

## Perfect Indicative Verbs

### Chapter 15

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν  
ὁ λόγος

## Meaning

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν  
ὁ λόγος

Past	Present
Imperfect Progressive action in the past "I was conquering"	

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Past	Present
Imperfect Progressive action in the past "I was conquering"	Present The action is underway "I am conquering"
Aorist Simple assertion or a past event "I conquered"	Thus, the perfect is a sort of combination of the aorist and present
Perfect Completed past action with a resulting state of affairs in the present "I have conquered"	

## Meaning

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν  
ὁ λόγος

The action is completed in the past with resulting consequences (Note: The *action* does not continue into the present. The state of affairs it has produced continues into the present.)

For now, translate the perfect aspect with an English past perfect verb: **λέλυκα** = "I have loosed"

The perfect tense is not as common in the Greek NT as other tenses and is therefore significant when used.

Meaning

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

**John 16:33**

ἐγὼ **νενίκηκα**  
τὸν κόσμον

**“I have conquered  
the world”**

“The decisive battle has been waged and won. The world continues its wretched attacks, but those who are in Christ share the victory he has won. They cannot be harmed by the world’s evil, and they know who triumphs in the end” (D. A. Carson).

Meaning

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

**John 19:30**

**Τετέλεσται**

**“it has been finished”**

“This one word summary of Jesus’ life and death is perhaps the most important statement in all of Scripture....Because Jesus fully completed his task, the ongoing effects are that you and I are offered the free gift of salvation so that we can be with him forever” (William D. Mounce).

Meaning

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

**1 Corinthians 15:4**

ἐγήγερται

**“he has been raised”**

“The verb in this instance is a perfect passive (‘he has been raised’), implying that he was both raised from the dead *and still lives*” (Gordon D Fee).

Note: There are some occasions when the author does not intend this full significance of meaning in the perfect (e.g., Rom 13:8). Context must determine how each verb is used!

Perfect  
Active Indicative

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

Start with  
verb stem

λυ

Perfect  
Active Indicative

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

λελυ

1. Reduplication of first letter

Perfect  
Active Indicative

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

λελυκ

1. Reduplication of first letter

2. Addition of **κ** to end of stem

Perfect  
Active Indicative

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν  
ὁ λόγος

λελυκα

1. Reduplication of first letter

2. Addition of **κ** to end of stem

3. Alpha (**α**) connecting vowel

Perfect  
Active Indicative

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν  
ὁ λόγος

λέλυκα

1. Reduplication of first letter

2. Addition of **κ** to end of stem

3. Alpha (**α**) connecting vowel

Perfect  
Active Indicative

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν  
ὁ λόγος

	Singular	Plural
1 <sup>st</sup> Person	λέλυκα	λελύκαμεν
2 <sup>nd</sup> Person	λέλυκας	λελύκατε
3 <sup>rd</sup> Person	λέλυκε(ν)	λελύκασι(ν) / -καν

The perfect active endings are exactly the same as those of the  
**1st Aorist** except for the variation in the 3rd p. pl. (**ασιν**).

Perfect  
Mid/Pass Indicative

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν  
ὁ λόγος

λυ

Start with  
verb stem

Perfect  
Mid/Pass Indicative

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν  
ὁ λόγος

λελυ

1. Reduplication of first letter

Perfect  
Mid/Pass Indicative

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν  
ὁ λόγος

λελυ

1. Reduplication of first letter

2. No **κ** added to end of stem of the M/P!!

Perfect  
Mid/Pass Indicative

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν  
ὁ λόγος

λελυμαι

1. Reduplication of first letter
2. No **κ** added to end of stem of the M/P!!
3. Present endings (except 2nd person singular) with NO variable vowel

Perfect  
Mid/Pass Indicative

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν  
ὁ λόγος

λέλυμαι

1. Reduplication of first letter
2. No **κ** added to end of stem of the M/P!!
3. Present endings (except 2nd person singular) with NO variable vowel

Perfect  
Mid/Pass Indicative

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν  
ὁ λόγος

	Singular	Plural
1 <sup>st</sup> Person	λέλυμαι	λελύμεθα
2 <sup>nd</sup> Person	λέλυσαι	λέλυσθε
3 <sup>rd</sup> Person	λέλυνται	λέλυνται

\* The "true" 2nd sg. middle ending! This is the only Greek verb formation that omits the variable vowel.

Vocalic  
Reduplication

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν  
ὁ λόγος

Verbs beginning with a vowel:

ἀγαπάω

Reduplication usually causes the initial vowel to be lengthened (similar to an augment for imperfect and aorist verbs).

