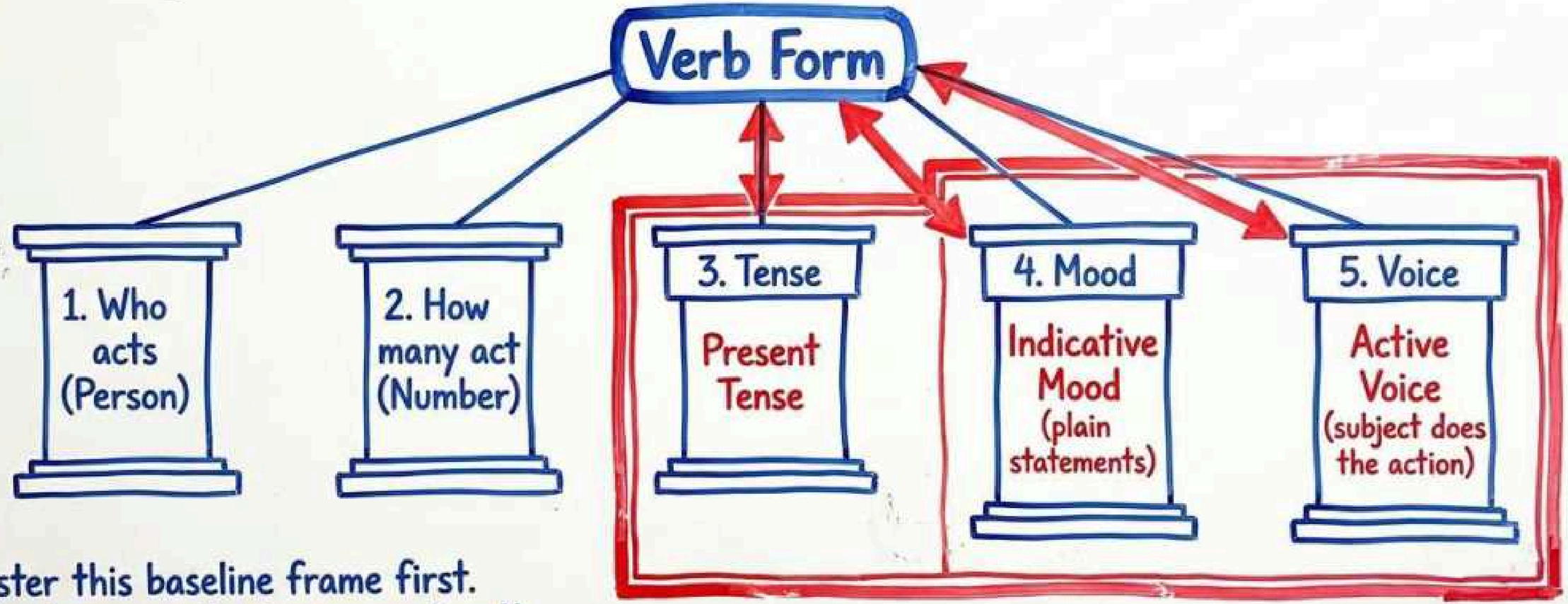
GREK 101 B: The Verb and the Present Tense

