



GREEK VERB: VOICES

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Finite Verbs

Analysis includes 5 pieces of information

- Person = 1st, 2nd, 3rd
- Number = singular, plural, [dual]
- Tense = present, imperfect, aorist, perfect, future, pluperfect, future perfect
- Mood = indicative, imperative, subjunctive, optative
- Voice = active, middle, passive; also deponent

Greek has three voices: active, middle, passive

Active = the subject is the agent of the verb

- “Themistokles [SBJ] won [PRED] the battle [OBJ].”

Middle = the subject is the agent of the verb, but acts with some special reference to himself/herself

- “Susan exercises.” [for her own benefit]
- “Kimon pours a libation.” [for his own benefit, not for the city]
- “The hoplite prepared [himself] for battle.”

Deponents are active verbs with middle/passive forms

- μάχομαι, ἔρχομαι, γίγνομαι, etc.

Some verbs whose meanings change with voice

αἰρέω Act = *take* Mid = *choose*

αἰτέω Act = *ask* Mid = *beg*

μισθόω Act = *hire out* Mid = *rent*

χράω Act = *give an oracle* Mid = *consult an oracle*

φαίνω Act = *cause to appear* Mid = *seem*

Use the LSJ to find the meanings in different voices

πειθω, persuade, in pf. ἔπειθον *Il.22.91*, etc.; Ep. and Lyr. πείθω *Pi.O.2.80, A.Eu.84, Ar.Pl.304*, etc. (Hom. has only opt. πείσειε *C. Corinn.Supp.2.58* (poet. dual πθέταν), *A. Supp.941, Ar.Pl.949, T.23.40, A.R.3.14, πεπιθεῖν Il.9.184, A.R.3.536, πεπιθών Pi.I.4(3). h.Ap.275*): pf. πέπεικα *Lys. 26.7, Is.8.24, Isoc.14.15*:—Med. and Ion. πείθω *5.201, ἐπίθετο Ar.Nu.73, ἐπίθοντο Il.3.260, IG22.29.14, A.Eu.794*: subj. πίθωμαι *Il.18.273*, etc.; opt. πιθοίμην *4.93*, etc. (πείθωμενος *S.Ph.1226*: aor. 1 Med. ἐπέισάμην *IG12(5).720.5 (An. Pl.Sph.248e*, etc.: aor. 1 ἐπέισθην *A.Eu.593, S.OT526, Ar.Nu.86* πεπεῖσταιν *IG9(2).517.16* (Larissa, iii B. C.)).

II. intr. tenses of Act., in pass. sense, pf. 2 πέποιθα *Il.4.325*, etc. 1pl. πεποίθομεν (for-ωμεν) *Od.10.335*; opt. πεποιθοίη *Ar.Ach.94.8.181*; 1pl. ἐπέπιθμεν *Il.2.341, 4.159*: Pi. uses aor. 2 part. πιθών =

III. as if from πείθεω, Hom. has fut. πείθω *Od.21.369* (*obey*): a *Lyc.735*; redupl. aor. subj. πεπιθήσω trans., *Il.22.223*:—also Aeol.

A. Act., prevail upon, persuade, usu. by fair means, τινα Il.9.345 ἐνὶ στήθεσσι κείνου *9.587*, cf. *Od.7.258, 25.557*, ἔκτορτι θυμῷ

B. Pass. and Med., to be prevailed on, won over, persuaded, abs., Il.5.201, ε *Il.11.440*, οὐκ ἔπεισται *S.OC1181, El. 1207*. c. inf., *to be persuaded to* τινὶ ὥστε . . . *Th. 2.2*; ὁ . . . ὑμεῖς . . . ἥκιστ' ἂν ὀξέως πείθοισθε (sc. πράξαι) *Id.* etc. ; τὰ μὲν παρ' ἡμῶν ἴσθι σοι πεπεισμένα we are won over to you, *Ar. Th.*

