

Chapter Sixteen

Future and Future Perfect Indicative Verbs:

future /  & *future* / 

Future indicative: *future* / 

Meaning

Components: What Greeks heard.

The future indicative presents a verbal notion, using event aspect in future time. The personal ending specifies the person and number of the subject and specifies either active or middle nuances. The semantic configuration of a future indicative verb is

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

English Translation:

The future indicative is almost always translated as a simple future in English:

- "The king *will arrive* tomorrow."

Future time marker: σ

The future time marker for all Greek verbs is σ . Some grammarians would argue that historically this σ was originally not a future time marker at all, but the very same σ event-aspect marker seen in the weak aorist. Event action, they would argue, in the absence of an augment can apply only to the future because Greek has present-event forms. Those grammarians are probably correct: Future probably is the default time for event aspect verbs. However we explain the σ , though, the σ future marker serves to stipulate *both future time and event-aspect*. In analyses I label this σ as a *future time marker* because that will prove pedagogically useful in explaining other forms.

This σ future marker is always added to the *base* of the verb. "Whoa!" you wonder. Won't adding that σ to the *base* cause problems? It did in the nominative singular and dative plural forms of nouns. It did in the weak aorist. Won't it be similarly problematic in the future? Yes, it will. We'll discuss the complications involved in adding σ when we talk about *changes to the base* below.

Event Aspect Marker

Future event verbs do not have a separate aspect marker. The σ does double duty.

Future Stem: Base + σ

Bases ending in consonantal stops. Adding σ to the base produces the very same sound changes and lengthenings you see when σ is added to bases in the weak aorist.

ἐτοιμάζω: ἐτοιμασ/ [ἐτοιμαδ/σ/]

πράττω: πραξ/ [πραγ/σ/]

Bases ending in vowels. As in the weak aorist, the final vowels of these bases almost always lengthen before the σ , though (again, as in the weak aorist) a few bases do not experience such lengthening. You will recall that in the weak aorist, when the vowel does not lengthen, the σ is *not* lost (though it is intervocalic). In the future, however, the intervocalic sigma *is* lost in Attic and contraction occurs.

φιλέω: φιλησ/ [φιλε/σ/ω]

καλέω: καλεσ/ [καλε/σ/] (Attic future καλῶ [καλέ/σ/ω])

τελέω: τελεσ/ [τελε/σ/] (Attic future τελῶ [τελε/σ/ω])

Bases ending in liquids (μ , λ , ν , ρ). You should anticipate trouble adding σ to these bases. *In the weak aorist* the collision of the liquid and the σ resulted in the loss of the σ and the compensatory lengthening of the preceding vowel. *In the future* the early Greeks avoided the collision of liquid and σ by inserting a vowel pad—(ϵ)—as part of the future marker. I.e., (ϵ) σ (rather than just σ) was added to bases ending in liquids. As time went by, the σ was lost (as intervocalic sigma), leaving only the ϵ . So, in effect, ϵ became the future marker for bases ending in liquids.

The resulting vowel combinations contract in Attic. So, just as you learned to see circumflex accents in the present tense as evidence of a lost contract vowel, *you need to learn to see circumflex accents after liquids as evidence of a lost (ϵ) future marker.*

Anomalous verbs. A few verbs form their future stems oddly.

- **A few bases ending in consonants other than liquids add an ϵ vowel pad** to prevent the σ from colliding with the final consonant of the base. This (ϵ) almost always lengthens, avoiding the loss of intervocalic sigma between short vowels. Usually, a moment's reflexion will show you why the Greeks chose to pad the consonants of these particular bases from the σ .

αἰσθάνομαι: αἰσθησ/ [αἰσθ(ε)/σ/]

μανθάνω: μαθησ/ [μαθ(ε)/σ/]

- Some bases shift vowel grade in the future. When they do, they become e-grade.

