**THE GREEK PERFECT SYSTEM**

1. Perfect Active

In aspect, the perfect denotes an action completed in the past that still affects the present. (I have made you a drink = your drink is ready now)

Since the perfect is a PRIMARY TENSE, it will use primary endings.

Formation: the hallmark of the perfect is REDUPLICATION of the vowel’s initial verb, with an epsilon inserted between the two consonants.

λυ ----- λελυ

δεικ ---- δεδεικ

γραφ ---- γεγραφ

δω --- δεδω

But if the verb begins with a vowel, it is simply augmented, as with aorist and imperfect verbs.

αρχ --- ηρχ

εθελ --- ηθελη

If the stem begins with a sigma, recall that Greek generally does not permit intervocalic sigmas.

στη --- σεστη Kill it with fire!--- εστη

In the perfect active, kappa is added. However, if the stem ends with a labial (π, β, φ), palatal (κ, γ, χ) and usually a liquid (λ, ρ), the kappa will merge or be dropped out.

δω --- δεδωκ

θη --- τεθη

ποιε --- πεποιη

δηλο --- δεδηλωκ

**δεικ --- δεδεικκ --- δεδειχ**

**ηρχ --- ηρχκ --- ηρχ**

δείκνυμι, δείξω, ἔδειξα, **δέδειχα**, δέδειγμαι, ἐδειχθην

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | singular | plural |
| 1 | δέδειχα (a) | δεδείχαμεν (amen) |
| 2 | δέδειχας (as) | δεδείχατε (ate) |
| 3 | δέδειχε (e) | δεδείχασι (asi) |

The perfect active participle is formed as follows. The persistent accent is on the vowel following the k.

Masculine: –κ ώς (stem: –κοτ)

Feminine: –κ υῖα (stem: κυι)

Neuter: –κ ός (stem: –κοτ)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Nominative | λελυκώς | λελυκυῖα | λελυκός |
| Genitive | λελυκότος | λελυκυίας | λελυκότος |
| Dative | λελυκότι | λελυκυίᾳ | λελυκότι |
| Accusative | λελυκότα | λελυκυῖαν | λελυκός |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Nominative | λελυκότες | λελυκυῖαι | λελυκότα |
| Genitive | λελυκότων | λελυκυιῶν | λελυκότων |
| Dative | λελυκόσι | λελυκυίαις | λελυκόσι |
| Accusative | λελυκότας | λελυκυίας | λελυκότα |

2. Perfect Middle/Passive

To the 5th principal part, primary middle/passive endings are added.

παύω, παύσω, ἔπαυσα, πέπαυκα, **πέπαυμαι**, ἐπαύθην

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | singular | plural |
| 1 | πέπαυ μαι | πέπαυ μεθα |
| 2 | πέπαυ σαι | πέπαυ σθε |
| 3 | πέπαυ ται | πέπαυ νται |

Difficulties arise when the stem ends in a consonant. Here is a chart of what can happen:

 (NB: You will not be tested on this.)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  Labials (β, π, φ) | Palatals (κ, γ, χ) | Dentals (τ, δ, θ, ζ) | Nasals (ν, μ) |
| Before | Becomes | Becomes | Becomes | Becomes |
| μ (μαι, μην…) | μμαι, μμην | γμαι, γμην | σμαι, σμην | σμαι, σμην |
| σ (σαι, σο) | ψαι, ψο | ξαι, ξο | σαι, σο | [not used] |
| τ (ται, το)  | πται, πτο | κται, κτο | σται, στο | νται, ντο |
| σθ (σθε, σθαι)  | φθε, φθαι | χθε, χθαι | σθε, σθαι |  νθε, νθαι |

δείκνυμι, δείξω, ἔδειξα, δέδειχα, **δέδειγμαι**, ἐδείχθην

 (note how the stem deik + m gives you gm)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | singular | plural |
| 1 | δέδειγμαι | δεδείγμεθα |
| 2 | δέδειξαι | δέδειχθε |
| 3 | δέδεικται | ------ this would be dedeikntai, which was horrific to the Greek ear; therefore they never used it. Instead a periphrastic form could be used: the perfect m/p participle + form of eimi.δεδειγμένοι εἰσί |

The perfect m/p participle is formed as follows: tense stem + μεν + 2-1-2 adjective endings.

λελυμένος, λελυμένη, λελυμένον

δεδειγμένος δεδειγμένη δεδειγμένον

γεγραμμένος, γεγραμμένη, γεγραμμένον

πεπεισμένος, πεπεισμένη, πεπεισμένον

ἠγμένος, ἠγμένη, ἠγμένον

πεφασμένος, πεφασμένη, πεφασμένον

3. Pluperfect Active

The pluperfect uses perfect stems, but since it is secondary, uses an augment with secondary personal endings. The active voice adds a kappa (usually) like the perfect active does.

Endings:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| –η = I (1st sg) | –εμεν = we (1st pl) |
| –ης = you (2nd sg) | –ετε = y’all (2nd pl) |
| –ει = (s)he, it (3rd sg) | –εσαν = they (3rd pl) |

παύω, παύσω, ἔπαυσα, **πέπαυκα**, πέπαυμαι, ἐπαύθην

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | singular | plural |
| 1 | ἐπεπαύκη | ἐπεπαύκεμεν |
| 2 | ἐπεπαύκης | ἐπεπαύκετε |
| 3 | ἐπεπαυκει (ν) | ἐπεπαύκεσαν |

4. Pluperfect m/p

If the stem ends in a consonant, the same difficulties discussed above will apply. If the stem ends in a vowel, it’s smooth sailing. The secondary m/p endings are added.

ἄρχω, ἄρξω, ἦρξα, ἦρχα, **ἦργμαι**, ἤρχθην (the actual stem is **ηρχ**--)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | singular | plural |
| 1 | ἤργμην | ἤργμεθα |
| 2 | ἦρξο | ἦρχθε |
| 3 | ἦρκτο | ---- or ηργμένοι ήσαν |

5. Infinitives (added to perfect stem; persistent accent on penult)

Active: -έναι πεπαυκέναι ἠρχέναι

M/P: -σθαι πεπαῦσθαι ἦρχθαι