Chapter Fourteen

Perfect Indicative Verbs: present / 

Meaning

Components:
The perfect indicative presents a verbal notion, using resultant-state aspect in present time. That is, it reports a present condition that has resulted from a completed past event. The personal ending specifies the person and number of the subject and specifies either active or middle nuances. The semantic configuration of a perfect indicative verb is

present /  /***base*** / personal ending <active or middle>

Translation:
If you remember that the perfect reports a present condition that results from a completed event, you'll find a way to say it in English. Usually translations take one of two forms: "The king *has died*" or "The king *is dead*." You should notice that these two sentences carry virtually the same meaning.

Present-time marker: ø

As you learned in studying the present tense, present time is the default in Greek verbs. Perfects do not contain augments because they are not talking about past time. Nor do they contain the future markers that you will learn in a subsequent lesson. The absence of either a past or a future marker in perfect forms effectively stipulates present time.

 ***Resultant-state aspect marker(s)***

Most perfect active forms contain not one, but TWO resultant-state aspect markers.

1) Reduplication in epsilon. All perfects prefix a reduplication in epsilon to their base as a resultant-state aspect marker. Well, that isn't exactly true. Bases that begin with vowels, double consonants, and sometimes σ can't use a real reduplication, but they use a substitute for reduplication.

You have already seen reduplication as a process marker in verbs like δίδωμι (ø/δι/***δο***/μι), where the vowel in the reduplication is always ι: δι/***δο***/; σ῾ι/***στα***/; θ῾ι/***θε***/. In reduplicated resultant-state markers, the vowel is always ε: δε/***δο***/; σ῾ε/***στα***/; θ῾ε/***θε***/. And, whereas reduplication in ι is a rare process marker, reduplication in ε (or a variant of it) occurs in *all* resultant-state verbs.

Variations of reduplication in epsilon:

Bases that begin with a double consonant sound (γν, κτ, ψ, ζ, etc.) use just ἐ. If the Greeks had followed the normal pattern, they would have had to begin resultant-state verbs with unmanageable combinations such as γνε/***γνο*** and κτε/***κτα***/. We should not be surprised that they chose instead to say ἐ/***γνο*** and ἐ/***κτα*** .

Bases that begin in vowels also depart from the normal pattern in order to avoid awful initial combinations like ἀε/***α…***/ and ὀε/***ο…***/. For these verbs Greeks preferred merely to lengthen the initial vowel. The result looks just like the temporal augment—that lengthening of an initial vowel that serves in place of the ἐ augment in the aorist: α and ε lengthen to η; ο, to ω; ι and υ lengthen in pronunciation, but there is no change in spelling. Be very clear, though, that this lengthening in resultant-state forms is *not an augment*. I.e., it is *not a past time marker*. It is a resultant-state marker. In analyses, I underline the first vowel and prefix a red dash (▬) to emphasize that the lengthening is a resultant-status marker.

Bases that begin with λε were reduplicated by some speakers as normal reduplication in epsilon, but by others as the dipthong ει/. Consequently, you will find both εἰ/***λεγ***/ and λε/***λεγ***/ in the resultant-state forms of ***λεγ***/.

Bases that begin with an aspirate (φ, χ, θ) cannot reduplicate using an aspirate. Grassmann's Law forbids it. Else, we would end up with φε/φυ/ and θε/θε/. So, the aspiration is dropped from the reduplication, giving us πε/***φυ***/ and τε/***θε***/.

A very few perfect forms of bases beginning with vowels retain an archaic feature called Attic Reduplication instead of marking resultant-state by lengthening the first vowel. Attic reduplication consists of doubling the entire first syllable and lengthening the initial vowel of the base.

ἀκηκοϝ/ [ἀκ/***ἀκοϝ***/]; **ὀλωλ**/ [ὀλ/***ολ***/]

In compound verbs the verb base, not the adverbial component, is reduplicated: ***κατα***/λε/***λυ***/, *not* κε/***κατα/λυ***/.