λαμβάνω: **ληψ**/ [λα^ηβ/σ/]

λανθάνω: **ληθ**/ [λα^ηθ/σ/]

ἥλ(υ)θον: **ἔλευσ**/ [ἐλ^ευθ/σ/]

τυγχάνω: **τευξ**/ [τ^ευχ/σ/]

- Some verbs become deponent in the future, though they are not in the present. So, for example: ἀκούσ**ομαι** is the future of ἀκούω.

- Verbs whose lexical forms end in -ίζω (-ιδ/γ/ω) or -ίζομαι (-ιδ/γ/ομαι) should form their futures by adding σ to the **base** (not including the process marker γ, of course). That would produce, for example,

κομίζω: **κομισ**/ [κομιδ/σ/]

And that is just what happened in *Ionic*.

But that is not what happened in *Attic*, where -ίζω verbs of more than two syllables appear originally to have used the time marker (ε)σ. The δ disappeared for some reason. And, the σ (intervocalic) disappeared, resulting in

Attic: κομίζω: **κομιε**/ [κομιδ/εσ/]

In Attic this ε always contracts with the theme vowels of the **personal endings**, and the resulting form carries the circumflex accent that so often marks contractions.

Personal Endings

The personal endings for the future are identical to the present thematic endings.

Normal Future Active

	Singular	Plural
1 st -person	λείψω (λ ^ε ιπ/σ/ <u>ω</u>)	λείψομεν (λ ^ε ιπ/σ/ <u>ομεν</u>)
2 nd -person	λείψεις (λ ^ε ιπ/σ/ <u>εις</u>)	λείψετε (λ ^ε ιπ/σ/ <u>ετε</u>)
3 rd -person	λείψει (λ ^ε ιπ/σ/ <u>ει</u>)	λείψουσι(ν) (λ ^ε ιπ/σ/ <u>οι</u> ν ^{vv} <u>σι</u>)

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(Normal) Future Middle

	Singular	Plural
1 st -person	λείνομαι (λ ^ε ιπ/σ/ <u>ομαι</u>)	λειψόμεθα (λ ^ε ιπ/σ/ <u>ομεθα</u>)
2 nd -person	λείνεις (λ ^ε ιπ/σ/ <u>εις</u>) Attic: λείψει, λείψη	λείσεσθε (λ ^ε ιπ/σ/ <u>εσθε</u>)
3 rd -person	λείνεται (λ ^ε ιπ/σ/ <u>εται</u>)	λείνονται (λ ^ε ιπ/σ/ <u>ονται</u>)

Liquid Future Active

	Singular	Plural
1 st -person	βαλέω (βαλ/(ε)σ/ <u>ω</u>) Attic: βαλῶ	βαλέομεν (βαλ/(ε)σ/ <u>ομεν</u>) Attic: βαλοῦμεν
2 nd -person	βαλέεις (βαλ/(ε)σ/ <u>εις</u>) Attic: βαλεῖς	βαλέετε (βαλ/(ε)σ/ <u>ετε</u>) Attic: βαλεῖτε
3 rd -person	βαλέει (βαλ/(ε)σ/ <u>ει</u>) Attic: βαλεῖ	βαλέουσι(ν) (βαλ/(ε)σ/ <u>οN^{vu}σι</u>) Attic: βαλοῦσι(ν)

Liquid Future Middle

	Singular	Plural
1 st -person	βαλέομαι (βαλ/(ε)σ/ <u>ομαι</u>) Attic: βαλοῦμαι	βαλεόμεθα (βαλ/(ε)σ/ <u>ομεθα</u>) Attic: βαλοῦμεθα
2 nd -person	βαλέεις (βαλ/(ε)σ/ <u>εις</u>) Attic: βαλεῖ, βαλῇ	βαλέεσθε (βαλ/(ε)σ/ <u>εσθε</u>) Attic: βαλεῖσθε
3 rd -person	βαλέεται (βαλ/(ε)σ/ <u>εται</u>) Attic: βαλεῖται	βαλέονται (βαλ/(ε)σ/ <u>ονται</u>) Attic: βαλοῦνται

Future Perfect indicative: future /

Meaning

The future perfect presents a verbal notion, using resultant-state aspect in future time. I.e., it states a future condition resulting from an event that will have been completed earlier. The personal ending specifies the person and number of the subject and specifies either active or middle nuances. The semantic configuration of a future perfect indicative verb is



/base/future / personal ending <active or middle>

Translation:

Envision what the future perfect reports: a condition in the future which has resulted from an earlier event. Then find a way to say it in English. Usually translations take one of two forms.

