

Chapter 6 IRREGULAR VERBS

The difference between regular and irregular verbs concerns the nature of the tense stem changes that take place throughout the principal parts of the Greek verb.

Regular verbs have tense stems that remain the same or undergo changes that can be explained by some simple rules; irregular verbs have tense stems that differ to such an extent that more information is needed to explain them.

As mentioned in the introduction, the factors that determine whether a Greek verb is irregular are somewhat arbitrary. Many verbs classified in this book as irregular are not really that irregular if certain appropriate rules are known. All the verbs that appear in this chapter do so because the factors that make them irregular have been deemed too complex or because they are limited to just a small number of verbs.

There are a number of factors that can cause a verb's tense stems to change to such an extent that more information is needed to explain them.

Some verbs form their tense stems from different roots, some have tense stems that change drastically, and others have tense stem changes that are just too complex for the verb to be included with regular verbs.

Other verbs are classified as irregular because they have one or more of the following characteristics: irregular augment and/or reduplication, deponent future, Doric future, Attic future, Attic reduplication, root aorist, reduplication in the present or aorist, alternate forms, first aorist endings on second aorist stems, and other characteristics peculiar to certain verbs.

Each of these characteristics will be explained below followed by reference to them as necessary under each irregular verb.

Some verbs are deponent only in the future. There is nothing to indicate this phenomenon. The only way to tell for certain if a verb is deponent in the future is to check the second principal part.

One deponent verb has a non-deponent aorist active form.

Two deponent verbs have a non-deponent perfect active form.

Six verbs (that are not $\mu\iota$ verbs) reduplicate in the present. The reduplication is exactly like that of $\mu\iota$ verbs.

Two verbs reduplicate in the aorist. But the reduplication in this

case consists of prefixing the first two letters of the stem.

Six verbs have a special form of reduplication in the perfect (and the pluperfect). Termed Attic reduplication, it only applies to certain verbs beginning with *α*, *ε*, or *ο* followed by a single consonant. It consists of the reduplication of both the vowel and the consonant, and the lengthening of the original stem vowel.

Using the verb ἀκούω as an example, the perfect of which is ἀκήκοα:

ακου → ακακου → ακηκου → ἀκήκοα

Some verbs have a special form of the future called an Attic future. All but one of these verbs end in ιζω in the present (the ζ disappears outside of the present). The Attic future uses the tense formative ε instead of σ. The ε contracts with the resultant endings making a verb with an Attic future conjugated and accented in the future just like a liquid verb.

Using the verb ἐλπίζω as an example, the future of which is ἐλπιδω:

	Singular		Plural	
	Present	Future	Present	Future
1	ἐλπίζω	ἐλπιδω	ἐλπίζομεν	ἐλπιδομεν
2	ἐλπίζεις	ἐλπιεις	ἐλπίζετε	ἐλπιειτε
3	ἐλπίζει	ἐλπει	ἐλπίζουσι	ἐλπιουσι

The only Attic future that occurs in the middle is κομεισθε, from κομίζω. Some of these verbs also have a regular future, which will be noted when it occurs.

Two verbs (that are not liquid verbs) do not use σ in the future. One (that is not a liquid verb) does not use σ in the aorist.

One verb has a special form of the future called a Doric future. The Doric future uses the tense formative σε instead of σ. The ε contracts with the resultant endings making a verb with a Doric future conjugated and accented in the future just like an Attic future.

Six verbs end in ζ in the present but actually have a stem that ends in γ. The ζ drops outside of the present (as normally), and the γ reappears in the other tense stems. However, the γ will be disguised in the future and aorist because it combines with the σ of the tense formative, resulting in ξ. It will also be disguised in the aorist passive (unless it is a second aorist passive) because of the θ of the tense formative.

Some verbs (that are not μι verbs) have a root aorist. The aorist is formed exactly like that of μι verbs. Root aorists use the alternate third person plural active ending, *σαν*. The aorist active of *γινώσκω* is as follows: *ἔγνων, ἔγνωσ, ἔγνω, ἔγνωμεν, ἔγνωτε, ἔγνωσαν*.

Some verbs use first aorist endings on second aorist stems. In this case no *σ* is used. As a consequence, they resemble the aorists of liquid verbs, which use the tense formative *α* instead of *σα*. Some of these verbs alternate between first and second aorist endings, which will be noted when it occurs.

Three verbs are perfects used as presents, in which case only the perfect form is given.

Some verbs have an irregular augment or an irregular vocalic reduplication.

Some verbs have alternate forms of some of their principal parts that are different enough to make the verb irregular.

The general rules regarding tense stem changes that were given in the introduction should be reviewed at this point so a verb does not appear to be more irregular than it really is.

[ἄγνυμι]

κατάγνυμι

---, κατεάξω, κατέαξα, ---, ---, κατέαγην

This μι verb appears to have an irregular augment, but it originally began with a consonant, now lost. The future has an unexplained augment, as does the aorist passive subjunctive: *κατεαγῶ*.

ἄγω

ἄγω, ἄξω, ἤγαγον, ---, ---, ἤχθη

The aorist stem is formed by reduplication.

ἀνάγω

ἀνάγω, ---, ἀνήγαγον, ---, ---, ἀνήχθη

ἀπάγω

ἀπάγω, ---, ἀπήγαγον, ---, ---, ἀπήχθη

διάγω

διάγω, ---, ---, ---, ---, ---

εἰσάγω

εἰσάγω, ---, εἰσήγαγον, ---, ---, ---

ἐξάγω

ἐξάγω, ---, ἐξήγαγον, ---, ---, ---

ἐπάγω
 ἐπάγω, ---, ἐπήγαγον, ---, ---, ---
 A first aorist form ἐπήξα appears once.

ἐπανάγω
 ἐπανάγω, ---, ἐπανήγαγον, ---, ---, ---

ἐπισυνάγω
 ἐπισυνάγω, ἐπισυνάξω, ἐπισυνήγαγον, ---, ἐπισυνῆγμαι,
 ἐπισυνήχθη
 A first aorist form ἐπισυνήξα appears once.

κατάγω
 ---, ---, κατήγαγον, ---, ---, κατήχθη

μετάγω
 μετάγω, ---, ---, ---, ---, ---

παράγω
 παράγω, ---, ---, ---, ---, ---

παρεισάγω
 ---, παρεισάξω, ---, ---, ---

περιάγω
 περιάγω, ---, ---, ---, ---, ---

προάγω
 προάγω, προάξω, προήγαγον, ---, ---, ---

προσάγω
 προσάγω, ---, προσήγαγον, ---, ---, ---

συνάγω
 συνάγω, συνάξω, συνήγαγον, ---, συνῆγμαι, συνήχθη

συναπάγω
 συναπάγω, ---, ---, ---, ---, συναπήχθη

ὑπάγω
 ὑπάγω, ---, ---, ---, ---, ---

[αἰρέω]

The future and aorist are from the root ελ. The future is a liquid future. The aorist is a second aorist that augments with εἰ, but sometimes uses first aorist endings, in which case the first aorists are liquid aorists. The aorist passive stem does not lengthen the final stem vowel.

ἀναιρέω
 ἀναιρῶ, ἀνελῶ, ἀνεῖλον, ---, ---, ἀνηρέθη

ἀφαιρέω
 ἀφαιρῶ, ἀφελῶ, ἀφείλον, ---, ---, ἀφηρέθη