

Overview of Future Active

Future is exactly like present except for an addition σ between the base and the ending.

When an extra letter is squeezed into the middle of a word, it often forces changes in the surrounding letters. When the Greeks added the σ to a verb to form the future tense, the last letter of the verb base sometimes disappeared or mixed with the newcomer.

Two ideas to learn:

- (1) Recognize ψ and ξ as additional clues to the future tense. Think of them as “obscured sigmas.” When you see either of them, they show that a σ has been added.
- (2) Find the base in the lexicon as it appears without the added σ .

$\beta, \pi, \pi\tau, \theta = \psi$

$\kappa, \gamma, \chi, \sigma\sigma = \xi$

$\zeta, \theta, \tau, \delta = \sigma$

The letters on the left are the base endings that mix with σ to produce the letter on the right.

Overview of Future Middle

The σ which the Greeks added to make future middle is subject to the same contractions that we have seen on future active. Therefore, ψ and ξ also serve as legitimate indicators of the future middle.

These have the same pattern as present middles.

“I will release myself”

“I myself will release” someone (the above was taken from John Bechtle’s teacher’s guide for “Greek Behind the Prof’s Back”)

Shades of Meaning for Middle Voice

Just a reminder of the shades of meaning for the middle voice

- (1) He did it to himself
- (2) He himself (and nobody else) did it
- (3) He caused it to happen to himself"
- 4) He allowed it to happen to himself (from John Bechtle's teacher's guide for "Greek Behind the Prof's Back")