- “The dam will have broken <by the time we arrive>.”
- “The dam will be broken <by the time we arrive>.”

Future perfects are very rare in Greek, but if you pay attention to their four morphological components, you will be able to recognize them. If you pay attention to what those elements tell you, you should have no trouble translating them.

Future time marker: σ

The future time marker σ is added to the **resultant-state stems**: In active forms the σ is added to the active resultant-state stem; in middle forms the σ is added to the middle resultant-state stem.

Resultant-state aspect markers: reduplication in ϵ ; κ

The resultant-state markers for any given verb are the same in the future perfect as they are in the perfect and pluperfect.

- All verbs take either **reduplication in ϵ** or the lengthening that substitutes for it in certain types of bases.
- Those (Weak Perfect) verbs that take the resultant-state marker κ in the perfect active do the same in the future perfect active.
- Those (Strong Perfect) verbs that do not take the resultant-state marker κ in the perfect active don't in the future perfect active either.

Future perfect stem: Perfect stem + σ

All the changes of base that a verb experiences in the perfect active carry over into the future perfect active. All the changes of base that a verb experiences in the perfect middle carry over into the future perfect middle.

Personal Endings

The personal endings are identical to the present and future thematic endings

Future Perfect Active

θνήσκω. Base **θαν**/. Perfect Active τέθνηκα [ο/θ^τε/θ^να/κ/α]

	Singular	Plural
1 st -person	τεθνήξω (θ ^τ ε/θ ^ν α/κ/σ/ω)	τεθνήξομεν (θ ^τ ε/θ ^ν α/κ/σ/ο ^μ εν)
2 nd -person	τεθνήξεις (θ ^τ ε/θ ^ν α/κ/σ/ε ^ι ς)	τεθνήξετε (θ ^τ ε/θ ^ν α/κ/σ/ε ^τ ε)
3 rd -person	τεθνήξει (θ ^τ ε/θ ^ν α/κ/σ/ε ^ι)	τεθνήξουσιν (θ ^τ ε/θ ^ν α/κ/σ/ο ^ν σι)

Future Perfect Middle

The verb δίδωμι Base **δο**/. Perfect Middle δέδομαι [ο/δε/δο/μαι]

	Singular	Plural
1 st -person	δεδόσομαι (δε/δό/σ/ο ^μ αι)	δεδοσόμεθα (δε/δό/σ/ο ^μ εθα)
2 nd -person	δεδόσσαι (δε/δό/σ/ε ^σ αι) <i>Attic</i> : -ει, -η	δεδόσεσθε (δε/δό/σ/ε ^σ θε)
3 rd -person	δεδόσεται (δε/δό/σ/ε ^τ αι)	δεδόσονται (δε/δό/σ/ο ^ν ται)

What now?

A little exercise, of course. The following chart gives the future indicatives of each of the 100+ verbs. Beneath each future form write an analysis that identifies its three components. The chart includes the present and aorist forms of each verb for your reference. Also, make sure you know how to translate each future form

Practice: Future Tense

Base	Present	Future	Aorist	Meaning
παυ/	παύω	παύσω	ἔπαυσα	stop
λυ/	λύω	λύσω	ἔλυσα	loosen
κατα/λυ/	καταλύω	καταλύσω	κατέλυσα	release
κωλυ/	κωλύω	κωλύσω	ἐκώλυσα	prevent
κελευ/	κελεύω	κελεύσω	ἐκέλευσα	bid, command
παιδευ/	παιδεύω	παιδεύσω	ἐπαίδευσα	educate
έλκ(υ)/	έλκω	ἐλκύσω	εἴλκυσα	drag
πορευ/	πορεύομαι	πορεύσομαι	ἐπορευσάμην	travel, fare
ἀκοφ/	ἀκούω	ἀκούσομαι	ἤκουσα	hear
ποιε/	ποιέω	ποιήσομαι	ἐποίησα	make, do
αἰτε/	αἰτέω	αἰτήσομαι	ἤτησα	ask (a favor), demand
αἶρε/ έλ/	αἶρέω	αἶρήσω ἐλέω	εἶλον	pick up, pick