¶ 3.1

The Dimensional Richness of the Greek Verb

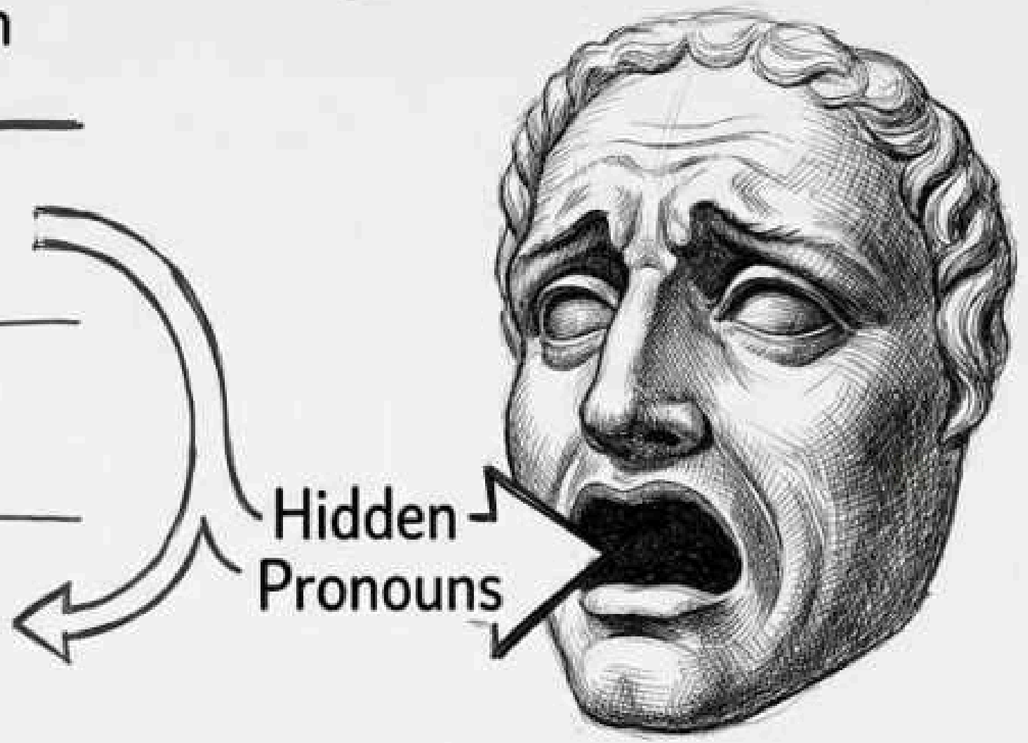


Master this baseline frame first.
Later tenses and voices snap directly onto this foundation—no need to learn a new language each time.

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¶ 3.2

	Singular (One acts)	Plural (More than one acts)
1st Person (I / We)		
2nd Person (You / You all)		
3rd Person (He, She, It / They)		



Greek verbs do the work of English pronouns.

No separate word for I or he is needed in ordinary sentences—the ending says it all.

Pronouns are used only for emphasis or contrast.

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The Dictionary Rule

¶ 3.3



Infinitive



luō

I loosen.

The Model Verb: luō (short, regular, clear endings).

Rule: Greek dictionaries list verbs by the First Person Singular Present, not the infinitive. You look up I loosen, not to loosen.

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¶ 3.4

Stem (Black) + Ending (Red) = Meaning

1st Sing:	lu +	ō	= I loosen
2nd Sing:	lu +	eis	= you loosen
3rd Sing:	lu +	ei	= he/she/it loosens
1st Plur:	lu +	omen	= we loosen
2nd Plur:	lu +	ete	= you all loosen
3rd Plur:	lu +	ousi	= they loosen



Learn this as a single spoken row, not six separate facts. The pattern is the key.

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¶ 3.5

The Movable N

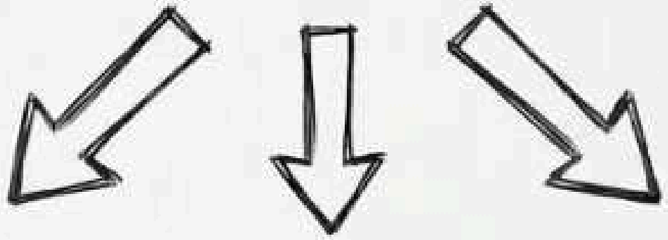
luousi + [n] ⇨ luousin

esti + [n] ⇨ estin

Triggered by a following vowel or sentence end.
Changes sound, not meaning.

