

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