sup> The δακ is used, and a κ or γ changes to χ before the θ of the aorist passive (NTGB §213).

<sup>17</sup> Note the reversal of the breathing mark. The stem is really σεχ. However, the σ drops out, and the rough breathing appears to compensate for the loss. However, whenever an aspirate consonant (i.e. those that come from unrestricted airflow through the mouth)—θ, φ, χ, or ρ—elsewhere in the verb, ρ deaspirates into ρ̄. When the other aspirate consonant is lost, as in the future, the ρ̄ returns (MBG §11.17, 260 n. 10). Yet, again, it is probably easier to simply remember the odd breathing in the future active.

<sup>18</sup> The ε in the stem σεχ dropped out, but the augment is normal (MBG 260 n. 12).

<sup>19</sup> The ε of the stem σεχ appears after the χ in the lengthened form of η (MBG §45.3, 260 n. 10).

<sup>20</sup> The stem vowel α has simply lengthened to η (MBG 306 n. 6).

<sup>21</sup> This stem reduplicates simply with the vowel ε. Its morphology is: λαβ → ελαβ → ειλαβ → ειληβ → ειληφ → ειληφα → εἴληφα (MGB 306 n. 7).

<sup>22</sup> The letters β or π change to φ before the θ of the aorist passive (NTGB §213). Otherwise, the augment is regular with the stem vowel lengthened as in the perfect.

<sup>23</sup> Relatively rarely, verbs may have more than one stem. Here the stem was Fερ. The F is an old Greek letter called the digamma that had fallen out of use by the Koine period; however, its influence could still be felt in word formation. In this case, F simply dropped off (MBG 261 n. 2-3). Yet, it is probably easier to think of the stem as ερ. The accent is irregularly placed because this word ends in a liquid consonant (i.e. one pronounced with the tongue touching or near the front of the mouth while allowing air to flow freely [as a liquid] on both sides)—λ, μ, ν, or ρ (MBG §11.18). These verbs form their futures slightly differently than other verbs, but this need not be a concern at present.

<sup>24</sup> The stem here is Fεπ and the principle part is formed: Fεπ → εFεπ → εεπ → ειπ → ειπον → εἶπον (MBG 261 n. 4).

<sup>25</sup> The stem Fρη is reduplicated only with the vowel ε as follows: Fρη → εFρη → ειρη → ειρηκα → εἴρηκα (MBG 261 n. 5).

<sup>26</sup> The stem Fρη is used as follows: Fρη → εFρη → ερρη → ερρηθην → ἐρρήθην. Alternatively, the η of the stem may also shorten into ε (MBG 261 n. 7).