

78. Formation of the Future Tense

πέμπω, I send

βλέπω, I see

γράφω, I write

ἄρχομαι, I begin

ἄγω, I lead

πέμψω, I will send

βλέψω, I will see

γράψω, I will write

ἄρξομαι, I will begin

ἄξω, I will lead

Many Greek verbs do not fall neatly into these categories, however, and some that would seem to fit nevertheless have irregular future forms. The verb κηρύσσω actually belongs in the category of palatal stops since its true stem is κηρυκ-. Its future form is κηρύξω. Many verbs whose stems end in zeta (ζ) fall into the dental category (βαπτίζω — βαπτίσω; σώζω — σώσω), but some have irregular futures. Thus, one sees the importance of learning principal parts. If the second principal part of a verb is known, it is relatively easy to conjugate it in the future active and middle. But the principal part itself cannot always be predicted.