24. Regular Roots & Stems
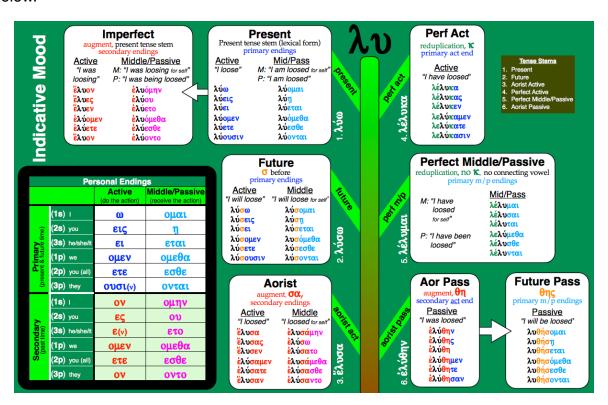
Lesson in a Nutshell

Beginning with a root (like λυ), Greek verbs follow a few obvious and consistent patterns to show us their tense.

Let's begin with λύω, a nice, regular verb that plays by all the rules.

On your Master Chart, you will notice that some of the boxes are shaded. These are the oddballs. Never fear! We will master them soon. I have deleted them in the picture below.

As you can see, there are many forms. But remember: there are only a few patterns.

As we have seen, the personal endings tell us the person and number as well as the voice.

There are only a few clues we need to recognize to determine the tense.

This is the "recipe book" to make all the tenses of λύω. Here is some great news: The clues for λύω hold true for almost all the verbs!

Recipes for Verbs

Tense	Clues	Meaning
Present λύω	Present tense stem (lexical form) primary endings	Ongoing or undefined aspect, present time
Imperfect ἔλυον	augment, present tense stem secondary endings	Ongoing aspect, past time
Future λύσω	σ before primary endings	Undefined aspect, future time
Aorist ἔλυσα	augment, σα, secondary endings	Undefined aspect, past time
Perfect Active λέλυκα	reduplication, κ primary active endings	Perfected aspect, past to present time
Perfect Middle/Passive λέλυμαι	reduplication, no κ, no connecting vowel primary middle/passive endings	Perfected aspect, past to present time
Aorist Passive ἐλύθην	augment, θη secondary active endings	Undefined aspect, past time
Future Passive λυθήσομαι	θης primary m/p endings	Undefined aspect, future time

Now let's look at these forms, one at a time.

Present (active & middle/passive) Tense

λυ

Indicative Mood

Imperfect
augment, present tense stem
secondary endings

Active "I was loosing"	Middle/Passive M: "I was loosing for self" P: "I was being loosed"
ἔλυον	ἐλυόμην
ἔλυες	ἐλύου
ἔλυεν	ἐλύετο
ἐλύομεν	ἐλυόμεθα
ἐλύετε	ἐλύεσθε
ἔλυον	ἐλύοντο

Present
Present tense stem (lexical form)
primary endings

Active "I loose"	Mid/Pass M: "I am loosed for self" P: "I am loosed"
λύω	λύομαι
λύεις	λύῃ
λύει	λύεται
λύομεν	λυόμεθα
λύετε	λύεσθε
λύουσιν	λύονται

Perf Act
reduplication, κ
primary act end

Active "I have loosed"

λέλυκα
λέλυκας
λέλυκεν
λελύκαμεν
λελύκατε
λελύκασιν

Tense Stems
1. Present
2. Future
3. Aorist Active
4. Perfect Active
5. Perfect Middle/Passive
6. Aorist Passive

1. λύω — present
4. λέλυκα — perf act

Personal Endings

		Active (do the action)	Middle/Passive (receive the action)
Primary (present & future time)	(1s) I	ω	ομαι
	(2s) you	εις	η
	(3s) he/she/it	ει	εται
	(1p) we	ομεν	ομεθα
	(2p) you (all)	ετε	εσθε
	(3p) they	ουσι(ν)	ονται
Secondary (past time)	(1s) I	ον	ομην
	(2s) you	ες	ου
	(3s) he/she/it	ε(ν)	ετο
	(1p) we	ομεν	ομεθα
	(2p) you (all)	ετε	εσθε
	(3p) they	ον	οντο

Future
σ before
primary endings

Active "I will loose"	Middle "I will loose for self"
λύσω	λύσομαι
λύσεις	λύσῃ
λύσει	λύσεται
λύσομεν	λυσόμεθα
λύσετε	λύσεσθε
λύσουσιν	λύσονται

2. λύσω — future

Perfect Middle/Passive
reduplication, no κ, no connecting vowel
primary m/p endings

	Mid/Pass
M: "I have loosed for self"	λέλυμαι
	λέλυσαι
	λέλυται
P: "I have been loosed"	λελύμεθα
	λέλυσθε
	λέλυνται

5. λέλυμαι — perf m/p

Aorist
augment, σα,
secondary endings

Active "I loosed"	Middle "I loosed for self"
ἔλυσα	ἐλυσάμην
ἔλυσας	ἐλύσω
ἔλυσεν	ἐλύσατο
ἐλύσαμεν	ἐλυσάμεθα
ἐλύσατε	ἐλύσασθε
ἔλυσαν	ἐλύσαντο

3. ἔλυσα — aorist act

Aor Pass
augment, θη
secondary act end

Passive "I was loosed"

ἐλύθην
ἐλύθης
ἐλύθη
ἐλύθημεν
ἐλύθητε
ἐλύθησαν

6. ἐλύθην — aorist pass

Future Pass
θης
primary m/p endings

Passive "I will be loosed"

λυθήσομαι
λυθήσῃ
λυθήσεται
λυθησόμεθα
λυθήσεσθε
λυθήσονται

Zoom in!