You may have to see quite a few perfects before you become comfortable with these variations of reduplication in epsilon. The thing you need to notice, though, is that *every* resultant-state form you encounter will have some variety of reduplication prefixed to the base. Without the reduplication or its variant, there would be no marker to tell the listener to envision the verbal notion as resultant-state aspect.

2) κ suffix. The ACTIVE voice forms of most verbs include a second resultant-state marker—κ—added to the end of the base. Verbs whose perfect actives include this second aspect marker are called "Weak Perfects" or "First Perfects."

Exceptions:

- A few ancient forms of the perfect active employ only reduplication and do not add κ to signify resultant-state aspect. Grammarians (with our usual display of imagination) call these forms "Second perfects" or "Strong Perfects" because they were "strong" enough to resist the pervasive tendency to add the second resultant-state marker.
- Perfect MIDDLES *never* add the κ marker. They use only reduplication in epsilon to mark resultant-state aspect.

Changes to the base

The fusion of resultant-state marker and ***base*** (including any pronunciation changes that may have occurred) is called the **perfect** (or **restultant-state**) **stem**.

Changes caused by prefixing the reduplication

Bases beginning with vowels. The lengthening which substitutes for reduplication lengthens the initial sound of bases beginning with vowels: α → η; ε → η; ο → η; ι → ι; υ → υ; ω → ω.

Bases beginning in digamma. Generally, the ϝ reduplicates: ϝε/***ϝερ***/. Then, the two digammas disappear, and the vowels contract: εἰρ/ (ϝε/ϝ***ερ***/).

Changes caused by adding the κ

Bases ending in dentals (δ, τ, θ). The dental disappears before κ—just as it does before σ.

νε/***νομ***δ/κ/ becomes **νενομικ**/
κε/***κολα***δ/κ/ becomes **κεκολακ**/

Bases ending in unaspirated gutturals (κ, γ) and labials (π, β). These bases aspirate the final consonant instead of adding κ.

πε/***φυλακ***/ ʻ/ becomes **πεφυλαχ**/
βε/***βλαβ***/ ʻ/ becomes **βεβλαφ**/

Bases ending in ν. The combination νκ never remains. Usually the κ is dropped.

πε/***φαν***/κ/ becomes **πεφην**/

Contract Verbs: Bases ending in α, ε, or ο. In the perfect, when the κ event marker is added to these bases, the final vowel almost always lengthens. As in the weak aorist, a few verbs don't exhibit lengthening.

τε/***τιμα***/κ/ becomes **τετιμηκ**/
πε/***φιλε***/κ/ becomes **πεφιληκ**/
▬/***ἀξιο***/κ/ becomes **ἠξιωκ**/

Bases that add vowel pads. Some bases, to avoid difficulties of pronunciation that would result from adding κ to a base, have acquired an ε as a "vowel pad" that insulates the base from the κ. This ε lengthens before the κ, just as in the contract verbs.

τετυχηκ/ (τε/*τυχ*<ε>/κ/)
μεμαθηκ/ (με/*μαθ*<ε>/κ/)
μεμενηκ/ (με/*μεν*<ε>/κ/)

Bases that become o-grade in the perfect active. Some bases retain an old Greek tendency to become o-grade in their perfect *active* forms. That is to say, the main internal vowel of the base becomes a significant o-sound. If in the aorist the vowel was ι, in the perfect that vowel will become the diphthong οι. If the vowel in the aorist was ε or (apparently) α, it will become o in the perfect.

λελοιπ/ (λε/*λ*^{o}*ιπ*/). *Aorist*: ἔ**λιπ**ον (ἐ/**λιπ**/ø/ον)
γεγον/ (γε/*γ*ε^{o}*ν*/). *Aorist*: ἐ**γεν**όμην (ἐ/*γεν*/ø/ομην)
πεπονθ/ (πε/*π*^{o}*N*^{ν}*θ*/). *Aorist*: ἔ**παθ**ον (ἐ/*π*N^{α}*θ*/ø/ον)

Bases that become e-grade in the perfect middle. Bases that become o-grade in the perfect active are often e-grade in the perfect middle.

