Lecture 6: Reading, Past & Future, and Greek in English



Parsing a famous sentence

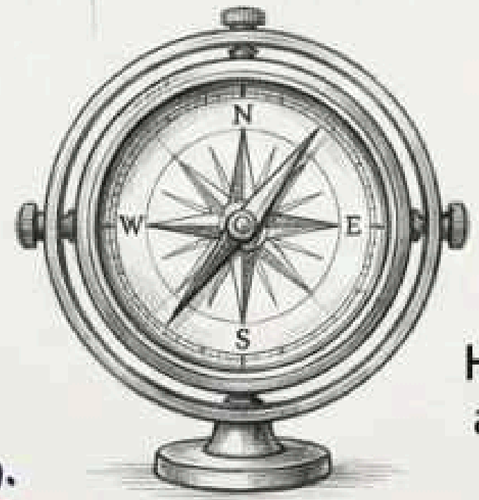
Past and Future tenses



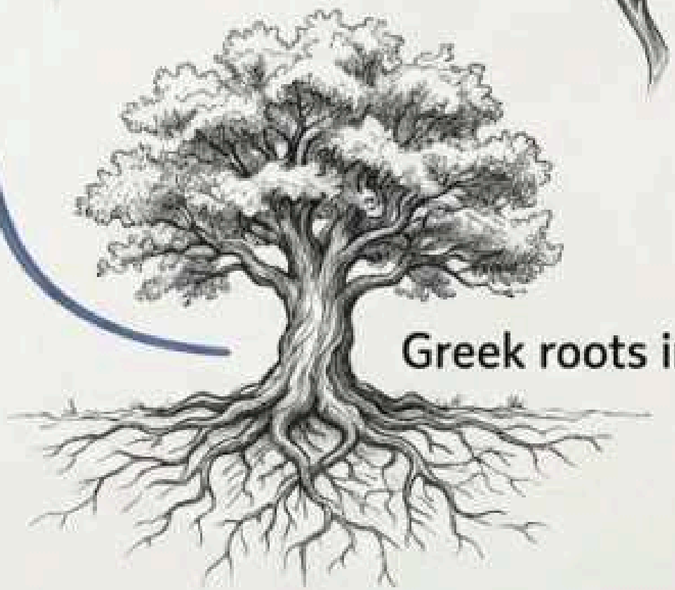
The Goal: You Can Read

The Participle





Pointing to Homer, Plato, and the New Testament



Greek roots in English

The aim is not to finish Greek, but to show that you can already begin.

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A 5-Step Algorithm for Reading Greek

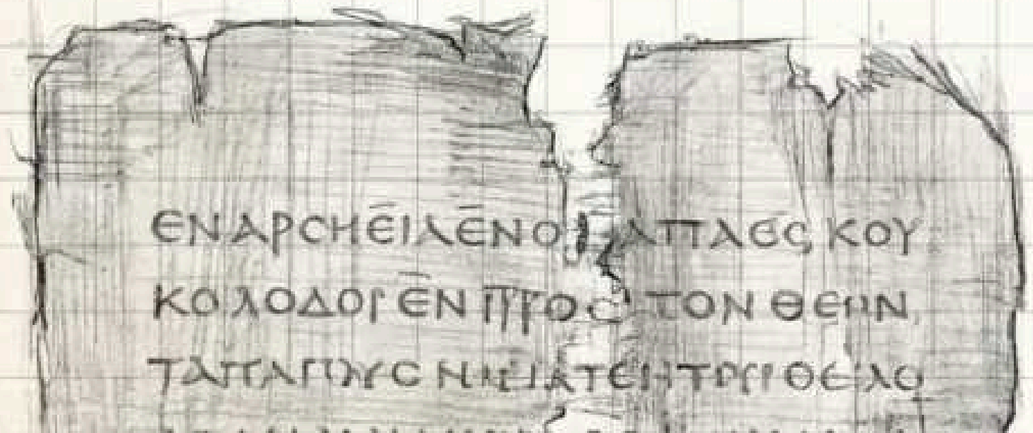
1. **Find the Verb** → Look for the ending to determine person and number.
2. **Find the Subject** → Look for the Nominative case (often marked by the article).
3. **Find the Object** → Look for the Accusative case.
4. **Isolate Prepositions** → Bracket prepositional phrases [Prep + Assigned Case].
5. **Read the Particles** → Determine how the sentence joins the previous context.

