

“SIGNAL FLAGS” FOR GREEK VERBAL FORMS

The following chart is a systematic “visual tour” of many of the possible characteristics seen within various Greek verbal forms that one encounters in their various tenses, voices, and modes. One or more of these “clues” may be spotted simultaneously by the student, giving him the mental “signal(s)” he needs to help him more quickly to identify that form’s parsing. Notice the chart is a simulated left-to-right look at any verbal form (including participles and infinitives) that one might encounter, noting the various characteristics to watch for at progressive locations within the word’s structure. Once the “signal flag” clue has been identified, the corresponding tense(s), voice(s), and mode(s) can be traced to the right-hand side of the chart, where a final determination should be possible. While not intended to be an exhaustive overview of the various Greek verbal characteristics, this chart presents most of the regularly occurring ones.

VERBAL FORM BEGINS			
Augment	AOR./IMPERF./PLUPERF.	Active/Middle/Passive	Indicative
Reduplication of stem’s first letter, then –ε	PERFECT/ PLUPERFECT	Active/Middle/Passive	Indicative/Participle
Reduplication of stem’s first letter, then –ι	Mt-Verbs: PRESENT	Active/Middle/Passive	All Modes
STEM HAS:			
PRESENT stem	PRESENT	Active/Middle/Passive	All Modes
Augment + PRESENT stem	IMPERFECT	Active/Middle/Passive	Indicative
–σ-	AORIST	Active/Middle	All Modes
	FUTURE	Active/Middle	Indicative
–θη- (–φη-, –πι-, –βη-, –ρη-, –λη-, –γη-) + “Active-looking” endings	AORIST (1 st or 2 nd)	Passive	Indicative
–θη̄- or –θῶ- (φη̄/φῶ, πῑ/πῶ, βη̄/βῶ, ρη̄/ρῶ, λη̄/λῶ, γη̄/γῶ)	AORIST (1 st or 2 nd)	Passive	Subjunctive
–θησ-	FUTURE	Passive	Indicative
–κ-	PERFECT/PLUPERFECT	Active	Indicative/Participle
	κ-AORIST (Mt-Verbs)	Active	Indicative
HAS ENDING WITH:			
–α-	AORIST	Active/Middle	Indic./Infinin./Imperative
	PERFECT	Active	Indicative/Infinitive
–θε-	AORIST	Passive	Participle
Diphthong (–αι, –ει, –οι)	PRESENT/AORIST	Active/Middle/Passive	Optative
ENDS:			
–ειν	PRES./2 nd AOR./PLUPERFECT	Active	Infinitive
	PLUPERFECT	Active	Indicative (1 st sing.)
–εναι	PERFECT	Active	Infinitive
–ναι	AORIST	Passive	Infinitive
	PRESENT/AORIST (Mt-Verb)	Active	Infinitive
–σθαι	PRES./FUT./AOR./PERFECT	Middle	Infinitive
–μενος, –μενη, –μενον	PRESENT/AORIST/PERFECT	Middle/Passive	Participle