

## Appendix B The Verbal Adjective

We have so far learned several ways of expressing necessity in Greek, namely the impersonal verbs δεῖ and χρῆ. Greek has yet another method, similar to the Latin passive periphrastic. In Greek the construction uses the **Verbal Adjective**, which is normally formed by adding -τέος to the aorist passive stem or occasionally the future stem. There is no way to predict which stem the verbal adjective is formed on, and normally they are listed separately from the main verb in Liddell & Scott. Some examples:

Verb	Aorist Passive	Verbal Adjective
φιλέω	ἐφιλήθην	φιλητέος, -η, -ον
παιδεύω	ἐπαιδεύθην	παιδευτέος, -η, -ον
πείθω	ἐπείσθην	πειστέος, -η, -ον

Verbs with verbal adjectives not formed from the aorist passive stem include φέρω (from the present stem φερτέος) and μένω (from the future stem, μενετέος), among others.

The verbal adjective always has a passive meaning, and the person performing the action is expressed with a dative of agent. Examples:

οἱ παῖδες ὑμῖν παιδευτέοι εἰσὶ.  
*The children must be taught by you*  
τὰ ἱέρα ποιητέα ἐστὶ τοῖς ἱερεῦσι.  
*The temples must be constructed by the priests*

The verbal adjective can also be used impersonally in the neuter singular (rarely, plural). The meaning is almost active. The object will be in the case the verb normally takes, and the agent will still be in the dative.

παιδευτέον τοὺς παῖδας ὑμῖν  
*It is necessary that the children be taught by you*  
ποιητέον τὰ ἱέρα τοῖς ἱερεῦσι  
*It is necessary that the temples be built by the priests.*