GR

LANGUAGE COURSE

Greek Grammar 3

12 Chapters

Philip Osztromok

Generated with Claude

GREEK GRAMMAR 3

Contents

Chapter 1	The Greek Verb	2
Chapter 2	Present Tense in -ω	12
Chapter 3	Present Tense in -ώ	21
Chapter 4	Είμαι, Έχω and Irregulars	29
Chapter 5	The Continuous Past	38
Chapter 6	Simple Past, Regular	46
Chapter 7	Simple Past, Irregular	54
Chapter 8	The Future	61
Chapter 9	The Subjunctive	69
Chapter 10	The Imperative	77
Chapter 11	The Passive Voice	85
Chapter 12	Putting It Together	93

Greek Grammar 3

Chapter 1 · How the Greek Verb Works

🏃 The Verb — Το ρήμα

*Greek Grammar 1 taught the noun phrase, and Greek Grammar 2 added adjectives, pronouns and numbers. This course is about **the verb**, the word that says what happens. The Basic Conversation courses gave you many verb forms inside real situations; here we put them in order. Two ideas matter most: the **ending** tells you who is doing the action, and every verb has **two stems**, one for ongoing action and one for a single, finished action.*

THE RULE IN ONE BOX

A Greek verb is a **stem** plus an **ending**. The ending shows the **person and number** (I, you, he/she/it, we, you, they), so the subject pronoun is usually dropped: *γράφω* means "I write". Every verb has a **continuous stem** (*γράφ-*: ongoing, repeated, habitual) and a **simple stem** (*γράψ-*: one complete action). Tenses are built from one stem or the other, so the same verb can say "I was writing" (*έγραφα*) and "I wrote" (*έγραψα*).

Person and number: the endings

There are six forms in the present tense, three persons in the singular and three in the plural. Here is a regular verb, *γράφω* ("I write"), with the endings highlighted.

PERSON	PRONOUN	FORM	ENGLISH
1st singular	εγώ	γράφ**ω**	I write
2nd singular	εσύ	γράφ**εις**	you write
3rd singular	αυτός, αυτή, αυτό	γράφ**ει**	he, she, it writes
1st plural	εμείς	γράφ**ουμε**	we write
2nd plural	εσείς	γράφ**ετε**	you write (plural, or polite singular)
3rd plural	αυτοί, αυτές, αυτά	γράφ**ουν(ε)**	they write

The -ε in brackets is optional in the third person plural: you will see both *γράφουν* and *γράφουνε*. The same endings, with changes in a few verbs, run through every tense in this course. Chapter 2 drills them.

Dropping the pronoun

Because the ending already says *who*, Greek leaves out the subject pronoun in ordinary speech. You add it only to **stress** the subject, for contrast or emphasis.

NORMAL	WITH A PRONOUN (EMPHASIS)
Μένω στο Εδιμβούργο. I live in Edinburgh.	**Εγώ μένω στο Εδιμβούργο, εσύ μένεις στην Αθήνα.** I live in Edinburgh; *you* live in Athens.
Δουλεύουμε με υπολογιστές. We work with computers.	**Εμείς δουλεύουμε με υπολογιστές.** *We* work with computers.

> **Watch out: do not copy the English pronoun**
>
> An English learner wants to say *Εγώ γράφω, εσύ γράφεις* every time. In Greek that sounds as if you were contrasting people ("*I* write, but *you* don't"). Say *Γράφω* and let the ending do the work.

The dictionary form

Greek dictionaries list a verb under its **first person singular of the present tense**, not an infinitive: you look up *γράφω* ("I write"), and the dictionary translates it "to write". The stem comes from it by taking off the ending: *γράφω* → *γράφ-*. A verb that has only passive forms is listed under its passive form (*έρχομαι*, "I come"; Chapter 11).

Two stems: ongoing or complete

This is the biggest new idea. English says *I write* and *I am writing*, *I wrote* and *I was writing*, using different auxiliaries. Greek has no such words. Instead each verb has **two stems**, and the choice of stem shows whether you see the action as **ongoing, repeated or habitual** (continuous) or as **one complete event** (simple).

	CONTINUOUS STEM	SIMPLE STEM
idea	ongoing, repeated, habitual	a single action seen as a whole
from γράφω	**γραφ-**	**γραψ-**
past with it	**έγραφα** I was writing, I used to write	**έγραψα** I wrote (once, completed)
example	**Γράφω γράμματα κάθε μέρα.** I write letters every day.	**Έγραψα ένα γράμμα χθες.** I wrote a letter yesterday.

The **present tense** always uses the continuous stem, and it covers both English forms: **Πίνω καφέ** means “I drink coffee” and “I am drinking coffee”. The simple stem is used in the simple past, in *θα* + simple stem for a single future action, and in the subjunctive and imperative.

Stem pairs to know

For many verbs the simple stem is made from the continuous stem by a regular change (*-ψ-, -σ-, -ξ-*), which Chapter 6 explains. Other verbs change more. Learn the pair together with the verb.

VERB (DICTIONARY FORM)	CONTINUOUS STEM	SIMPLE STEM	SIMPLE PAST	ENGLISH
γράφω	**γράφ-**	**γράψ-**	**έγραψα**	write
διαβάζω	**διαβάζ-**	**διαβάσ-**	**διάβασα**	read
αγοράζω	**αγοράζ-**	**αγορασ-**	**αγόρασα**	buy
δουλεύω	**δουλεύ-**	**δουλέψ-**	**δούλεψα**	work
μένω	**μέν-**	**μείν-**	**έμεινα**	stay, live
πίνω	**πίν-**	**πι-**	**ήπια**	drink
τρώω	**τρώ-**	**φάγ-**	**έφαγα**	eat
βλέπω	**βλέπ-**	**δ-**	**είδα**	see

Watch out: look at the dictionary form, not the past form

> The dictionary lists only the present form, and from *είδα* you cannot guess *βλέπω*. When you meet a new verb, learn **both stems** (or at least the simple past) at the same time. A good dictionary or verb table gives them.

How the tenses are built

The two stems and a few small words build every tense and mood in this course. This map shows where each one is taught.

FORM	BUILT FROM	EXAMPLE	CHAPTER
present	continuous stem + present endings	**γράφω**	2, 3, 4
continuous past	ε- (when needed) + continuous stem + past endings	**έγραφα**	5
simple past	ε- (when needed) + simple stem + past endings	**έγραψα**	6, 7
future	*θα* + continuous or simple form	**θα γράφω / θα γράψω**	8
subjunctive	*να* + continuous or simple form	**να γράφω / να γράψω**	9
imperative	simple (or continuous) stem + imperative endings	**γράψε!**	10
passive voice	passive endings	**γράφομαι**	11

Perfect tenses (“I have written”), participles and conditionals come in Greek Grammar 4.

Two groups of active verbs

Regular active verbs fall into two groups, according to where the stress falls in the present tense.

GROUP	LOOKS LIKE	EXAMPLES	CHAPTER
Group A	stress on the stem, ending *-ω, -εις, -ει…*	**γράφω, μένω, διαβάζω, δουλεύω**	2
Group B (contracted)	stress on the ending, *-άω* or *-ώ, -άς, -άει…*	**αγαπάω (αγαπώ), μιλάω (μιλώ)**	3

Group B verbs have two forms of the first person singular, one long (*μιλάω*) and one short (*μιλώ*), and both are correct. Chapter 3 gives the full forms.

Active and passive

A verb also has a **voice**. In the **active** voice the subject does the action (*ντύνω το παιδί*, "I dress the child"). The **passive** has different endings (*-ομαι*, *-μαι*) and often means that the subject receives the action or does it to itself (*ντύνομαι*, "I get dressed"). Some very common verbs exist **only** in the passive form but have an active meaning: *έρχομαι* ("I come"), *κοιμάμαι* ("I sleep"). Chapter 11 covers the voice in detail.

ACTIVE	PASSIVE
ντύνω το παιδί I dress the child	**ντύνομαι** I get dressed
πλένω τα πιάτα I wash the dishes	**πλένομαι** I wash (myself)
(no active form)	**έρχομαι, κοιμάμαι** I come, I sleep

Saying no and asking a question

Negatives and questions are simple. For "no" put **δεν** before the verb: **Δεν γράφω.** ("I don't write"). For a question the word order stays the same, and the voice rises. The Greek question mark looks like an English semicolon: **Γράφεις;** ("Are you writing?").

STATEMENT	NEGATIVE	QUESTION
Διαβάζω.	Δεν διαβάζω.	Διαβάζεις;
Μένουν εδώ.	Δεν μένουν εδώ.	Μένουν εδώ;

Words in this chapter

GREEK	SAY IT	ENGLISH
γράφω	GHRAH-foh	I write
διαβάζω	thee-ah-VAH-zoh	I read; I study
μένω	MEH-noh	I stay, I live (somewhere)
δουλεύω	thoo-LEH-voh	I work
αγοράζω	ah-ghoh-RAH-zoh	I buy
πίνω	PEE-noh	I drink
τρώω	TROH-oh	I eat
βλέπω	VLEH-poh	I see; I watch
κάνω	KAH-noh	I do, I make
θέλω	THEH-loh	I want
ακούω	ah-KOO-oh	I hear; I listen
παίρνω	PEHR-noh	I take; I get

🗣️ In Use — Στην πράξη

Read the exchanges aloud and notice that nobody says εγώ or εσύ unless they want to stress it.

① Where do you live?

② The morning

A: Πού μένεις;
Where do you live?

B: Μένω στο Εδιμβούργο και δουλεύω με υπολογιστές.
I live in Edinburgh and I work with computers.

A: Και τι κάνεις το σαββατοκύριακο;
And what do you do at the weekend?

B: Διαβάζω και βλέπω ταινίες.
I read and watch films.

A: Τι κάνεις το πρωί;
What do you do in the morning?

B: Πίνω καφέ και διαβάζω τα νέα.
I drink coffee and read the news.

A: Και το βράδυ;
And in the evening?

B: Βλέπω τηλεόραση και γράφω μηνύματα.
I watch television and write messages.

③ At the table

A: Τι τρως;
What are you eating?

B: Τρώω σαλάτα. Εσύ;
I am eating salad. And you?

A: Εγώ τρώω ψάρι. Εμείς πίνουμε νερό.
I am eating fish. We are drinking water.

📋 Quick Reference — Σύνοψη

TOPIC	SUMMARY
present endings	*-ω, -εις, -ει, -ουμε, -ετε, -ουν(ε)*
subject pronoun	dropped; used only for emphasis or contrast
dictionary form	first person singular present (*γράφω*)
continuous stem	ongoing, repeated, habitual (*γράφ-*)
simple stem	one complete action (*γράψ-*)
present tense	continuous stem; means both “I write” and “I am writing”

TOPIC	SUMMARY
groups	A: *γράφω* (stress on the stem); B: *μιλάω / μιλώ* (stress on the ending)
voices	active; passive in *-ομαι* (*ντύνομαι*); some verbs only passive (*έρχομαι*)
negative, question	*δεν* + verb; same order, question mark *;*

🖍️ Try It Yourself — Ασκήσεις

Say or write the answer first, then click to check.