Personal Endings

		Active (do the action)	Middle/Passive (receive the action)
Primary (present & future time)	(1s) I	ω	ομαι
	(2s) you	εις	η
	(3s) he/she/it	ει	εται
	(1p) we	ομεν	ομεθα
	(2p) you (all)	ετε	εσθε
	(3p) they	ουσι(ν)	ονται
Secondary (past time)	(1s) I	ον	ομην
	(2s) you	ες	ου
	(3s) he/she/it	ε(ν)	ετο
	(1p) we	ομεν	ομεθα
	(2p) you (all)	ετε	εσθε
	(3p) they	ον	οντο

Present
Present tense stem (lexical form)
primary endings

Active "I loose"	Mid/Pass M: "I am loosed for self" P: "I am loosed"
λύω	λύομαι
λύεις	λύῃ
λύει	λύεται
λύομεν	λυόμεθα
λύετε	λύεσθε
λύουσιν	λύονται

When we learn a verb in Greek we will learn it in the present tense. Because of this, the clue in the present tense is that there is no clue! The present looks just like the lexical form with the primary endings attached.

Imperfect (active and middle/passive) Tense

Indicative Mood

Imperfect
augment, present tense stem
secondary endings

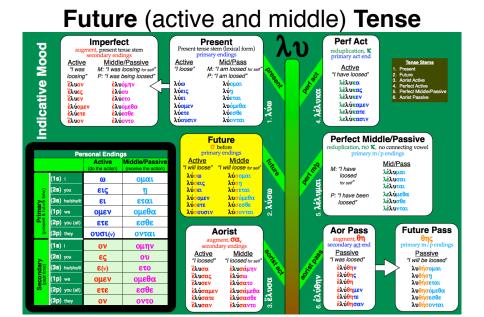| Active "I was loosing"	Middle/Passive M: "I was loosing for self" P: "I was being loosed"
ἔλυον	ἐλυόμην
ἔλυες	ἐλύου
ἔλυεν	ἐλύετο
ἐλύομεν	ἐλυόμεθα
ἐλύετε	ἐλύεσθε
ἔλυον	ἐλύοντο

Present
Present tense stem (lexical form)
primary endings

Active "I loose"	Mid/Pass M: "I am loosed for self" P: "I am loosed"
λύω	λύομαι
λύεις	λύῃ
λύει	λύεται
λύομεν	λυόμεθα
λύετε	λύεσθε
λύουσιν	λύονται

λυ

Perf Act
reduplication, κ
primary act end

Active "I have loosed"
| λέλυκα |
| λέλυκας |
| λέλυκεν |
| λελύκαμεν |
| λελύκατε |
| λελύκασιν |

Tense Stems
1. Present
2. Future
3. Aorist Active
4. Perfect Active
5. Perfect Middle/Passive
6. Aorist Passive

present / perf act / 1. λύω / 4. λέλυκα

Personal Endings

	Active (do the action)	Middle/Passive (receive the action)
Primary (present & future time)		
(1s) I	ω	ομαι
(2s) you	εις	η
(3s) he/she/it	ει	εται
(1p) we	ομεν	ομεθα
(2p) you (all)	ετε	εσθε
(3p) they	ουσι(ν)	ονται
Secondary (past time)		
(1s) I	ον	ομην
(2s) you	ες	ου
(3s) he/she/it	ε(ν)	ετο
(1p) we	ομεν	ομεθα
(2p) you (all)	ετε	εσθε
(3p) they	ον	οντο

Future
σ before
primary endings

Active "I will loose"	Middle "I will loose for self"
λύσω	λύσομαι
λύσεις	λύσῃ
λύσει	λύσεται
λύσομεν	λυσόμεθα
λύσετε	λύσεσθε
λύσουσιν	λύσονται

future / 2. λύσω

Perfect Middle/Passive
reduplication, no κ, no connecting vowel
primary m/p endings

	Mid/Pass
M: "I have loosed for self"	λέλυμαι
	λέλυσαι
	λέλυται
P: "I have been loosed"	λελύμεθα
	λέλυσθε
	λέλυνται

perf m/p / 5. λέλυμαι

Aorist
augment, σα,
secondary endings

Active "I loosed"	Middle "I loosed for self"
ἔλυσα	ἐλυσάμην
ἔλυσας	ἐλύσω
ἔλυσεν	ἐλύσατο
ἐλύσαμεν	ἐλυσάμεθα
ἐλύσατε	ἐλύσασθε
ἔλυσαν	ἐλύσαντο

aorist act / 3. ἔλυσα

Aor Pass
augment, θη
secondary act end

Passive "I was loosed"
| ἐλύθην |
| ἐλύθης |
| ἐλύθη |
| ἐλύθημεν |
| ἐλύθητε |
| ἐλύθησαν |

aorist pass / 6. ἐλύθην

Future Pass
θης
primary m/p endings

Passive "I will be loosed"
| λυθήσομαι |
| λυθήσῃ |
| λυθήσεται |
| λυθησόμεθα |
| λυθήσεσθε |
| λυθήσονται |

Zoom in!

