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Ancient Greek

Morphology – Part 4: Conjugation



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Roadmap

- Conjugation
 - Categories of the Greek verb
 - Verbal stem-formation
 - Voice
 - Reduplication

Categories of the Greek verb

- Greek verbal system: five categories expressed
 - **Tense/aspect-stem**
 - **Voice**: active vs. middle (vs. passive)
 - **Mood, person and number**: finite forms only

Primary vs. secondary endings

- Indicative forms are marked for **tense** (indic. I vs. II)

Sample paradigm: λύω (active)

	Present	Aorist	Perfect	Future
Indicative I	λύω		λέλυκα	λύσω
Indicative II	ἔλυον	ἔλυσα	έλελύκη	
Subjunctive	λύω	λύσω	λελύκω	
Optative	λύοιμι	λύσαιμι	λελύκοιμι	λύσοιμι
Imperative	λύε	λύσον		
Infinitive	λύειν	λύσαι	λελυκέναι	λύσειν
Participle	λύων	λύσας	λελυκώς	λύσων

Verbal stem-formation

- Greek verbal paradigms based on **4 tense-aspect stems**:
 - Present stem (imperfective aspect), e.g. λυε/ο-
 - Aorist stem (perfective aspect) λυσ- (+ λυθη-)
 - Perfect stem (stative *Aktionsart*) λελυκ- (+ λελυ-)
 - Future stem (future tense) λυσε/ο- (+ λυθησε/ο-)

- Additional **derived stems**, e.g. past iterative in -σκε/ο-, redupl. aor.
 - Only in epic Greek (and Ionic); lost in Attic Greek

Verbal stem-formation

- **Morphological devices** in verbal stem formation:
- Mainly **suffixation**, e.g. -σ- (aor./fut., act./midd.)
 - -θη- (aor./fut. pass.)
 - -κ- (perf. act.)
- **Reduplication**: both in derivation and inflection
- The **augment**:
 - prefix ἐ- or lengthening of stem-initial /V-/
 - Attic: obligatory marker of indicative II
 - Original function disputed (temporal or pragmatic/aspectual?)

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Optative	λύοιμι	λύσαιμι	λελύκοιμι	λύσοιμι
Imperative	λύε	λύσον		
Infinitive	λύειν	λύσαι	λελυκέναι	λύσειν
Participle	λύων	λύσας	λελυκώς	λύσων

Sample paradigm: λύω (active)

	Present	Aorist	Perfect	Future
Indicative I	λύω		λέλυκα	λύ <u>σ</u> ω
Indicative II	ἔλυον	ἔλυ <u>σ</u> α	έλελύκη	
Subjunctive	λύω	λύ <u>σ</u> ω	λελύκω	
Optative	λύοιμι	λύ <u>σ</u> αιμι	λελύκοιμι	λύ <u>σ</u> οιμι
Imperative	λύε	λύ <u>σ</u> ον		
Infinitive	λύειν	λύ <u>σ</u> αι	λελυκέναι	λύ <u>σ</u> ειν
Participle	λύων	λύ <u>σ</u> ας	λελυκώς	λύ <u>σ</u> ων

Sample paradigm: λύω (active)

	Present	Aorist	Perfect	Future
Indicative I	λύω		λέλυ <u>κα</u>	λύσω
Indicative II	ἔλυον	ἔλυσα	έλελύ <u>κη</u>	
Subjunctive	λύω	λύσω	λελύ <u>κω</u>	
Optative	λύοιμι	λύσαιμι	λελύ <u>κοιμι</u>	λύσοιμι
Imperative	λύε	λύσον		
Infinitive	λύειν	λύσαι	λελυ <u>κέναι</u>	λύσειν
Participle	λύων	λύσας	λελυ <u>κώς</u>	λύσων

Sample paradigm: λύω (active)

	Present	Aorist	Perfect	Future
Indicative I	λύω		<u>λέ</u> λυκα	λύσω
Indicative II	ἔλυον	ἔλυσα	ἐ <u>λε</u> λύκη	
Subjunctive	λύω	λύσω	<u>λε</u> λύκω	
Optative	λύοιμι	λύσαιμι	<u>λε</u> λύκοιμι	λύσοιμι
Imperative	λύε	λύσον		
Infinitive	λύειν	λύσαι	<u>λε</u> λυκέναι	λύσειν
Participle	λύων	λύσας	<u>λε</u> λυκώς	λύσων

Sample paradigm: λύω (active)

	Present	Aorist	Perfect	Future
Indicative I	λύω		λέλυκα	λύσω
Indicative II	ἔλυον	ἔλυσα	ἔλελύκη	
Subjunctive	λύω	λύσω	λελύκω	
Optative	λύοιμι	λύσαιμι	λελύκοιμι	λύσοιμι
Imperative	λύε	λύσον		
Infinitive	λύειν	λύσαι	λελυκέναι	λύσειν
Participle	λύων	λύσας	λελυκώς	λύσων