Translating the Present

luō

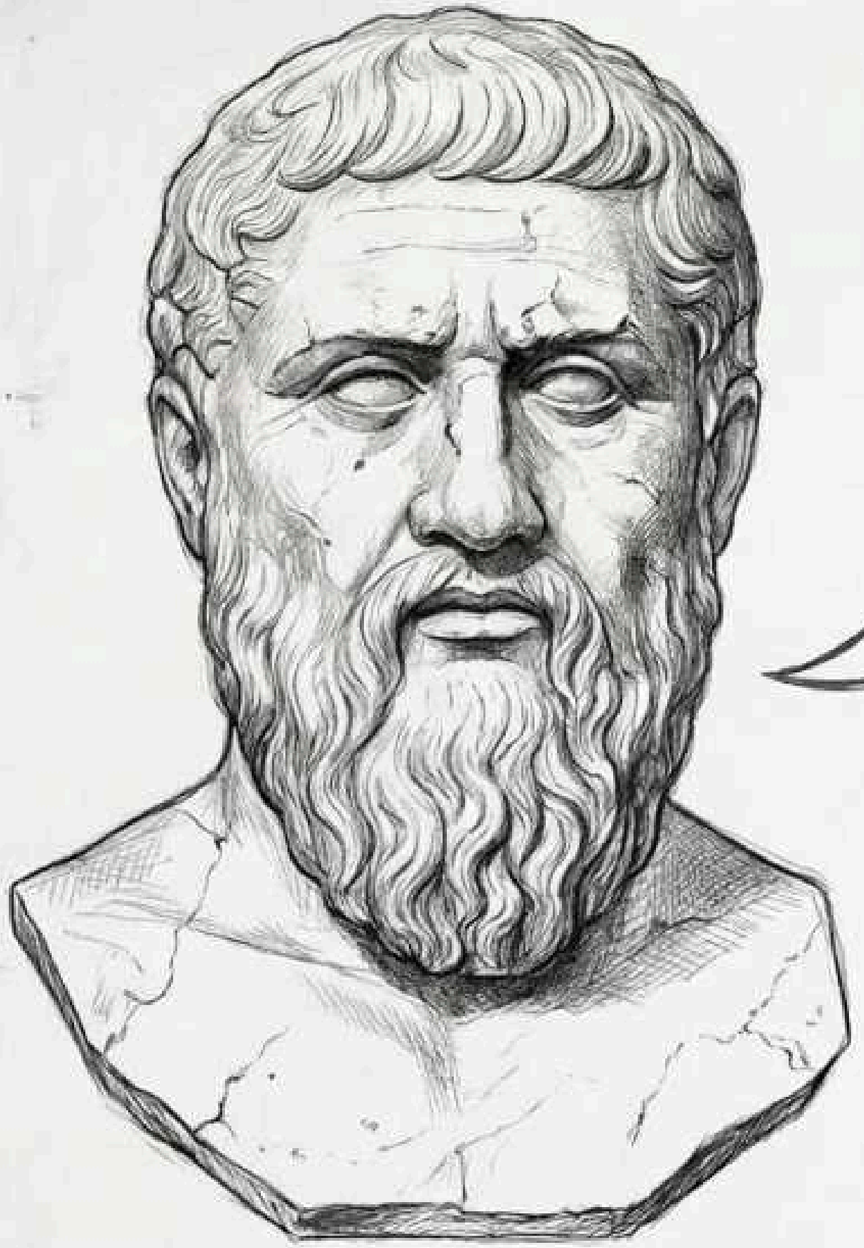


1. I loosen
2. I am loosening
3. I do loosen

Context chooses the best translation. Greek writers also use the present for vivid storytelling about the past (the historical present).