1. What do the endings *-ω, -εις, -ει, -ουμε, -ετε, -ουν(ε)* tell you?

▼ Show answer

The person and number of the subject: I, you (singular), he/she/it, we, you (plural or polite), they.

2. Write the six present forms of *διαβάζω*.

▼ Show answer

διαβάζω, διαβάζεις, διαβάζει, διαβάζουμε, διαβάζετε, διαβάζουν(ε)

3. Say “We live in Edinburgh” without a pronoun.

▼ Show answer

Μένουμε στο Εδιμβούργο.

4. When do you add *εγώ* or *εσύ* to a verb?

▼ Show answer

Only to stress the subject, for contrast or emphasis: *Εγώ δουλεύω, εσύ διαβάζεις.*

5. You see the form *γράφει*. Which word do you look up in the dictionary?

▼ Show answer

γράφω, the first person singular of the present tense.

6. Give the continuous stem and the simple stem of *γράφω*.

▼ Show answer

continuous *γράφ-*, simple *γράψ-*

7. Which stem shows one completed action, and which shows an action that goes on or repeats?

▼ Show answer

The simple stem for one completed action; the continuous stem for an ongoing or repeated one.

8. How do you say both “I drink coffee” and “I am drinking coffee”?

▼ Show answer

Πίνω καφέ. The Greek present covers both English forms.

9. Make *Διαβάζω* negative, and then ask “Are you reading?”.

▼ Show answer

Δεν διαβάζω. / Διαβάζεις;

10. Which of *γράφω, μιλάω, μένω* is a Group B verb, and what does *ντύνομαι* mean?

▼ Show answer

μιλάω (stress on the ending; it also has the short form *μιλώ*). *ντύνομαι* means “I get dressed”, the passive of *ντύνω*.

Not Yet Verified

Checked (one web search on 2026-11-22): that the regular active present endings are *-ω, -εις, -ει, -ουμε, -ετε* (with *-ουν(ε)* in the third plural); that verbs fall into two main groups according to where the stress falls in the present; that present and imperfect forms are imperfective and the aorist presents an action as a single completed event; that the Greek present combines the English simple and continuous present; that a verb has an imperfective and a perfective stem, with *γράφω* giving *γράψ-* (sources: preply.com: Greek verb conjugation, preply.com: Greek present tense, wiktionary: Appendix:Greek verbs, projectrazon.github.io: Modern Greek verbs; from search results only, the

pages themselves were not read in full, and most are learner guides, so Ancient Greek pages in the same results were ignored).

Not checked, from general knowledge: that dictionaries list the first person singular and translate it with an infinitive; every stem pair and simple past form in the table (including the irregular ones *πίνω, τρώω, βλέπω*); the Group B long and short forms; the passive examples (*ντύνω / ντύνομαι, πλένω / πλένομαι, έρχομαι, κοιμάμαι*); the optional *-ε* in the third plural; the use of *ε-* in the course map; the three dialogs, which were written for this course; every stress mark and the respellings. No dictionary or grammar book was consulted. Check a Greek dictionary or a native speaker before relying on them.

Coming up in Chapter 2: The Present Tense: Verbs in -ω. The full present of the regular Group A verbs (*γράφω, κάνω, παίρνω, περιμένω, μένω*), negatives, questions, time words and the present used for the near future.

⏱️ The Present Tense — Ο ενεστώτας

*Chapter 1 gave you the map. Now we walk the first road: the **present tense of Group A verbs**, the verbs whose dictionary form ends in -ω with the stress on the stem (γράφω, κάνω, περιμένω). These are the commonest verbs in Greek, and their six endings are the pattern that other tenses borrow, so it is worth learning them well.*

THE RULE IN ONE BOX

Take the **continuous stem** and add ***-ω, -εις, -ει, -ουμε, -ετε, -ουν(ε)***. The **stress stays on the same syllable** in all six forms: *κάνω, κάνεις, κάνει, κάνουμε, κάνετε, κάνουν(ε)*. The present covers both English forms (“I do” and “I am doing”). Make it negative with ***δεν*** before the verb, and ask a question by changing only your voice.

The six forms: three verbs

Here are three useful verbs, with the stressed syllable in bold. Notice that nothing about the stem changes; only the ending does.

PERSON	ΚΆΝΩ (DO, MAKE)	ΠΑΊΡΝΩ (TAKE, GET)	ΠΕΡΙΜΈΝΩ (WAIT)
εγώ	**κάνω**	**παίρνω**	**περιμένω**
εσύ	**κάνεις**	**παίρνεις**	**περιμένεις**
αυτός, αυτή, αυτό	**κάνει**	**παίρνει**	**περιμένει**
εμείς	**κάνουμε**	**παίρνουμε**	**περιμένουμε**
εσείς	**κάνετε**	**παίρνετε**	**περιμένετε**
αυτοί, αυτές, αυτά	**κάνουν(ε)**	**παίρνουν(ε)**	**περιμένουν(ε)**

Watch out: the stress does not move

> In English you may be tempted to move the stress with the ending. In these verbs it stays on the **same syllable of the stem**, so *περιμένουμε* is still stressed on *-μέ-*, not on the ending. Only the ending changes. (Group B verbs, Chapter 3, put the stress on the ending instead.)

The same endings on other stems

Many verbs follow exactly the same pattern, whatever the last letters of the stem are. The *-ζω* verbs (*διαβάζω*), the *-ύω* verbs (*δουλεύω*), the *-νω* verbs (*κλείνω*) and the *-χω, -γω, -πω* verbs (*τρέχω, ανοίγω, βλέπω*) all take *-ω, -εις, -ει, -ουμε, -ετε, -ουν(ε)*.

VERB	ΕΓΏ	ΕΣΎ	ΑΥΤΌΣ	ΕΜΕΊΣ	ΕΣΕΊΣ	ΑΥΤΟΊ
διαβάζω	διαβάζω	διαβάζεις	διαβάζει	διαβάζουμε	διαβάζετε	διαβάζουν(ε)
δουλεύω	δουλεύω	δουλεύεις	δουλεύει	δουλεύουμε	δουλεύετε	δουλεύουν(ε)
ανοίγω	ανοίγω	ανοίγεις	ανοίγει	ανοίγουμε	ανοίγετε	ανοίγουν(ε)
κλείνω	κλείνω	κλείνεις	κλείνει	κλείνουμε	κλείνετε	κλείνουν(ε)

One form, two English meanings

The Greek present is both the English “simple present” and the “present continuous”. Only the situation tells you which one is meant. Add a time word if you need to be clear.

GREEK	COULD MEAN
Διαβάζω.	I read (in general) *or* I am reading (now)
Διαβάζω τώρα.	I am reading now.
Διαβάζω κάθε βράδυ.	I read every evening.

Time words that go with the present

GREEK	ENGLISH	EXAMPLE
τώρα	now	**Τώρα περιμένω.**
σήμερα	today	**Σήμερα δουλεύω σπίτι.**
κάθε μέρα	every day	**Κάθε μέρα διαβάζω λίγο.**
συνήθως	usually	**Συνήθως παίρνω το λεωφορείο.**
συχνά	often	**Συχνά ανοίγω το παράθυρο.**
πάντα	always	**Πάντα κλείνουμε στις εννιά.**
μερικές φορές	sometimes	**Μερικές φορές τρέχω το πρωί.**

Saying no

Put **δεν** in front of the verb: **Δεν περιμένω.** (“I am not waiting”). For “never” Greek uses **δεν … ποτέ**, a **double negative** that is correct Greek: **Δεν φεύγω ποτέ νωρίς.** (“I never leave early”).

POSITIVE	NEGATIVE
Δουλεύω σήμερα. I work today.	**Δεν δουλεύω σήμερα.** I don’t work today.
Ανοίγουν τώρα. They are opening now.	**Δεν ανοίγουν τώρα.** They are not opening now.
Πάντα παίρνω καφέ. I always have coffee.	**Δεν παίρνω ποτέ καφέ.** I never have coffee.

Asking questions

A yes-or-no question has the **same words** as a statement, with the voice rising and the Greek question mark *;* at the end: **Περιμένεις;** With a question word, the verb follows it.

QUESTION WORD	EXAMPLE	ENGLISH
τι what	**Τι περιμένεις;**	What are you waiting for?
πού where	**Πού μένουν;**	Where do they live?
πότε when	**Πότε φεύγετε;**	When are you leaving?
γιατί why	**Γιατί ψάχνεις;**	Why are you looking?
ποιος who	**Ποιος κλείνει;**	Who is closing?

> **Watch out: κάνω means more than "do"**
> *κάνω* is one of the busiest verbs in Greek. *Τι κάνεις;* is "How are you?" (literally "What do you do?"); *Πόσο κάνει;* is "How much does it cost?"; *Κάνει κρύο.* means "It is cold." The English translation changes, but the verb and its endings stay the same.

The present for the near future

Greek, like English, often uses the present tense for something planned in the near future, especially with a time word: **Φεύγω αύριο.** ("I am leaving tomorrow"). The proper future with *θα* comes in Chapter 8.

GREEK	ENGLISH
Φεύγω αύριο το πρωί.	I am leaving tomorrow morning.
Σε λίγο κλείνουμε.	We are closing in a little while.
Περιμένουμε τον Γιώργο το βράδυ.	We are expecting Giorgos in the evening.

A state that began in the past: εδώ και

To say how long something has been going on, Greek keeps the **present** and adds **εδώ και** + a length of time. English uses "have lived"; Greek says "I live here since five years":

GREEK	ENGLISH
Μένω εδώ και πέντε χρόνια.	I have lived here for five years.
Δουλεύω εδώ και δύο μήνες.	I have worked here for two months.

Words in this chapter

GREEK	SAY IT	ENGLISH
κάνω	KAH-noh	I do, I make
παίρνω	PEHR-noh	I take, I get
περιμένω	peh-ree-MEH-noh	I wait (for)
ανοίγω	ah-NEE-ghoh	I open
κλείνω	KLEE-noh	I close
στέλνω	STEHL-noh	I send
φεύγω	FEHV-ghoh	I leave, I go away
ψάχνω	PSAH-hnoh	I look for, I search
τρέχω	TREH-hoh	I run
παίζω	PEH-zoh	I play
πληρώνω	plee-ROH-noh	I pay
βρίσκω	VREES-koh	I find

🗣️ In Use — Στην πράξη

Read the exchanges aloud. Check the endings: who is doing each action?

① Leaving tomorrow

② At the shop

A: Τι κάνεις;

How are you? (What are you doing?)

B: Κλείνω τη βαλίτσα μου. Φεύγω αύριο το πρωί.

I am closing my suitcase. I am leaving tomorrow morning.

A: Και ποιος σε περιμένει;

And who is waiting for you?

B: Ο φίλος μου με περιμένει στο αεροδρόμιο.

My friend is waiting for me at the airport.

A: Σε λίγο κλείνουμε.

We are closing in a little while.

B: Πόσο κάνει αυτό;

How much is this?

A: Δέκα ευρώ. Πληρώνετε με κάρτα;

Ten euros. Are you paying by card?

B: Ναι, πληρώνω με κάρτα.

Yes, I am paying by card.

③ The lost keys

A: Τι ψάχνεις;

What are you looking for?

B: Ψάχνω τα κλειδιά μου. Δεν τα βρίσκω.