Personal Endings

	Active (do the action)	Middle/Passive (receive the action)
Primary (present & future time)		
(1s) I	ω	ομαι
(2s) you	εις	η
(3s) he/she/it	ει	εται
(1p) we	ομεν	ομεθα
(2p) you (all)	ετε	εσθε
(3p) they	ουσι(ν)	ονται
Secondary (past time)		
(1s) I	ον	ομην
(2s) you	ες	ου
(3s) he/she/it	ε(ν)	ετο
(1p) we	ομεν	ομεθα
(2p) you (all)	ετε	εσθε
(3p) they	ον	οντο

Imperfect
augment, present tense stem
secondary endings

Active "I was loosing"	Middle/Passive M: "I was loosing for self" P: "I was being loosed"
ἔλυον	ἐλυόμην
ἔλυες	ἐλύου
ἔλυεν	ἐλύετο
ἐλύομεν	ἐλυόμεθα
ἐλύετε	ἐλύεσθε
ἔλυον	ἐλύοντο

The imperfect tense is built on the present tense stem.

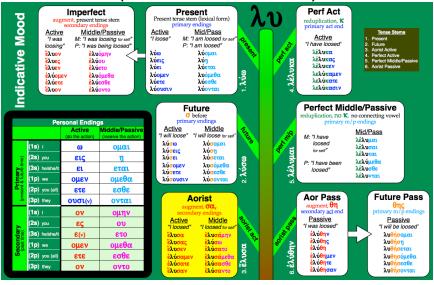Since it is in the past time, we attach an augment to the front of the verb and use the secondary endings.

Future (active and middle) Tense

Indicative Mood

Imperfect
augment, present tense stem
secondary endings

Active "I was loosing"	Middle/Passive M: "I was loosing for self" P: "I was being loosed"
ἔλυον	ἐλυόμην
ἔλυες	ἐλύου
ἔλυεν	ἐλύετο
ἐλύομεν	ἐλυόμεθα
ἐλύετε	ἐλύεσθε
ἔλυον	ἐλύοντο

Present
Present tense stem (lexical form)
primary endings

Active "I loose"	Mid/Pass M: "I am loosing for self" P: "I am loosed"
λύω	λύομαι
λύεις	λύῃ
λύει	λύεται
λύομεν	λυόμεθα
λύετε	λύεσθε
λύουσιν	λύονται

λυ

present 1. λύω

Perf Act
reduplication, κ
primary act end

Active "I have loosed"
λέλυκα
λέλυκας
λέλυκεν
λελύκαμεν
λελύκατε
λελύκασιν

perf act 4. λέλυκα

Tense Stems
1. Present
2. Future
3. Aorist Active
4. Perfect Active
5. Perfect Middle/Pass
6. Aorist Passive

Personal Endings

		Active (do the action)	Middle/Passive (receive the action)
Primary (present & future time)	(1s) I	ω	ομαι
	(2s) you	εις	η
	(3s) he/she/it	ει	εται
	(1p) we	ομεν	ομεθα
	(2p) you (all)	ετε	εσθε
	(3p) they	ουσι(ν)	ονται
Secondary (past time)	(1s) I	ον	ομην
	(2s) you	ες	ου
	(3s) he/she/it	ε(ν)	ετο
	(1p) we	ομεν	ομεθα
	(2p) you (all)	ετε	εσθε
	(3p) they	ον	οντο

Future
σ before
primary endings

Active "I will loose"	Middle "I will loose for self"
λύσω	λύσομαι
λύσεις	λύσῃ
λύσει	λύσεται
λύσομεν	λυσόμεθα
λύσετε	λύσεσθε
λύσουσιν	λύσονται

future 2. λύσω

Perfect Middle/Passive
reduplication, no κ, no connecting vowel
primary m/p endings

M: "I have loosed for self" P: "I have been loosed"	Mid/Pass
	λέλυμαι
	λέλυσαι
	λέλυται
	λελύμεθα
	λέλυσθε
	λέλυνται

perf m/p 5. λέλυμην

Aorist
augment, σα,
secondary endings

Active "I loosed"	Middle "I loosed for self"
ἔλυσα	ἐλυσάμην
ἔλυσας	ἐλύσω
ἔλυσεν	ἐλύσατο
ἐλύσαμεν	ἐλυσάμεθα
ἐλύσατε	ἐλύσασθε
ἔλυσαν	ἐλύσαντο

aorist act 3. ἔλυσα

Aor Pass
augment, θη
secondary act end

Passive "I was loosed"
ἐλύθην
ἐλύθης
ἐλύθη
ἐλύθημεν
ἐλύθητε
ἐλύθησαν

aorist pass 6. ἐλύθην

Future Pass
θης
primary m/p endings

Passive "I will be loosed"
λυθήσομαι
λυθήσῃ
λυθήσεται
λυθησόμεθα
λυθήσεσθε
λυθήσονται

Zoom in!

