

PRINCIPAL PARTS OF FREQUENCY USED IRREGULAR GREEK VERBS

The verb tenses in Greek are divided into six basic “systems” called *Principal Parts*. Each system has a distinct verb stem, from which all the various tenses and their respective “voices” are built. The six systems and their respective tenses and voices are as follows:

System	Principal Parts	Tenses and Voices
1. PRESENT ACTIVE	(λύω)	<i>Present & Imperfect (all voices)</i>
2. FUTURE ACTIVE	(λύσω)	<i>Future Active & Middle</i>
3. AORIST ACTIVE	(ἔλυσα)	<i>Aorist Active & Middle</i>
4. PERFECT ACTIVE	(λέλυκα)	<i>Perfect & Pluperfect Active</i>
5. PERFECT MIDDLE & PASSIVE	(λέλυμαι)	<i>Perfect & Pluperfect Middle & Passive</i>
6. AORIST PASSIVE	(ἐλύθην)	<i>Aorist & Future Passive</i>

In order to recognize a Greek verb, it is necessary to be familiar with its principal parts. The “regular” principal parts system is represented by λύω (above). The *Principal Parts* chart that follows charts the principal parts of many frequently encountered “irregular” verbs occurring in the *Greek New Testament*, shown in alphabetical order. All forms listed (where they actually occur in the New Testament) are in the *Indicative Mode, 1st Person, Singular*. Verbs in each principal part are broken down into augment, stem + tense suffix, and ending, respectively, as they occur within a given principal part.

Particularly represented among the irregular verbs are: “Contract” verbs (stems ending in α-, ε-, or ο-), “Deponent” verbs (verbs with “middle/ passive” endings that are translated “actively”), “Defective” verbs (*Aorist* verb forms with “middle/passive” endings that are translated “actively”), “Liquid” verbs (stems ending in λ-, ν-, or ρ-), “μ”-Verbs (present principal part ending in -μι), and “Mute Stem” verbs (“labial” stems, ending with β, π, or φ; “palatal” [guttural] stems, ending with γ, κ, or χ; and, “dental” [lingual] stems, ending with δ, τ, or θ). Remember also, that the verb’s *actual* stem is not always the same as its “present” stem (e.g., σώζω, present stem: σωζ-, actual verb stem: σωδ-).

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Present Active λύ ω	Future Active λύσ ω	Aorist Active ἔ λυσ α	Perfect Active λέ λυκ α	Perfect Middle/Passive λέ λυ μαι	Aorist Passive ἔ λύθη ν
A					
ἀγγέλλ ω	ἀγγελῶ	ἤ γγειλ α		ἤ γγελ μαι	ἤ γγέλ ν
ἄγ ω	ἄξ ω	ἤ γαγ ον		ἤ γ μαι	ἤ χθη ν
αἰρέ ω	αἰρήσ ομαι*	εἶ λ ον	ἤ ρηκ α	ἤ ρη μαι	ἤ ρέθη ν
αἶρ ω	ἄρ ῶ	ἤ ρ α	ἤ ρκ α	ἤ ρ μαι	ἤ ρθη ν
ἀκού ω	ἀκούσ ω	ἤ κουσ α	ἀκ ή κο α**		ἤ κούσθη ν
ἀμαρτάν ω	ἀμαρτήσ ω	ἤ μαρτ ον	ἤ μάρτηκ α ἤ μάρτησ α		
ἀνοίγ ω	ἀνοίξ ω	ἤ νοιξ α (ἤ νέωξ α)	ἀνέωγ α	ἤ νέωγ μαι	ἤ νέωχθη ν
ἀποκτείν ω	ἀποκτενῶ	ἀπ έ κτειν α			ἀπ ε κτάνθη ν
ἀπόλλυ μι	ἀπολέσ ω	ἀπ ώ λεισ α	ἀπ ώ λωλ α		
ἄρέσκ ω	ἄρέσ ω	ἤ ρεισ α			ἤ ρέσθη ν
ἀρνέ ομαι*	ἀρνέσ ομαι*	ἤ ρνησ άμην*		ἤ ρνη μαι	ἤ ρνήθη ν
ἄρχ ω	ἄρξ ομαι*	ἤ ρξ άμην*			
ἀφή μι	ἀφήσ ω	ἀφήκ α***	ἀφείκ α	ἀφεί μαι	ἀφέθη ν
B					
-βαίν ω ²	-βήσ ομαι	-ἔ βη ν	-βέ βηκ α		
βάλλ ω	βαλῶ	ἔ βαλ ον	βέ βλήκ α	βε βλή μαι	έ βλήθη ν
Γ					
γαμέ ω	γαμήσ ω	ἔ γημ α	γε γάμηκ α		έ γαμήθη ν
γίν ομαι*	γενήσ ομαι*	έ γεν όμην*	γέ γον α	γε γένη μαι	έ γενήθη ν
γινώσκ ω	γνώσ ομαι*	ἔ γνω ν	ἔ γνωκ α	ἔ γνωσ μαι	έ γνώσθη ν
γράφ ω	γράψ ω	ἔ γραψ α	γέ γραφ α ¹	γέ γραμ μαι	έ γράφη ν