If you do these five steps in order, a long line becomes a set of known parts.

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En archēi ēn ho logos, kai ho logos ēn pros ton theon, kai theos ēn ho logos

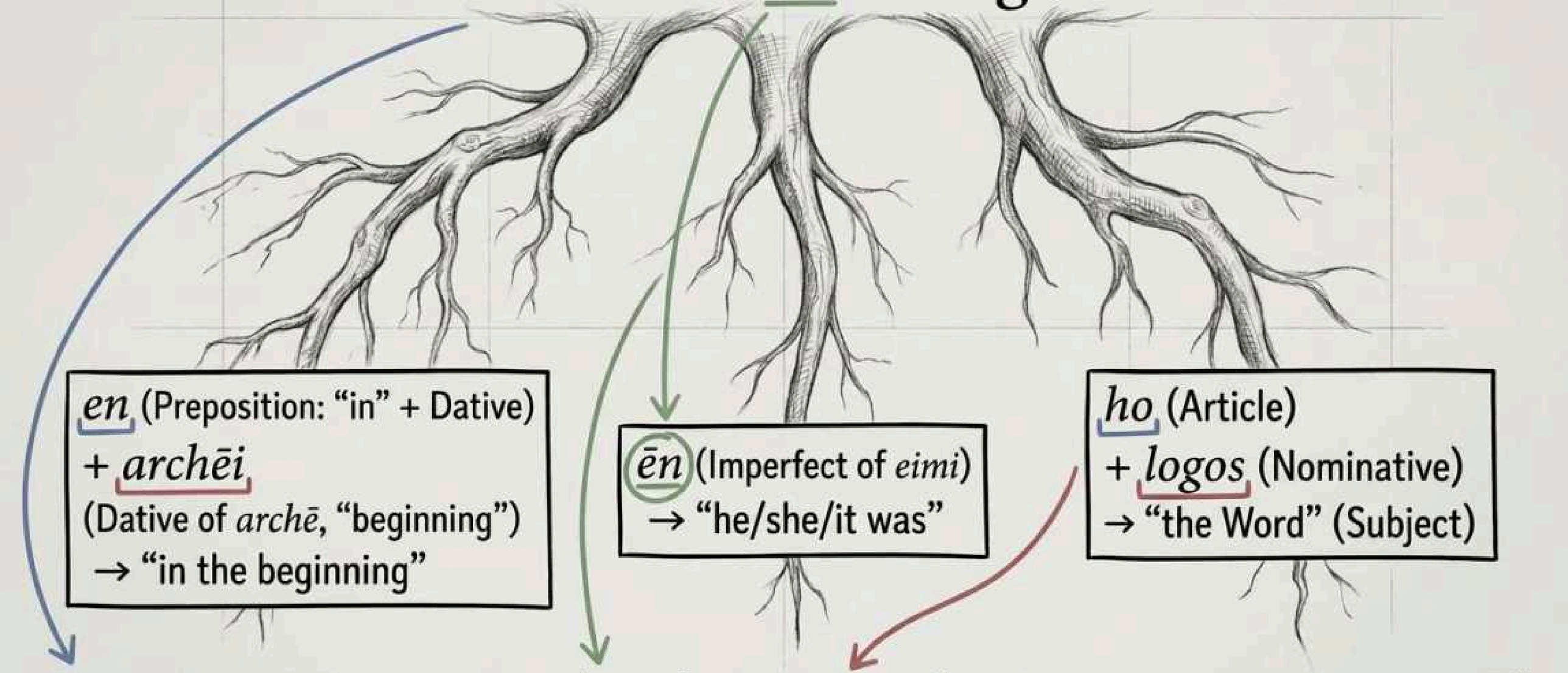
Clause 1 Clause 2 Clause 3



The vocabulary is within reach.
We take it one clause at a time.