Personal Endings

		Active (do the action)	Middle/Passive (receive the action)
Primary (present & future time)	(1s) I	ω	ομαι
	(2s) you	εις	η
	(3s) he/she/it	ει	εται
	(1p) we	ομεν	ομεθα
	(2p) you (all)	ετε	εσθε
	(3p) they	ουσι(ν)	ονται
Secondary (past time)	(1s) I	ον	ομην
	(2s) you	ες	ου
	(3s) he/she/it	ε(ν)	ετο
	(1p) we	ομεν	ομεθα
	(2p) you (all)	ετε	εσθε
	(3p) they	ον	οντο

Future
σ before
primary endings

Active "I will loose"	Middle "I will loose for self"
λύσω	λύσομαι
λύσεις	λύσῃ
λύσει	λύσεται
λύσομεν	λυσόμεθα
λύσετε	λύσεσθε
λύσουσιν	λύσονται

The future is built on the future tense stem. In the case of λύω, it is the same as the present tense stem. As we will see, sometimes it changes a little.

But the big clue for the future is the σ before the primary endings. It is usually very easy to spot.

Aorist (active and middle) Tense

Indicative Mood

Imperfect
augment, present tense stem
secondary endings

Active "I was loosing"	Middle/Passive M: "I was loosing for self" P: "I was being loosed"
ἔλυον	ἐλυόμην
ἔλυες	ἐλύου
ἔλυεν	ἐλύετο
ἐλύομεν	ἐλυόμεθα
ἐλύετε	ἐλύεσθε
ἔλυον	ἐλύοντο

Present
Present tense stem (lexical form)
primary endings

Active "I loose"	Mid/Pass M: "I am loosed for self" P: "I am loosed"
λύω	λύομαι
λύεις	λύῃ
λύει	λύεται
λύομεν	λυόμεθα
λύετε	λύεσθε
λύουσιν	λύονται

λυ

Perf Act
reduplication, κ
primary act end

Active
"I have loosed"

λέλυκα
λέλυκας
λέλυκεν
λελύκαμεν
λελύκατε
λελύκασιν

Tense Stems
1. Present
2. Future
3. Aorist Active
4. Perfect Active
5. Perfect Middle/Passive
6. Aorist Passive

present — 1. λύω
perf act — 4. λέλυκα

Future
σ before
primary endings

Active "I will loose"	Middle "I will loose for self"
λύσω	λύσομαι
λύσεις	λύσῃ
λύσει	λύσεται
λύσομεν	λυσόμεθα
λύσετε	λύσεσθε
λύσουσιν	λύσονται

future — 2. λύσω

Perfect Middle/Passive
reduplication, no κ, no connecting vowel
primary m/p endings

	Mid/Pass
M: "I have loosed for self"	λέλυμαι λέλυσαι λέλυται
P: "I have been loosed"	λελύμεθα λέλυσθε λέλυνται

perf m/p — 5. λέλυμαι

Aor Pass
augment, θη
secondary act end

Passive
"I was loosed"

ἐλύθην
ἐλύθης
ἐλύθη
ἐλύθημεν
ἐλύθητε
ἐλύθησαν

aorist pass — 6. ἐλύθην

Future Pass
θης
primary m/p endings

Passive
"I will be loosed"

λυθήσομαι
λυθήσῃ
λυθήσεται
λυθησόμεθα
λυθήσεσθε
λυθήσονται

Aorist
augment, σα,
secondary endings

Active "I loosed"	Middle "I loosed for self"
ἔλυσα	ἐλυσάμην
ἔλυσας	ἐλύσω
ἔλυσεν	ἐλύσατο
ἐλύσαμεν	ἐλυσάμεθα
ἐλύσατε	ἐλύσασθε
ἔλυσαν	ἐλύσαντο

aorist act — 3. ἔλυσα

Zoom in!

Personal Endings

		Active (do the action)	Middle/Passive (receive the action)
Primary (present & future time)	(1s) I	ω	ομαι
	(2s) you	εις	η
	(3s) he/she/it	ει	εται
	(1p) we	ομεν	ομεθα
	(2p) you (all)	ετε	εσθε
	(3p) they	ουσι(ν)	ονται
Secondary (past time)	(1s) I	ον	ομην
	(2s) you	ες	ου
	(3s) he/she/it	ε(ν)	ετο
	(1p) we	ομεν	ομεθα
	(2p) you (all)	ετε	εσθε
	(3p) they	ον	οντο

Aorist
augment, **σα**,
secondary endings

Active "I loosed"	Middle "I loosed for self"
ἔλυσα	ἐλυσάμην
ἔλυσας	ἐλύσω
ἔλυσεν	ἐλύσατο
ἐλύσαμεν	ἐλυσάμεθα
ἐλύσατε	ἐλύσασθε
ἔλυσαν	ἐλύσαντο

The aorist tense is built on the aorist tense stem. Usually this is easy to spot and looks just like the present with σα attached. Sometimes it is unusual. But more of that later.

Because the aorist tense is undefined action *in the past time*, it uses an augment and the secondary endings, just like the imperfect.

The big clue for the aorist is the σα. As you can see, the σα makes the secondary endings look a little different. Mainly, the connecting vowel gets swallowed up by the α, but the endings are still perfectly recognizable.