I am looking for my keys. I can't find them.

A: Δεν τα βλέπω ούτε εγώ.

I can't see them either.

📋 Quick Reference — Σύνοψη

TOPIC	SUMMARY
endings	*-ω, -εις, -ει, -ουμε, -ετε, -ουν(ε)* on the continuous stem
stress	stays on the same syllable of the stem in all six forms
meaning	simple and continuous present together
negative	*δεν* + verb; *δεν … ποτέ* for "never"
question	same order; voice rises; question mark ;

TOPIC	SUMMARY
near future	present + a time word (*Φεύγω αύριο*)
ongoing state	present + *εδώ και* + time (*Μένω εδώ και πέντε χρόνια*)
κάνω	do, make; *Τι κάνεις;* how are you; *Πόσο κάνει;* how much

🖍️ Try It Yourself — Ασκήσεις

Say or write the answer first, then click to check.

1. Write the six present forms of *κάνω*.

▼ Show answer

κάνω, κάνεις, κάνει, κάνουμε, κάνετε, κάνουν(ε)

2. Say “We are waiting”. Which syllable carries the stress?

▼ Show answer

Περιμένουμε. The stress stays on *-μέ-*, the same syllable as in *περιμένω*.

3. Ask a group of people: “Do you take the bus?”

▼ Show answer

Παίρνετε το λεωφορείο;

4. Say “They are sending a message”.

▼ Show answer

Στέλνουν ένα μήνυμα. (or *Στέλνουνε*)

5. Say “I never leave early”.

▼ Show answer

Δεν φεύγω ποτέ νωρίς. The double negative is correct.

6. Ask a friend “What are you looking for?” and “Why are you running?”.

▼ Show answer

Τι ψάχνεις; / Γιατί τρέχεις;

7. What do *Τι κάνεις;* and *Πόσο κάνει;* mean?

▼ Show answer

“How are you?” and “How much does it cost?”. The verb is *κάνω* in both.

8. Say “We open tomorrow”.

▼ Show answer

Ανοίγουμε αύριο. The present tense with a time word does the job of the near future.

9. Say “I have lived here for three years”.

▼ Show answer

Μένω εδώ και τρία χρόνια.

10. Make the question negative: *Ψάχνεις τα κλειδιά;*

▼ Show answer

Δεν ψάχνεις τα κλειδιά; (“Aren’t you looking for the keys?”)

Not Yet Verified

Checked (one web search on 2026-11-22): that *κάνω* is a first-conjugation (Group A) verb with the endings *-ω, -εις, -ει, -ουμε, -ετε, -ουν(ε)* (the sources give the endings for the whole group, not a table for *κάνω* itself); and that *θα* + the present form is the continuous future (sources: preply.com: Greek present tense, preply.com: Greek tenses, polyglotclub.com: present tense, from search results only, the pages themselves were not read in full). **The search did not support** the claim that the plain present is used for the near future; it points to *θα* forms for plans, so treat that section as unconfirmed.

Not checked, from general knowledge: the full tables for *παίρνω, περιμένω, διαβάζω, δουλεύω, ανοίγω, κλείνω* and that the stress stays on the same syllable in each; the present used for near-future plans; *εδώ και* with the present; *δεν … ποτέ*; the meanings of *κάνω* in *Τι κάνεις;*, *Πόσο κάνει;* and *Κάνει κρύο*; the time words and question words; the vocabulary list; the three dialogs, which were

written for this course; every stress mark and the respellings. No dictionary or grammar book was consulted. Check a Greek dictionary or a native speaker before relying on them.

Coming up in Chapter 3: The Present Tense: Verbs in -ώ. Group B contracted verbs (*αγαπάω / αγαπώ, μιλάω / μιλώ, ρωτάω / ρωτώ, περπατάω / περπατώ, πονάω / πονώ*), their two sets of endings, and how to tell Group A from Group B.

🗣️ Group B Verbs — Τα συνηρημένα ρήματα

*Chapter 2 taught Group A, the verbs whose stress sits on the stem (γράφω). This chapter teaches **Group B**, the **contracted verbs**, whose stress falls on the **ending**: μιλάω, αγαπάω, ρωτάω. You already use some of them every day (ευχαριστώ is one), and they have a quirk: most have **two sets of endings**, a spoken one and a more formal one.*

THE RULE IN ONE BOX

A Group B verb has its **stress on the ending**. The most common kind has the dictionary form in ***-άω* or *-ώ*** (*μιλάω / μιλώ*) and the endings ***-άς, -άει (-ά), -άμε, -άτε, -άνε*** beside the shorter ***-ώ, -ούμε, -ούν(ε)***. A second, smaller kind ends in ***-ώ, -είς, -εί*** (*ευχαριστώ, ευχαριστείς, ευχαριστεί*). Both mean the same as Group A in the present: the continuous stem, with the same two English meanings.

The main kind: μιλάω / μιλώ

Here is *μιλάω* (“I speak, I talk”) in full. Four of the six persons have two forms, and you can use either. The stressed ending is in bold.

PERSON	SPOKEN FORMS	SHORT / FORMAL FORMS	ENGLISH
εγώ	**μιλάω**	**μιλώ**	I speak
εσύ	**μιλάς**		you speak
αυτός, αυτή, αυτό	**μιλάει**	**μιλά**	he, she, it speaks
εμείς	**μιλάμε**	**μιλ*ο*ύμε**	we speak
εσείς	**μιλάτε**		you speak (plural, or polite singular)

PERSON	SPOKEN FORMS	SHORT / FORMAL FORMS	ENGLISH
αυτοί, αυτές, αυτά	**μιλάνε**	**μιλ<u>ο</u>ύν(ε)**	they speak

The same pattern works for *αγαπάω* (“I love”): *αγαπάω / αγαπώ, αγαπάς, αγαπάει / αγαπά, αγαπάμε / αγαπούμε, αγαπάτε, αγαπάνε / αγαπούν(ε)*. Both sets are correct Greek. In everyday talk the first set is very common; the short forms turn up more in writing and in formal speech.

> **Watch out: do not mix up the stress**
>
> In Group A the stress stays on the stem (*κάνουμε*). In Group B it falls on the ending (*μιλάμε*, *μιλούμε*), so the stress mark sits on the *-ά-* or *-ού-*, not on the stem. When you meet a new verb, the stress mark in the dictionary form tells you the group.

Telling Group A from Group B

Look at the dictionary form. If it ends in a stressed *-άω* or *-ώ* with the stress on the last syllable, it is Group B. If it ends in *-ω* with the stress earlier, it is Group A.

GROUP A (STRESS ON THE STEM)	GROUP B (STRESS ON THE ENDING)
γράφω, κάνω, διαβάζω, δουλεύω	**μιλάω, ρωτάω, αγαπάω, περπατάω**
γράφεις, κάνετε	**μιλάς, ρωτάτε**
endings *-ω, -εις, -ει, -ουμε, -ετε, -ουν(ε)*	endings *-άω / -ώ, -άς, -άει, -άμε, -άτε, -άνε*

The second kind: ευχαριστώ, ευχαριστείς

A smaller set of Group B verbs also ends in *-ώ*, but the second person singular is *-είς*, and the third is *-εί*. *Ευχαριστώ* is the most familiar: it is a verb, “I thank”, and the full set is below. *Τηλεφωνώ* (“I telephone”) and *οδηγώ* (“I drive”) work the same way.

PERSON	ΕΥΧΑΡΙΣΤΏ	ΤΗΛΕΦΩΝΏ	ΟΔΗΓΏ
εγώ	ευχαριστ**ώ**	τηλεφων**ώ**	οδηγ**ώ**
εσύ	ευχαριστ**είς**	τηλεφων**είς**	οδηγ**είς**
αυτός, αυτή, αυτό	ευχαριστ**εί**	τηλεφων**εί**	οδηγ**εί**
εμείς	ευχαριστ**ούμε**	τηλεφων**ούμε**	οδηγ**ούμε**
εσείς	ευχαριστ**είτε**	τηλεφων**είτε**	οδηγ**είτε**
αυτοί, αυτές, αυτά	ευχαριστ**ούν(ε)**	τηλεφων**ούν(ε)**	οδηγ**ούν(ε)**

Watch out: ευχαριστώ is a verb

Ευχαριστώ ("thank you") is really "I thank", the first person singular of this verb. You can say *Ευχαριστώ πολύ* ("I thank you very much") or, to a group, *Σας ευχαριστούμε* ("We thank you"), with the endings you have just learned.

Group B in sentences

Negatives, questions and time words work exactly as in Chapter 2: **δεν** before the verb, and a rising voice for a question.

GREEK	ENGLISH
Μιλάς ελληνικά;	Do you speak Greek?
Μιλάτε αγγλικά;	Do you speak English? (formal, or to several people)
Δεν μιλάω καλά ελληνικά.	I don't speak Greek well.
Περπατάμε κάθε μέρα.	We walk every day.
Με πονάει το κεφάλι μου.	My head hurts.
Περνάω καλά.	I am having a good time.
Τι φοράς σήμερα;	What are you wearing today?

GREEK	ENGLISH
Σε αγαπάω.	I love you.

Words in this chapter

Where two forms are given, the first is the spoken one and the second the short one.

GREEK	SAY IT	ENGLISH
αγαπάω / αγαπώ	ah-ghah-PAH-oh	I love
μιλάω / μιλώ	mee-LAH-oh	I speak, I talk
ρωτάω / ρωτώ	roh-TAH-oh	I ask (a question)
περπατάω / περπατώ	pehr-pah-TAH-oh	I walk
πονάω / πονώ	poh-NAH-oh	I hurt, I am in pain
φοράω / φορώ	foh-RAH-oh	I wear
βοηθάω / βοηθώ	voh-ee-THAH-oh	I help
ξεκινάω / ξεκινώ	kseh-kee-NAH-oh	I start, I set off
περνάω / περνώ	pehr-NAH-oh	I pass, I spend (time)
ζητάω / ζητώ	zee-TAH-oh	I ask for, I request
ευχαριστώ	ehf-hah-ree-STOH	I thank
τηλεφωνώ	tee-leh-foh-NOH	I telephone

🗣️ In Use — Στην πράξη

Read the exchanges aloud and notice that the stress mark is always on the ending.

① Languages

② A headache

A: Μιλάς ελληνικά;

Do you speak Greek?

B: Μιλάω λίγα ελληνικά. Εσύ μιλάς αγγλικά;

I speak a little Greek. Do you speak English?

A: Ναι, μιλάω αγγλικά και γαλλικά.

Yes, I speak English and French.

A: Τι έχεις;

What is the matter?

B: Με πονάει το κεφάλι μου.

My head hurts.

A: Περπατάς λίγο κάθε μέρα;

Do you walk a little every day?

B: Όχι, δεν περπατάω αρκετά.

No, I don't walk enough.

③ On the phone

A: Τηλεφωνώ στον Γιάννη, αλλά δεν απαντάει.

I am phoning Giannis, but he isn't answering.

B: Μάλλον οδηγεί.

He is probably driving.

A: Ευχαριστώ. Περιμένω λίγο ακόμα.

Thanks. I will wait a little longer.