c. πείθεσθαι τινὶ listen to one, obey him, Il.1.79, etc. ; τοῖς ἐν τέλει βε *τῷ θεῷ ἢ ἄλλῳ Il. Ap. 29d. st. c. ἀπὸ δαιτ., ἔλεσι, μύθοισι π. τινί, Il.1.150,* πείθεσθαι *yield, succumb to old age, Il.23.645*; στυγερῇ πειθόμεθα δαιτί *let* πειθόμεθα νυκτὶ μελαίνῃ, of leaving off the labours of the day, *8.502*; ἀδίκω

b. with Adj. neut., σημάντορι πάντα πείθεσθαι *obey him in all things* *Il.1.289*, cf. *4.93, 7.48, Hdt. 6.100*, etc. ; πάντ' ἔγωγε πείσομαι *S.Aj.529*: πε *. . . πεισθεὶς ἀφανῆ E. Hipp. 1288* (anap.), cf. *Lys.22.3*: rarely with Noun in a

3. c. gen., four times in *Hdt.*, πείθεσθαι τινος *1.126, 5.29, 33,6.12*, cf. *Il.10.57*.

II. πείθεσθαι τινὶ believe, trust in, πείθεθ' ἑταίρω Od. 20.45: οἰωνοῖσι *Il.12.* λεγομένοισι *Hdt. 2.140*, etc. . . c. acc. ei inf., *believe that . . .*, οὐ γὰρ ποῦ ἐπί *μὴ εἶναι χρήματα, = ὅτι χρήματα οὐκ ἔχει, X.An. 7.8.3*: with ὥς, οὐ πείσονται *Prop.*, τὰ περὶ Αἴγυπτον τοῖσι λέγουσι αὐτὰ π., οὐκ ἐπέιθοντο τὰ ἐσαγγελθέντα *πειθόμεθα I do not take this on your word, Pl.Ap.25e*, cf. *Phdr.235b*: abs., ὥς

b. π. τινὰ ὅπως . . . *to believe of him, that . . .*, *E. Hipp.1251*.

III. pf. 2 πέποιθα *trust, rely on*, c. dat. pers. vel rei, *Il.4.325*, etc. (not freq. in *Od. 16.71*, cf. *Il.13.96*, etc.: c. dat., οἷσι . . . μαρ

Passive Voice

What had been the direct OBJ becomes the SBJ

What had been the SBJ become the agent [human] is usually expressed by a prepositional phrase $\acute{\upsilon}\pi\acute{o}$ + gen ["by x"] = OBJ [necessary argument]

The instrument [thing; ADV] is expressed with a dative of instrument/means [ADV].

ACTIVE = "Themistocles [SBJ] killed him [OBJ] with a club [ADV]."

PASSIVE

- "He [SBJ] was killed [PRED] by Themistokles [OBJ]."
- "He [SBJ] was killed [PRED] with a club [ADV]."
- "He [SBJ] was killed [PRED] by Themistokles [OBJ] with a club [ADV]."

Voice and Tense

In the present and perfect stems, the same form represents both middle and passive [medio-passive]

- They must be distinguished by context
- ὑπό + gen agent = passive

Aorist and Future have different forms for the middle and passive

Common forms in Greek

Aorist active, middle, passive

Imperfect active, M/P

Present active, M/P

Less common

- Perfect active, M/P
- Future active, middle

Summary: 3rd sg/pl

Deponent, middle, and medio-passive 3rd person endings

- -ται, -νται [primary endings]
- -το, -ντο [secondary endings]

Aorist passive 3rd person endings

- -θη
- -θησαν

Sigma is the sign of the fut, impf, and aor

Kappa is the sign of the perf

Theta is the sign of the aor pass

Formation: Present Active > M/P

Present m/p = 1PP + **-εται, -ονται**

- Same as present deponent = primary endings

πέμπω [act > MP]