Perfect (active) Tense

Indicative Mood

Imperfect
augment, present tense stem
secondary endings

Active "I was loosing"	Middle/Passive M: "I was loosing for self" P: "I was being loosed"
ἔλυον	ἐλυόμην
ἔλυες	ἐλύου
ἔλυεν	ἐλύετο
ἐλύομεν	ἐλυόμεθα
ἐλύετε	ἐλύεσθε
ἔλυον	ἐλύοντο

Present
Present tense stem (lexical form)
primary endings

Active "I loose"	Mid/Pass M: "I am loosed for self" P: "I am loosed"
λύω	λύομαι
λύεις	λύῃ
λύει	λύεται
λύομεν	λυόμεθα
λύετε	λύεσθε
λύουσιν	λύονται

λυ

present — 1. λύω

perf act — 4. λέλυκα

Perf Act
reduplication, **κ**
primary act end

Active "I have loosed"
λέλυκα
λέλυκας
λέλυκεν
λελύκαμεν
λελύκατε
λελύκασιν

Tense Stems
1. Present
2. Future
3. Aorist Active
4. Perfect Active
5. Perfect Middle/Passive
6. Aorist Passive

Personal Endings

		Active (do the action)	Middle/Passive (receive the action)
Primary (present & future time)	(1s) I	ω	ομαι
	(2s) you	εις	η
	(3s) he/she/it	ει	εται
	(1p) we	ομεν	ομεθα
	(2p) you (all)	ετε	εσθε
	(3p) they	ουσι(ν)	ονται
Secondary (past time)	(1s) I	ον	ομην
	(2s) you	ες	ου
	(3s) he/she/it	ε(ν)	ετο
	(1p) we	ομεν	ομεθα
	(2p) you (all)	ετε	εσθε
	(3p) they	ον	οντο

Future
σ before
primary endings

Active "I will loose"	Middle "I will loose for self"
λύσω	λύσομαι
λύσεις	λύσῃ
λύσει	λύσεται
λύσομεν	λυσόμεθα
λύσετε	λύσεσθε
λύσουσιν	λύσονται

future — 2. λύσω

Perfect Middle/Passive
reduplication, no **κ**, no connecting vowel
primary m/p endings

	Mid/Pass
M: "I have loosed for self"	λέλυμαι
	λέλυσαι
	λέλυται
P: "I have been loosed"	λελύμεθα
	λέλυσθε
	λέλυνται

perf m/p — 5. λέλυμαι

Aorist
augment, σα,
secondary endings

Active "I loosed"	Middle "I loosed for self"
ἔλυσα	ἐλυσάμην
ἔλυσας	ἐλύσω
ἔλυσεν	ἐλύσατο
ἐλύσαμεν	ἐλυσάμεθα
ἐλύσατε	ἐλύσασθε
ἔλυσαν	ἐλύσαντο

aorist act — 3. ἔλυσα

Aor Pass
augment, θη
secondary act end

Passive "I was loosed"
ἐλύθην
ἐλύθης
ἐλύθη
ἐλύθημεν
ἐλύθητε
ἐλύθησαν

aorist pass — 6. ἐλύθην

Future Pass
θης
primary m/p endings

Passive "I will be loosed"
λυθήσομαι
λυθήσῃ
λυθήσεται
λυθησόμεθα
λυθήσεσθε
λυθήσονται

Zoom in!

Personal Endings

		Active (do the action)	Middle/Passive (receive the action)
Primary (present & future time)	(1s) I	ω	ομαι
	(2s) you	εις	η
	(3s) he/she/it	ει	εται
	(1p) we	ομεν	ομεθα
	(2p) you (all)	ετε	εσθε
	(3p) they	ουσι(ν)	ονται
Secondary (past time)	(1s) I	ον	ομην
	(2s) you	ες	ου
	(3s) he/she/it	ε(ν)	ετο
	(1p) we	ομεν	ομεθα
	(2p) you (all)	ετε	εσθε
	(3p) they	ον	οντο

Perf Act
reduplication, **κ**
primary act end

Active
"I have loosed"

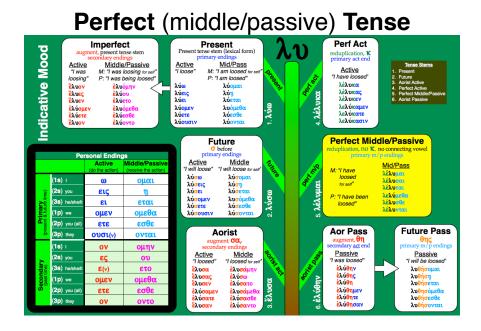λέλυκα
λέλυκας
λέλυκεν
λελύκαμεν
λελύκατε
λελύκασιν

The perfect active is different from the perfect middle/passive, so it gets its own tense stem.

The clues to look for in the perfect active are

Reduplication[1] on the front of the verb and
κ before the primary active endings.

As you can see, the endings get swallowed up by the α, just like they did in the aorist and this makes them look somewhat different. But remember: look for *shapes*. Don't insist on exact duplicates.