Middle: **λελειπ**/ (λε/*λ*^{ε}*ιπ*/). *Active*: **λελοιπ**/ (λε/*λ*^{o}*ιπ*/).
Middle: **γεγενη**/ (γε/*γεν*<ε>/). *Active*: **γεγον**/ (γε/*γ*ε^{o}*ν*/).

Bases that attach analogous σ in the perfect middle. The bases of many perfect middles have picked up a final ***σ***, in imitation of the sound of the many bases whose final dental changes to ***σ*** before the personal ending (see below: *Complications of pronunciation in the perfect middle*).

Personal endings

In the perfect, you have only two sets of personal endings to learn: the actives and the middles.

Formation of the Weak Perfect Active

	Singular	Plural
1st-person	**δέδωκ**α (ø/δε/*δ*ο/κ/α)	**δεδώκ**αμεν (ø/δε/*δ*ο/κ/αμεν)
2nd-person	**δέδωκ**ας (ø/δε/*δ*ο/κ/ας)	**δεδώκ**ατε (ø/δε/*δ*ο/κ/ατε)
3rd-person	**δέδωκ**ε(ν) (ø/δε/*δ*ο/κ/ε)	**δεδώκ**ασι(ν) (ø/δε/*δ*ο/κ/αN^{ν}σι)

Formation of the Strong Perfect Active

	Singular	Plural
1st-person	**λέλοιπα** (ø/λε/λοιπ/α)	**λελοίπαμεν** (ø/λε/λοιπ/αμεν)
2nd-person	**λέλοιπας** (ø/λε/λοιπ/ας)	**λελοίπατε** (ø/λε/λοιπ/ατε)
3rd-person	**λέλοιπε**(ν) (ø/λε/λοιπ/ε)	**λελοίπασι**(ν) (ø/λε/λοιπ/αNνσι)

The active endings—with their characteristic α theme vowels in most forms—are (with the exception of the 3rd-plural) identical to those of the weak aorist.

Weak Perfect Middle

	Singular	Plural
1st-person	**δέδο**μαι (ø/δε/δο/μαι)	**δεδό**μεθα (ø/δε/δο/μεθα)
2nd-person	**δέδο**σαι (ø/δε/δο/σαι)	**δέδο**σθε (ø/δε/δο/σθε)
3rd-person	**δέδο**ται (ø/δε/δο/ται)	**δέδο**νται (ø/δε/δο/νται)

Strong Perfect Middle

	Singular	Plural
1st-person	λέλειμμαι (ø/λε/λ^{ε}ιπ/μαι)	λελείμμεθα (ø/λε/λ^{ε}ιπ/μεθα)
2nd-person	λέλειψαι (ø/λε/λ^{ε}ιπ/σαι)	λέλειφθε (ø/λε/λ^{ε}ιπ/σθε)
3rd-person	**λέλειπ**ται (ø/λε/λ^{ε}ιπ/ται)	Usually none (ø/λε/λ^{ε}ιπ/νται)

The middle endings are identical to those of the present except that they are always athematic.

Complications of pronunciation in the perfect middle

Since the perfect middle never has a theme vowel, many complications will arise when the initial consonant sound of the ending collides with a final consonant sound of the base. The six middle endings contain four initial consonant sounds: μ, σ, τ, and ν. The chart below shows the most common sound combinations and the natural changes they undergo in pronunciation and spelling. Grammarians generally refer to these changes as euphonic changes, i.e., changes that produce a pleasing sound.

Euphonic changes in the perfect middle

When the final consonant of the ***base*** collides with the ending, the sound (in black) results.