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Base	Present	Future	Aorist	Meaning
φιλε/	φιλέω	φιλήσω	ἐφίλησα	love
ζητε/	ζητέω	ζητήσω	ἐζήτησα	seek, look for
ἀπορε/	ἀπορέω	ἀπορήσω	ἠπόρησα	be at a loss
ἀνα/χωρε/	αναχωρέω	αναχωρήσω	ἀνεχώρησα	withdraw, leave
ἐξ/ήγε/	ἐξηγέομαι	ἐξηγήσομαι	ἐξηγησάμην	explain
φοβε/	φοβέω	φοβήσω	ἐφόβησα	terrify
δια/νοε/	διανοέω	διανοήσομαι	διενοησάμην	contemplate
τελε/	τελέω	τελήσω	ἐτέλησα	complete
καλε/	καλέω	καλέσω <i>Attic: καλῶ</i>	ἐκάλεσα	call
ἐπι/καλε/	ἐπικαλέω	ἐπικαλέσω <i>Attic: ἐπικαλῶ</i>	ἐπεκάλεσα	call upon, invoke
πλε/	πίμπλημι	πλήσω	ἔπλησα	fill
θε/	τίθημι	θήσω	έθηκα	put
τιμα/	τιμάω	τιμήσω	ἐτίμησα	honor

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Base	Present	Future	Aorist	Meaning
φερωτα/	ἐρωτάω	ἐρωτήσω	ἠρώτησα	ask (a question)
βοα/	βοάω	βοήσομαι	έβόησα	shout
σιωπα/	σιωπάω	σιωπήσομαι	έσιώπησα	be silent
τολμα/	τολμάω	τολμήσω	έτόλμησα	dare
χρα	χράομαι	χρήσομαι	έχρησάμην	use
κτα/	κτάομαι	κτήσομαι	έκτησάμην	obtain
μηχανα/	μηχανάομαι	μηχανήσομαι	έμηχανησάμην	contrive
δυνα/	δύναμαι	δυνήσομαι	έδυνησάμην	be able
γελα/	γελάω	γελάσομαι	έγέλασα	laugh
δρα/	δράω	δράσω	έδρασα	do, act, perform
σεφά	έάω	έάσω	είασα	allow
έλα/	έλαύνω	έλάσω <i>Attic: έλῶ</i>	ήλασα	drive

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Base	Present	Future	Aorist	Meaning
όρα/ ὀπ/ φιδ/	ὀράω	ὀψομαι	εἶδον	see
κρεμα/	κρεμάννυμι	κρεμάσω <i>Attic: κρεμῶ</i>	ἐκρέμασα	hang
κερα/	κεράννυμι	κεράσω <i>Attic: κερῶ</i>	ἐκέρασα	mix
πρα/	πίμπρημι	πρήσω	ἔπρησα	burn
στα/	ἵστημι	στήσω	ἔστησα (v.t.) ἔστην (v.i.)	stand
μνα/	μιμνήσκω	μνήσω	ἔσμνησα	remind
δηλο/	δηλόω	δηλωσο	ἐδήλωσα	reveal
δο/	δίδωμι	δώσω	ἔδωκα	give
τρο/	τιτρώσκω	τρώσω	ἐτρωσα	wound
γνο/	γινώσκω	γνώσομαι	ἔγνων	know
ΔΑ/, διδα(σ)κ/	διδάσκω	διδάξω	ἐδίδαξα	teach

