

THE SIMPLE PAST – Type 1 Verbs eg γράφω

To form the simple past 1) form the simple past stem and 2) add the simple past ending

For all verbs, endings in the simple past are:

- α
- ες
- ε
- αμε
- ατε
- ανε

These are simply added to the second stem which is formed from the present stem as follows:

- φ often changes to -ψ eg γράφω (I write) becomes έγραψα (I wrote)
- ευ often changes to -εψ eg δουλεύω (I work) becomes δούλεψα (I worked)
- ν often changes to -σ eg κλείνω (I close) becomes έκλεισα (I closed)
- ζ often changes to -σ eg γυρίζω (I turn) becomes γύρισα (I turned)
- γ often changes to -ξ eg ανοίγω (I open) becomes άνοιξα (I opened)

NB:

Note the change in stress: In the past, the stress is always on the third syllable from the end and where necessary (to create a 3rd syllable) an initial ε- is added eg έγραψα, έγραψες, έγραψε but γράψαμε

In the third person plural, an alternative form may exist: γράψανε or έγραψαν

For passive verbs (eg κάθομαι) stems are formed differently (see later section) but the same endings apply.

There are also several verbs which form their stems irregularly but again the same endings apply.

Examples

PRESENT	PAST					
γράφω I write	έγραψα I wrote	έγραψες etc	έγραψε	γράψαμε	γράψατε	γράψανε/έγραψαν
δουλεύω I work	δούλεψα I worked	δούλεψες	δούλεψε	δουλέψαμε	δουλέψατε	δουλέψανε/δούλεψαν
κλείνω I close	έκλεισα I closed	έκλεισες	έκλεισε	κλείσαμε	κλείσατε	κλείσανε/έκλεισαν
γυρίζω I turn	γύρισα I turned	γύρισες	γύρισε	γυρίσαμε	γυρίσατε	γυρίσανε/γύρισαν
ανοίγω I open	άνοιξα I opened	άνοιξες	άνοιξε	ανοίξαμε	ανοίξατε	ανοίξανε/άνοιξαν
αγοράζω I buy	αγόρασα I bought	αγόρασες	αγόρασε	αγοράσαμε	αγοράσατε	αγοράσανε/αγόρασαν
φτάνω I arrive	έφτασα I arrived	έφτασες	έφτασε	φτάσαμε	φτάσατε	φτάσανε /έφτασαν