📋 Quick Reference — Σύνοψη

TOPIC	SUMMARY
Group B	stress on the ending; contracted verbs
main kind	*-άω / -ώ, -άς, -άει / -ά, -άμε / -ούμε, -άτε, -άνε / -ούν(ε)*
second kind	*-ώ, -είς, -εί, -ούμε, -είτε, -ούν(ε)* (*ευχαριστώ, τηλεφωνώ, οδηγώ*)
two sets of forms	spoken and short or formal: both correct
A or B?	stress on the stem = A; stress on the last syllable = B
negative, question	as in Chapter 2: *δεν*; same order and a rising voice

🖍️ Try It Yourself — Ασκήσεις

Say or write the answer first, then click to check.

1. Write the six spoken present forms of *μιλάω*.

▼ Show answer

μιλάω, μιλάς, μιλάει, μιλάμε, μιλάτε, μιλάνε

2. Give the short forms of *μιλάω* for “I” and “we”.

▼ Show answer

μιλώ and *μιλούμε*

3. Which of *διαβάζω, ρωτάω, κλείνω* is a Group B verb, and how do you know?

▼ Show answer

ρωτάω: the stress falls on the last syllable (*-τά-*) and the ending is *-άω*. The other two have the stress on the stem.

4. Say “We walk every day”.

▼ Show answer

Περπατάμε κάθε μέρα. (or *Περπατούμε κάθε μέρα.*)

5. Politely ask a stranger “Do you speak English?”.

▼ Show answer

Μιλάτε αγγλικά;

6. Say “I don’t speak Greek well”.

▼ Show answer

Δεν μιλάω καλά ελληνικά.

7. Say “My head hurts”. Which person of *πονάω* is used?

▼ Show answer

Με πονάει το κεφάλι μου. The verb is third person singular, because the head is the subject; *με* says who it hurts.

8. Say “They help me”.

▼ Show answer

Με βοηθάνε. (or *Με βοηθούν*.)

9. Which person and number is *ευχαριστώ*, and how would you thank a group?

▼ Show answer

First person singular (“I thank”). To thank a group on behalf of several people: *Σας ευχαριστούμε*.

10. Say “He telephones” and “You (plural) telephone”.

▼ Show answer

Τηλεφωνεί. / *Τηλεφωνείτε*.

Not Yet Verified

Checked (one web search on 2026-11-22): that *αγαπάω* has the present forms *αγαπάς, αγαπάει, αγαπάμε, αγαπάτε, αγαπάνε* (from one table in the results); and that the second conjugation divides into two classes, one with the endings *-ώ, -άς, -ά* and one with *-ώ, -είς, -εί* (sources: 17-minute-languages.com: present tense, polyglotclub.com: verb conjugation groups, preply.com: Greek verbs, from search results only, the pages themselves were not read in full). **The search did not confirm** which class a given verb belongs to; the placement of *ευχαριστώ, τηλεφωνώ, οδηγώ* in the second class is my inference.

Not checked, from general knowledge: the short forms *-ώ, -ά, -ούμε, -ούν(ε)* in every verb; the claim that the *-άω* forms are more usual in speech and the *-ώ* forms in writing and formal speech; the full tables for *ευχαριστώ, τηλεφωνώ, οδηγώ*; the verbs in the vocabulary list and which have both forms; the sentences (*Με πονάει το κεφάλι μου, Περνάω καλά, Σας ευχαριστούμε*); the three dialogs, which were written for this course; every stress mark and the respellings. No dictionary or grammar book was consulted. Check a Greek dictionary or a native speaker before relying on them.

Coming up in Chapter 4: Εἰμαι, ἐχω and Key Irregulars. The verbs *εἰμαι* and *ἐχω* in full, the irregular presents (*λέω, τρώω, πηγαίνω, ακούω, ξέρω, θέλω, μπορώ*) and impersonal verbs such as *πρέπει* and *μπορεί*.

⭐ The Verbs You Cannot Do Without — Τα βασικά ρήματα

Chapters 2 and 3 gave the two regular patterns. This chapter collects the verbs that every conversation needs: ***είμαι*** *("I am") and* ***έχω*** *("I have"), and a short list of verbs whose present tense is irregular or whose forms you must know by heart. You have used most of them since the Basic Conversation courses; now you will see how they work.*

THE RULE IN ONE BOX

***Είμαι* is irregular** and must be learned as it is: *είμαι, είσαι, είναι, είμαστε, είστε, είναι*. ***Έχω* is regular** (Group A) but so common that it gets its own table. A handful of other verbs, *λέω, τρώω, πάω, ακούω*, drop letters or change in some persons, so learn each as a whole set. A few verbs are **impersonal** and have only a third person: *πρέπει* ("must"), *μπορεί* ("maybe"), *φαίνεται* ("it seems").

είμαι: to be

PERSON	FORM	ENGLISH
εγώ	**είμαι**	I am
εσύ	**είσαι**	you are
αυτός, αυτή, αυτό	**είναι**	he, she, it is
εμείς	**είμαστε**	we are
εσείς	**είστε** (or **είσαστε**)	you are (plural, or polite singular)
αυτοί, αυτές, αυτά	**είναι**	they are

Notice that *είναι* is both "is" and "are": the context and the subject tell you which. *Είμαι* is used for who or what someone is, where they are, what they are like, and where they come from.

USE	GREEK	ENGLISH
identity, job	**Είμαι τεχνικός υπολογιστών.**	I am a computer technician.
origin	**Είμαι από το Εδιμβούργο.**	I am from Edinburgh.
place	**Είμαστε στην Αθήνα.**	We are in Athens.
description	**Το σπίτι είναι μικρό.**	The house is small.
age	**Είμαι σαράντα χρονών.**	I am forty years old.
negative	**Δεν είμαι κουρασμένος.**	I am not tired.
question	**Είστε έτοιμοι;**	Are you ready?

After *είμαι* the adjective or noun is in the nominative and agrees with the subject, as Greek Grammar 2 explained.

ἐχω: to have

PERSON	FORM	ENGLISH
εγώ	**έχω**	I have
εσύ	**έχεις**	you have
αυτός, αυτή, αυτό	**έχει**	he, she, it has
εμείς	**έχουμε**	we have
εσείς	**έχετε**	you have (plural or polite)
αυτοί, αυτές, αυτά	**έχουν(ε)**	they have

Ἐχω takes the accusative: *έχω ένα αυτοκίνητο*. Greek uses it in many phrases where English uses "to be" or a different verb:

GREEK	ENGLISH
Έχω δύο αδέλφια.	I have two brothers or sisters.
Έχεις δίκιο.	You are right. (literally "You have right")
Έχω πυρετό.	I have a temperature.
Έχω ραντεβού.	I have an appointment.
Τι έχεις;	What is the matter? (literally "What do you have?")

> **Watch out: είμαι and έχω are not interchangeable**
> English says "I am right", "I am hungry" and "I am forty". Greek says *έχω δίκιο* ("I have right"), *πεινάω* (a verb in its own right) and *είμαι σαράντα χρονών* ("I am forty years"). Learn these phrases whole; do not translate word for word.

Verbs with changed or short forms

These verbs are very frequent. Some lose a letter in the second and third persons, others have a short form in the plural. Learn each table as a whole.

PERSON	ΛΈΩ (SAY)	ΤΡΏΩ (EAT)	ΠΆΩ (GO)	ΑΚΟΎΩ (HEAR)
εγώ	**λέω**	**τρώω**	**πάω**	**ακούω**
εσύ	**λες**	**τρως**	**πας**	**ακούς**
αυτός	**λέει**	**τρώει**	**πάει**	**ακούει**
εμείς	**λέμε**	**τρώμε**	**πάμε**	**ακούμε**
εσείς	**λέτε**	**τρώτε**	**πάτε**	**ακούτε**
αυτοί	**λένε**	**τρώνε**	**πάνε**	**ακούν(ε)**

πάω and πηγαίνω

Πάω is the short, everyday verb for "I go". Its longer relative *πηγαίνω* means the same and is regular (*πηγαίνω, πηγαίνεις, πηγαίνει, πηγαίνουμε, πηγαίνετε, πηγαίνουν(ε)*); you will see it more in writing. A common question in conversation is *Πού πας;* ("Where are you going?"), and a common suggestion is *Πάμε!* ("Let's go!").

Regular verbs you must know: ξέρω, θέλω, μπορώ

These three are not irregular in the present, but nearly every sentence in the next chapters uses them, so it pays to have all six forms ready.

PERSON	ΞΈΡΩ (KNOW)	ΘΈΛΩ (WANT)	ΜΠΟΡΏ (CAN, AM ABLE)
εγώ	**ξέρω**	**θέλω**	**μπορώ**
εσύ	**ξέρεις**	**θέλεις**	**μπορείς**
αυτός	**ξέρει**	**θέλει**	**μπορεί**
εμείς	**ξέρουμε**	**θέλουμε**	**μπορούμε**
εσείς	**ξέρετε**	**θέλετε**	**μπορείτε**
αυτοί	**ξέρουν(ε)**	**θέλουν(ε)**	**μπορούν(ε)**

Ξέρω and *θέλω* follow Group A; *μπορώ* follows the Group B pattern in *-ώ, -είς, -εί* from Chapter 3. With *θέλω* and *μπορώ* a second verb comes after *να*: *θέλω να φύγω* ("I want to leave"). Chapter 9 explains that *να* and the verb form after it.

Verbs with only a third person: πρέπει, μπορεί, φαίνεται

A few verbs have no personal forms and always stay in the third person singular. The thing that must happen is introduced by *να* or *ότι*.

GREEK	MEANING	EXAMPLE
πρέπει	one must, it is necessary	**Πρέπει να φύγω.** I have to leave.
μπορεί	maybe, it may be	**Μπορεί να βρέξει.** It may rain.

GREEK	MEANING	EXAMPLE
φαίνεται	it seems, it appears	**Φαίνεται κουρασμένος.** He seems tired.

Watch out: μπορώ and μπορεί

Μπορώ is personal ("I can"): *Μπορώ να έρθω*. *Μπορεί* without a person is impersonal ("maybe"): *Μπορεί να έρθει*. The endings tell you the difference. *Πρέπει* never changes, whoever must do the thing: *Πρέπει να φύγω, πρέπει να φύγεις, πρέπει να φύγουμε*.

Words in this chapter

GREEK	SAY IT	ENGLISH
είμαι	EE-meh	I am
έχω	EH-hoh	I have
λέω	LEH-oh	I say, I tell
τρώω	TROH-oh	I eat
πάω	PAH-oh	I go
πηγαίνω	pee-GHEH-noh	I go
ακούω	ah-KOO-oh	I hear, I listen
ξέρω	KSEH-roh	I know
θέλω	THEH-loh	I want
μπορώ	boh-ROH	I can, I am able
πρέπει	PREH-pee	one must, it is necessary
φαίνεται	FEH-neh-teh	it seems

In Use — Στην πράξη

Read the exchanges aloud. Which verb is είμαι, which is έχω, and which is irregular?

① Where are you from?

A: Από πού είσαι;
Where are you from?

B: Είμαι από το Εδιμβούργο, αλλά τώρα είμαι στην Αθήνα.
I am from Edinburgh, but now I am in Athens.

A: Πόσο καιρό είστε εδώ;
How long have you been here?

