

Lesson # 3: More work with the Greek Verb

This is a rather complex section so, hang loose, and follow me step by step even if you are not sure I know where I am going!

1. The Properties of Every Verb in a text

As verbs occur in a Greek text, every verb will be marked by:

TENSE: (Present, Imperfect, Aorist, Future, Perfect, etc.)

VOICE: (Active, Middle, Passive)

MOOD: (Indicative, Subjunctive, Imperative, Optative)

PERSON: First (I), Second (You), Third (he, she, it, etc.)

NUMBER: (Singular, Plural)

So when we describe a verb in the text we say that it is...for example:

The present indicative active third person singular of the verb _____.

(Language students will note that "gender" is lacking...indeed!)

And the subject may be contained within the verb or it may be an external noun/pronoun.

Now the easiest of all of these...are the items of number and person. So in this course we learn what the person and number indicators are and then we may look at any verb form and tell that much about it. (Not quite that simple, but close) At the same time it is easy to learn to distinguish the basic voicing...to a large degree. Mood and tense are more difficult and must await their turns.

2. Person and Number Indicators in New Testament Greek

Person:	<u>ACTIVE VOICE</u>		<u>PASSIVE VOICE AND MIDDLE, TOO!</u>		
	<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>	<u>Person</u>	<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
1.	-α, -μι, -ν, -ω	-μεν	1. -μαι, -μην, -πν		-μεθα
2.	-ς	-τε	2. -η, -ου, -σθαι -ης		-σθε
3.	-ε(ν), -εσ, -η, -ου(ν)	-ν -σαν -σιν(ν)	3. -ται, -το, -τη		-νται -ντο

These are all suffixes. Those that begin with a consonant are joined to the root of a verb with a helping vowel. Those beginning with a vowel are added directly to the root. You need to know these endings so I require you to memorize them. At the moment do not ask when and where they will occur. Just learn that if you see it will be or maybe it will have two possibilities. Know them well. Be prepared to be drilled on it in class to the point of prostration.