Ending / ***Base***	/μαι /μεθα	/σαι	/ται	/σθε	/νται
τ/, ***δ***/, ***θ***/	σμαι σμεθα	σαι	σται	σθε	<None>
κ/, ***γ***/, ***χ***/	γμαι γμεθα	ξαι	κται	χσθε	<None>
π/, ***β***/, ***φ***/	μμαι μμεθα	ψαι	πται	φσθε	<None>

Note: The combinations that would have resulted in the 3rd-plural were so problematic that for many verbs the forms were never used. In a later chapter you will learn how to construct a perfect middle 3rd-plural using a form of εἰμί and a perfect middle participle. Grammarians call that construction the *perfect middle periphrastic*.

Now what?

More analysis. (Are you shocked?!)

- Make sure that the ***base*** you include in your analysis is identical to that you found in the present. In a few verbs, it won't be. If the bases are not identical, note whether the difference arises from vowel gradation or because the verb uses different bases as suppletives.
- You will see that a few verbs take one form to communicate a "transitive" sense (*verbum transitivum*, *v.t.*)—i.e., take a direct object—while another form is commonly used with an intransitive sense (*verbum intransitivum*, *v.i.*). If you don't understand the distinction, ask about it. You don't need to memorize this information, but you do need to be able to understand it when it is given to you.
- Make sure that you can identify whether a given verb forms its perfect actives as Weak Perfects or Strong Perfects. Again, you will find a few verbs with both sorts of forms.

In this exercise, you'll need to analyze both actives and middles of the perfect tense. Reference books list both of them because the base of the middle form is fairly frequently of a different vowel grade than the perfect active. I have left room above each form for you to write the analysis.

Base	Present	Perfect Active	Perfect Middle	Meaning
παυ/	παύω	πέπαυκα	πέπαυ(σ)μαι	stop
λυ/	λύω	λέλυκα	λέλυμαι	loosen
κατα/λυ/	καταλύω	καταλέλυκα	καταλέλυμαι	release
κωλυ/	κωλύω	κεκώλυκα	κεκώλυμαι	prevent
κελευ/	κελεύω	κεκέλευκα	κεκέλευμαι	bid, command
παιδευ/	παιδεύω	πεπαίδευκα	πεπαίδευμαι	educate
ἑλκ(υ)/	ἕλκω	εἵλκυκα	εἵλκυσμαι	drag
πορευ/	πορεύομαι		πεπόρευμαι	travel, fare
ἀκοϝ/	ἀκούω	ἀκήκοα	ἤκουσμαι	hear
ποιε/	ποιέω	πεποίηκα	πεποίημαι	make, do
αἰτε/	αἰτέω	ᾔτηκα	ᾔτημαι	ask (a favor), demand
αἱρε/	αἱρέω	ᾕρηκα	ᾕρημαι	pick up, pick

Base	Present	Perfect Active	Perfect Middle	Meaning
φιλε/	φιλέω	πεφίληκα	πεφίλημαι	love
ζητε/	ζητέω	ἐζήτηκα	ἐζήτημαι	seek, look for
ἀπορε/	ἀπορέω	ἠπόρηκα	ἠπόρημαι	be at a loss
ἀνα/χωρε/	ἀναχωρέω	ἀνακεχώρηκα	ἀνακεχώρημαι	withdraw, leave
ἐξ/ήγε	ἐξηγέομαι		ἐξήγημαι	explain
φοβε/	φοβέω	πεφόβηκα	πεφόβημαι	terrify
δια/νοε/	διανοέομαι		διανενόημαι	contemplate
τελε/	τελέω	τετέληκα	τετέλημαι τετέλησμαι	complete
καλε/	καλέω	κέκληκα	κέκλημαι	call
σιωπα/	σιωπάω	σεσίωπα	σεσιώπημαι	be silent
τολμα/	τολμάω	τετόλμηκα	τετόλμημαι	dare

