

## Deponent Verbs

are  
 PASSIVE in form  
 but  
 ACTIVE in meaning

In other words, deponent verbs do not have active forms with endings like *-ō*, *-s*, *-t*, etc. They only have passive forms with endings like *-r*, *-ris*, *-tur*, etc., but you translate them as active.

A deponent verb has three principal parts. These correspond to the functions (but not the forms) of the first three principal parts of a regular verb, as seen below. Compare the regular verb *dūcō*, “to lead” with the deponent verb *sequor*, “to follow”

Principal Part:	1	2	3	4
Function:	1 <sup>st</sup> person singular present tense	present infinitive	1 <sup>st</sup> person singular perfect tense	perfect passive participle
Regular Verb:	<i>dūcō</i> “I lead”	<i>dūcere</i> “to lead”	<i>dūxī</i> “I led”	<i>ductus</i> “having been led”
Deponent Verb:	<i>sequor</i> “I follow”	<i>sequī</i> “to follow”	<i>secūtus sum</i> “I followed”	---

### Perfect Participles of Regular and Deponent Verbs:

Remember that the word *ductus* is a perfect passive participle, translated “having been led”

For a deponent verb like *sequor*, the word *secūtus* without a form of *sum*, *esse* after it is also a perfect participle, but it is active in meaning. So *secūtus* all by itself means “having followed”

Compare the following forms of *dūcō* and *sequor*:

Perfect:	<i>ductus est</i>	“he was led”
Pluperfect:	<i>ductus erat</i>	“he had been led”
Future Perfect:	<i>ductus erit</i>	“he will have been led”
Perfect Participle:	<i>ductus</i>	“having been led”

<u>Regular Verb:</u> Passive forms are passive in meaning
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Perfect:	<i>secūtus est</i>	“he followed”
Pluperfect:	<i>secūtus erat</i>	“he had followed”
Future Perfect:	<i>secūtus erit</i>	“he will have followed”
Perfect Participle:	<i>secūtus</i>	“having followed”

<u>Deponent Verb:</u> Has only passive forms but active in meaning
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