B: Είμαι εδώ και μία εβδομάδα.
I have been here for a week.

② Family

A: Έχεις αδέλφια;
Do you have brothers or sisters?

B: Έχω έναν αδελφό και δύο αδελφές.
I have one brother and two sisters.

A: Πού μένουν;
Where do they live?

B: Μένουν στη Θεσσαλονίκη.
They live in Thessaloniki.

③ An invitation

A: Πού πάτε;
Where are you going?

B: Πάμε στην ταβέρνα. Θέλεις κι εσύ;
We are going to the tavern. Do you want to come too?

A: Δεν μπορώ τώρα. Έχω δουλειά.
I can't now. I have work.

📋 Quick Reference — Σύνοψη

TOPIC	SUMMARY
είμαι	*είμαι, είσαι, είναι, είμαστε, είστε, είναι*
έχω	*έχω, έχεις, έχει, έχουμε, έχετε, έχουν(ε)*
λέω	*λέω, λες, λέει, λέμε, λέτε, λένε*

TOPIC	SUMMARY
τρώω	*τρώω, τρως, τρώει, τρώμε, τρώτε, τρώνε*
πάω	*πάω, πας, πάει, πάμε, πάτε, πάνε*
ακούω	*ακούω, ακούς, ακούει, ακούμε, ακούτε, ακούν(ε)*
μπορώ	*μπορώ, μπορείς, μπορεί, μπορούμε, μπορείτε, μπορούν(ε)*
impersonal	*πρέπει, μπορεί, φαίνεται*: third person singular only
idioms	*έχω δίκιο, έχω πυρετό, Τι έχεις;, είμαι σαράντα χρονών*

🖍️ Try It Yourself — Ασκήσεις

Say or write the answer first, then click to check.

1. Write the six present forms of *είμαι*.

▼ Show answer

είμαι, είσαι, είναι, είμαστε, είστε, είναι

2. Say “We have a problem”.

▼ Show answer

Έχουμε ένα πρόβλημα.

3. Write the six present forms of *λέω*.

▼ Show answer

λέω, λες, λέει, λέμε, λέτε, λένε

4. Say “They eat fish”.

▼ Show answer

Τρώνε ψάρι.

5. Say “We are going to the cinema” and ask a friend “Where are you going?”.

▼ Show answer

Πάμε στον κινηματογράφο. / Πού πας;

6. Say “I don’t know” and “Do you know?”.

▼ Show answer

Δεν ξέρω. / Ξέρεις;

7. Say “we can” and “maybe”. How do the two forms differ?

▼ Show answer

μπορούμε and *μπορεί*. The first is personal (we), the second is the impersonal third person singular.

8. Say “He seems tired” and “I have to leave”.

▼ Show answer

Φαίνεται κουρασμένος. / Πρέπει να φύγω.

9. Say “You are right” and “What is the matter?”. Which verb is used in both?

▼ Show answer

Έχεις δίκιο. / Τι έχεις; Both use *έχω*.

10. Say “I am forty years old” and “We are in Athens”.

▼ Show answer

Είμαι σαράντα χρονών. / Είμαστε στην Αθήνα.

Not Yet Verified

Checked (one web search on 2026-11-22): that Greek has a small group of irregular verbs that includes *είμαι, έχω* and *λέω*; that *είμαι* begins *είμαι, είσαι*; and that *μπορώ* belongs to an *-ώ* group of verbs (sources: foundalis.com: irregular Modern Greek verbs, preply.com: Greek irregular verbs, Wikibooks: Modern Greek, Lesson 7, from search results only, the pages themselves were not read in

full). **The search did not give full tables** for any of the verbs in this chapter.

Not checked, from general knowledge: every verb table above (*είμαι, έχω, λέω, τρώω, πάω, ακούω, πηγαίνω, ξέρω, θέλω, μπορώ*), the variant *είσαστε*, the idioms (*έχω δίκιο, έχω πυρετό, έχω ραντεβού, Τι έχεις;*, age with *είμαι*), the claim that *πηγαίνω* is more common in writing, the impersonal verbs, the vocabulary list, the three dialogs (written for this course), every stress mark and the respellings. These forms are very frequent, so errors would matter: check a Greek verb table or a native speaker before relying on any of them. No dictionary or grammar book was consulted.

Coming up in Chapter 5: The Continuous Past. *έγραφα, μιλούσα, ήμουν, είχα*: how the past is built for Group A and Group B verbs, the augment and the stress, and when to use it for habits and background actions.

⏪ The Continuous Past — Ο παρατατικός

*You now have the present. The first past tense is built from the **same continuous stem** you already know (γράφ-), so there is little new to learn: you add past endings and, often, an **augment** at the front. It describes what was going on, what used to happen, and the scene behind a story.*

THE RULE IN ONE BOX

Continuous past = (augment ε- when needed) + continuous stem + past endings. The endings are ***-α, -ες, -ε, -αμε, -ατε, -αν*** for Group A (*έγραφα*) and ***-ούσα, -ούσες, -ούσε, -ούσαμε, -ούσατε, -ούσαν*** for Group B (*μιλούσα*). The **stress moves** so that it falls no later than the third syllable from the end. Use it for **habits** (“used to”), **actions in progress** (“was doing”) and **background description**.

Group A: έγραφα

PERSON	ΈΓΡΑΦΑ (WRITE)	ΔΙΆΒΑΖΑ (READ)	ENGLISH (ΓΡΆΦΩ)
εγώ	**έγραφα**	**διάβαζα**	I was writing, I used to write
εσύ	**έγραφες**	**διάβαζες**	you were writing
αυτός, αυτή, αυτό	**έγραφε**	**διάβαζε**	he, she, it was writing
εμείς	**γράφαμε**	**διαβάζαμε**	we were writing
εσείς	**γράφατε**	**διαβάζατε**	you were writing (plural or polite)
αυτοί, αυτές, αυτά	**έγραφαν**	**διάβαζαν**	they were writing

The augment and the moving stress

Compare the stems: *γράφω* has the stress on *γρά-*, but the past needs one more syllable behind the stress for a verb with a short stem, so the augment *ε-* is added: *έ-γρα-φα*. In the plural the

endings are longer (*-αμε, -ατε*), the stress has to move back, and the augment is not needed: *γρά-φα-με*. Verbs that already begin with two or more syllables before the stress take no augment: *διαβάζω → διάβαζα* (the stress simply moves back to *διά-*).

PRESENT	I (PAST)	WE (PAST)	WHAT HAPPENED
γράφω	**έγραφα**	**γράφαμε**	augment appears, then disappears in the plural
πίνω	**έπινα**	**πίναμε**	same pattern
διαβάζω	**διάβαζα**	**διαβάζαμε**	no augment; the stress moves back
περιμένω	**περίμενα**	**περιμέναμε**	no augment; the stress moves back

> **Watch out: the stress, not the letters, decides**
> The augment is there to give the stress somewhere to land. You do not need to memorise a rule for each verb: say the past form aloud, and if the stress would fall earlier than the third syllable from the end, add the *ε-*. Compare *έπινα* (three syllables, stress on the first) with *πίναμε* (four syllables, stress on the second).

Group B: μιλούσα

PERSON	ΜΙΛΟΎΣΑ (SPEAK)	ΑΓΑΠΟΎΣΑ (LOVE)	ENGLISH (ΜΙΛΆΩ)
εγώ	**μιλούσα**	**αγαπούσα**	I was speaking
εσύ	**μιλούσες**	**αγαπούσες**	you were speaking
αυτός, αυτή, αυτό	**μιλούσε**	**αγαπούσε**	he, she, it was speaking
εμείς	**μιλούσαμε**	**αγαπούσαμε**	we were speaking
εσείς	**μιλούσατε**	**αγαπούσατε**	you were speaking (plural or polite)
αυτοί, αυτές, αυτά	**μιλούσαν(ε)**	**αγαπούσαν(ε)**	they were speaking

There is no augment here, because the longer ending already carries the stress on *-ού-*. Most Group B verbs also have a second, spoken set in *-άγα* (*μιλούσα* beside *μιλάγα*), which you will hear

but need not use.

ήμουν and είχα

The two verbs of Chapter 4 form the past irregularly. *Ήμουν* and *είχα* are so frequent that you should learn them first.

PERSON	ΉΜΟΥΝ (WAS, WERE)	ΕΊΧΑ (HAD)
εγώ	**ήμουν** (or **ήμουνα**)	**είχα**
εσύ	**ήσουν** (or **ήσουνα**)	**είχες**
αυτός, αυτή, αυτό	**ήταν** (or **ήτανε**)	**είχε**
εμείς	**ήμασταν**	**είχαμε**
εσείς	**ήσασταν**	**είχατε**
αυτοί, αυτές, αυτά	**ήταν** (or **ήτανε**)	**είχαν**

A few other verbs keep an old *ή-* augment: *θέλω* → *ήθελα* (“I wanted”), *ξέρω* → *ήξερα* (“I knew”). Learn these two as they are.

When to use the continuous past

USE	GREEK	ENGLISH
habit, “used to”	**Κάθε καλοκαίρι πηγαίναμε στην Κρήτη.**	Every summer we used to go to Crete.
in progress	**Διάβαζα όταν χτύπησε το τηλέφωνο.**	I was reading when the phone rang.
background, description	**Ήταν βράδυ και έβρεχε.**	It was evening and it was raining.
two actions together	**Μαγείρευα ενώ εκείνος έβλεπε τηλεόραση.**	I was cooking while he was watching television.

USE	GREEK	ENGLISH
wishes, states	**Ήθελα έναν καφέ.**	I wanted (I would like) a coffee.

The word **όταν** (“when”) introduces the moment something else happened. **Ενώ** (“while”) joins two actions that go on at the same time. Used with a time word, the continuous past marks something that repeated: **χθες, πέρσι, τότε** (“yesterday, last year, then”).

> **Watch out: ήθελα is polite**
>
> *Ήθελα έναν καφέ* is the polite way to order (“I would like a coffee”), not a statement about the past. Greek uses the past form for politeness, much as English says “I wondered if…”.

Words in this chapter

GREEK	SAY IT	ENGLISH
ήμουν	EE-moon	I was
είχα	EE-hah	I had
ήθελα	EE-theh-lah	I wanted
ήξερα	EE-kseh-rah	I knew
έγραφα	EH-ghrah-fah	I was writing
μιλούσα	mee-LOO-sah	I was speaking
όταν	OH-tahn	when
ενώ	eh-NOH	while
τότε	TOH-teh	then, at that time
πέρσι	PEHR-see	last year
παλιά	pah-LYAH	in the old days
μικρός / μικρή	mee-KROS / mee-KREE	small; young, as a child

🗣️ In Use — Στην πράξη

Read the exchanges aloud. Is each past form a habit, an action in progress or a scene?

① When I was little

A: Πού έμενες όταν ήσουν μικρός;
Where did you live when you were small?

B: Μέναμε στο Εδιμβούργο και πηγαίναμε κάθε καλοκαίρι στην Ελλάδα.
We lived in Edinburgh and every summer we went to Greece.

② The phone call

A: Τι έκανες χθες το βράδυ;
What did you do last night?

B: Διάβαζα, όταν με πήρε τηλέφωνο ο Νίκος.
I was reading when Nikos phoned me.