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En archēi ēn ho logos



en (Preposition: “in” + Dative)
+ *archēi*
(Dative of *archē*, “beginning”)
→ “in the beginning”

ēn (Imperfect of *eimi*)
→ “he/she/it was”

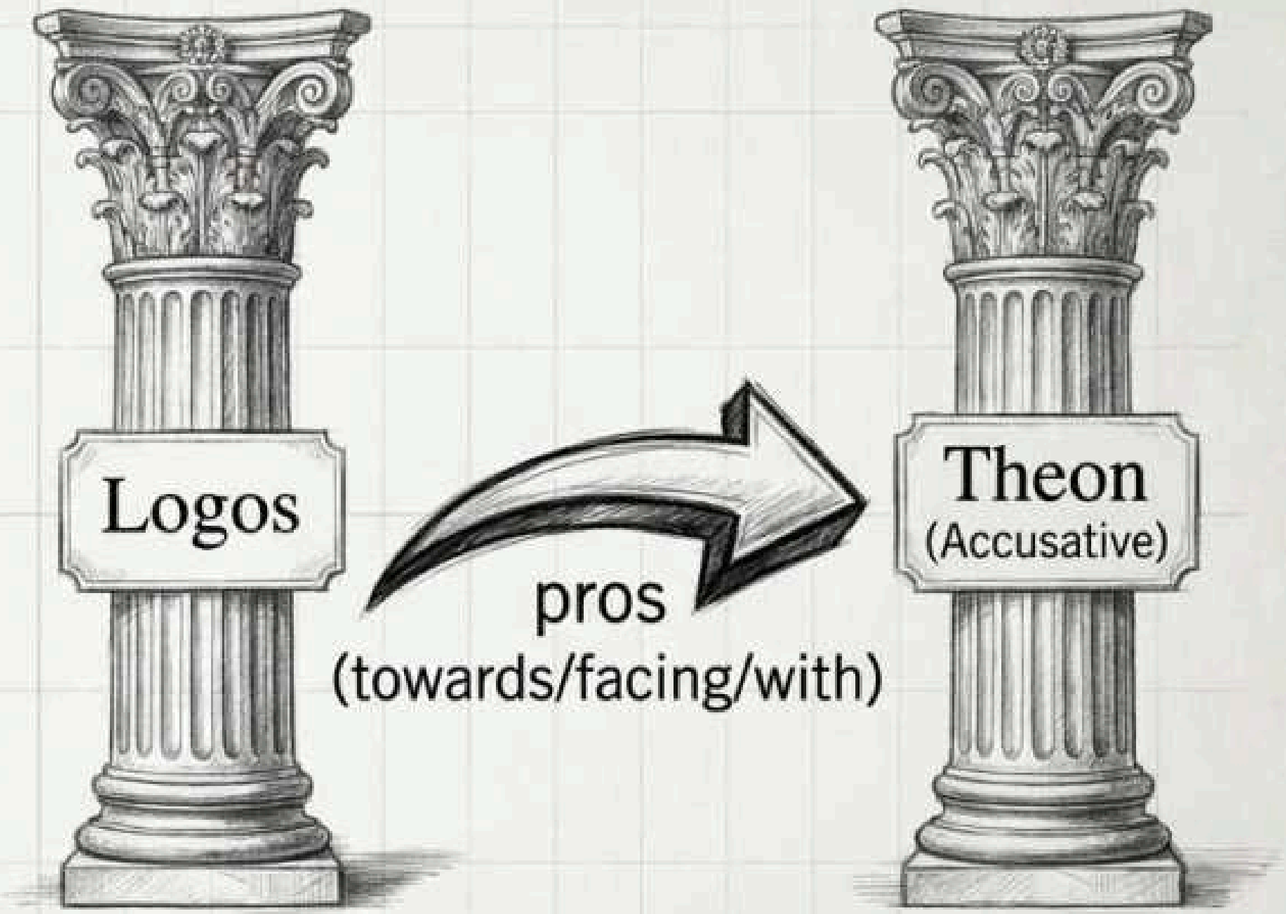
ho (Article)
+ *logos* (Nominative)
→ “the Word” (Subject)

Prepositional Phrase + Verb ‘to be’ + Subject = “In the beginning was the Word.”

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kai ho logos ēn pros ton theon

kai = and
ho logos = the Word (Subject)
ēn = was (Imperfect)



The preposition and its case do the work of English prepositional choices. Literally: Literally: “facing towards God”.

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The Power of the Article Over Word Order

[Ø theos] + [ēn] + [ho logos]

(Placed first for emphasis, NO article = Predicate)

(Has article = Subject)

Translation: “And the Word was God” OR “And what God was, the Word was.”

Scholar’s Note: The presence or absence of the article belongs to meaning, not merely style. Scholars have written whole books about these 17 words.

