

3.2 Tenses. Present and Future

In the Indicative mood there are, of course, several tenses. In this lesson we study the **Future**. There is no **Future Imperative**, since a command or a request must relate to a later time. So the task at hand is rather simple. Let us consider, as we have been doing so far, a regular verb. To obtain the Future stem we add to the Present stem the mark **-σ-**. That is to say that the formula for a regular future is:

present stem + **σ** + personal endings.

The Future takes the same endings as the Present. So the contrast between Present and Future of a regular verb such as **λούω** (to wash) is:

<i>persons</i>	<i>present</i>	<i>future</i>	<i>translation</i>
ἐγώ	λού-ω	λού- σ -ω	I will wash
σύ	λού-εις	λού- σ -εις	you (sg) will wash
ἐκεῖνος	λού-ει	λού- σ -ει	he ("that man") will wash
ἡμεῖς	λού-ομεν	λού- σ -ομεν	we will wash
ὕμεῖς	λού-ετε	λού- σ -ετε	you (pl) will wash
ἐκεῖνοι	λού-ουσι(ν)	λού- σ -ουσι(ν)	they will wash

Simple enough...but if the present stem of the verb ends in a consonant, some phonetic changes occur when that consonant encounters **σ**. Before you continue, look up the classification of the consonants in 0.2.2, page 3, to refresh the classification of types "stops" into labial, dental, and palatal. Here I will present only the consequences resulting from the combination of a dental + **σ**. They can actually be formulated once for all of them, and what is more, these phonetic changes will take place not only in the future of a verb, but whenever a dental encounters **σ**.

A dental consonant is dropped before **σ**.

Dentals are: **τ** (tau), **δ** (delta), **θ** (theta), the double consonant **ζ** (zeta), and the nasal dental **ν** (nu)

Let us try this with the verb *πείθω* (to persuade). Since *θ* is dropped, its future sounds just like that of *λούω*, above:

πείσω, πείσεις, πείσει, πείσομεν, πείσετε, πείσουνσι(ν)

EXAMPLES:

a) ὁ λόγος οὐ παύσει τὸν πόλεμον

Reason will not stop war.

b) τοὺς **μὲν** κακοὺς πείσουσιν οἱ κακοί, τοὺς **δὲ** ἀγαθοὺς οὐ.¹
 DO V S DO

Evil men, on the one hand, will persuade the evil (men); on the other hand, they (will not persuade) the good men.

We find here two correlatives: μέν ... δέ.² (This is totally independent from the fact that the verb is a future in this sentence.) They serve to either connect or contrast two parallel elements in a sentence, sometimes two sentences, or even two paragraphs. We may translate as above, or simply say: "Evil men will persuade evil men, but they (will not persuade) the good men."

The citation of a verb includes several 1st person singular forms, each showing one of the verbal stems. Each one of these forms is called a "principal part" of the verb. The first two principal parts are: the 1st person of the Present Indicative Active and the 1st person of the Future Indicative Active. From now on we can cite verbs at least with these two stems: Present - Future: *πείθω, πείσω*

Note 1: Both subject (οἱ κακοί) and verb (πείσουσιν) are implicit in the second part

Note 2: We will learn later that these particles, and many others, can only take the *second position* in the group of words to which they belong. The term "particle" means, of course, a small portion of a word.... Particles may have been originally adverbs.