

29. Principal Parts



The best thing you can do to apply this lesson is spend some time staring lovingly at the Principal parts chart.

Look up and down each column until you see the following patterns in the six stems.

The Present Tense Stem

- ★ All of the white boxes end in ω . These are regular.
- ★ The green boxes are contract verbs. There is always an α , ϵ , or \omicron before the ω .
- ★ The yellow boxes are deponent. Most of them end in $\omicron\mu\alpha\iota$.

The Future Tense Stem

- ★ Notice the sigma before the personal endings. Sometimes it is hidden because of a collision of consonants (the square of stops). Κράξω and πέμψω are examples of this.
- ★ In the blue boxes (liquid futures), there is a λ , μ , ν or ρ and there is no sigma.
- ★ In the green boxes (contract verbs), the contract vowel lengthens before the sigma.
- ★ The yellow boxes are future middle deponent. They are middle in form but active in meaning. Notice that there are some verbs which are not deponent in the present tense but are deponent in the future (ἔσθίω and πίνω for example).

The Aorist Tense Stem

- ★ Look for the $\sigma\alpha$. Notice how in the white boxes it is easy to see unless it is buried in a collision of consonants (square of stops again). Ἄνέωξα and ἔβλεψα are examples of this.
- ★ Study the different ways that the verbs are augmented.
- ★ In the blue boxes (liquid aorists), there is a λ , μ , ν or ρ and there is no sigma, only an alpha.

- ★ In the red boxes (second aorists), there is a stem change and no $\sigma\alpha$. Instead, the ending is $\omicron\nu$.
- ★ In the green boxes (contract verbs), the contract vowel lengthens before the $\sigma\alpha$.
- ★ The yellow boxes are aorist middle deponent. They are middle in form but active in meaning. They tend to end in $\omicron\mu\eta\nu$ or $\alpha\mu\eta\nu$.

The Perfect Active Tense Stem

- ★ Look for the $\kappa\alpha$. This is very easy to see in the white and green boxes.
- ★ In the red boxes (second perfects), there is no κ , only an α . That is all there is to a second perfect. It means the kappa has dropped.
- ★ Study the different ways that the verbs are reduplicated.
- ★ In the green boxes (contract verbs), notice that the contract vowel lengthens before the $\kappa\alpha$.
- ★ The yellow boxes are aorist middle deponent. They are middle in form but active in meaning. They tend to end in $\omicron\mu\eta\nu$ or $\alpha\mu\eta\nu$.

The Perfect Middle/Passive Tense Stem

- ★ Study the different ways that the verbs are reduplicated.
- ★ Notice that every one of them ends in $\mu\alpha\iota$ and that there is no connecting vowel.

The Aorist Passive Tense Stem

- ★ Look for the beautiful $\theta\eta$ in every verb except for the second aorist passives.
- ★ Notice that the second aorist passives (red boxes) have no θ , just an η . That's all there is to a second aorist passive.
- ★ Notice the augments.
- ★ In the green boxes (contract verbs), notice that the contract vowel lengthens before the $\theta\eta$.
- ★ The two yellow boxes are odd. They are aorist passive deponents. This means that even though they are passive in form, they are active in meaning.