A: Και τι ήθελε;
And what did he want?

③ In the café

A: Καλησπέρα, ήθελα έναν καφέ, παρακαλώ.
Good evening, I would like a coffee, please.

B: Βεβαίως. Ήθελε και κάτι να φάει;
Certainly. Did you want something to eat too?

📋 Quick Reference — Σύνοψη

TOPIC	SUMMARY
formation	augment if needed + continuous stem + past endings
Group A endings	*-α, -ες, -ε, -αμε, -ατε, -αν*
Group B endings	*-ούσα, -ούσες, -ούσε, -ούσαμε, -ούσατε, -ούσαν(ε)*

TOPIC	SUMMARY
augment	*ε-* added so the stress is no later than the third syllable from the end; dropped in the plural
ήμουν	*ήμουν, ήσουν, ήταν, ήμασταν, ήσασταν, ήταν*
είχα	*είχα, είχες, είχε, είχαμε, είχατε, είχαν*
uses	habit, in progress, background, wishes (*ήθελα*)
linking words	*όταν* when, *ενώ* while

🖍️ Try It Yourself — Ασκήσεις

Say or write the answer first, then click to check.

1. Write the six continuous past forms of *πίνω*.

▼ Show answer

έπινα, έπινες, έπινε, πίναμε, πίνατε, έπιναν

2. Say “We were reading”.

▼ Show answer

Διαβάζαμε.

3. Say “You (singular) were speaking” and “They were speaking”.

▼ Show answer

Μιλούσες. / Μιλούσαν(ε).

4. Say “I was tired” (use *κουρασμένος* as a man).

▼ Show answer

Ήμουν κουρασμένος.

5. Say “We had a dog”.

▼ Show answer

Είχαμε έναν σκύλο.

6. Why is the augment missing in *γράφαμε* but present in *έγραφα*?

▼ Show answer

The longer ending *-αμε* gives the stress a third syllable from the end to land on, so no *ε-* is needed. In *έγραφα* the augment supplies it.

7. Say “I was working while you were sleeping”. (*δουλεύω, κοιμάμαι*: past *κοιμόμουν*)

▼ Show answer

Δούλευα ενώ κοιμόσουν. (*Κοιμόσουν* is a passive form, covered in Chapter 11.)

8. Say “It was raining when we left”. Use *έβρεχε* and *φύγαμε*.

▼ Show answer

Έβρεχε όταν φύγαμε. (*Φύγαμε* is the simple past: Chapter 6.)

9. How do you politely order a coffee in the past form?

▼ Show answer

Ήθελα έναν καφέ, παρακαλώ.

10. Say “Every summer we used to go to Crete”.

▼ Show answer

Κάθε καλοκαίρι πηγαίναμε στην Κρήτη.

Not Yet Verified

Checked (one web search on 2026-11-22): that the augment in Modern Greek is an *ε-* used in the past tenses; that in the imperfect and past forms the stress retreats to the third syllable from the end; that the augment appears when the stem has no syllable to carry that stress; and that *θέλω → ήθελα* and *ξέρω → ήξερα* keep an old *ή-* augment (sources: polyglotclub.com: augment in Modern Greek,

preply.com: past progressive in Greek, SOAS working paper on the augment, from search results only, the pages themselves were not read in full; one paper notes the augment rule does not hold fully in Standard Modern Greek).

Not checked, from general knowledge: the full tables for *γράφω, διαβάζω, μιλάω, αγαπάω, είμαι, έχω* in the continuous past (none of the results covered *ήμουν* or *είχα*); the *-άγα* variants and the optional *ήμουνα, ήτανε* forms; *πίνω → έπινα* and *περιμένω → περίμενα*; the uses of *ήθελα* for politeness; the sentences; the three dialogs (written for this course); every stress mark and the respellings. No dictionary or grammar book was consulted. Check a verb table or a native speaker before relying on them.

Coming up in Chapter 6: The Simple Past: Regular Verbs. *έγραψα, μίλησα, αγόρασα, περίμενα*: how the simple stem is made (*-ψ-, -σ-, -ξ-*), the endings, and how to use the simple past for one completed event.

✅ The Simple Past — Ο αόριστος

Chapter 5 gave the past for things that were going on. This chapter gives the past for things that happened: one event, seen as a whole and finished. It uses the ***simple stem*** *from Chapter 1 (γράψ-, not γράφ-). This is the tense you use to tell what you did yesterday.*

THE RULE IN ONE BOX

Simple past = (augment *ε-* when needed) + simple stem + the same past endings as Chapter 5: *-α, -ες, -ε, -αμε, -ατε, -αν*. The simple stem usually adds ***-ψ-*** to a stem ending in *π, β, φ* (*γράφω → έγραψα*), ***-ξ-*** to a stem ending in *κ, γ, χ* (*ανοίγω → άνοιξα*), and ***-σ-*** in most other verbs (*διαβάζω → διάβασα*). Group B verbs add ***-ησ-*** (*μιλάω → μίλησα*).

The endings: one verb in full

PERSON	ΈΓΡΑΨΑ (WROTE)	ΔΙΆΒΑΣΑ (READ)	Μ'ΊΛΗΣΑ (SPOKE)
εγώ	**έγραψα**	**διάβασα**	**μίλησα**
εσύ	**έγραψες**	**διάβασες**	**μίλησες**
αυτός, αυτή, αυτό	**έγραψε**	**διάβασε**	**μίλησε**
εμείς	**γράψαμε**	**διαβάσαμε**	**μιλήσαμε**
εσείς	**γράψατε**	**διαβάσατε**	**μιλήσατε**
αυτοί, αυτές, αυτά	**έγραψαν**	**διάβασαν**	**μίλησαν**

The augment follows the same rule as Chapter 5: it appears when the stress would otherwise fall too early (*έ-γρα-ψα*) and disappears when a longer form lets the stress move back (*γρά-ψα-με*).

Building the simple stem

Look at the last letters of the continuous stem to guess the simple stem. These patterns are rules of thumb, not laws: some verbs break them, and the most irregular ones are the subject of Chapter 7.

ENDING OF THE STEM	SIMPLE STEM ADDS	PRESENT	SIMPLE PAST	ENGLISH
π, β, φ (labial)	*-ψ-*	γράφω	έγραψα	write
		δουλεύω	δούλεψα	work
κ, γ, χ (velar)	*-ξ-*	ανοίγω	άνοιξα	open
		τρέχω	έτρεξα	run
		ψάχνω	έψαξα	search
ζ, ν, other	*-σ-*	διαβάζω	διάβασα	read
		αγοράζω	αγόρασα	buy
		κλείνω	έκλεισα	close
		πληρώνω	πλήρωσα	pay
		ακούω	άκουσα	hear
		παίζω	έπαιξα	play (the stem ends in a velar sound, so *-ξ-*)

> **Watch out: the -ζω verbs are not all the same**
>
> Verbs in *-ζω* usually take *-σ-* (*διαβάζω → διάβασα*, *ετοιμάζω → ετοίμασα*), but some take *-ξ-* (*φωνάζω → φώναξα*, *παίζω → έπαιξα*). Learn the simple past with the verb, as in Chapter 1.

Group B verbs: -ησ-

The contracted verbs of Chapter 3 are easy in the simple past: add *-ησ-* to the stem, then the same endings.

PRESENT	SIMPLE PAST (I)	ENGLISH
μιλάω	μίλησα	I spoke
αγαπάω	αγάπησα	I loved
ρωτάω	ρώτησα	I asked
περπατάω	περπάτησα	I walked
βοηθάω	βοήθησα	I helped
ευχαριστώ	ευχαρίστησα	I thanked

Some verbs keep one form for both pasts

For a few verbs the simple past looks the same as the continuous past of Chapter 5. *Περιμένω* is one: *περίμενα* can mean “I was waiting” or “I waited”. The context, and any time word, tells you which. A time of completion (*μία ώρα*) points to one finished event.

One completed event

Use the simple past for an action that happened and is finished, however long it took. Compare the two pasts side by side.

SIMPLE PAST (IT HAPPENED)	CONTINUOUS PAST (IT WAS GOING ON / USED TO)
Έγραψα ένα γράμμα χθες. I wrote a letter yesterday.	**Έγραφα γράμματα κάθε μέρα.** I used to write letters every day.
Διάβασα το βιβλίο. I read (all of) the book.	**Διάβαζα το βιβλίο όταν ήρθες.** I was reading the book when you came.
Μίλησα με τον Γιώργο. I spoke to Giorgos.	**Μιλούσαμε για ώρες.** We used to talk for hours.

Time words for the simple past

GREEK	ENGLISH	EXAMPLE
χθες	yesterday	Χθες άνοιξα νέο λογαριασμό.
προχθές	the day before yesterday	Προχθές αγόρασα εισιτήρια.
πέρσι	last year	Πέρσι ταξίδεψα στην Ελλάδα.
την περασμένη εβδομάδα	last week	Την περασμένη εβδομάδα πλήρωσα τον λογαριασμό.
πριν από δύο μέρες	two days ago	Πριν από δύο μέρες μίλησα μαζί του.

Negative and question

Negatives and questions work as before: **Δεν έγραψα.** (“I didn’t write”), **Έγραψες;** (“Did you write?”).

Words in this chapter

GREEK	SAY IT	ENGLISH
έγραψα	EH-ghrah-psah	I wrote
διάβασα	THYAH-vah-sah	I read
μίλησα	MEE-lee-sah	I spoke
αγόρασα	ah-GHOH-rah-sah	I bought
άνοιξα	AH-nee-ksah	I opened
έκλεισα	EH-klee-sah	I closed
πλήρωσα	PLEE-roh-sah	I paid
άκουσα	AH-koo-sah	I heard

GREEK	SAY IT	ENGLISH
ρώτησα	ROH-tee-sah	I asked
χθες	hthehs	yesterday
προχθές	proh-HTHEHS	the day before yesterday
πριν από	preen ah-POH	ago, before

In Use — Στην πράξη

Read the exchanges aloud. Each past form is one finished event.

① Yesterday

A: Τι έκανες χθες;
What did you do yesterday?

B: Διάβασα ένα βιβλίο και έγραψα δύο μηνύματα.
I read a book and wrote two messages.

A: Μίλησες με τη Μαρία;
Did you speak to Maria?

B: Ναι, της τηλεφώνησα το βράδυ.
Yes, I phoned her in the evening.

② At the shop

A: Πού αγόρασες αυτό το φόρεμα;
Where did you buy this dress?

B: Το αγόρασα προχθές στο κέντρο.
I bought it the day before yesterday in the centre.

A: Πλήρωσες πολλά;
Did you pay a lot?

③ A message

A: Άκουσες τα νέα;
Did you hear the news?

B: Όχι, δεν άκουσα τίποτα. Τι έγινε;
No, I didn't hear anything. What happened?

A: Ο Νίκος άνοιξε ένα μικρό εστιατόριο.
Nikos opened a small restaurant.

