

The Future Tense

A Lesson for the *Paideia* Web-app

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Talking about the future

- The future tense forms are very simple
 - σ tense marker before the present tense (primary) endings

Augment	Stem	Tense marker	Conn. vowel	Personal Ending	Complete form
-	λυ	σ	ο	μεν	λυσομεν

- Don't confuse with the first aorist!
 - Future has no augment
 - Future uses primary personal endings



Primary Active Endings

	Singular	Plural
1 st person	-	-μεν
2 nd person	-ς	-τε
3 rd person	-ι	-νσι(ν)



Future Active Examples

	Singular	Plural
1 st person	λυσω	λυσομεν
2 nd person	λυσεις	λυσετε
3 rd person	λυσει	λυσουσι(ν)



Primary Middle/Passive Endings

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



Future Middle Examples

	Singular	Plural
1 st person	λυσομαι	λυσομεθα
2 nd person	λυση	λυσεσθε
3 rd person	λυσεται	λυσονται



Using the Future Tense

- Meaning is just like the English future
- No special nuances like in the present and aorist
 - No particular "aspect"
 - This is the only way to signal future time in Greek
- Translate with "will" or "going to"
 - *λυσομεν*, "we will loose" or "we are going to destroy"
- A note about deponent (middle only) verbs
 - A verb that is deponent in the present tense may not be in the future (and vice versa)
 - You just need to remember the future form or look it up in a lexicon



Square of Stops and Combining Rules

	Voiceless	Voiced	Voiceless Fricative	combined with σ
Labial	π	β	ϕ	labial + $\sigma = \psi$
Velar	κ	γ	χ	velar + $\sigma = \xi$
Dental	τ	δ	θ	dental + $\sigma = \sigma$



Combining Stops

Present	Fut. Components	Aor. Form	Translation	Stop Combination
βαπτιζω	βαπτιζ + σ + ω	βαπτισω	I will baptize	dental stop + σ = σ
ἀγω	ἀγ + σ + ω	ἀξω	I will lift	velar stop + σ = ξ
βλεπω	βλεπ + σ + ω	βλεψω	I will see	labial stop + σ = ψ



Vowel Lengthening

Short

ε

α

ο

Long

η

η

ω



Lengthened Stem Vowels

Present	1 st Aor. Components	1 st Aor. Form	Translation	Vowel lengthening
ζαω	ζα + σ + ω	ζησω	I will live	A short vowel at the end of the verb stem is usually lengthened
ζητεω	ζητε + σ + ω	ζητησω	I will seek	
πληρωω	πληρο + σ + ω	πληρωσω	I will fill	



Watch for Liquid Verbs

- A liquid verb is one whose stem ends in a liquid consonant
 - λ, μ, ν, ρ
- The tense marker changes to $\epsilon\sigma$ instead of σ
 - but this leaves the σ between two vowels (which it doesn't like!)
 - so the σ drops out, leaving just ϵ as the tense marker
 - finally, the ϵ left behind combines with the o or ϵ connecting vowel
- For example, the future of $\mu\epsilon\nu\omega$
 - $\mu\epsilon\nu + \epsilon\sigma + \omega$ (the tense marker is $\epsilon\sigma$)
 - $\mu\epsilon\nu + \epsilon + \omega$ (the σ drops out, the ϵ and ω combine)
 - $\mu\epsilon\nu\omega$, "I will remain"
 - In a few cases like this we end up with the same form as the present!



Lengthened Stem Vowels

Present	Future Components	Future Form	Translation	Vowel combination
μεν ^ν ω	μεν + εσ + ω	μεν ^ω	I will stay	ε + ω = ω
μεν ^ν ω	μεν + εσ + εις	μεν ^{εις}	you will stay	ε + ει = ει
μεν ^ν ω	μεν + εσ + ετε	μεν ^{ειτε}	you will stay	ε + ε = ει
μεν ^ν ω	μεν + εσ + ομεν	μεν ^{ου} μεν	we will stay	ε + ο = ου
μεν ^ν ω	μεν + εσ + ουσι	μεν ^{ουσι}	they will stay	ε + ου = ου



Watch for verbs that take 2nd aorist

- The real root of some verbs isn't visible in the present tense
 - Root only comes out in the aorist and other tenses
 - e.g. the real root of βαλλω is βαλ-, visible in the aorist ἐβαλον
- In a few cases the future form uses this "real" root that shows up in the aorist
 - βαλλω: βαλ + εσ + ω = βαλω, "I will throw"



Watch for Borrowed Futures

- Some verbs don't have their own future form
- So they borrow the future form from another verb
 - Usually an older one whose other tenses are no longer used
- These just have to be remembered, e.g.
 - ἔρχομαι → ἔλευσομαι
 - ὄραω → ὀψομαι
 - λεγω → ἔρω
- Fortunately these verbs are few and common
 - You'll pick them up easily through frequent use



Keep Learning

- You can learn more about the future tense here:
 - Mounce, *Basics of Biblical Greek* (3rd edition)
 - Future active and middle, 19.1-19.23 (pp. 157-162)
 - Irregular patterns of the future, 20.6-20.26 (pp. 170-176), 20.27 (p. 179)
 - Future of εἶμι, 19.24 (p. 163), chapter 19 exegesis (p. 166)
 - Wallace, *Basics of New Testament Syntax* (1st edition)
 - "Tense," Future, pp. 244-245