* Deponent (or Defective) in this part

** Double reduplicaton

*** κ-Aorist

¹Second Perfect

²This verb always occurs in compound with a prepositional prefix (e.g., ἀναβαίνω)

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Present Active λύ ω	Future Active λύσ ω	Aorist Active ἔ λυσ α	Perfect Active λέ λυκ α	Perfect Mid./Pass. λέ λυ μαι	Aorist Passive ἔ λύθη ν
Δ					
δείκνυ μι	δείξ ω	ἔ δειξ α		δέ δειγ μαι	έ δείχθη ν
δέχ ομαι*	δέξ ομαι*	έ δεξ άμην*		δέ δειγ μαι	έ δέχθη ν
διδάσκ ω	διδάξ ω	έ διδάξ α			έ διδάχθη ν
δίδω μι	δώσ ω	ἔ δωκ α***	δέ δωκ α	δέ δο μαι	έ δόθη ν
διώκ ω	διώξ ω	έ διώξ α		δε δίωγ μαι	έ διώχθη ν
δύν αμαι* ³	δυνήσ ομαι				ή δυνήθη ν (ή δυνάσθη ν)
E					
έγγίζ ω	έγγίσ ω	ή γγισ α	ή γγικ α		
εί μί	ἔσ ομαι*	ήμην (Imperfect)			
έλπίζ ω	έλπι ω	ή λπισ α	ή λπικ α		
εργάζ ομαι*		ή ργασ άμην*			εί ργάσθη ν
έρχ ομαι*	έλευσ ομαι*	ή λθ ον ⁴	έλ ή λυθ α ⁵		
έσθί ω	φάγ ομαι*	ἔ φαγ ον			
εὐαγγελίζ ω	εὐαγγελίσ ω	εὐ η γγέλισ α (-άμην*)		εὐ η γγελίσ μαι	εὐ η γγελίσθη ν
εὐρίσκ ω	εὐρήσ ω	εὐρ ον	εὐρηκ α		εὐρέθη ν
εὐχ ομαι*	εὐξ ομαι*	εὐξ αμην*			
έχ ω	έξ ω	ἔ σχ ον	ἔ σχηκ α		
Θ					
Θέλ ω	θελήσ ω	ή θέλησ α			
-θνήσκ ω ²	-θανοῦ μαι* ²	-ε θάν ον ²	τε θνήκ α		

* Deponent (or Defective) in this part

²This verb always occurs in compound with a prepositional prefix (e.g., ἀποθνήσκω)

³This deponent Greek verb utilizes a thematic "α" vowel in forming its Present endings.