- πέμπει > πέμπ**εται**
- πέμπουσι(ν) > πέμπ**ονται**

ἄρχω

- ἄρχει > ἄρχ**εται**
- ἄρχουσι(ν) > ἄρχ**ονται**

ποιέω

- ποιεῖ > ποι**εῖται**
- ἐποιουσι(ν) > ποι**οῦνται**

βάλλω

- βάλλει > βάλλ**εται**
- βάλλουσι(ν) > βάλλ**ονται**

Formation: Imperfect Active > M/P

Present m/p = 1 PP + -εται, -ονται

- Same as present deponent = primary endings

Imperfect m/p = 1 PP + augment +
-ετο, -οντο

- Same as imperfect deponent = secondary endings

πέμπω [act > MP]

- ἔπεμπε(ν) > ἐπέμπετο
- ἔπεμπον > ἐπέμποντο

ἄρχω

- ἤρχε(ν), > ἤρχετο
- ἤρχον > ἤρχοντο

ποιέω

- ἐποίει > ἐποιεῖτο
- ἐποίουν > ἐποιοῦντο

βάλλω

- ἔβαλε(ν) > ἐβάλλετο
- ἔβαλον > ἐβάλλοντο

Aorist Middle formed from 3rd PP

Augment + stem + -σατο, -σαντο OR -ετο, -οντο

πέμπω, πέμψω, **ἔπεμψα**, πέπομφα, πέπεμμαι, ἐπέμφθην

- ἐπέμψατο, ἐπέμψαντο

ἄρχω, ἄρξω, **ἤρξα**, ἤρχα, ἤργμαι, ἤρχθην

- --, --

ποιέω, ποιήσω, **ἐποίησα**, πεποίηκα, ποποίημαι, ἐποιήθην

- ἐποίησατο, ἐποίησαντο

βάλλω, βαλέω, **ἔβαλον**, βέβληκα, βέβλημαι, ἐβλήθην

- ἐβάλετο, ἐβάλοντο

Aorist Passive formed from 6th PP

Augment + stem + -θη, -θησαν

πέμπω, πέμψω, ἔπεμψα, πέπομφα, πέπεμμαι, **ἐπέμφθη**

- ἐπέμφ**θη**, ἐπέμφ**θησαν**

ἄρχω, ἄρξω, ἤρξα, ἤρχα, ἤργμαι, **ἤρχθη**

- ἤρχ**θη**, ἤρχ**θησαν**

ποιέω, ποιήσω, ἐποίησα, πεποίηκα, ποποίημαι, **ἐποιήθη**

- ἐποιή**θη**, ἐποιή**θησαν**

βάλλω, βαλέω, ἔβαλον, βέβληκα, βέβλημαι, **ἐβλήθη**

- ἐβλή**θη**, ἐβλή**θησαν**

REVIEW = Perfect ACTIVE tense

4PP = Reduplication + κ + 3rd sg/pl endings = -ε(ν)/-ασι(ν)

