

LIQUID VERBS REVISITED

The consonants λ, μ, ν and ρ are called “liquids” because the air flows around the tongue (λ, ρ) or the sound goes through the nose (μ, ν) when pronouncing the letter. (λ and ρ are actually called “nasals” but because they often behave in the same manner, they are usually grouped together under the one heading of “liquid”.)

Verbs whose verbal roots end in a liquid (λ ρ) or a nasal (μ ν) are called “liquid verbs”. The phenomena of the liquids affect only the future and aorist tenses.

Liquid Future

Future active tense stem + Tense formative (εσ) + Connecting vowel + Primary active personal endings

κριν + εσ + ο + μεν → κρινοῦμεν

Note that the sigma does not like to stand between two vowels so it drops out, and the epsilon and connecting vowel contract. Liquid verbs are therefore conjugated and accented in the future just as if they were ε contract verbs in the present.

	<i>liquid</i>		<i>definition</i>	<i>present contract</i>	<i>present liquid</i>
1 sg	κρινῶ	(εσο)	I will judge	ποιῶ	κρίνω
2 sg	κρινεῖς	(εσες)	You will judge	ποιεῖς	κρίνεις
3 sg	κρινεῖ	(εσε)	He/she/it will judge	ποιεῖ	κρίνει
1 pl	κρινοῦμεν	(εσομεν)	We will judge	ποιοῦμεν	κρίνομεν
2 pl	κρινεῖτε	(εσετε)	You will judge	ποιεῖτε	κρίνετε
3 pl	κρινουσι(ν)	(εσονσι)	They will judge	ποιουσι(ν)	κρίνουσι(ν)

Liquid Aorist

Instead of adding σα as the tense formative, liquid verbs add only alpha and then sometimes modify the tense stem. The phenomena of the liquids affect only the future and aorist tenses. They will not be seen in any of the other forms.

Augment + Aorist active tense stem + Tense formative (α) + Secondary active personal endings

ἐ + μειν + α + μεν → ἐμείναμεν

The keys to recognizing a liquid aorist are two:

- the final stem consonant is a liquid;
- the alpha (α) tense formative, not σα

	<i>aorist liquid</i>	<i>translation</i>	<i>first aorist</i>
1 sg	ἔμεινα	I remained	ἔλουσα
2 sg	ἔμεινα	You remained	ἔλουσα
3 sg	ἔμεινα	He/she/it remained	ἔλουσα
1 pl	ἔμεινα	We remained	ἔλουσα
2 pl	ἔμεινα	You remained	ἔλουσα
3 pl	ἔμεινα	They remained	ἔλουσα

1 sg	— ¹	ἔμεινα	I remained	μην	ἔμεινάμην
2 sg	ς	ἔμεινα	You remained	σο ²	ἔμείνω
3 sg	— (ν) ³	ἔμεινα	He/she/it remained	το	ἔμεινατο
1 pl	μεν	ἔμεινα	We remained	μεθ α	ἔμεινάμεθα
2 pl	τε	ἔμεινα	You remained	σθε	ἔμείνασθε
3 pl	ν	ἔμεινα	They remained	ντο	ἔμείναντο

¹ Contrary to the normal pattern, the first person singular active uses no personal ending (cf. the imperfect ἔλυον)

² The σ of the personal ending is intervocalic and drops out, and the α and ο contract to ω (εμειν + α + σο → εμειναό → ἔμείνω)

³ The third person singular active uses no personal ending, but in order to avoid confusion with the 1st singular, it alters the vowel in the tense formative to ε by analogy to the imperfect.

Liquid Verbs Occurring Fifty Times and More in the New Testament

<i>Present Active</i>	<i>Future Active</i>	<i>Aorist Active/Middle</i>	<i>Definition</i>
αἶρω	ἀρῶ	ἤρα	<i>lift up, take up, pick up</i>
ἀποθνήσκω	ἀποθανοῦμαι	ἀπέθανον	<i>I die</i>
ἀποκρίνομαι	—	ἀπεκρίναμην	<i>I answer</i>
ἀποκτείνω	ἀποκτενῶ	ἀπέκτεινα	<i>I kill</i>
ἀποστέλλω	ἀποστελῶ	ἀπέστειλα	<i>I send</i>
βάλλω	βαλῶ	ἔβαλον	<i>I throw, put</i>
ἐγείρω	ἐγερῶ	ἤγειρα	<i>I wake, rouse, rise, get up</i>
εἰμί	ἔσομαι	ἦμην	<i>I am</i>
ἐκβάλλω	ἐκβαλῶ	ἐξέβαλον	<i>I cast out</i>
κρίνω	κρινῶ	ἔκρινα	<i>I judge, decide</i>
λέγω	ἐρῶ ²	εἶπον	<i>I say, speak</i>
μέλλω	μελλήσω	—	<i>I am about to</i>
μένω	μενῶ	ἔμεινα	<i>I remain</i>
πίνω	πίομαι	ἔπιον	<i>I drink</i>
φέρω	οἶσω	ἤνεγκα	<i>I carry</i>
χαίρω	καρήσομαι	—	<i>I rejoice</i>