

Year 2 Term 3 Week 5 Day 3

Grammar: deponent verbs: present, imperfect and future simple

A deponent verb is simply a verb that looks as if it is in the passive voice but is in fact in the active voice. For example the verb *hortari* to exhort. This is a first conjugation verb but “I exhort” is not *horto* as you would expect but *hortor* and the whole verb follows the pattern set out in the table below. There simply is not a form of the verb that actually means “I am exhorted” and so on. You will find deponent verbs noted on the IGCSE syllabus list either like this: *hortor* (1 dep.) or, for most third conjugation verbs, like this *egredior; egredi, egressus sum*.

Present Tense	How formed	English
Singular 1	<i>hortor</i>	I exhort
Singular 2	<i>hortaris</i>	You exhort
Singular 3	<i>hortatur</i>	He/she/it exhorts
Plural 1	<i>hortamur</i>	We exhort
Plural 2	<i>hortamini</i>	You exhort
Plural 3	<i>hortuntur</i>	They exhort

Imperfect Tense	How formed	English
Singular 1	<i>hortabar</i>	I was exhorting
Singular 2	<i>hortabaris</i>	You were exhorting
Singular 3	<i>hortabatur</i>	He/she/it was exhorting
Plural 1	<i>hortabamur</i>	We were exhorting
Plural 2	<i>hortabamini</i>	You were exhorting
Plural 3	<i>hortabantur</i>	They were exhorting

Future Tense	How formed	English
Singular 1	<i>hortabor</i>	I shall exhort
Singular 2	<i>hortaberis</i>	You will exhort
Singular 3	<i>hortabitur</i>	He/she/it will exhort
Plural 1	<i>hortabimur</i>	We shall exhort
Plural 2	<i>hortabimini</i>	You will exhort
Plural 3	<i>hortabuntur</i>	They will exhort

You can practice your deponent verbs on quizlet. This set of cards for instance claims to be IGCSE deponent verbs although you should check with the syllabus and not rely on quizlet – I have not checked this set!

<https://quizlet.com/319777669/igcse-deponent-verbs-flash-cards/>

I found the following deponent verbs on the syllabus list:

conor (1 dep.)

hortor (1 dep.)

miror (1 dep.)

vereor, vereri, veritus sum [2]

colloquor (3 dep.)

aggredior, aggredi, aggressus sum

egredior, egredi, egressus sum

ingredior, ingredi, ingressus sum

labor, labi, lapsus sum

loquor, loqui, locutus sum

morior, mori, mortuus sum

nascor, nasci, natus sum

obliviscor, oblivisci, oblitus sum

patior, pati, passus sum

proficiscor, proficisci, profectus sum

progreior, progredi, progressus sum

regredior, regredi, regressus sum

sequor, sequi, secutus sum

utor, uti, usus sum

videor, videri, visus sum [I would say that “to seem” is in fact the passive form of “to see” so I’m not sure why this verb is classed as deponent]

Bible example:

miror *quod sic tam cito transferimini ab eo qui vos vocavit in gratiam Christi in aliud evangelium*

Galatians 1:6

tan “so” *cito* “soon” *aliud* “another”

Can you spot a real passive verb as well as the deponent?

I think you will be able to translate this – check the answer in your Bible.

If this subject interests you there is a thoughtful discussion of why deponent verbs *are* deponent here: <https://keenerclassics.wordpress.com/2015/01/11/what-exactly-is-a-deponent-verb-then>