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Morphological Algebra: Predicting the Future

Verb Stem + s + Present Ending = Future Tense

lu	+ **s**	+ **ō**	= **lusō**	(I shall loosen)
lu	+ **s**	+ **eis**	= **luseis**	(You will loosen)
lu	+ **s**	+ **ei**	= **lusei**	(He/she/it will loosen)

Look for an ‘s’ just before the ending. A new tense stops being a new verb and becomes a shape you already know.

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The Shape of the Past

¶ 6.8

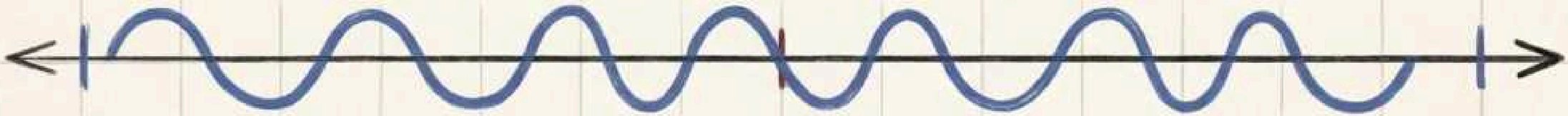
The Aorist (Simple Completed Action)



Augment (e) + Stem + s/a = elusa (I loosened).

(Note: common verbs can have irregular aorists, like *go/went*).

The Imperfect (Ongoing or Repeated)



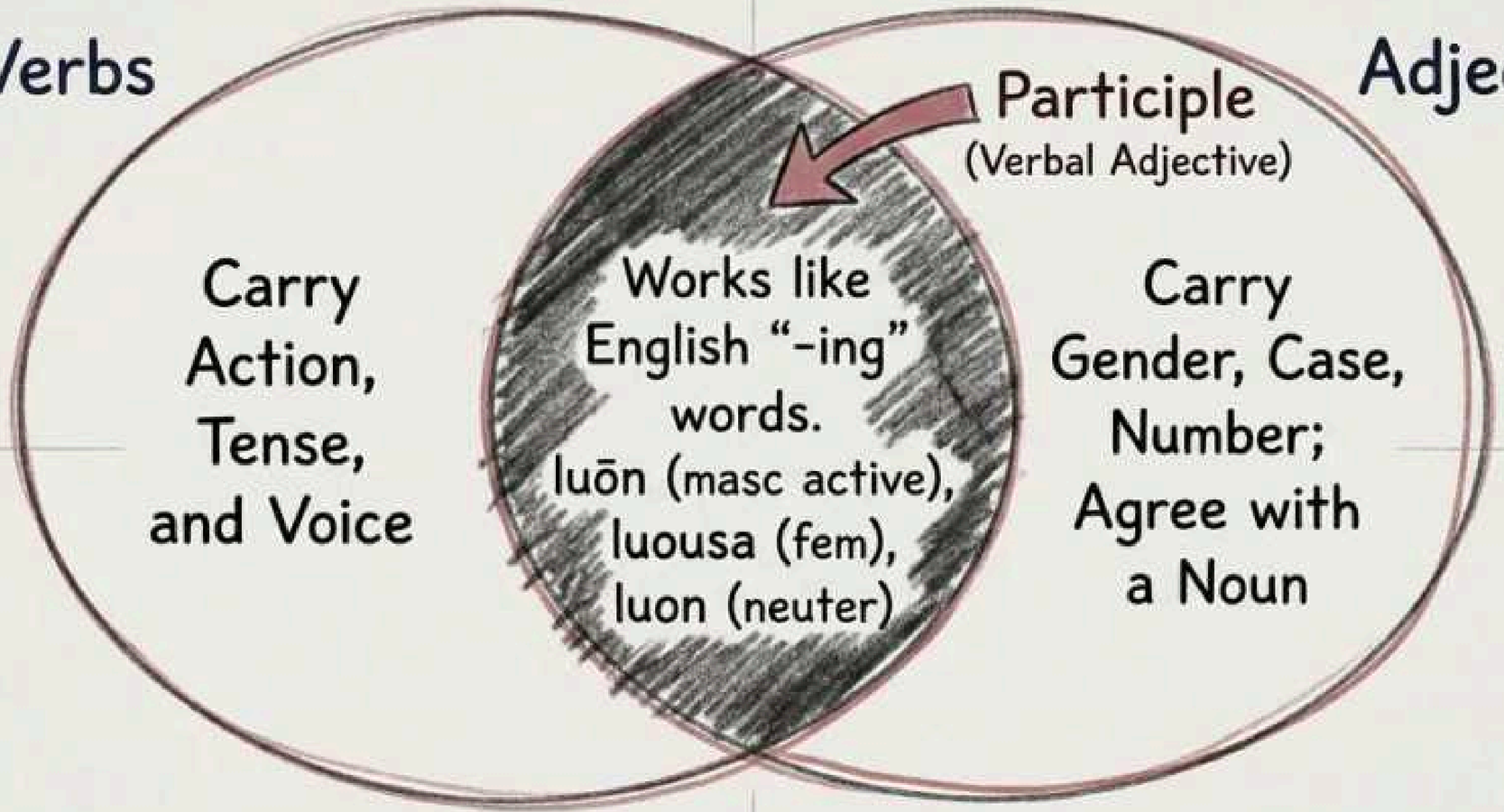
Augment (e) + Stem + Present-like Endings.