---

[1] Reduplication means duplicating the first consonant of the word and separating it by an ε. For example, λυ > λελυ

Perfect (middle/passive) Tense

Indicative Mood

Imperfect
augment, present tense stem
secondary endings

Active "I was loosing"	Middle/Passive M: "I was loosing for self" P: "I was being loosed"
ἔλυον	ἐλυόμην
ἔλυες	ἐλύου
ἔλυεν	ἐλύετο
ἐλύομεν	ἐλυόμεθα
ἐλύετε	ἐλύεσθε
ἔλυον	ἐλύοντο

Present
Present tense stem (lexical form)
primary endings

Active "I loose"	Mid/Pass M: "I am loosed for self" P: "I am loosed"
λύω	λύομαι
λύεις	λύῃ
λύει	λύεται
λύομεν	λυόμεθα
λύετε	λύεσθε
λύουσιν	λύονται

λυ

Perf Act
reduplication, κ
primary act end

Active "I have loosed"
λέλυκα
λέλυκας
λέλυκεν
λελύκαμεν
λελύκατε
λελύκασιν

Tense Stems
1. Present
2. Future
3. Aorist Active
4. Perfect Active
5. Perfect Middle/Passive
6. Aorist Passive

Future
σ before
primary endings

Active "I will loose"	Middle "I will loose for self"
λύσω	λύσομαι
λύσεις	λύσῃ
λύσει	λύσεται
λύσομεν	λυσόμεθα
λύσετε	λύσεσθε
λύσουσιν	λύσονται

Perfect Middle/Passive
reduplication, no κ, no connecting vowel
primary m/p endings

M: "I have loosed for self" P: "I have been loosed"	Mid/Pass
	λέλυμαι
	λέλυσαι
	λέλυται
	λελύμεθα
	λέλυσθε
	λέλυνται

Personal Endings

		Active (do the action)	Middle/Passive (receive the action)
Primary (present & future time)	(1s) I	ω	ομαι
	(2s) you	εις	η
	(3s) he/she/it	ει	εται
	(1p) we	ομεν	ομεθα
	(2p) you (all)	ετε	εσθε
	(3p) they	ουσι(ν)	ονται
Secondary (past time)	(1s) I	ον	ομην
	(2s) you	ες	ου
	(3s) he/she/it	ε(ν)	ετο
	(1p) we	ομεν	ομεθα
	(2p) you (all)	ετε	εσθε
	(3p) they	ον	οντο

Aorist
augment, σα,
secondary act endings

Active "I loosed"	Middle "I loosed for self"
ἔλυσα	ἐλυσάμην
ἔλυσας	ἐλύσω
ἔλυσεν	ἐλύσατο
ἐλύσαμεν	ἐλυσάμεθα
ἐλύσατε	ἐλύσασθε
ἔλυσαν	ἐλύσαντο

Aor Pass
augment, θη
secondary act end

Passive "I was loosed"
ἐλύθην
ἐλύθης
ἐλύθη
ἐλύθημεν
ἐλύθητε
ἐλύθησαν

Future Pass
θης
primary m/p endings

Passive "I will be loosed"
λυθήσομαι
λυθήσῃ
λυθήσεται
λυθησόμεθα
λυθήσεσθε
λυθήσονται

Zoom in!

Personal Endings

		Active (do the action)	Middle/Passive (receive the action)
Primary (present & future time)	(1s) I	ω	ομαι
	(2s) you	εις	η
	(3s) he/she/it	ει	εται
	(1p) we	ομεν	ομεθα
	(2p) you (all)	ετε	εσθε
	(3p) they	ουσι(ν)	ονται
Secondary (past time)	(1s) I	ον	ομην
	(2s) you	ες	ου
	(3s) he/she/it	ε(ν)	ετο
	(1p) we	ομεν	ομεθα
	(2p) you (all)	ετε	εσθε
	(3p) they	ον	οντο

Perfect Middle/Passive
reduplication, no κ, no connecting vowel
primary m/p endings

M: "I have loosed for self" P: "I have been loosed"	Mid/Pass
	λέλυμαι
	λέλυσαι
	λέλυται
	λελύμεθα
	λέλυσθε
	λέλυνται

The perfect middle passive is a bit of an oddball. The forms are not very difficult to recognize.

Because they are perfect, they are reduplicated.

There is no κ. Instead, the primary middle/passive endings are tacked on *without a connecting vowel*. In the second person singular, there is a strange form: σαι. Actually, this is the true form of the second person singular that gets all twisted around in the other forms. Sigmas cause problems for Greek verbs (σαι).

Aorist (passive) Tense

Indicative Mood

Imperfect
augment, present tense stem
secondary endings

Active
"I was loosing"

Middle/Passive
M: "I was loosing for self"
P: "I was being loosed"

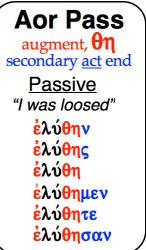| Active	Middle/Passive
ἔλυον	ἐλυόμην
ἔλυες	ἐλύου
ἔλυεν	ἐλύετο
ἐλύομεν	ἐλυόμεθα
ἐλύετε	ἐλύεσθε
ἔλυον	ἐλύοντο

Present
Present tense stem (lexical form)
primary endings

Active
"I loose"

Mid/Pass
M: "I am loosed for self"
P: "I am loosed"

