

Greek Cheat Sheet

Elements of a Greek Verb

Tense: Communicates the relationship between the verb and the “kind of action” (linear, undefined, or completed)

Voice: Communicates who is performing the stated action

Mood: Communicates the relationship to reality

Person: Communicates the relationship between the verb and the subject (I, you, he/she)

Number: Communicates whether the verb is singular or plural

Tense Relationships

3 Aspects (how the action is portrayed)

These usages are GENERAL and have a great amount of variability in actual function

Linear Aspect (progress) – Action is ongoing in nature (internal description of an action)

Present – indicates a present, ongoing, or linear action; no concern for beginning or end

Imperfect – indicates the “process” or “activity” of some past event without any concern for beginning or end

Undefined Aspect (simple occurrence) – A “snapshot” or “summary” of action (external summary of an action)

Aorist – indicates an undefined past action; a summary of some past action

Future – indicates an undefined future action; a summary of some future event

Perfect Aspect (results) – Action is completed with ongoing results; may be either internal or external in function

Perfect – indicates an event accomplished in the past with results in the present

Pluperfect – indicates an event accomplished in the past with results in the past

	Past	Present	Future
Present Tense		—————	
Imperfect Tense	—————		
Aorist Tense	●		
Future Tense			●
Perfect Tense	●	
Pluperfect Tense	●	

Voice

Active Voice – Indicates that the subject of the verb is acting on the object

Subject → Object

Middle Voice – Indicates that the subject of the verb is, according to some perspective, acting upon itself

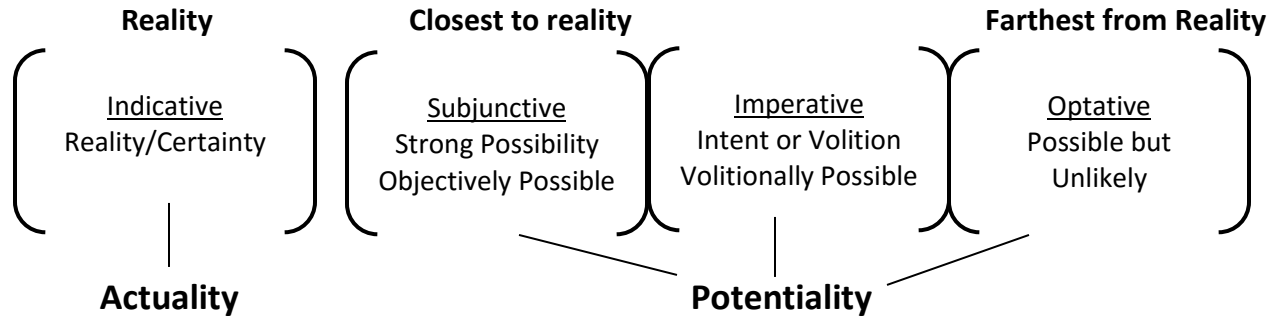


Passive Voice – Indicates that the subject of the verb is being acted UPON

Subject ← ?

Mood Comparisons

Describes the verb's relation to reality: that which has, will, or does now exist



Person

1st Person – “I, my, we, our”

2nd Person – “you, ye, thee, thou”

3rd Person “he, she, him, her”

Number

Singular – One

Plural – More than one

Commands & Prohibitions

Positive Command

Present Imperative Verb: “keep doing it”; implies the action has already begun

Aorist Imperative Verb: “begin doing it/do it now”; implies the action has not yet begun

Prohibition

μή + Present Imperative Verb: “stop doing it”

μή + Aorist Subjunctive Verb: “do not begin doing it”

ού + Future Indicative Verb: also prohibition, no particular implication

Classes of Conditional Sentences

1st class condition: εἰ + present (tense) indicative (mood) – speaker assumes the condition is true

2nd class condition: εἰ + past (tense) indicative (mood) – speaker assumes the condition is false

3rd class condition: εἰάν + subjunctive (mood) – condition is probable

4th class condition: εἰάν + optative (mood) – condition is unlikely

Alphabet, Vowels, Diphthongs, and Breathing

- The Greek alphabet is as follows:

Greek Letter		Name	Equivalent	Sound When Spoken
Α	α	Alpha	A	al-fah
Β	β	Beta	B	bay-tah
Γ	γ	Gamma	G	gam-ah
Δ	δ	Delta	D	del-tah
Ε	ε	Epsilon	E	ep-si-lon
Ζ	ζ	Zeta	Z	zay-tah
Η	η	Eta	E	ay-tay
Θ	θ	Theta	Th	thay-tah
Ι	ι	Iota	I	eye-o-tah
Κ	κ	Kappa	K	cap-ah
Λ	λ	Lambda	L	lamb-dah
Μ	μ	Mu	M	mew
Ν	ν	Nu	N	new
Ξ	ξ	Xi	X	zzEye
Ο	ο	Omicron	O	om-ah-cron
Π	π	Pi	P	pie
Ρ	ρ	Rho	R	row
Σ	σ	Sigma	S	sig-ma
Τ	τ	Tau	T	tawh
Υ	υ	Upsilon	U	oop-si-lon
Φ	φ	Phi	Ph	figh or fie
Χ	χ	Chi	Ch	kigh
Ψ	ψ	Psi	Ps	sigh
Ω	ω	Omega	O	o-may-gah

At the END of a word sigma is written Ϛ instead of Ϛ, as it appears everywhere else

- There are seven Greek vowels: α, ε, η, ι, ο, υ, ω

η is the **lengthened** form of ε

ω is the **lengthened** form of ο

ε and ο are always **short** vowels

η and ω are always **long** vowels

α, ι and υ are sometimes **long** and sometimes **short**; for the sake of this study the reasons for long and short vowels are inconsequential

- A diphthong is two vowel sounds combined into one. The diphthongs are:

αι (like *aisle*)

ου (like *group*)

αυ (like *house*)

ευ (like *feud*)

ει (like *weight*)

ηυ (rare, and sounds like ευ)

οι (like *oil*)

υι (like *we*)

- Several vowels may also have an **iota-subscript**, where the ι is written under the previous vowel, but does not affect its sound:

αι̣ η̣ ω̣

- One of two **breathing marks** will appear over a vowel when it begins a word. A **smooth** breathing mark (´) over the vowel means the vowel should be pronounced according to its regular sound. A **rough** breathing mark (῀) over the vowel means the vowel should be pronounced with an initial *h sound*. An initial υ always has a rough breathing mark. Diphthongs will also have breathing marks when they begin a word.

Thus ἁμαρτία is pronounced *hamartia* but ἀληθεία is pronounced *alatheia* and

- There are 3 types of accents that appear on Greek words: acute (´), grave (`) and circumflex (ˆ). Where they appear and why is beyond the scope of our study. The words accent will always stand over the syllable that should be stressed when speaking.