Greek Before Christmas

Base	Present	Future	Aorist	Meaning
πι/ πο/	πίνω	πίομαι	ἔπιον	drink
φθα/	φθάνω	φθησομαι	ἔφθασα	anticipate, beat (+ participle)
διωκ/	διώκω	διώξω	ἐδίωξα	pursue, prosecute
λεγ/ φεπ/ φερ/, φρε/	λέγω	λέξω ἐρέω	ἔλεξα εἶπον	speak rationally
σεχ/	ἔχω	ἔξω, σχήσω	ἔσχον	hold, have
ἄρχ/	ἄρχω	ἄρξω	ἤρξα	lead
δεχ/	δέχομαι	δέξομαι	ἐδεξάμην	receive
ἄγ/	ἄγω	ἄξω	ἤγαγον	lead, act
ρήγ/	ρήγνυμι	ρήξω	ἔρρηξα	break
δεικ/	δείκνυμι	δείξω	ἔδειξα	show
ἀν(α)/οίγ/	ἀνοίγνυμι	ἀνοιξω	ἀνέφξα	open

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Base	Present	Future	Aorist	Meaning
μιγ/	μίγνυμι	μίξω	ἔμιξα	mix
πρηγ/ <i>Attic: प्राग/</i>	πρήσσω πρήττω	πρήξω πράξω	ἔπρηξα ἔπραξα	do, practice
ἐκ/πληγ/	ἐκπλήσσω <i>Attic: ἐκπλήττω</i>	ἐκπλήξω	ἐξέπληξα	amaze
κηρυγ/	κηρύσσω <i>Attic: κηρύττω</i>	κηρύξω	ἐκήρυξα	proclaim
πεμπ /	πέμπω	πέμψω	ἔπεμψα	send
τρεπ/ τραπ/	τρέπω	τρέψω	ἔτρεψα ἔτραπον	turn
λιπ/	λείπω	λείψω	ἔλιπον	leave
γραφ/	γράφω	γράψω	ἔγραψα	draw, write
θρεφ/	τρέφω	τρέψω	ἔθρεψα	nurture
βλαβ/	βλάπτω	βλάψω	ἔβλαψα	harm
θαφ/	θάπτω	θάψω	ἔθαψα	bury

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Base	Present	Future	Aorist	Meaning
κοπ/	κόπτω	κόψω	ἔκοψα	cut, hack
κλεπ/	κλέπτω	κλέψω	ἔκλεψα	steal
ρίπ/	ρίπτω	ρίψω	ἔρριψα	throw
σκεπ/	σκέπτομαι	σκέψομαι	ἔσκεψάμην	look at, investigate
λαβ/	λαμβάνω	λήψομαι	ἔλαβον	take
λαθ/	λανθάνω	λήσομαι	ἔλαθον	escape notice (+ participle)
μαθ/	μανθάνω	μαθήσομαι	ἔμαθον	learn
τυχ/	τυγχάνω	τεύξομαι	ἔτυχον	happen (to x) (+ participle)
λαγχάνω	λαχ/	λήξομαι	ἔλαχον	obtain by lot
πιθ/	πείθω	πείσω	ἔπεισα ἔπιθον	persuade
έρχ/ έλ(υ)θ/	ἔρχομαι	ἐλεύσομαι	ἦλθον	come

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Base	Present	Future	Aorist	Meaning
νομιδ/	νομίζω	νομίσω <i>Attic: νομιῶ</i>	ἐνόμισα	consider, reckon
κομιδ/	κομίζω	κομίσω <i>Attic: κομιῶ</i>	ἐκόμισα	convey
ἐλπιδ/	ἐλπίζω	ἐλπίσω <i>Attic: ἐλπιῶ</i>	ἤλπισα	hope
θωμαδ/ <i>Attic: θαυμαδ/</i>	θωμάζω θαυμάζω	θωμάσω θαυμάσω	ἐθώμασα ἐθαύμασα	marvel
κολαδ/	κολάζω	κολάσω	ἐκόλασα	punish
ἀτιμαδ/	ἀτιμάζω	ἀτιμάσω	ἡτίμασα	dishonor
φεργαδ/	ἐργάζομαι	ἐργάσομαι	εἵργασάμην	work
βιαδ/	βιάζω	βιάσω	ἐβίασα	treat violently
ταμ/	τέμνω	τεμέω	ἔταμον	cut
κριν/	κρίνω	κρινέω	ἔκρινα	judge
σημαν/	σημαίνω	σημανέω	ἐσήμηνα	signify