πέμπω, πέμψω, ἔπεμψα, **πέπομφα**, πέπεμμαι, ἐπέμφθην

- **πέπομφε(ν), πεπόμφασι(ν)**

ἄρχω, ἄρξω, ἤρξα, **ἤρχα**, ἤργμαι, ἤρχθην

- **ἤρχε(ν), --**

ποιέω, ποιήσω, ἐποίησα, **πεποίη-κα**, ποποίημαι, ἐποιήθην

- **πεπόηκε(ν), πεποήκασιν**

βάλλω, βαλέω, ἔβαλον, **βέβλη-κα**, βέβλημαι, ἐβλήθην

- **βέβληκε(ν), --**

Perfect M/P formed from 5th PP + primary endings

Reduplication + stem + -ται, -νται

πέμπω, πέμψω, ἔπεμψα, πέπομφα, **πέπεμμαι**, ἐπέμφθην

- **πέπεμπται**, --

ἄρχω, ἄρξω, ἤρξα, ἤρχα, **ἤργμαι**, ἤρχθην

- **ἤρκται**, --

ποιέω, ποιήσω, ἐποίησα, πεποίηκα, **ποποίημαι**, ἐποιήθην

- **πεποίηται**, **πεποίηνται**

βάλλω, βαλέω, ἔβαλον, βέβληκα, **βέβλημαι**, ἐβλήθην

- **βέβληται**, **βέβληνται**

In sum: 3rd sg/pl

Deponent, middle, and medio-passive endings

- -ται, -νται
- -το, -ντο

Aorist passive

- -θη
- -θησαν

Sigma is the sign of the fut, impf, and aor

Kappa is the sign of the perf

Theta is the sign of the aor pass

Summary of most common forms

Principal Parts	Aor Act	Aor Mid	Aor Pass
	3rd PP	3rd PP	6th PP
θύω, θύσω, ἔθυσα, τέθυκα, τέθυμαι, ἐτύθην	ἔθυσε, ἔθυσαν	ἐθύσατο, ἐθύσαντο	ἐτύθη, ἐτύθησαν
πέμπω, πέμψω, ἔπεμψα, πέπομφα, πέπεμμαι, ἐπέμφθην	ἔπεμψε, ἔπεμψαν	ἐπέμψατο, ἐπέμψαντο	ἐπέμφθη, ἐπέμφθησαν
φεύγω, φεύξομαι, ἔφυγον, πέφευγα, --, --	ἔφυγε, ἔφυγον	--, --	--, --
βάλλω, βαλέω, ἔβαλον, βέβληκα, βέβλημαι, ἐβλήθην	ἔβαλε, ἔβαλον	ἐβάλετο, ἐβάλοντο	ἐβλήθη, ἐβλήθησαν
ποιέω, ποιήσω, ἐποίησα, πεποίηκα, ποποίημαι, ἐποιήθην	ἐποίησε, ἐποίησαν	ἐποιήσατο, ἐποιήσαντο	ἐποιήθη, ἐποιήθησαν
ἔρχομαι, ἐλεύσομαι, ἦλθον, ἐλήλυθα, --, --	ἦλθε, ἦλθον	--, --	--, --
ἴστημι, στήσω, ἔστησα/ἔστην, ἔστηκα, ἔσταμαι, ἐστάθην	ἔστη, ἔστησαν	ἔστατο, ἐστήσαντο	ἐστάθη, ἐστάθησαν

Principal Parts	Pres Act	Pres M/P	Impf Act	Impf M/P
	1st PP	1st PP	1st PP	1st PP
θύω, θύσω, ἔθυσα, τέθυκα, τέθυμαι, ἐτύθην	θύει, θύουσι(ν)	θύεται, θύονται	ἔθυε, ἔθυον	ἐθύετο, ἐθύοντο
πέμπω, πέμψω, ἔπεμψα, πέπομφα, πέπεμμαι, ἐπέμφθην	πέμπει, πέμπουσι(ν)	πέμπεται, πέμπονται	ἔπεμπε, ἔπεμπον	ἐπέμπετο, ἐπέμποντο
φεύγω, φεύξομαι, ἔφυγον, πέφευγα, --, --	φεύγει, φεύγουσι(ν)	φεύγεται, φεύγονται	ἔφευγε, ἔφευγον	--, --
βάλλω, βαλέω, ἔβαλον, βέβληκα, βέβλημαι, ἐβλήθην	βάλλει, βάλλουσι(ν)	βάλλεται, βάλλονται	ἔβαλλε, ἔβαλλον	ἐβάλλετο, ἐβάλλοντο
ποιέω, ποιήσω, ἐποίησα, πεποίηκα, ποποίημαι, ἐποιήθην	ποιεῖ, ποιοῦσι(ν)	ποεῖται, ποιοῦνται	ἐποίει, ἐποίουν	ἐποιεῖτο, ἐποιοῦντο
ἔρχομαι, ἐλεύσομαι, ἦλθον, ἐλήλυθα, --, --	ἔρχεται, ἔρχονται	ἔρχεται, ἔρχονται	ἤρχετο, ἤρχοντο	ἤρχετο, ἤρχοντο
ἴστημι, στήσω, ἔστησα/ἔστην, ἔστηκα, ἔσταμαι, ἐστάθην	ἴστησι(ν), ἰστᾶσι(ν)	ἴσταται, ἴστανται	ἴστη, ἴστασαν	ἴστατο, ἴσαντο

