The Perfect Tense

We usually translate the perfect tense as _____**ed** (simple past translation). Remember, the perfect tense has 2 unique endings (**ī** = I, **istī** = you).

The perfect tense is always formed from the **3rd** principal part of the verb. The third principal part looks different for every verb, and sometimes follows no pattern at all. For this reason, **the third principal part must be memorized** when you learn new vocab.
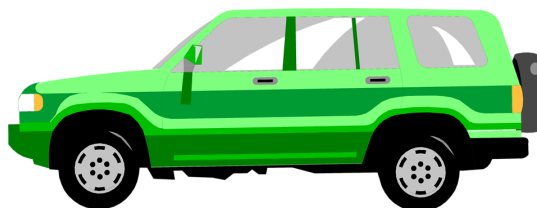
Recognizing & Predicting the 3rd Principal Part

There are a few patterns you can use to help you recognize and predict the 3rd principal part. Here are the most common ones:

Pattern	Explanation	Examples
The letters **x**, **s**, **u**, and **v**	These letters often appear just before the ending of the 3rd principal part.	intellegō, intellegere, intellē**x**ī scribō, scribere, scrip**s**ī terreō , terrēre, terr**u**ī clamō, clamāre, clamā**v**ī
Lengthening	The last vowel of the verb's stem is lengthened in the 3rd principal part.	emō, emere, **ē**mī videō, vidēre, v**ī**dī veniō, venīre, v**ē**nī
Reduplication	The initial sound of the word is made twice in the 3rd principal part.	currō, currere, **cucu**rrī poscō, poscere, **popo**scī tangō, tangere, **teti**gī
No Change	The stem for the 1st and 3rd principal part are identical.	respondeō, respondere, respondī

You can remember these patterns with this sentence:

Mr. Perfect traded in his bike for an **X**-tra **long SUV**. **Putt!!! Putt!!!**

Learn this sentence to improve your ability to recognize/predict perfect tense verbs! You will need to give it to me on the next examen!