ἡγάπηκα

Lexical Form	Imperfect	Aorist	Perfect
ἀγαπάω	ἡγάπων	ἡγάπησα	ἡγάπηκα

Vocalic  
Reduplication

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν  
ὁ λόγος

With verbs that begin with a diphthong, the first vowel will typically lengthen causing the iota (i) to subscript.

αἰτέω → ἤιτηκα

Some verbs that begin with a vowel reduplicate the first two letters.

ἀκούω → ἀκήκοα      ἔρχομαι → ἐλήλυθα

Verbs that begin with two consonants sometimes do not fully reduplicate but add an epsilon.

γινώσκω → ἔγνωκα

Aspirant  
Reduplication

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν  
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Verbs beginning with an aspirant letter: **θ, φ, χ**  
Reduplicate with the non-aspirant counterparts

θ → τ	φ → π	χ → κ
θεραπεύω	→	τεθεράπευμαι
φανερώνω	→	πεφανέρωμαι
χαρίζομαι	→	κεχάρισμαι

Memory Help: "th" → "t"    "ph" → "p"    "ch" → "c"

## Compound Verb Reduplication

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν  
ὁ λόγος

Verbs beginning with a prepositional prefix:

ἀπολύω

Reduplication occurs *after* the prefix

ἀπολέλυσαι

καταβέβηκα

## Irregular Perfect Forms

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν  
ὁ λόγος

Some verbs have an irregular perfect form or “2<sup>nd</sup> Perfect” form (similar to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Aorist).

These irregular forms result from problems caused by reduplication and/or addition of the **κ** tense formative.

γίνομαι → γέγονα      λαμβάνω → εἴληφα  
γράφω → γέγραφα      πείθω → πέποιθα  
ἔρχομαι → ἐλήλυθα

## Irregular Perfect Forms

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν  
ὁ λόγος

Some verbs have an irregular perfect form or “2<sup>nd</sup> Perfect” form (similar to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Aorist).

Other verbs have irregular forms caused by irregular stems, stems beginning with a diphthong, or stems borrowed from other verb forms.

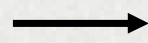
ἀναβαίνω → ἀναβέβηκα  
εὐρίσκω → εὑρηκα  
λέγω → εἶρηκα

## Irregular Perfect Forms

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν  
ὁ λόγος

Verb stems ending in **τ, δ, θ, or ζ** will drop these letters before adding the **κ** tense formative

ἐγγίζω



ἤγγικα

Similar to dropping **τ, δ, or θ** when adding a **σ** in the Future or Aorist.

## Pluperfect Verbs

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν  
ὁ λόγος

Pluperfect = the past tense of the perfect

The form includes (1) an augment (sometimes), (2) reduplication, (3) a tense formative (**-κ**), and (4) connecting vowels **ει**.  
This form occurs only 86 times in the NT.

ἐλελύκειν

“he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom **he had cast** (ἐκβεβλήκει) out seven demons” (Mark 16:9).

## Review

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν  
ὁ λόγος

Active Voice: the subject **performs** the action.

Present

I am loosing

Imperfect

I was loosing

Future

I will loose

Aorist

I loosed

Perfect

I have loosed

## Review

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν  
ὁ λόγος

**Passive Voice:** the subject **receives** the action.

Present	I am being loosed
Imperfect	I was being loosed
Future	I will be loosed
Aorist	I was loosed
Perfect	I have been loosed

## Review

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν  
ὁ λόγος

**Middle Voice:** the subject performs the action **to/for himself**.

Present	I am loosing (for) myself
Imperfect	I was loosing (for) myself
Future	I will loose (for) myself
Aorist	I loosed (for) myself
Perfect	I have loosed (for) myself

## Vocabulary

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν  
ὁ λόγος

ἀγαθός, -ή, -όν, **good** (Agatha)  
 ἅγιος, -α, -ον, **holy; saints** (pl subst)  
 (hagiography)  
 ἄλλος, -η, -ο, **other, another, different**  
 (allomorph)  
 δίκαιος, -α, -ον, **righteous, just**  
 ἕτερος, -α, -ον, **other, another, different**  
 (heterosexual)

## Vocabulary

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν  
ὁ λόγος

καλός, -ή, -όν, **good, beautiful** (calligraphy)  
 μέγας, μεγάλη, μέγα, **large, great** (mega-  
 market, megalomaniac)  
 νεκρός, -ά, -όν, **dead** (necromancy,  
 necropolis)  
 πᾶς, πᾶσα, πᾶν, **every, all** (pantheism, pan-  
 American)  
 πιστός, -ή, -όν, **faithful, believing**

## Vocabulary

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν  
ὁ λόγος

πολύς, πολλή, πολύ, **much, many, large,**  
**great** (polygon)  
 πονηρός, -ά, -όν, **evil, wicked**  
 νῦν, **now, at present**  
 πάλιν, **again**  
 ἤ, **or, than**