Active	Mid/Pass
λύω	λύομαι
λύεις	λύῃ
λύει	λύεται
λύομεν	λυόμεθα
λύετε	λύεσθε
λύουσιν	λύονται

λυ

Perf Act
reduplication, κ
primary act end

Active
"I have loosed"

λέλυκα
λέλυκας
λέλυκεν
λελύκαμεν
λελύκατε
λελύκασιν

Tense Stems
1. Present
2. Future
3. Aorist Active
4. Perfect Active
5. Perfect Middle/Passive
6. Aorist Passive

Future
σ before
primary endings

Active
"I will loose"

Middle
"I will loose for self"

Active	Middle
λύσω	λύσομαι
λύσεις	λύσῃ
λύσει	λύσεται
λύσομεν	λυσόμεθα
λύσετε	λύσεσθε
λύσουσιν	λύσονται

Perfect Middle/Passive
reduplication, no κ, no connecting vowel
primary m/p endings

M: "I have loosed for self"

P: "I have been loosed"

Mid/Pass
λέλυμαι
λέλυσαι
λέλυται
λελύμεθα
λέλυσθε
λέλυνται

Personal Endings

			Active (do the action)	Middle/Passive (receive the action)
Primary (present & future time)	(1s)	I	ω	ομαι
	(2s)	you	εις	ῃ
	(3s)	he/she/it	ει	εται
	(1p)	we	ομεν	ομεθα
	(2p)	you (all)	ετε	εσθε
	(3p)	they	ουσι(ν)	ονται
Secondary (past time)	(1s)	I	ον	ομην
	(2s)	you	ες	ου
	(3s)	he/she/it	ε(ν)	ετο
	(1p)	we	ομεν	ομεθα
	(2p)	you (all)	ετε	εσθε
	(3p)	they	ον	οντο

Aorist
augment, σα,
secondary endings

Active
"I loosed"

Middle
"I loosed for self"

Active	Middle
ἔλυσα	ἐλυσάμην
ἔλυσας	ἐλύσω
ἔλυσεν	ἐλύσατο
ἐλύσαμεν	ἐλυσάμεθα
ἐλύσατε	ἐλύσασθε
ἔλυσαν	ἐλύσαντο

Aor Pass
augment, θη
secondary act end

Passive
"I was loosed"

ἐλύθην
ἐλύθης
ἐλύθη
ἐλύθημεν
ἐλύθητε
ἐλύθησαν

Future Pass
θης
primary m/p endings

Passive
"I will be loosed"

λυθήσομαι
λυθήσῃ
λυθήσεται
λυθησόμεθα
λυθήσεσθε
λυθήσονται

1. λύω
2. λύσω
3. ἔλυσα
4. λέλυκα
5. λέλυμαι
6. ἐλύθην

present / perf act / future / perf m/p / aorist act / aorist pass

Zoom In!

Personal Endings

			Active (do the action)	Middle/Passive (receive the action)
Primary (present & future time)	(1s)	I	ω	ομαι
	(2s)	you	εις	ῃ
	(3s)	he/she/it	ει	εται
	(1p)	we	ομεν	ομεθα
	(2p)	you (all)	ετε	εσθε
	(3p)	they	ουσι(ν)	ονται
Secondary (past time)	(1s)	I	ον	ομην
	(2s)	you	ες	ου
	(3s)	he/she/it	ε(ν)	ετο
	(1p)	we	ομεν	ομεθα
	(2p)	you (all)	ετε	εσθε
	(3p)	they	ον	οντο

Aor Pass
augment, **θη**
secondary act end

Passive
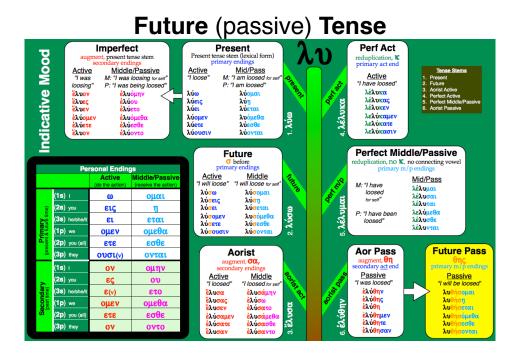*"I was loosed"*

ἐλύθην
ἐλύθης
ἐλύθη
ἐλύθημεν
ἐλύθητε
ἐλύθησαν

The aorist passive gets its own form. It is usually very easy to spot.
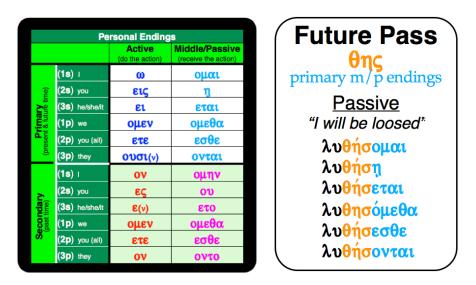
Because it is in the past time, it is augmented.

It uses θη to identify itself. This usually sticks out like a sore thumb.

The odd thing about the aorist passive is that it uses secondary *active* endings. (You would expect to use middle/passive endings.) But no big deal. The θη makes it obvious that it is a passive form. And the person and number are easy to spot if you focus on the patterns.

