

Chapter 21: Imperfect, Active Indicative Paradigm

Active Imperfect

	<i>form</i>	<i>translation</i>	<i>connecting vowel</i>	<i>ending</i>	<i>pres. act</i>
1 sg	ἔλυο ν	I was loosing	ο	ν	λύω
2 sg	ἔλυε ς	You were loosing	ε	ς	λύεις
3 sg	ἔλυε [ν]	He/she/it was loosing	ε	— (ν) ¹	λύει
1 pl	ἔλυομεν	We were loosing	ο	μεν	λύομεν
2 pl	ἔλυετε	You were loosing	ε	τε	λύετε
3 pl	ἔλυον	They were loosing	ο	ν ²	λύουσι [ν]

¹ No personal ending is used, so the connecting vowel stands alone, with the movable nu.

² The imperfect active uses the same endings for the first person singular and the third person plural. The context will tell you which is which.

Imperfect Middle/Passive

	<i>form</i>	<i>translation</i>	<i>connecting vowel</i>	<i>ending</i>	<i>pres. pas</i>
1 sg	ἔλυόμην	I was being loosed	ο	μην	λύομαι
2 sg	ἔλύου	You were being loosed	ε	σο ¹	λύη
3 sg	ἔλύετο	He/she/it was being loosed	ε	το	λύεται
1 pl	ἔλυόμεθα	We were being loosed	ο	μεθα	λύομεθα
2 pl	ἔλύεσθε	You were being loosed	ε	σθε	λύεσθε
3 pl	ἔλύοντο	They were being loosed	ο	ντο	λύονται

¹ This is the only secondary personal ending that has changed significantly. The ending is actually σο. Because a sigma cannot stand between two vowels, it drops out and the connecting vowel and omicron contract to ου.

Present Tense Stem

The present tense stem is used to form the imperfect tense. To find the present tense stem, drop the connecting vowel and personal ending from the lexical form.

λύω → λύ → ἔλυον

Augments

If the verb *begins with a consonant*, the augment is an epsilon, always with smooth breathing.

This is called a “syllabic” augment. (λύω → ἔλυον)

If a word *begins with a vowel*, the augment is formed by lengthening that vowel. This is called a “temporal” augment because it takes longer to say the word with the long vowel.

original		augment	original		augment
ο	→	ω	ω	→	ω
η	→	η	οι	→	ω
ι	→	ι	αυ	→	ηυ
υ	→	υ	ευ ¹	→	ηυ

¹ Verbs beginning with ευ often do not augment. (εὐρίσκω → εὐρισκον)

Four Main Verb Paradigms

	<i>primary tenses</i>		<i>secondary tenses</i>	
<i>active voice</i>	λύω	—	ἔλυον	ν
	λύεις	ς	ἔλυες	ς
	λύει	ι	ἔλυε [ν]	—
	λύομεν	μεν	ἐλύομεν	μεν
	λύετε	τε	ἐλύετε	τε
	λύουσι	νσι	ἔλυον	ν
<i>Middle/passive</i>	λύομαι	μαι	ἐλύομην	μην
	λύῃ	σαι	ἐλύου	σο
	λύεται	ται	ἐλύετο	το
	λύομεθα	μεθα	ἐλύομεθα	μεθα
	λύεσθε	σθε	ἐλύεσθε	εσθε
	λύονται	νται	ἐλύοντο	ντο

εἶμί

<i>Present</i>		<i>Imperfect</i>		<i>Future</i>	
εἶμί	ἔσμέν	ἦμην	ἦμεν ²	ἔσομαι	ἔσόμεθα
εἶ	ἔστέ	ἦς ¹	ἦτε	ἔση	ἔσεσθε
ἔστί[ν]	εἰσί [ν]	ἦν	ἦσαν	ἔσται	ἔσονται

¹ An alternate form ἦσθα occurs twice (Matt. 26:69; Mark 14:67)

² This form occurs eight times while an alternate form ἦμεθα occurs five times.