Base	Present	Perfect Active	Perfect Middle	Meaning
χρα/	χράομαι		κέχρημαι	use
κτα/	κτάομαι		κέκτημαι	obtain
μηχανα/	μηχανάομαι		μεμηχάνημαι	contrive
δυνα/	δύναμαι		δεδύνημαι	be able
γελα	γελάω	γεγέλακα	γεγέλαμαι	laugh
δρα/	δράω	δέδρακα	δέδραμαι	do, act, perform
σεϝα/	ἐάω	εἴακα	εἵαμαι	allow
ἐλα/	ἐλαύνω	ἐλήλακα	ἐλήλα(σ)μαι	drive
ὁρα ϝιδ/	ὁράω	ἑώρακα	ἑώραμαι	see
κρεμα/	κρεμάννυμι	κεκρέμακα	κεκρέμαμαι	hang
κ(ε)ρα/	κεράννυμι	κεκέρακα	κέκραμαι	mix

Base	Present	Perfect Active	Perfect Middle	Meaning
πρα/	πίμπρημι	πέπρηκα	πέπρημαι	burn
στα/	ἵστημι	ἕστηκα	ἕσταμαι	stand
μνα/	μιμνήσκω	μέμνηκα	μέμνημαι	remind
δηλο/	δηλόω	δεδήλωκα	δεδήλωμαι	reveal
δο/	δίδωμι	δέδωκα	δέδομαι	give
τρο/	τιτρώσκω	τέτρωκα	τέτρωμαι	wound
γνο/	γιγνώσκω	ἔγνωκα	ἔγνωσμαι	know
ΔΑ/ διδά(σ)κ/	διδάσκω	δεδίδαχα	δεδίδαγμαι	teach
πι/ πο/	πίνω	πέπωκα	πέπομαι	drink
φθα/	φθάνω			anticipate, beat (+ participle)

Base	Present	Perfect Active	Perfect Middle	Meaning
διωκ/	διώκω	δεδίωχα	δεδίωγμαι	pursue, prosecute
λεγ/ ϝεπ/ ϝερ, ϝρέ	λέγω	εἴλοχα εἴρηκα	λέλεγμαι, εἴλεγμαι εἴρημαι	speak rationally
σεχ/	ἔχω	ἔσχηκα	ἔσχημαι	hold, have
ἀρχ/	ἄρχω	ἦρχα	ἦργμαι	lead
δεχ/	δέχομαι		δέδεγμαι	receive
ἀγ/	ἄγω	ἦχα	ἦγμαι	lead, act
ῥηγ/	ῥήγνυμι	ἔρρωγα	ἐρρηγμαι	break
δεικ/	δείκνυμι	δεδείχα	δέδειγμαι	show
ἀν(α)/οἰγ/	ἀνοίγνυμι	ἀνέῳχα ἀνέῳγα	ἀνέῳγμαι	open

Base	Present	Perfect Active	Perfect Middle	Meaning
μιγ/	μίγνυμι	μέμιχα	μέμιγμαι	mix
πρηγ/ *Attic:* πραγ/	πρήσσω πραττω	πέπρηχα πέπραχα	πέπρηγμαι πέπραγμαι	do, practice
ἐκ/πληγ/	ἐκπλήσσω	ἐκπέπληγα	ἐκπέπληγμαι	amaze
κηρυγ/	κηρύσσω	κεκήρυχα	κεκήρυγμαι	proclaim
πεμπ/	πέμπω	πέπομφα	πέπεμμαι	send
τραπ/	τρέπω	τέτραφα	τέτραμμαι	turn
λιπ/	λείπω	λέλοιπα	λέλειμμαι	leave
γραφ/	γράφω	γέγραφα	γέγραμμαι	draw, write
θρεφ/	τρέφω	τέτροφα	τρέτραμμαι	nurture
βλαβ/	βλάπτω	βέβλαφα	βέβλαμμαι	harm
θαφ/	θάπτω	τέταφα	τέθαμμαι	bury