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¶ 3.6



Stem + ein

lu + ein = luein (to loosen)

tó (the) + philosophein
(to philosophize)
= The act of philosophizing

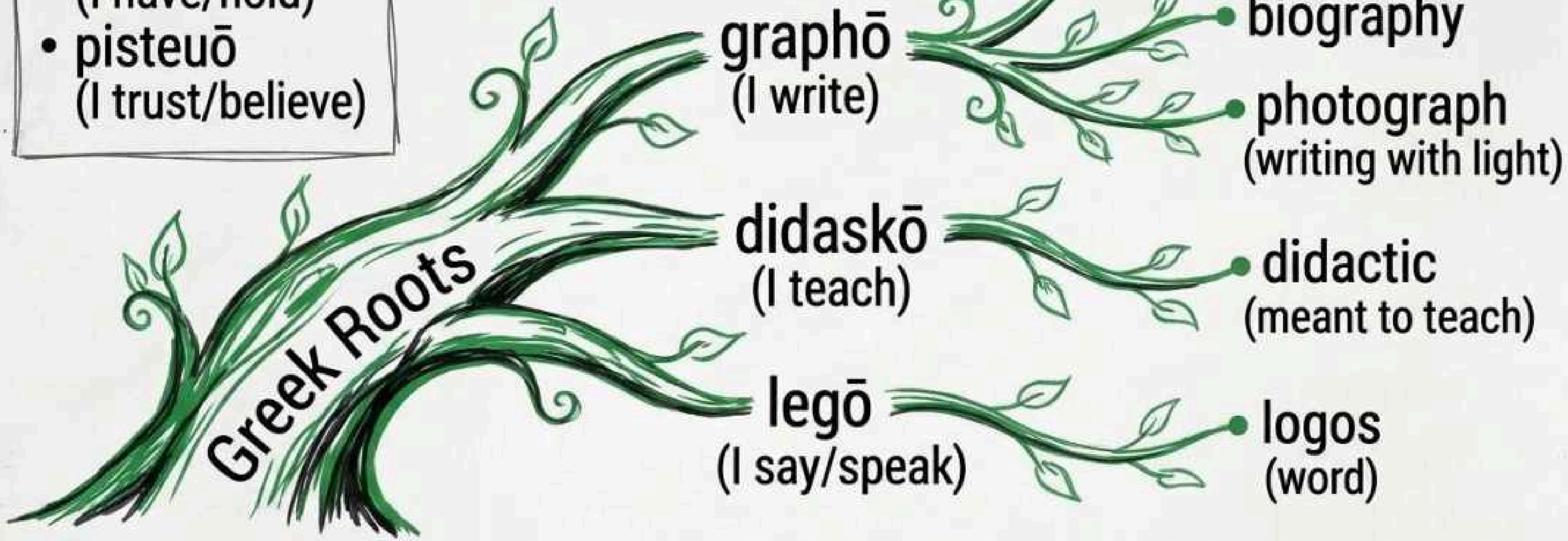
- The Present Infinitive Active ends in –ein.
- Used like English (I wish to loosen).
- Syntactic trick: Adding the neuter article (tó) turns the entire infinitive phrase into a noun.

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Etymology Tree

¶ 3.7

- echō
  (I have/hold)
- pisteuō
  (I trust/believe)



Omega verbs ending in **-ō** make up most Greek verbs. They all use the exact same
Seeing the links makes the vocabulary stick—you already half know the Greek.

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¶ 3.8



→ He or she teaches

Stem (teach)

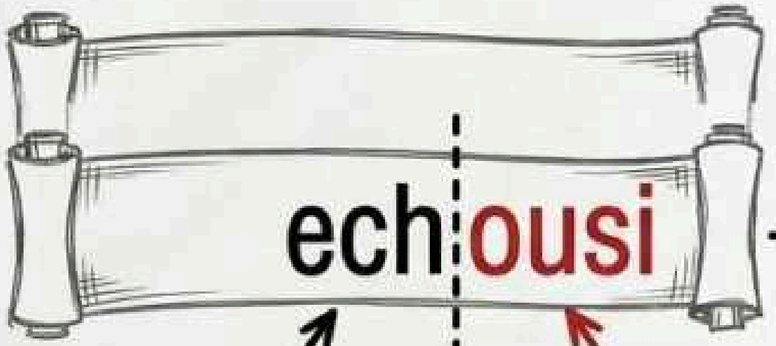
Ending (he/she)



→ We write

Stem (write)

Ending (we)



→ They have

Stem (have)

Ending (they)



→ You believe

Stem (believe)

Ending (you)

A little practice shows how much six endings can do. Find the stem first, then read the ending for person and number. The pattern does not change, unlocking hundreds of verbs.

