Future and Imperfect Tenses Worksheet
[This worksheet accompanies the video on the future and imperfect tenses by Simon Costello]

The future tense

The future tense is used for an action that will happen AFTER the time of writing or speaking. In English we use "I will…" / "I shall…" / "I am going to…"

In Greek the future tense uses the SAME endings as the present tense:

1st person singular	I	-ω
2nd person singular	you	-εις
3rd person singular	he/she/it	-ει
1st person plural	we	-ομεν
2nd person plural	you	-ετε
3rd person plural	they	-ουσι(ν)

The future tense is marked out from the present tense by adding a sigma (σ) between the stem and the ending: παύ – **σ** – ω= I will stop

When a verb stem ends in a consonant, adding the sigma can lead to a spelling change:
π/ φ = ψ
κ/γ = ξ
ζ/θ = σ

Practising the forms

(Vocabulary: γράφω – I write; δακρύω – I cry; διώκω – I chase; κολάζω – I punish; λείπω – I leave; παύω – I stop)

Translate into English:	Translate into Greek:
1. παύσομεν	1. I will cry
2. δακρύσει	2. They will stop
3. γράψετε	3. We shall chase
4. λείψουσιν	4. You (p) will leave
5. κολάσεις	5. She will punish
6. διώξω	6. You (s) will cry
7. δακρύσουσι	7. We will write
8. λείψεις	8. He is going to chase

Future tense practice sentences

1. ἡ Ἀφροδίτη τοὺς ἀνθρώπους κολάσει.

2. τοὺς ναύτας διώξομεν.

3. ἆρα τὰς ἐπιστολὰς γράψετε;
    (vocabulary: ἆρα – turns a sentence into a question; ἐπιστολή – letter)

4. ὁ Ἀγαμέμνων οὐ δακρύσει.

5. τὰ δῶρα ἐν τῇ οἰκίᾳ λείψω.

Answers are given in the video and at the end of the worksheet.

Imperfect tense

The imperfect tense used for a repeated or continuous action in the past. In English, we usual form the imperfect as "I was —ing", "we were —ing" ("I was" = the imperfect of the verb 'to be') for a continuous past action, and "I used to..." for a repeated past action. For some verbs (e.g. "want", "have") the simple past form is also used as an imperfect (e.g. "I had a dog").

In Greek, the imperfect has its own set of endings, most of which are similar to or the same as the present tense endings:

1st person singular	I	-ον
2nd person singular	you	-ες
3rd person singular	he/she/it	-ε(ν)
1st person plural	we	-ομεν
2nd person plural	you	-ετε
3rd person plural	they	-ον

The 1st person singular and 3rd person plural have the same ending; context will usually help you work out which is being used.

The imperfect tense is also marked out by an augment at the front of the verb stem. For verbs that begin with a consonant, the letter epsilon (ε) is simply added to the front of the stem:

παύ-ω = "i stop"   ἔ-παυ-ον = "I was stopping

With verb stems that start with vowels, this results in the vowel changing by lengthening. Verbs that already begin with an epsilon, and those that begin with alpha (α) are augmented by changing the letter to eta (η) – you may have to look up a form starting with alpha or with epsilon to find the correct verb (with verbs that start with omicron (o) the letter is changed into omega (ω)).

ἀκού-ω = "I hear"   ἤ-κου-ον = "I was hearing"

ἐθέλ-ω = "i want/wish"   ἤ-θελ-ον = "I was wishing"

Practising the forms

(Vocabulary: ἐθέλω – I want; ἐλπίζω – I hope; λαμβάνω – I take)

Translate into English: Translate into Greek:

1. ἐλαμβάνομεν   1. I was listening
2. ἐδακρύετε   2. She was stopping
3. ἤλπιζον   3. He was crying
4. ἤκουε   4. We used to take
5. ἐδάκρυες   5. They wanted
6. ἐπάυετε   6. You (s) were hoping
7. ἐλάμβανον   7. You (p) were stopping
8. ἤθελεν   8. I was listening

Imperfect of the verb 'to be'

1st person singular	I	ἦ/ἦν
2nd person singular	you	ἦσθα
3rd person singular	he/she/it	ἦν
1st person plural	we	ἦμεν
2nd person plural	you	ἦτε
3rd person plural	they	ἦσαν

These forms are irregular, but very common, so you will soon become familiar with them.

Imperfect tense practice sentences

1. ὁ Ὀδυσσεὺς τὸν οἶνον ἐλάμβανεν.
   (Vocabulary: οἶνον – wine)

2. ἐν τῇ οἰκίᾳ ἐδακρύομεν.

3. οἱ Ἀθηναῖοι τοῖς θεοῖς ἔθυον.
   (Vocabulary: θύω – sacrifice)

4. ἆρα σοφὴ ἦσθα;

5. ὁ λεὼν τὸν ἵππον ἤσθιεν
   (Vocabulary: λεών (3rd declension) – lion; ἐσθίω – eat)

Future tense forms answer key

Translate into English:

1. παύσομεν – we will stop
2. δακρύσει – he/ she will cry
3. γράψετε – you (p) will write
4. λείψουσιν – they will leave
5. κολάσεις – you (s) will punish
6. διώξω – I will chase
7. δακρύσουσι – they will cry
8. λείψεις – you will leave

Translate into Greek:

1. I will cry – δακρύσω
2. They will stop – παύσουσι
3. We shall chase – διώξομεν
4. You (p) will leave – λείψετε
5. She will punish – κολάσει
6. You (s) will cry – δακρύσεις
7. We will write – γράψομεν
8. He is going to chase – διώξει

Future tense practice sentences answer key

1. Aphrodite will punish the men.
2. We will chase the sailors.
3. Will you (p) write the letters?
4. Agamemnon will not cry.
5. I will leave the gifts in the house.

Imperfect tense forms answer key

Translate into English:

1. ἐλαμβάνομεν – we were taking
2. ἐδακρύετε – you (p) were crying
3. ἤλπιζον – I was hoping / they were hoping
4. ἤκουε – he/she was hearing
5. ἐδάκρυες – you (s) were crying
6. ἐπάυετε – you (p) were stopping
7. ἐλάμβανον – I was taking / they were taking
8. ἤθελεν - he /she was wanting / wanted

Translate into Greek:

1. I was listening – ἤκουον
2. She was stopping – ἔπαυε(ν)
3. He was crying – ἐδάκρυε(ν)
4. We used to take – ἐλαμβάνομεν
5. They wanted – ἤθελον
6. You (s) were hoping – ἤλπιζες
7. You (p) were stopping – ἐπαύετε
8. I was listening – ἤκουον

Imperfect tense practice sentences

1. Odysseus was taking the wine.
2. We were crying in the house.
3. The Athenians were sacrificing / used to sacrifice to the gods.
4. Were you wise?
5. The lion was eating the horse.