GREEK GRAMMAR II
Imperfect Active & Middle-Passive Indicative Tense

I. Imperfect Active Indicative

A. Basics: The imperfect is used for past time and portrays continuous aspect, according to Mounce. The "stem" that is used for the Imperfect is the Present Active stem; there is no "Imperfect stem"! For the Imperfect Active Indic., the subject is the agent of the verbal action: "he was eating," "they were killing."
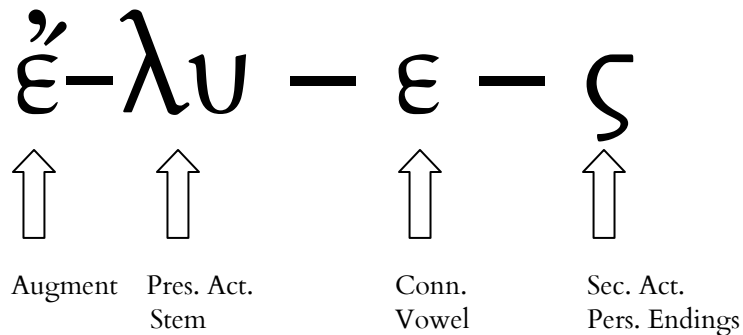
B. The components of the form:

Augment: Since the Imperfect is a past-time tense, it is a "secondary" tense and will use an augment at the beginning of the verb form. If the verb begins with a consonant, then prefix ἐ-; if the verb begins with a vowel, then lengthen the initial vowel.

Stem: The Greek Imperfect tense uses the **Present Active Stem**.

Tense formative: **none** is used!

Connecting/Thematic Vowel: ο/ε

Personal Endings: **Secondary Active Personal Endings**

ἔ-λυ – ε – ς

| Augment | Pres. Act. Stem | Conn. Vowel | Sec. Act. Pers. Endings |

Secondary Active Personal Endings:

	Connecting (Thematic) Vowel	*Real* Endings	*Modified* Endings (Mounce)	*Resultant* Endings (with thematic vowel o/ε)
1s	ο	μ	ν	ον
2s	ε	ς	ς	ες
3s	ε	τ	–	ε
1p	ο	μεν	μεν	ομεν
2p	ε	τε	τε	ετε
3p	ο	ντ	ν	ον

1s: ἔλυ – ο – μ : Since the only consonants that can stand at the end of a word are ν,σ,ρ,[1] the
     final μ changes to ν: (ἔλυον).
2s: ἔλυ – ε – ς : No problems, no changes (ἔλυες).
3s: ἔλυ – ε – τ : A final τ cannot stand at the end of a word and will drop (ἔλυε).
1p: ἔλυ – ο – μεν : No problems, no changes (ἐλύομεν).
2p: ἔλυ – ε – τε : No problems, no changes (ἐλύετε).
3p: ἔλυ – ο – ντ : A final τ cannot stand at the end of a word and will drop: (ἔλυον). Note,
     then, that the 1s and 3p forms will be identical, but for different reasons!

*Here's the chart you need to memorize for Master Personal Endings Chart (note the slight
difference from Mounce, p. 186)*

Secondary Tenses:

Impf A I of λύω	Secondary Active Personal Endings
ἔλυον	ν (μ)
ἔλυες	ς
ἔλυε(ν)	– (τ)
ἐλύομεν	μεν
ἐλύετε	τε
ἔλυον	ν (ντ)

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[1]Let's have some fun with this. Think of the word "sinner." It contains everything that can stand at the end of
a real Greek word: the consonants *s*, *n*, and *r*, and *vowels*. Just remember that "sinners" have to to the back of
the line.

II. Imperfect Middle-Passive Indicative

A. Basics: The imperfect is used for past time and portrays continuous aspect, according to Mounce. The "stem" that is used for the Imperfect is the Present Active stem; there is no "Imperfect stem"! For the Imperfect Passive Indic., the subject is the patient of the verbal action: "he was being eaten," "they were being killed." For now, any Imperfect Middle forms that you learn will be deponent, so you'll render them with active voice in the continuous past: ἐπορευόμην ImpfDepI1s of πορεύομαι, "I was going"

B. The components of the form:

Augment: Prefix ἐ- if the verb begins with a consonant; if the verb begins with a vowel, then lengthen the initial vowel.
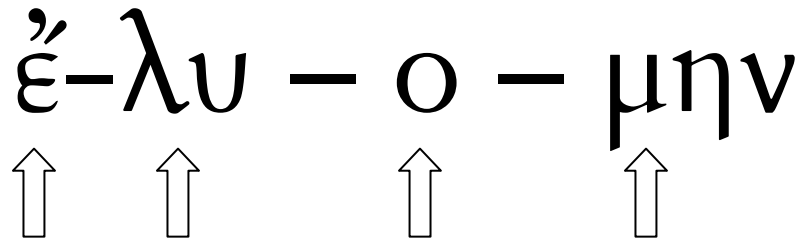
Stem: The Greek Imperfect tense uses the **Present Active Stem**.

Tense formative: **none** is used!

Connecting/Thematic Vowel: o/ε

Personal Endings: **Secondary Middle/Passive Personal Endings**

ἔ-λυ – ο – μην

⇧	⇧	⇧	⇧
Augment	Pres. Act. Stem	Conn. Vowel	Sec. Mid/Pas Pers. Endings

Secondary Middle–Passive Personal Endings:

	Connecting (Thematic) Vowel	*Real* Endings	*Resultant* Endings (with thematic vowel o/ε)
1s	ο	μην	ομην
2s	ε	σο	ου
3s	ε	το	ετο
1p	ο	μεθα	ομεθα
2p	ε	σθε	εσθε
3p	ο	ντο	οντο

1s: ἐλυ – ο – μην : No problems, no changes: (ἐλυόμην).
2s: ἐλυ – ε – σο : Intervocalic σ drops, leaving εο (ἐλυ – ε – ο). The combination of εο
    contracts to ου: (ἐλύου).
3s: ἐλυ – ε – το : No problems, no changes: (ἐλύετο).
1p: ἐλυ – ο – μεθα : No problems, no changes: (ἐλυόμεθα).
2p: ἐλυ – ε – σθε : No problems, no changes: (ἐλύεσθε).
3p: ἐλυ – ο – ντο : No problems, no changes: (ἐλύοντο).

Here's the chart you need to memorize for Master Personal Endings Chart

Secondary Tenses:

Impf M-P I of λύω	Secondary Middle/Passive Personal Endings
ἐλυόμην	μην
ἐλύου	σο
ἐλύετο	το
ἐλυόμεθα	μεθα
ἐλύεσθε	σθε
ἐλύοντο	ντο