ēn (he was) — a state that continued.

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The Participle: A Grammatical Hybrid

¶ 6.9



ho luōn = "the one who loosens"

Learning to read participles is the key step from beginner to reader. They take the place of whole clauses.

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Famous Sayings Now Within Reach



Gnōthi seauton

(Know yourself)

Imperative.



Heurēka

(I have found it)

Perfect tense.



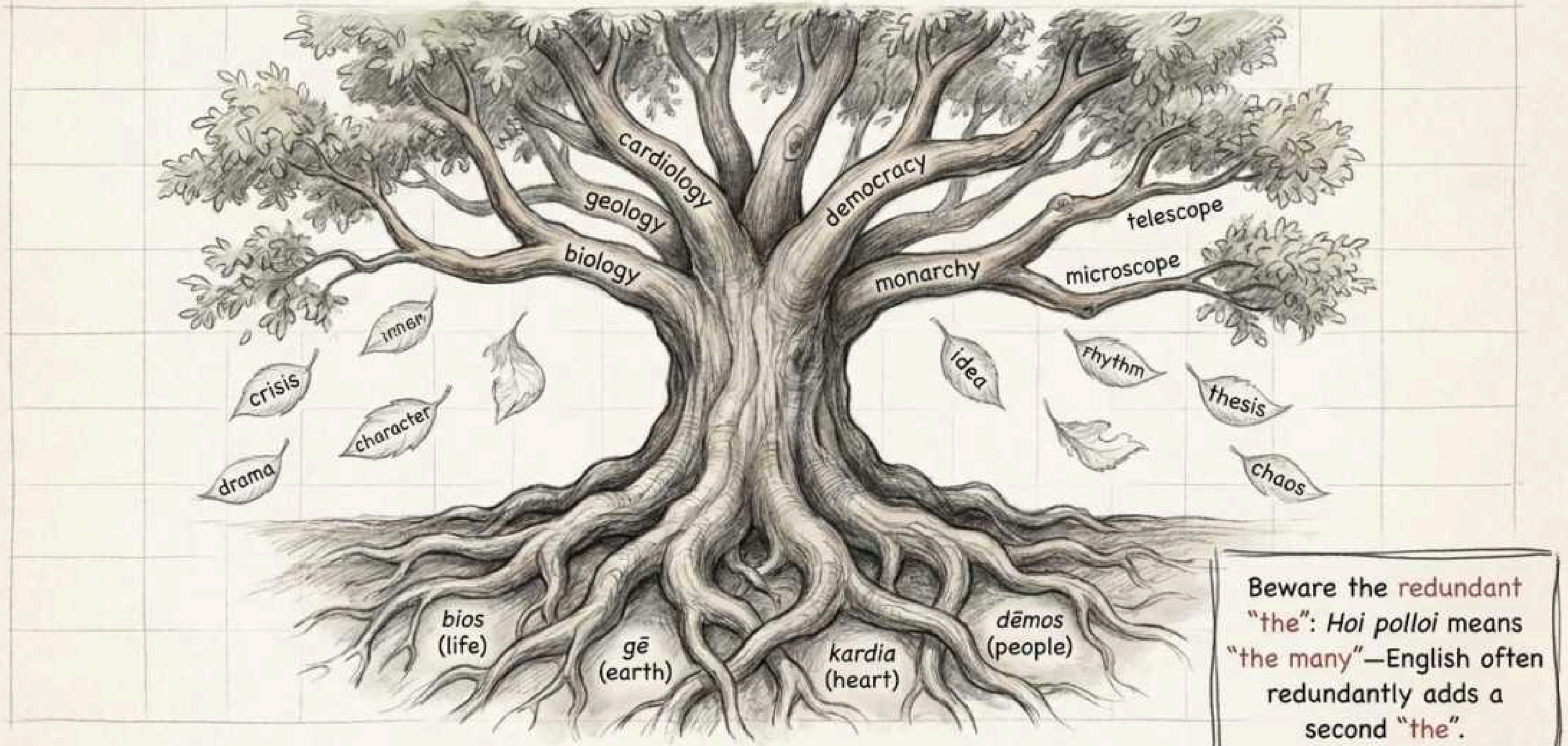
Panta rhei

(Everything flows)

Neuter plural subject taking a singular verb.

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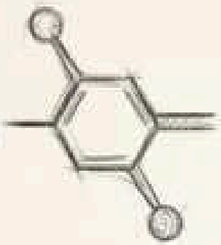
Greek Inside English



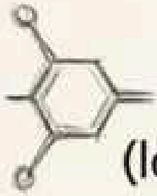
Beware the redundant "the": *Hoi polloi* means "the many"—English often redundantly adds a second "the".

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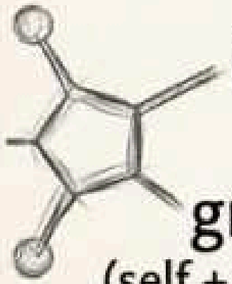
Learned Word-Building



theos + logos = Theology



philos + anthrōpos = Philanthropy
(love of humanity)



autos + bios + graphō = Autobiography
(self + life + writing)

The Reader's Checklist

- ☑ **Watch for:**
  Question marks (;) vs. Semicolons
- ☑ **Remember:**