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Caution

¶ 3.9

1st Sing:	eimi (I am)
2nd Sing:	ei (you are)
3rd Sing:	esti (he/she/it is)
1st Plur:	esmen (we are)
2nd Plur:	este (you all are)
3rd Plur:	eisi (they are)

estin with movable n

eisin with movable n

- The verb *to be* is irregular, as in most languages.
- Forms do not follow the *luō* pattern neatly.
- Action: Say this row aloud daily for a week until automatic.

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¶ 3.10



~~Accusative Direct Object~~

→ Ho theos agathos estin (The god is good).

→ Sōkratēs philosophos estin (Socrates is a philosopher).

The Invisible *esti*

kalon hē alētheia
→ beautiful [is] the truth.

Proverbs often omit *esti*. When a sentence seems to have no verb, try adding *is*.

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¶ 3.11

ou (Not)

- Before a consonant → **ou luei** (he does not loosen)
- Before smooth breathing → **ouk** → **ouk echei** (he does not have)
- Before rough breathing → **ouch**

mē is the secondary negative (used for commands, wishes, infinitives).

; = ?

· = : or ;

A line ending in what looks like an English semicolon is actually a Greek question.

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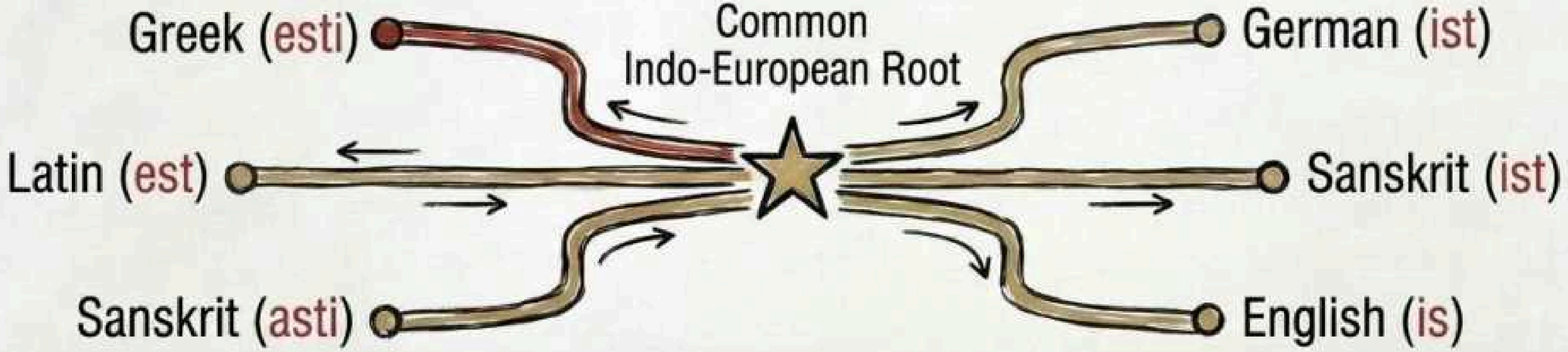
¶ 3.12

ho adelphos → biblion → graphei

[Subject / Nominative] [Object / Accusative / Neuter] [Verb / 3rd Person Singular]

The brother writes a book.

ho adelphos ouk echei biblion, the brother does not have a book.