⁴Stem for this 2nd Aorist verb is "έλθ-"

⁵Double reduplication, Second Perfect

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Present Active λύ ω	Future Active λύσ ω	Aorist Active ἔ λυσ α	Perfect Active λέ λυκ α	Perfect Mid./Pass. λέ λυ μαι	Aorist Passive ἔ λύθη ν
I ἴσθη μι	στήσ ω	ἔ στησ α	ἔ στηκ α ⁶		ἔ στάθη ν
K καί ω	καύσ ω	ἔ καυσ α		κέ καν μαι	ἔ καύθη ν
καλέ ω	καλέσ ω ⁷	ἐκάλεσ α ⁷	κέ κληκ α	κέ κλη μαι	ἔ κλήθη ν
κλίν ω	κλιν ῶ	ἔ κλιν α	κέ κλικ α		ἔ κλίθη ν
κρίν ω	κριν ῶ	ἔ κριν α	κέ κρικ α	κέ κρι μαι	ἔ κρίθη ν
Λ λαμβάν ω	λήμψ ομαι (λήψ ομαι)	ἔ λαβ ον	εἴ ληφ α ⁵	εἴ λημ μαι	ἔ λήφθη ν
λείπ ω	λείψ ω	ἔ λιπ ον	λέ λοιπ α ¹	λέ λειμ μαι	ἔ λείφη ν
M μανθάν ω		ἔ μαθ ον	με μάθηκ α		
μέλλ ω	μελλήσ ω	ἦ μελλ ον ⁸ (ἔ μελλ ον)			
μέν ω	μεν ῶ	ἔ μειν α	με μνήκ α		
μμησκ ω	μνήσ ω	ἔ μνησ α		μέ μνη μαι	ἔ μνήσθη ν
O όρά ω	ὄψ ομαι ⁹	εἶδ ον	έώ ρακ α ⁵		
P πάσχ ω		ἔ παθ ον	πέ πονθ α		
πείθ ω	πείσ ω	ἔ πείσ α	πέ ποιθ α	πέ πιεσ μαι	ἔ πείσθη ν
πίν ω	πί ομαι*	ἔ πι ον	πέ πωκ α		ἔ πόθη ν
πίπτ ω	πεσ οῦμαι*	ἔ πεσ ον	πέ πτωκ α		

* Deponent (or Defective) in this part

¹Second Perfect

⁵Double reduplication; note change back to “rough breathing” as in present part.

⁶Note “rough breathing” over the reduplication (like the augment): “ἐ-”

⁷Does not lengthen final stem vowel before “σ”

⁸Even though the present part has no initial vowel, this verb normally forms its augment with a long vowel (“ἦ”).

⁹Note the change from “rough breathing” in the present part to “smooth breathing” in the future part.

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Present Active λύ ω	Future Active λύσ ω	Aorist Active ἔ λυσ α	Perfect Active λέ λυκ α	Perfect Mid./Pass. λέ λυ μαι	Aorist Passive ἔ λύθη ν
Σ					
στέλλ ω	στέλ ω̄	ἐ στειλ α	ἔ σταλκ α	ἔ σταλ μαι	ἐ στάλη ν
στρέφ ω	στρέψ ω	ἔ στρεψ α		ἔ στραμ μαι	ἐ στράφη ν
σώζ ω	σώσ ω	ἔ σωσ α	σέ σωκ α	σέ σω μαι	ἐ σώθη ν
Τ					
τελέ ω	τελέσ ω ⁷	ἐ τέλεσ α	τε τέλεκ α	τε τέλεσ μαι	ἐ τελέσθη ν
τίθη μι	θήσ ω	ἔ θηκ α	τέ θεικ α	τέ θει μαι	ἐ τέθη ν
τρέχ ω		ἔ δραμ ον			
Φ					
φαίν ω	φαν οῦμαι*	ἔ φαν α			ἐ φάνη ν
φέρ ω	οἶσ ω	ἦ νεγκ α**	ἐνή νοχ α ^{1,5}		ἦ νέχθη ν
φεύγ ω	φεύξ ομαι*	ἔ φυγ ον	πέ φευγ α ¹		
φθείρ ω	φθερῶ	ἔ φθειρ α		ἔ φθαρ μαι	ἐ φθάρη ν

* Deponent (or Defective) in this part

*** κ-Aorist

¹Second Perfect

⁵Double reduplication; note change back to "rough breathing" as in present part.

⁷Does not lengthen final stem vowel before "σ"