  Neuter plurals take singular verbs
- ☑ **Remember:**
  ho and *hē* = "the" (not he/she)
- ☑ **Check:**
  Adjective position
  (inside or outside the article)

The Golden Habit

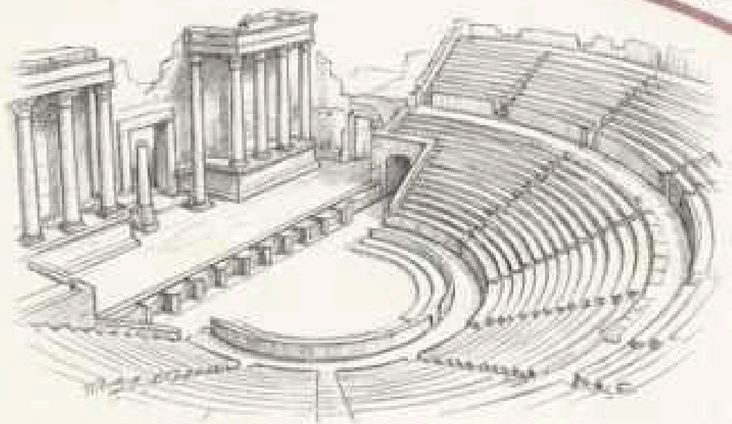
Read aloud before translating (groups words) → Translate → Read aloud after (settles vocabulary and grammar into memory).

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Archē hēmisy pantos (The beginning is half of the whole)

The Classical Route

Athenaze / JACT Reading
Greek -> Plato & Dramatists



The Koine Route

NT Grammars
-> The Gospels



Small Daily Habits:
Review alphabet and endings (logos, hēmera, luō), learn daily words, read short Gospel verses with translation.

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Course Retrospective (Lectures 1–6)

L1: History, Alphabet, Sounds, Breathings, Accents.	L2: 5 Cases, the Article, 2nd Declension (*logos*, *dōron*).	L3: Present Tense (*luō*, to be), Negation, Questions.
L4: 1st Declension, Adjective Agreement, Attributive vs. Predicate.	L5: Prepositions & Cases, 3rd Declension intro, Middle & Passive Voices.	L6: Parsing John, Future/Aorist/ Participles, English Roots.

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