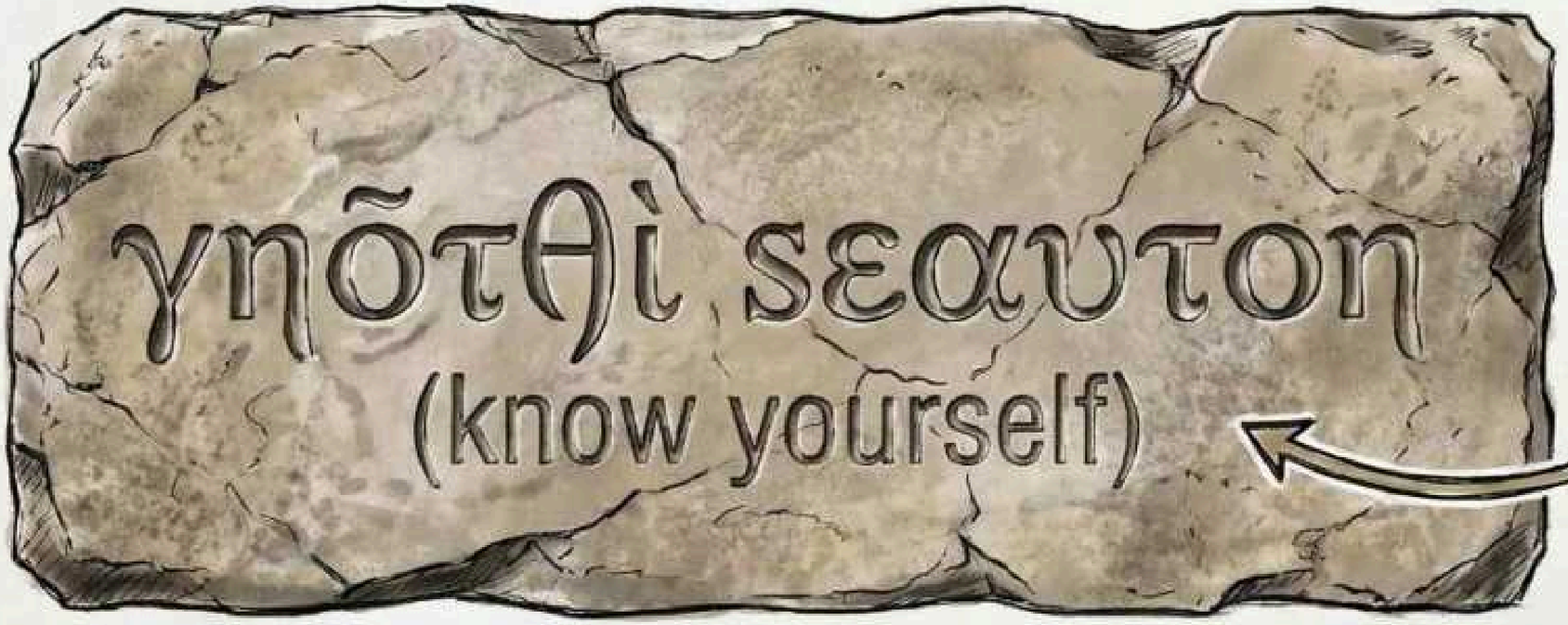


Greek and Latin share many endings, a sign of common ancestry connecting across languages.

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¶ 3.13

Indicative Mood	Imperative Mood
• States facts. (Focus of this course).	• Gives commands. lue (loosen!), luete (loosen, you all!).



Practice Routine: Conjugate luō and eimi aloud daily, then run a new verb (like graphō) through the six endings.

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¶ 3.14

Contract Verbs

phileō ➡ Vowels (-eō, -aō, -oō) contract ➡ philō (I love).

Endings get harder to see; stick to uncontracted luō for now.

Principal Parts

Present ➡ Future ➡ Aorist ➡ Perfect ➡

luō (I loose) ➡ lusō (I will loose) ➡ elusa (I loosed) ➡ leluka (I have loosed)

Dictionaries list several principal parts because future and past forms aren't always predictable from the present stem. Two verbs that look alike today may part company in the past tense.

For this hour, the present is enough.

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