Voice

- **Voice:** active vs. medio-passive:
 - pres. act. λύω ‘I am releasing’ (S = agent)
 - pres. mid.-pass. λύομαι ‘I am releasing’ (S = affected, agent)
 - *or:* ‘I am being released’ (S = affected, patient)

- Morphological **passive** only in aorist and future stems:
 - Aor. act. ἔλυσα ‘I released’ (S = agent)
 - Aor. mid. ἐλυσάμην ‘I released’ (S = affected, agent)
 - Aor. pass. ἐλύθην ‘I was released’ (S = affected, patient)

Sample paradigm: λύω (active)

	Present	Aorist	Perfect	Future
Indicative I	λύω		λέλυκα	λύσω
Indicative II	ἔλυον	ἔλυσα	έλελύκη	
Subjunctive	λύω	λύσω	λελύκω	
Optative	λύοιμι	λύσαιμι	λελύκοιμι	λύσοιμι
Imperative	λύε	λύσον		
Infinitive	λύειν	λύσαι	λελυκέναι	λύσειν
Participle	λύων	λύσας	λελυκώς	λύσων

Sample paradigm: λύομαι (middle)

	Present	Aorist	Perfect	Future
Indicative I	λύομαι		λέλυμαι	λύσομαι
Indicative II	ἐλύομην	ἐλυσάμην	ἐλελύμην	
Subjunctive	λύωμαι	λύσωμαι	λελυμένος ᾧ	
Optative	λυοίμην	λυσαιίμην	λελυμένος εἶην	λυσοίμην
Imperative	λύου	λῦσαι	λέλυσο	
Infinitive	λύεσθαι	λύσασθαι	λελύσθαι	λύσεσθαι
Participle	λυόμενος	λυσάμενος	λελυμένος	λυσόμενος

Sample paradigm: λύομαι (passive)

	Present	Aorist	Perfect	Future
Indicative I	λύομαι		λέλυμαι	λυθήσομαι
Indicative II	ἐλυόμην	ἐλύθην	ἐλελύμην	
Subjunctive	λύωμαι	λυθῶ	λελυμένος ᾧ	
Optative	λυοίμην	λυθείην	λελυμένος εἶην	λυθησοίμην
Imperative	λύου	λύθητι	λέλυσο	
Infinitive	λύεσθαι	λυθῆναι	λελύσθαι	λυθήσεσθαι
Participle	λυόμενος	λυθείς	λελυμένος	λυθησόμενος

Reduplication

- **Reduplication:** productive in conjugation only in **perfect** stem
- /Ce-/ with onsets /C-/ (except *r*) or /CR-/

λειπ- > λέ-λοιπ-α 'I have left' (o-grade root)
βλη- > βέ-βλη-μαι 'I have been hit'

Reduplication

- **Reduplication:** productive in conjugation only in **perfect** stem
- /e-/ with onsets /T₁T₂-/ or /sT-/, /Ts-/ or /r-/

κτεν- > ἔκτον-α 'I have killed'

σφαγ- > ἔσφακ-ται 'it has been butchered'

ῥαφ- > ἔρραπ-ται 'it has been stitched'

Reduplication

- **Reduplication:** productive in conjugation only in **perfect** stem
- /e-/ with onsets /T₁T₂-/ or /sT-/, /Ts-/ or /r-/

κτεν- > ἔκτον-α 'I have killed'

σφαγ- > ἔσφακ-ται 'it has been butchered' < *se-sp^hag-

ῥαφ- > ἔρραπ-ται 'it has been stitched' < *se-srap^h-

Reduplication

- Perfect stem: **Attic reduplication**
- In roots with initial /VC-/, copy /VC-/ and lengthen root-initial /V-/

έλευθ- > έλ-ήλυθ-α ‘I have come’

άκο(υ)- > άκ-ήκο-α ‘I have heard’

άρ- > άρ-ηρ-ε ‘it fits’

- Originally in roots starting with a PIE laryngeal

Reduplication

- **Reduplication:** otherwise only in derivation
- Reduplicated aorist (derived causative stem), productive in Homer
 - φραδ- ‘notice’ > ἐ-πέ-φραδ-ον ‘I pointed out’ (e-vocalism)
- Present stems (not productive):
 - red. root present (athem.) (i-vocalism) τί-θη-μι ‘put’
 - red. root present (them.) μί-μν-ω μένω ‘stay’
 - red. -ske/o- present γι-γνώ-σκω ‘recognize’