The Perfect Tense

A lesson for the *Paideia* web-app © Ian W. Scott, 2015



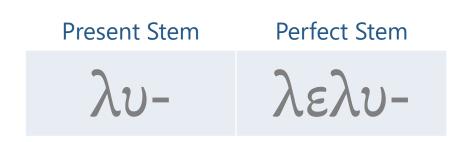
The Perfect Aspect

- Completed with ongoing effects
 - A train that has passed
 - Now we'll be late for work!



1st Perfect Forms

- Active
 - Stem change (reduplication with ε)
 - x tense marker
 - α connecting vowel





Parts of a 1st Perfect Active Indicative Verb

 Augment
 Reduplicated Stem
 Tense marker
 Conn. vowel
 Personal ending
 Complete form

 λελυ
 χ
 α
 μεν
 λελυκαμεν



Perfect (Primary) Active Endings

	Singular	Plural	
1 st person	_	-μεν	
2 nd person	-ς	-τε	
3 rd person	-(v)	-σι(ν)	



1st Perfect (Primary) Active Endings

	Singular	Plural
1 st person	-200	-καμεν
2 nd person	-χας	-χατε
3 rd person	$-\kappa \epsilon(\nu)$	$-\kappa\alpha\sigma\iota(\nu)$



Perfect Active Indicative Examples

	Singular	Plural	
1 st person	λελυκα	λελυκαμεν	
2 nd person	λελυκας	λελυκατε	
3 rd person	λελυκε(ν)	λελυκασι(ν)	



Perfect Forms

- Active
 - Stem change (reduplication with ε)
 - x tense marker
 - α connecting vowel
- Middle
 - Stem change (reduplication with ε)
 - no tense marker
 - no connecting vowel





Perfect (Primary) Middle/Passive Endings

Singular		Plural	
1 st person	-μαι	-μεθα	
2 nd person	-σαι	-σθε	
3 rd person	-ται	-νται	



Perfect Middle/Passive Indicative Examples

	Singular	Plural	
1 st person	λελυμαι	λελυμεθα	
2 nd person	λελυσαι	λελυσθε	
3 rd person	λελυται	λελυνται	



The Perfect Aspect

- Completed with ongoing effects
 - A train that has passed
 - Now we'll be late for work!
- Translating λελυκα
 - Sometimes with "have"
 - "I have released"
 - Sometimes simple past
 - "I released"
 - Sometimes simple present
 - "I release"





Understanding Reduplication

	Voiceless	Voiced	Voiceless Fricative	Reduplication	Example
Labial	π	β	ф	πε-	πεφανερωκα
Velar	x	γ	χ	χε-	κεχαρισμαι
Dental	τ	δ	θ	τε-	τεθεραπευω



Understanding Reduplication

- Reduplication and initial vowels
 - Initial vowel lengthens instead
 - ἀγαπαω -> ἡγαπηκα
 - αίτεω -> ήτηκα
 - Diphthongs often don't do anything
 - εύρισκω -> εύρηκα
 - εὐλογεω -> εὐλογηκα
- Reduplication and double initial consonants
 - Often é added instead of reduplication
 - γινωσκω (stem γνο-) -> ἐγνωκα
 - Stem change, not an augment



Understanding Reduplication

- Reduplication and prepositional prefixes
 - Reduplication follows the prefix
 - ἐκβαλλω -> ἐκβεβληκα



Predictable Changes

Present	Perfect Active Components	Perfect Form	Translation	Comments
βαπτιζω	βεβαπτιζ + - + μαι	βεβαπτι <u>σ</u> μαι	I have been baptized	Final ζ becomes σ before ending (even if no tense marker)
γνωρίζω	έγνωρι ζ + - + μ αι	έγνωρι <u>σ</u> μαι	I have been made known	
σωζω	σεσωζ + κ + α	σεσωκα	I have rescued	Or final ζ dropped before κ tense marker.
άποκρινομαι	ἀποκεκριν + - + ται	ἀποκεκρ <u>ι</u> ται	I have answered	Final v disappears before ending.
άγαπαω	$\dot{\eta}$ γα π α + \varkappa + α	ἠγαπ <u>η</u> κα	I have loved	Contract vowel lengthens before tense marker.
πληροω	πεπληρο + κ + α	πεπληρ <u>ω</u> κα	I have kept	



Perfects with Other Stem Change

- Sometimes same as 2nd aorist (real) stem
 - ἐχω (σχ-) -> ἐσχηκα
 - αἰρω (ἐρ-) -> ἠρκα



Perfects with Other Stem Change

Sometimes arbitrary

- βαλλω (βαλ-) -> βεβληκα
- καλεω -> κεκληκα
- λέγω (εἰπ-) -> εἰρηκα
- ἀποκτεινω (ἀποκτεν-) -> ἀπεκταγκα
- ἀποστελλω (ἀποστελ-) -> ἀπεσταλκα
- ἀγγελλω (ἀγγειλ-) -> ήγγελκα
- όραω -> έωρακα
- εύρισκω (εύρ-) -> εύρηκα
- πινω (πι-) -> πεπωκα



2nd Perfects

- Reduplication and no κ tense marker
 - φευγω -> π εφευγα
 - γραφω -> γεγραφα
- Other stem change and no κ tense marker
 - ἀκουω -> ἀκηκοα
 - γίνομαι -> γεγονα
 - ἐρχομαι -> ἐληλυθα
 - λαμβανω -> είληφα
 - κραζω -> κεκραγα
- Only 2nd perfect in active voice
 - No tense marker anyway in middle/passive



Keep Learning

- You can learn more about the Greek perfect tense here:
 - Mounce, Basics of Biblical Greek (3rd edition)
 - Perfect tense, 25.1-25 (p. 224-238)
 - Wallace, Basics of New Testament Syntax (1st edition)
 - "Tenses," *Perfect*, pp. 247-250