Base	Present	Perfect Active	Perfect Middle	Meaning
κοπ/	κόπτω	κέκοφα	κέκομμαι	cut, hack
κλεπ/	κλέπτω	κέκλοφα	κέκλειμμαι	steal
ῥιπ/	ῥίπτω	ἔρριφα	ἔρριμμαι	throw
σκεπ/	σκέπτομαι		ἔσκεμμαι	look at, investigate
λαβ/	λαμβάνω	εἴληφα	εἴλημμαι	take
λαθ/	λανθάνω	λέληθα	λέλησμαι	escape notice (+ participle)
μαθ	μανθάνω	μεμάθηκα		learn
τυχ/	τυγχάνω	τετύχηκα		happen (to x) (+ participle)
λαχ/	λαγχάνω	εἴληχα	εἴληγμαι	obtain by lot
πιθ/	πείθω	πέποιθα	πέπεισμαι	persuade
ἔρχ/ ἐλ(υ)θ/	ἔρχομαι	ἐλήλυθα		come

Base	Present	Perfect Active	Perfect Middle	Meaning
νομιδ/	νομίζω	νενόμικα	νενόμισμαι	consider, reckon
κομιδ/	κομίζω	κεκόμικα	κεκόμισμαι	convey
ἐλπιδ/	ἐλπίζω	ἤλπικα	ἤλπισμαι	hope
θωμαδ/ *Attic:* θαυμαδ/	θωμάζω θαυμάζω	τεθώμακα τεθαύμακα	τεθώμασμαι τεθαύμασμαι	marvel
κολαδ/	κολάζω	κεκόλακα	κεκόλασμαι	punish
ἀτιμαδ/	ἄτιμάζω	ἠτίμακα	ἠτίμασμαι	dishonor
ϝεργαδ/	ἐργάζομαι		ἤργασμαι	work
βιαδ/	βιάζω	βεβίακα	βεβίασμαι	treat violently
ταμ/	τέμνω	τέτμηκα	τέτμημαι	cut
κριν/	κρίνω	κέκρικα	κέκριμαι	judge
σημαν/	σημαίνω	σεσήμηνα	σεσήμασμαι	signify

Base	Present	Perfect Active	Perfect Middle	Meaning
ποιμαν/	ποιμαίνω	πεποίμηνα	πεποίμασμαι	herd, shepherd
φαν/	φαίνω	πέφηνα	πέφασμαι	shine (Mid.: appear)
τΝ	τείνω	τέτακα	τέταμαι	stretch
ἀπο/κτΝ/	ἀποκτείνω	ἀπέκτονα	ἀπέκταμαι	kill
γεν/	γίγνομαι	γέγονα	γεγένημαι	become, happen
βουλ/	βούλομαι		βεβούλημαι	want, decide
στελ/	στέλλω	ἔσταλκα	ἔσταλμαι	send, dispatch
ἀγγελ/	ἀγγέλλω	ἤγγελκα	ἤγγελμαι	announce
σφαλ/	σφάλλω	ἔσφαλκα	ἔσφαλμαι	cause to slip
βαλ/	βάλλω	βέβληκα	βέβλημαι	throw
ὀλ/	ὄλλυμι	ὀλώλεκα (*v.t.*) ὄλωλα (*v.i.*)		destroy

Base	Present	Perfect Active	Perfect Middle	Meaning
φθερ/	φθείρω	ἔφθαρκα	ἔφθαρμαι	corrupt, ruin
ἐγερ/	ἐγείρω	ἐγήγερκα (*v.t.*) ἐγρήγορα (*v.i.*)	ἐγήγερμαι	raise
εὑρ/	εὑρίσκω	ηὕρηκα	ηὕρημαι	find
φερ/ ἐνε(ι)(γ)κ/	φέρω	ἐνήνοχα	ἐνήνειγμαι	carry

Am I ready to proceed?

- Do I know what the perfect indicative (active and middle) means—particularly with reference to time and aspect? Do I know the options for translating it?
- Do I recognize the present time marker in it?
- Do I know the resultant-status aspect markers for weak perfects and strong perfects?
- Do I know the changes to the ***base*** that occur when the resultant-status aspect markers are added?
- Have I memorized the active and middle personal endings for the perfect forms?
- Have I analyzed all the words in the morphology exercise? Have I asked for clarification of any items that I didn't fully understand?

When you can check off all the above, you're ready to proceed to the next chapter.