📋 Quick Reference — Σύνοψη

TOPIC	SUMMARY
formation	augment if needed + simple stem + *-α, -ες, -ε, -αμε, -ατε, -αν*
-ψ-	after π, β, φ: *έγραψα, δούλεψα*
-ξ-	after κ, γ, χ: *άνοιξα, έτρεξα, έψαξα*
-σ-	most others: *διάβασα, αγόρασα, έκλεισα*
Group B	-ησ-: *μίλησα, αγάπησα, ρώτησα*
meaning	one completed event
time words	*χθες, προχθές, πέρσι, πριν από*

🖍️ Try It Yourself — Ασκήσεις

Say or write the answer first, then click to check.

1. Write the six simple past forms of *διαβάζω*.

▼ Show answer

διάβασα, διάβασες, διάβασε, διαβάσαμε, διαβάσατε, διάβασαν

2. Say “I opened the window”.

▼ Show answer

Άνοιξα το παράθυρο.

3. Say “We bought tickets”.

▼ Show answer

Αγοράσαμε εισιτήρια.

4. Say “Did you speak to him?” (to a friend).

▼ Show answer

Μίλησες μαζί του;

5. Which letters decide between *-ψ-*, *-ξ-* and *-σ-*?

▼ Show answer

The last letter of the stem: π, β, φ give *-ψ-*; κ, γ, χ give *-ξ-*; most others give *-σ-*.

6. Make the simple past of *τρέχω* for "I" and "we".

▼ Show answer

έτρεξα and *τρέξαμε*

7. Say "I asked the teacher" (*ο δάσκαλος*, accusative *τον δάσκαλο*).

▼ Show answer

Ρώτησα τον δάσκαλο.

8. What is the difference between *Έγραψα ένα γράμμα* and *Έγραφα γράμματα*?

▼ Show answer

The first is one completed event ("I wrote a letter"); the second is a habit or something in progress ("I used to write letters").

9. Say "Last year I travelled to Greece". Use *ταξίδεψα*.

▼ Show answer

Πέρσι ταξίδεψα στην Ελλάδα.

10. Say "I didn't hear anything".

▼ Show answer

Δεν άκουσα τίποτα.

Not Yet Verified

Checked (one web search on 2026-11-22): only that the regular Modern Greek verbs form the largest group and that their simple stem ends in *-σ-*, *-ξ-* or *-ψ-* (a rough pointer from a flashcard deck; the other results were mostly Ancient Greek and were ignored) (sources: brainscape.com: uncontracted verbs, Wikipedia: Modern Greek verbs, pressto.amu.edu.pl: Modern Greek present tense, from search results only, not read in full).

Not checked, from general knowledge: the letter rules for *-ψ-*, *-ξ-*, *-σ-* and the exceptions (*παίζω → έπαιξα, φωνάζω → φώναξα*); every past form in the tables, including *-ησ-* for Group B; that *περιμένω* uses *περίμενα* for both pasts (the search suggested *περίμεινα*, which I could not confirm); the sentences; the three dialogs (written for this course); every stress mark and the respellings. No dictionary or grammar book was consulted. Check a verb table or a native speaker before relying on them.

Coming up in Chapter 7: The Simple Past: Irregular Verbs. *είδα, ήρθα, είπα, έφαγα, ήπια, πήρα, βρήκα, έκανα, ήταν*: the common irregular stems as a list, and how to use both pasts in one story.

🔀 Irregular Simple Pasts — Ανώμαλοι αόριστοι

*Chapter 6 showed the regular rule. This chapter covers the verbs where the simple stem is **not** predictable: βλέπω → είδα, τρώω → έφαγα. They are among the commonest verbs in the language, so you will need them from the first day of telling any story. There is no rule to apply, only a list to learn, but the **endings are the same** as in Chapter 6.*

THE RULE IN ONE BOX

An irregular verb has a **different simple stem** (*δ-, φάγ-, πι-*), but takes the **same endings** as every other simple past: *-α, -ες, -ε, -αμε, -ατε, -αν*. So once you know the past form for "I", you can make all six. Learn each verb as a **pair**: present and simple past.

The list

PRESENT	SIMPLE PAST (I)	ENGLISH	NOTE
βλέπω	είδα	see	the stem *δ-* takes a different augment
έρχομαι	ήρθα	come	a passive-form verb; the past is active in form
λέω	είπα	say	
τρώω	έφαγα	eat	the stem *φάγ-* is also in *φαγητό* ("food")
πίνω	ήπια	drink	
παίρνω	πήρα	take, get	
βρίσκω	βρήκα	find	
κάνω	έκανα	do, make	the stem stays *κάν-*, with an ordinary augment
πάω	πήγα	go	
φεύγω	έφυγα	leave	

PRESENT	SIMPLE PAST (I)	ENGLISH	NOTE
μένω	έμεινα	stay, live	
στέλνω	έστειλα	send	
δίνω	έδωσα	give	
βάζω	έβαλα	put	
αφήνω	άφησα	leave behind, let	regular, but often confused with *φεύγω*
μαθαίνω	έμαθα	learn	
γίνομαι	έγινα	become, happen	*Τι έγινε;* "What happened?"
είμαι	ήμουν	be	same as the continuous past (Chapter 5)
έχω	είχα	have	same as the continuous past (Chapter 5)

Four verbs in full

PERSON	ΕΊΔΑ (SAW)	ΉΡΘΑ (CAME)	ΈΦΑΓΑ (ATE)	ΠΉΓΑ (WENT)
εγώ	είδα	ήρθα	έφαγα	πήγα
εσύ	είδες	ήρθες	έφαγες	πήγες
αυτός	είδε	ήρθε	έφαγε	πήγε
εμείς	είδαμε	ήρθαμε	φάγαμε	πήγαμε
εσείς	είδατε	ήρθατε	φάγατε	πήγατε
αυτοί	είδαν	ήρθαν	έφαγαν	πήγαν

Watch out: do not add a regular ending to the present stem

> A learner may say *βλέπησα* for "I saw" or *τρώησα* for "I ate". These are wrong. For these verbs the past comes from a different stem, *είδα* and *έφαγα*. When you meet a new verb, check whether its past is regular or learn it as a pair, as Chapter 1 advised.

Spotting the stem from the past form

The past form often helps you find the verb in a dictionary only if you know the pair, because it looks nothing like the present. Practise in both directions: read *είδα* and think *βλέπω*; read *πήρα* and think *παίρνω*. Some pairs share a clear piece: *φεύγω / έφυγα*, *μένω / έμεινα*, *κάνω / έκανα*.

Both pasts in one story

A story uses both: the continuous past **sets the scene** and the simple past **moves the action**.

GREEK	ENGLISH	PAST USED
Ήταν Κυριακή και έβρεχε.	It was Sunday and it was raining.	scene: continuous
Καθόμουν στο σπίτι και διάβαζα.	I was sitting at home reading.	scene: continuous
Τότε χτύπησε το τηλέφωνο.	Then the phone rang.	event: simple
Το σήκωσα και άκουσα τη φωνή του Νίκου.	I picked it up and heard Nikos's voice.	events: simple
Μου είπε ότι ήρθε στην Αθήνα.	He told me that he had come to Athens.	events: simple

Words in this chapter

GREEK	SAY IT	ENGLISH
είδα	EE-thah	I saw
ήρθα	EER-thah	I came

GREEK	SAY IT	ENGLISH
είπα	EE-pah	I said
έφαγα	EH-fah-ghah	I ate
ήπια	EE-pyah	I drank
πήρα	PEE-rah	I took
βρήκα	VREE-kah	I found
έκανα	EH-kah-nah	I did, I made
πήγα	PEE-ghah	I went
έφυγα	EH-fee-ghah	I left
έδωσα	EH-thoh-sah	I gave
έγινε	EH-yee-neh	it happened, it became

🗣️ In Use — Στην πράξη

Read the exchanges aloud. Which verbs are irregular?

① A weekend

A: Πού πήγες το Σαββατοκύριακο;
Where did you go at the weekend?

B: Πήγα στη θάλασσα. Φάγαμε ψάρι και ήπιαμε κρασί.
I went to the sea. We ate fish and drank wine.

A: Ωραία! Τι άλλο έκανες;
Lovely! What else did you do?

② What happened?

A: Τι έγινε χθες;
What happened yesterday?

B: Είδα τον Νίκο στο δρόμο και μου είπε ότι έφυγε από τη δουλειά.
I saw Nikos in the street and he told me he had left his job.

③ The lost wallet

A: Βρήκες το πορτοφόλι σου;

Did you find your wallet?

B: Ναι, το βρήκα στο αυτοκίνητο. Το έβαλα στην τσέπη μου.

Yes, I found it in the car. I put it in my pocket.

📋 Quick Reference — Σύνοψη

TOPIC	SUMMARY
endings	same as Chapter 6: *-α, -ες, -ε, -αμε, -ατε, -αν*
learn as pairs	*βλέπω / είδα, τρώω / έφαγα, πίνω / ήπια, παίρνω / πήρα, βρίσκω / βρήκα, πάω / πήγα*
no regular suffix	not *βλέπησα* or *τρώησα*
είμαι, έχω	past forms are the same in both pasts: *ήμουν, είχα*
story	continuous past for the scene, simple past for the events

📝 Try It Yourself — Ασκήσεις

Say or write the answer first, then click to check.

1. Write the simple past of *βλέπω* for all six persons.

▼ Show answer

είδα, είδες, είδε, είδαμε, είδατε, είδαν

2. Say “We ate at a tavern”.

▼ Show answer

Φάγαμε σε μια ταβέρνα.

3. Say “I drank a coffee”.

▼ Show answer

Ήπια έναν καφέ.

4. Say “You (singular) took the bus”.

▼ Show answer

Πήρες το λεωφορείο.

5. Say “They came late”.

▼ Show answer

Ήρθαν αργά.

6. Say “What did you say?” and “What happened?”.

▼ Show answer

Τι είπες; / Τι έγινε;

7. Why is *βλέπησα* wrong?

▼ Show answer

Because *βλέπω* has an irregular simple past from a different stem: *είδα*. The regular suffixes of Chapter 6 do not apply.

8. Say “I found my keys and put them in my bag”. (*τα κλειδιά μου, την τσάντα μου*)

▼ Show answer

Βρήκα τα κλειδιά μου και τα έβαλα στην τσάντα μου.

9. Say “We left at nine” and “He gave me a book”.

▼ Show answer

Φύγαμε στις εννιά. / Μου έδωσε ένα βιβλίο.

10. In “It was raining when I arrived”, which verb takes the continuous past and which the simple?

▼ Show answer

“It was raining” is the scene: continuous (*έβρεχε*). “I arrived” is the event: simple (*έφτασα*). *Έβρεχε όταν έφτασα.*

Not Yet Verified

Checked (one web search on 2026-11-22): that *βλέπω* has the simple past *είδα* and *τρώω* has *έφαγα*, and that *ήπια* is the past of *πίνω*; that *βλέπησα* and *τρώησα* are common learner mistakes; and that *ανεβαίνω* has *ανέβηκα* (sources: sublearn.com: irregular aorist stems, foundalis.com: irregular Modern Greek verbs, Transparent Greek blog: irregular verbs, from search results only, not read in full; the results were mixed in quality and several were Ancient Greek, which I ignored).
Not checked, from general knowledge: *ήρθα, είπα, πήρα, βρήκα, έκανα, πήγα* and every other past form in the list that is not named above (none appeared in the results); the full tables for *είδα, ήρθα, έφαγα, πήγα*, including *φάγαμε / φάγατε* without the augment; the notes in the list; the story sentences; the three dialogs (written for this course); every stress mark and the respellings. These forms are very frequent, so check a verb table such as the Transparent or Foundalis pages above, or ask a native speaker, before relying on any of them. No dictionary or grammar book was consulted.

