Chapter 16 Alpha-Grammar — PASSIVE VERBS

1. **Greek passive verb forms:** *passive versus middle.*

   For the following tenses. . .

   - present
   - imperfect

   - perfect (vol. 2)
   - pluperfect (vol. 2)

   . . . **passive** and **middle** forms *are exactly the same*. The only way to tell the difference there is by context!

   For *other tenses*. . .

   - future
   - aorist

   . . . the passive and the middle forms *are different!* (Fut., aor. passive to be studied later.)

2. **Passive verb forms:** *present* **(indic., inf., imper., ptc)** and *imperfect* **(indic.).** . .

PRESENT MIDDLE/PASSIVE of λύω, ποιέω, τιμάω, δηλόω				
basic endings	ω-verbs	ε-contract	α-contract	o-contract
I n d i c a t i v e				
-μαι	λύ-ομαι	ποι-οῦμαι	τιμ-ῶμαι	δηλ-οῦμαι
-σαι (with contractions)	λύ-ει / -η (from λύ-ε-σαι)	ποι-εῖ / -ῇ	τιμ-ᾷ	δηλ-οῖ (!!)
-ται	λύ-εται	ποι-εῖται	τιμ-ᾶται	δηλ-οῦται
-μεθα	λυ-όμεθα	ποι-ούμεθα	τιμ-ώμεθα	δηλ-ούμεθα
-σθε	λύ-εσθε	ποι-εῖσθε	τιμ-ᾶσθε	δηλ-οῦσθε
-νται	λύ-ονται	ποι-οῦνται	τιμ-ῶνται	δηλ-οῦνται
I m p e r a t i v e				
-σο (with contractions)	λύ-ου (from λύ-ε-σο)	ποι-οῦ	τιμ-ῶ (!!)	δηλ-οῦ
-σθε	λύ-εσθε	ποι-εῖσθε	τιμ-ᾶσθε	δηλ-οῦσθε
I n f i n i t v e				
-σθαι	λύ-εσθαι	ποι-εῖσθαι	τιμ-ᾶσθαι	δηλ-οῦσθαι
P a r t i c i p l e				
-μενος, etc.	λυ-όμενος, etc.	ποι-ούμενος, etc.	τιμ-ώμενος, etc.	δηλ-ούμενος, etc.

IMPERFECT MIDDLE/PASSIVE of λύω, ποιέω, τιμάω, δηλόω				
basic endings	ω-verbs	ε-contract	α-contract	o-contract
I n d i c a t i v e				
-μην	ἐλυ-όμην	ἐποι-ούμην	ἐτιμ-ώμην	ἐδηλ-ούμην
-σο (with contractions)	ἐλύ-ου (from ἐλύ-ε-σον)	ἐποι-οῦ	ἐτιμ-ῶ (!!)	ἐδηλ-οῦ
-το	ἐλύ-ετο	ἐποι-εῖτο	ἐτιμ-ᾶτο	ἐδηλ-οῦτο
-μεθα	ἐλυ-όμεθα	ἐποι-ούμεθα	ἐτιμ-ώμεθα	ἐδηλ-ούμεθα
-σθε	ἐλύ-εσθε	ἐποι-εῖσθε	ἐτιμ-ᾶσθε	ἐδηλ-οῦσθε
-ντο	ἐλύ-οντο	ἐποι-οῦντο	ἐτιμ-ῶντο	ἐδηλ-οῦντο

3. **Transitive active, middle voice versus *passive voice* — MEANING.**

(a)   Transitive active, transitive middle:

Verb-forms whose

- SUBJECT = *doer of an action or person being in as state of being.*
- DIRECT OBJECT = *target, done to.*

SUBJECT/DOER	VERB	DIRECT OBJECT
ἡ παῖς	βάλλει (act.)	τὴν σφαῖραν
The girl	is throwing	the ball.
ὁ πατὴρ	λύεται (mid.)	τὸν παῖδα.
The father	is ransoming	the boy.

(b)   *Passive* voice:

Verb-forms whose SUBJECT = *target, done-to*. The agent still = doer of the action, but agent is no longer *nominative:*

SUBJECT/DONE TO	PASSIVE VERB	AGENT
The ball	is thrown	by the girl.
ἡ σφαῖρα	βάλλεται	ὑπὸ τῆς παιδός.

(c)   Active (or transitive middle) to Passive. . . .

So, to rewrite active (or transitive middle) sentences as passive. . .

1. Take the *direct object* of the *active/middle* sentence.

2. Make it the *subject* of your passive sentence.

3. Place verb in passive.

4. Make the old *subject* now the *agent* (the by-whom-it's-done element).

☞ NOTE: The term "passive" comes from the idea that the *grammatical* focus of the sentence (the *subject*) doesn't actually do anything, i.e., is "passive." Passive sentences basically mean the same thing as the active sentences they "rewrite," though with a different rhetorical impact. Thus passive sentences often shift focus away from the recipient of the action to the action itself (that it *is/was done*) or to the doer-agent (it was done by *her/him/them*).

4.   EXAMPLES-DRILL: Greek Active to Passive.

Translate sentence into English. Recast Greek as *passive*. Translate *that* into English. E.g., . . .

ὁ Φίλιππος ἀροτρεύει τὸν ἀγρόν.
Philip plows the field.

ὁ ἀγρὸς ἀροτρεύεται ὑπὸ τοῦ Φιλίππου.
The field is being plowed by Philip.

- **trans verb ("they")**   **DO**
  σ υ ν α γ ε ί ρ ο υ σ ι ν   τ ο ὺ ς   σ υ μ μ ά χ ο υ ς   ε ἰ ς   τ ὸ   π ε δ ί ο ν
  (p l a i n) .
  They are gathering the allies into the field.
  subj   **pass. verb**   **gen of agent**
  οἱ σύμμαχοι συναγείρονται εἰς τὸ πεδίον ὑπὸ τῶν συμμάχων.
  The allies are being gathered into the field.

- **subj**   **trans verb**   **DO**
  ἡ σ υ μ φ ο ρ ὰ κ α τ ε λ ά μ β α ν ε τ ο ὺ ς ἐ ν ο ί κ ο υ ς .
  The misfortune WAS overtaking the inhabitants.
  subj   **pass. verb**   **dative of means**
  οἱ ἔνοικοι κατελαμβάνοντο τῇ συμφορᾷ.
  The inhabitants were being overtaken by the misfortune.

- **subj**   **trans verb**   **DO**
  ἡ Μ έ λ ι τ τ α ἐ τ ε λ ε ύ τ ᾱ τ ὸ ν λ ό γ ο ν .
  Melissa was finshing the story.
  subj   **pass. verb**   **gen of agent**
  ὁ λόγος ἐτελευψᾶτο ὑπὸ τῆς Μελίττης.
  The story was being finished by Melissa.

- **subj**   **DO**   **middle transitive verb**
  ἡ Μ υ ρ ρ ί ν η τ ὸ ν Φ ί λ ι π π ο ν λ ύ ε τ α ι .
  Myrrhine is ransoming Philip.

subj   **pass. verb**   **gen of agent**

ὁ Φίλιππος λύεται ὑπὸ τῆς Μυρρίνης.

Philip is being ransomed by Myrrine.