Greek Before Christmas

Base	Present	Future	Aorist	Meaning
ποιαν/	ποιμαίνω	ποιμανέω	ἐποιμηνα	herd, shepherd
φαν/	φαίνω	φανέω	ἔφηνα	shine (Mid.: appear)
τῆ/	τείνω	τενέω	ἔτεινα	stretch
ἀπο/κτῆ/	ἀποκτείνω	ἀποκτενέω	ἀπέκτεινα	kill
γεν/	γίγνομαι	γενήσομαι	ἐγενόμην	become, happen
βουλ/	βούλομαι	βουλήσομαι	ἐβουλησάμην	want, decide
στελ/	στέλλω	στελέω	ἔστειλα	send, dispatch
ἀγγελ/	ἀγγέλλω	ἀγγελέω	ἤγγειλα	announce
σφαλ/	σφάλλω	σφαλέω	ἔσφηλα	cause to slip
βαλ/	βάλλω	βαλέω	ἔβαλον	throw
ὀλ/	ὀλλυμι	ὀλέω	ὤλεσα (v.t..) ὠλόμην (v.i..)	destroy
φθερ/	φθείρω	φθερέω	ἔφθειρα	corrupt, ruin
ἐγερ/	ἐγείρω	ἐγερέω	ἤγειρα	raise

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Base	Present	Future	Aorist	Meaning
εὕρ/	εὕρισκω	εὕρήσομαι	εὔρον	find
φέρ/	φέρω			carry
οἶ/		οἶσω		
ἔνε(ι)(γ)κ/			ἥνε(ι)(γ)κον, ἥνε(ι)(γ)κα	

Practice: Future Perfect Tense

Future perfects are rare, so we won't spend a lot of time on them. The following chart gives the perfect active and middle forms of several verbs. In the space beneath each perfect form, produce the corresponding future perfect. Many of the forms you produce will be entirely hypothetical. I.e., they never actually occur in surviving texts. That doesn't really matter for our purpose, though, which is merely to accustom you to the structural pattern of the future perfect. If we succeed in that goal, you'll accurately recognize the surviving future perfects that you do encounter.

Base	Perfect Active	Perfect Middle	Meaning
παυ/	πέπαυκα	πέπαυ(σ)μαι	stop
κωλυ/	κεκώλυκα	κεκώλυμαι	prevent
ἄκου/	ἀκήκοα	ἤκουσμαι	hear
ποιε/	πεποίηκα	πεποίημαι	make, do
καλε/	κέκληκα	κέκλημαι	call
δο/	δέδωκα	δέδομαι	give

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<i>Base</i>	Perfect Active	Perfect Middle	Meaning
<i>δεχ/</i>		δέδεγμαι	receive
<i>κηρυγ/</i>	κεκήρυχα	κεκήρυγμαι	proclaim
<i>πεμπ/</i>	πέπομφα	πέπεμμαι	send
<i>λαβ/</i>	εἴληφα	εἴλημμαι	take
<i>κριν/</i>	κέκρικα	κέκριμαι	judge
<i>βαλ/</i>	βέβληκα	βέβλημαι	throw
<i>φθερ/</i>	ἔφθαρκα	ἔφθαρμαι	corrupt, ruin

Am I ready to proceed?

- Do I know what the future and future perfect indicative (active and middle) mean—particularly with reference to time and aspect? Do I know the options for translating them?
- Do I know the **future time markers**?
- Do I know the **aspect markers** for both tenses?
- Do I know the changes to the **base** that regularly occur when the aspect and time markers are added?
- Do I know what a **future stem** looks like and how to distinguish it from a weak-aorist stem?
- Do I know the active and middle **personal endings** for both tenses?
- Have I completed the morphology exercises for both tenses? 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.