Future (passive) Tense

λυ

Indicative Mood

Imperfect
augment, present tense stem
secondary endings

Active	Middle/Passive
"I was loosing"	M: "I was loosing for self" P: "I was being loosed"
ἔλυον	ἐλυόμην
ἔλυες	ἐλύου
ἔλυεν	ἐλύετο
ἐλύομεν	ἐλυόμεθα
ἐλύετε	ἐλύεσθε
ἔλυον	ἐλύοντο

Present
Present tense stem (lexical form)
primary endings

Active	Mid/Pass
"I loose"	M: "I am loosed for self" P: "I am loosed"
λύω	λύομαι
λύεις	λύῃ
λύει	λύεται
λύομεν	λυόμεθα
λύετε	λύεσθε
λύουσιν	λύονται

present
1. λύω

Perf Act
reduplication, κ
primary act end

Active
"I have loosed"
λέλυκα
λέλυκας
λέλυκεν
λελύκαμεν
λελύκατε
λελύκασιν

perf act
4. λέλυκα

Tense Stems
1. Present
2. Future
3. Aorist Active
4. Perfect Active
5. Perfect Middle/Passive
6. Aorist Passive

Future
σ before
primary endings

Active	Middle
"I will loose"	"I will loose for self"
λύσω	λύσομαι
λύσεις	λύσῃ
λύσει	λύσεται
λύσομεν	λυσόμεθα
λύσετε	λύσεσθε
λύσουσιν	λύσονται

future
2. λύσω

Perfect Middle/Passive
reduplication, no κ, no connecting vowel
primary m/p endings

	Mid/Pass
M: "I have loosed for self"	λέλυμαι λέλυσαι λέλυται
P: "I have been loosed"	λελύμεθα λέλυσθε λέλυνται

perf m/p
5. λέλυμαι

Aorist
augment, σα,
secondary endings

Active	Middle
"I loosed"	"I loosed for self"
ἔλυσα	ἐλυσάμην
ἔλυσας	ἐλύσω
ἔλυσεν	ἐλύσατο
ἐλύσαμεν	ἐλυσάμεθα
ἐλύσατε	ἐλύσασθε
ἔλυσαν	ἐλύσαντο

aorist act
3. ἔλυσα

Aor Pass
augment, θη
secondary act end

Passive
"I was loosed"
ἐλύθην
ἐλύθης
ἐλύθη
ἐλύθημεν
ἐλύθητε
ἐλύθησαν

aorist pass
6. ἐλύθην

Future Pass
θης
primary m/p endings

Passive
"I will be loosed"
λυθήσομαι
λυθήσῃ
λυθήσεται
λυθησόμεθα
λυθήσεσθε
λυθήσονται

Personal Endings

		Active (do the action)	Middle/Passive (receive the action)
Primary (present & future time)	(1s) I	ω	ομαι
	(2s) you	εις	η
	(3s) he/she/it	ει	εται
	(1p) we	ομεν	ομεθα
	(2p) you (all)	ετε	εσθε
	(3p) they	ουσι(v)	ονται
Secondary (past time)	(1s) I	ον	ομην
	(2s) you	ες	ου
	(3s) he/she/it	ε(v)	ετο
	(1p) we	ομεν	ομεθα
	(2p) you (all)	ετε	εσθε
	(3p) they	ον	οντο

Zoom In!

Personal Endings

		Active (do the action)	Middle/Passive (receive the action)
Primary (present & future time)	(1s) I	ω	ομαι
	(2s) you	εις	η
	(3s) he/she/it	ει	εται
	(1p) we	ομεν	ομεθα
	(2p) you (all)	ετε	εσθε
	(3p) they	ουσι(v)	ονται
Secondary (past time)	(1s) I	ον	ομην
	(2s) you	ες	ου
	(3s) he/she/it	ε(v)	ετο
	(1p) we	ομεν	ομεθα
	(2p) you (all)	ετε	εσθε
	(3p) they	ον	οντο

Future Pass
θης
primary m/p endings

Passive
"I will be loosed"

λυθήσομαι
λυθήσῃ
λυθήσεται
λυθησόμεθα
λυθήσεσθε
λυθήσονται

The future passive is sort of an oddball. It is built on the aorist passive tense stem. But it is easy to recognize.

It uses θης to identify itself. We are used to thinking of σ as an identifier for the future.

Plus, we use the primary middle/passive endings, which makes sense.

Actually, even though this is an odd form, it is very easy to recognize. The θης will shout, "Future passive!" to you.

So there you have it. All the forms of λύω!

But here's the deal: If you understand how λύω changes to show you its tense, you are well on your way to understanding Greek verbs, because most of them follow a similar pattern.

One more time. Here is a summary of the clues that will be used to recognize tense. Take some time to make friends with this table!

Tense	Clues
Present λύω	Present tense stem (lexical form) primary endings
Imperfect ἔλυον	augment, present tense stem secondary endings
Future λύσω	σ before primary endings
Aorist ἔλυσα	augment, σα, secondary endings
Perfect Active λέλυκα	reduplication, κ primary active endings
Perfect Middle/Passive λέλυμαι	reduplication, no κ, no connecting vowel primary middle/passive endings
Aorist Passive ἐλύθην	augment, θη secondary <u>active</u> endings
Future Passive λυθήσομαι	θης primary m/p endings