

Caput XII: Perfect Active System of All Conjugations

Review: Present System + Principal Parts

Verb Tense Timeline:

Perfect System:

Forming the Perfect Active *Stem*: (3rd principal part)

- The Latin “perfect” is actually a combination of multiple tenses from PIE and its forms are highly varied both because of this and because early Latin speakers utilized a number of sources in creating these “perfect” stems
- After learning a few of the possible processes for forming the perfect, look for patterns or trends in similar verbs and study those together (e.g., group your verb flash cards by what kind of perfect stem they have)

#1: Many Latin perfects form by **the addition of “u/v” to the end of the verb stem:**

- Note that these are really the same later, the difference is only orthographic. Only much after the Classical period was there a distinction between vocalic “u” and consonantal “v”
ex: “normal” 1st conjugation verbs:

amō: _____, _____, _____ - _____

errō: _____, _____, _____ - _____

audiō: _____, _____, _____ - _____

possum: _____, _____ - _____

(2nd conjugation verbs: add “u/v”, which results in the loss of stem vowel “ē”)

debeō: _____, _____, _____ - _____

moneō: _____, _____, _____ - _____

#2: Add “-s-” to the verb stem, which often creates various consonant changes (as we’ve seen before) and may result in (compensatory) **lengthening of final stem vowel** if sound

ex:

dūcō: _____, _____, _____ - _____

sentiō: _____, _____, _____ - _____

mittō: _____, _____, _____ - _____

maneō: _____, _____, _____ - _____

scribō: _____, _____, _____ - _____

gerō: _____, _____, _____ - _____

intelligō: _____, _____, _____ - _____

#3: Several linguistic phenomena all result in a simple lengthening of the internal stem vowel

- Focus on the result of the long vowel, don't worry about the causes for now!

ex:

videō: _____, _____, _____ - _____

agō: _____, _____, _____ - _____

capiō: _____, _____, _____ - _____

faciō: _____, _____, _____ - _____

fugiō: _____, _____, * _____ - _____

veniō: _____, _____, _____ - _____

iuvō: _____, _____, _____ - _____

#4: Some verbs undergo reduplication: repeat the initial stem consonant or syllable

- Usually with "e", but sometimes (especially if the root vowel is *i*, *u*, or *o*, it is repeated

ex:

dō: _____, _____, _____ - _____

cadō: _____, _____, * _____ - _____

currō: _____, _____, _____ - _____ [14]

#5: Some verbs "undo" changes that were made to the verb stem in the present:

- In many of these instances, the roots themselves were originally aorist (a PIE past tense) and thus they require the addition of other markers to form the present (or progressive)

ex:

vincō: _____, _____, _____ - _____

discō: _____, _____ - _____ *redup. + loss of "sc"

#6: Lastly, some verbs are suppletive (meaning they use multiple roots to form all the stems; you'll see more of these in LAT 507), while others don't even have a perfect active stem:

ex:

sum: _____, _____, * _____ - _____

audeō: _____, * _____ - _____

The Personal Endings of the Perfect Active Tense:

	sing.	plural
1 st	-ī	-imus
2 nd	-istī	-istis
3 rd	-it	-ērunt / -ēre*

*"-ēre" was the original 3rd person plural perfect active ending, but the Romans later changed it to "-ērunt", and then they finally picked up the original ending again due to nostalgia; note that both of these have mandatory macrons!

To form the **PERFECT Active Indicative**, combine: **perf. act. stem + perf. act. pers. endings**

amō, amāre – **perfect active indicative**

	sing.	plural
1st		
2nd		
3rd		

To form the **FUTURE Perfect Active Indicative**, combine: **perf. act. stem + fut. of *sum****

*the only exception is that the 3rd pers. pl. Fut.Perf. Act. Indic. uses “-erint” instead of “-erunt”

amō, amāre – **future perfect active indicative**

	sing.	plural
1st		
2nd		
3rd		

To form the **PLUPERFECT Active Indicative**, combine: **perf. act. stem + impf. of *sum***

amō, amāre – **pluperfect active indicative**

	sing.	plural
1st		
2nd		
3rd		

Translating the Perfect Active System:

- **Perfect:**
- **Future Perfect:**
- **Pluperfect:**

Key Terms:

Perfect System

Perfective Aspect

Perfect Tense

Future Perfect Tense

Pluperfect Tense

Reduplication

Suppletion

Synopsis

Practice: Conjugate each of the following verbs in the entire **perfect active system**:

agō, agere, ēgī, actum

	PERFECT	FUTURE PERFECT	PLUPERFECT
Singular			
1st			
2nd			
3rd			
Plural			
1st			
2nd			
3rd			

dūcō, dūcere, dūxī, ductum

	PERFECT	FUTURE PERFECT	PLUPERFECT
Singular			
1st			
2nd			
3rd			
Plural			
1st			
2nd			
3rd			