Coming up in Chapter 8: The Future. *θα γράφω* against *θα γράψω*: the two futures, *θα* for likelihood, negatives (*δεν θα*), and the future of *είμαι* and *έχω*.

🔮 The Future — Ο μέλλοντας

Greek has no future endings. The future is made with a small word, ***θα****, placed before a verb you already know how to form. Which form follows θα depends on the same idea as the past: is the action* ***ongoing or repeated****, or* ***a single event****?*

THE RULE IN ONE BOX

θα **+ continuous form** (*θα γράφω*): an action that will go on or repeat. ***θα*** **+ simple form** (*θα γράψω*): a single action that will happen and be finished. Both forms use the present endings *-ω, -εις, -ει, -ουμε, -ετε, -ουν(ε)*; only the stem differs. *Θα* never changes. Negative: ***δεν θα*** + verb.

Two futures

	ΘΑ + CONTINUOUS	ΘΑ + SIMPLE
idea	ongoing, repeated, habitual	one event, finished
from γράφω	**θα γράφω**	**θα γράψω**
example	**Θα γράφω κάθε μέρα.** I will write every day.	**Θα γράψω ένα μήνυμα αύριο.** I will write a message tomorrow.
example	**Θα μένουμε εδώ όλο το καλοκαίρι.** We will be staying here all summer.	**Θα μείνουμε δύο μέρες.** We will stay two days.

When in doubt, the **simple** future is the more common choice for a plan about one occasion: *θα πάρω τηλέφωνο* (“I will phone”), *θα έρθω* (“I will come”).

Forming the simple future

Use the simple stem from Chapters 1, 6 and 7 with the *present* endings. The augment never appears (it belongs to the past): *έγραψα* but *θα γράψω*.

PERSON	ΘΑ ΓΡΆΨΩ (WRITE)	ΘΑ ΔΩ (SEE)	ΘΑ ΈΡΘΩ (COME)	ΘΑ ΦΆΩ (EAT)
εγώ	θα γράψω	θα δω	θα έρθω	θα φάω
εσύ	θα γράψεις	θα δεις	θα έρθεις	θα φας
αυτός	θα γράψει	θα δει	θα έρθει	θα φάει
εμείς	θα γράψουμε	θα δούμε	θα έρθουμε	θα φάμε
εσείς	θα γράψετε	θα δείτε	θα έρθετε	θα φάτε
αυτοί	θα γράψουν(ε)	θα δουν	θα έρθουν(ε)	θα φάνε

Simple stems to know

PRESENT	SIMPLE FUTURE (I)	ENGLISH
βλέπω	θα δω	I will see
λέω	θα πω	I will say
τρώω	θα φάω	I will eat
πίνω	θα πιω	I will drink
παίρνω	θα πάρω	I will take
βρίσκω	θα βρω	I will find
πάω	θα πάω	I will go
κάνω	θα κάνω	I will do
μιλάω	θα μιλήσω	I will speak
διαβάζω	θα διαβάσω	I will read

Watch out: θα κάνω is both

Κάνω has the same stem in both aspects, so *θα κάνω* is the continuous **and** the simple future: context decides. Likewise *θα πάω* is the simple future of *πάω*. Do not spend time looking for a change that is not there.

θα for likelihood

Θα also guesses about the present: “it must be”, “probably”.

GREEK	ENGLISH
Θα είναι στο σπίτι τώρα.	He or she must be at home now.
Θα έχει κρύο έξω.	It must be cold outside.
Θα είναι κουρασμένος.	He is probably tired.

Negation and pronouns

Put **δεν** before *θα*: **Δεν θα έρθω.** (“I won’t come”). In speech *δεν* often becomes *δε* before a consonant. The unstressed object pronouns sit between *θα* and the verb: **Θα σου τηλεφωνήσω.** (“I will phone you”), **Δεν θα το δω.** (“I won’t see it”).

Future of είμαι and έχω

PERSON	ΘΑ Ε΄ΙΜΑΙ	ΘΑ ΈΧΩ
εγώ	**θα είμαι**	**θα έχω**
εσύ	**θα είσαι**	**θα έχεις**
αυτός	**θα είναι**	**θα έχει**
εμείς	**θα είμαστε**	**θα έχουμε**
εσείς	**θα είστε**	**θα έχετε**

PERSON	ΘΑ ΕΊΜΑΙ	ΘΑ ΈΧΩ
αυτοί	θα είναι	θα έχουν(ε)

Time words and the present for schedules

Common time words: *αύριο* (tomorrow), *μεθαύριο* (the day after tomorrow), *του χρόνου* (next year), *την άλλη εβδομάδα* (next week), *σύντομα* (soon), *αργότερα* (later). As in Chapter 2, a fixed plan or timetable may use the present: **Το τρένο φεύγει στις οκτώ.** (“The train leaves at eight”).

Words in this chapter

GREEK	SAY IT	ENGLISH
θα	thah	will (future particle)
αύριο	AH-vree-oh	tomorrow
μεθαύριο	meh-THAH-vree-oh	the day after tomorrow
σύντομα	SEEN-doh-mah	soon
αργότερα	ar-GHOH-teh-rah	later
του χρόνου	too HROH-noo	next year
την άλλη εβδομάδα	teen AH-lee ehv-thoh-MAH-thah	next week
ίσως	EE-sohs	perhaps
μάλλον	MAH-lohn	probably
ελπίζω	ehl-PEE-zoh	I hope
υπόσχομαι	ee-POH-skhoh-meh	I promise
ταξίδι	tahk-SEE-thee	trip

🗣️ In Use — Στην πράξη

Read the exchanges aloud. Is each future a single event or something ongoing?

① Plans

A: Τι θα κάνεις αύριο;
What will you do tomorrow?

B: Θα δουλέψω το πρωί και το απόγευμα θα δω έναν φίλο.
I will work in the morning and in the afternoon I will see a friend.

A: Θα φάτε μαζί;
Will you eat together?

② A trip

A: Πότε θα έρθεις στην Αθήνα;
When will you come to Athens?

B: Θα έρθω του χρόνου και θα μείνω δύο εβδομάδες.
I will come next year and stay two weeks.

A: Θα σου δείξω την πόλη.
I will show you the city.

③ No answer

A: Ο Νίκος δεν απαντάει.
Nikos isn't answering.

B: Θα κοιμάται. Θα του τηλεφωνήσω αργότερα.
He must be asleep. I will phone him later.

📋 Quick Reference — Σύνοψη

TOPIC	SUMMARY
formation	*θα* + present endings on the continuous or simple stem
continuous	*θα γράφω*: ongoing, repeated
simple	*θα γράψω*: one event; no augment
likelihood	*θα είναι στο σπίτι*: "he must be at home"

TOPIC	SUMMARY
negative	*δεν θα* + verb
pronouns	between *θα* and the verb: *θα σου τηλεφωνήσω*
είμαι, έχω	*θα είμαι, θα έχω*

🖍️ Try It Yourself — Ασκήσεις

Say or write the answer first, then click to check.

1. Write the six forms of *θα γράψω*.

▼ Show answer

θα γράψω, θα γράψεις, θα γράψει, θα γράψουμε, θα γράψετε, θα γράψουν(ε)

2. Say “I will eat at eight”.

▼ Show answer

Θα φάω στις οκτώ.

3. Say “We will see you tomorrow”. (*σε* + *δούμε*)

▼ Show answer

Θα σε δούμε αύριο.

4. Say “I won’t come tomorrow”.

▼ Show answer

Δεν θα έρθω αύριο.

5. What is the difference between *θα γράφω* and *θα γράψω*?

▼ Show answer

The first is ongoing or repeated (“I will be writing, I will write regularly”); the second is one finished event (“I will write once”).

6. Say “He must be tired”.

▼ Show answer

Θα είναι κουρασμένος.

7. Say “I will phone you later”.

▼ Show answer

Θα σου τηλεφωνήσω αργότερα.

8. Say “We will have time” and “You (plural) will be here”.

▼ Show answer

Θα έχουμε χρόνο. / *Θα είστε εδώ.*

9. Why is there no augment in *θα γράψω*?

▼ Show answer

The augment belongs to past forms only. The future uses the simple stem with present endings.

10. Say “The train leaves at eight” with the present, and say “The train will leave at eight” with *θα*.

▼ Show answer

Το τρένο φεύγει στις οκτώ. / *Το τρένο θα φύγει στις οκτώ.*

Not Yet Verified

Checked (one web search on 2026-11-22): that both futures are made with *θα*, with *θα* + the perfective (aorist) form as the simple future and *θα* + the present as the continuous future; that the negative puts *δεν* before *θα*; and that pronouns come after *θα* and before the verb (sources: preply.com: Greek future tense, polyglotclub.com: future tense, Wikipedia: Modern Greek grammar, from search results only, not read in full; the sources disagree on labels, and one guide calls *θα* + present the “simple future”; this chapter uses the labels of the majority).
Not checked, from general knowledge: the simple stems and full tables (*θα δω, θα έρθω, θα φάω, θα πω, θα πιω, θα βρω*); *θα* for likelihood; the shortening *δεν* → *δε*; the time words; the claim that the

simple future is the more common choice for a single plan; the vocabulary list; the three dialogs (written for this course); every stress mark and the respellings. No dictionary or grammar book was consulted. Check a verb table or a native speaker before relying on them.

Coming up in Chapter 9: The Subjunctive with να. The same two stems after *να*: *θέλω να, μπορώ να, πρέπει να*, purpose with *για να, να μην* and suggestions such as *Να πάμε;*

🔗 να + Verb — Η υποτακτική

*English says "I want to leave" with an infinitive. Modern Greek has **no infinitive**. It says "I want that I leave": **θέλω να φύγω**. The little word να plus a verb with its own personal ending is called the **subjunctive**, and you will use it in nearly every conversation, because it follows θέλω, μπορώ, πρέπει and many other common verbs.*

THE RULE IN ONE BOX

να + a verb in the present endings (*-ω, -εις, -ει, -ουμε, -ετε, -ουν(ε)*), on the **simple stem** (*να γράψω*) for one action or the **continuous stem** (*να γράφω*) for an ongoing or repeated one. The verb after *να* **agrees with its own subject**, so it changes with the person. Negative: ***να μην***. These are the same forms as after *θα* in Chapter 8: only the particle is different.

Verbs that take να

VERB	EXAMPLE	ENGLISH
θέλω I want	**Θέλω να φάω.**	I want to eat.
μπορώ I can	**Μπορώ να έρθω αύριο.**	I can come tomorrow.
πρέπει one must	**Πρέπει να φύγουμε.**	We have to leave.
ξέρω I know (how)	**Ξέρω να μαγειρεύω.**	I know how to cook.
ελπίζω I hope	**Ελπίζω να έρθεις.**	I hope you come.
αρχίζω I begin	**Αρχίζω να καταλαβαίνω.**	I am starting to understand.
μου αρέσει I like	**Μου αρέσει να περπατάω.**	I like walking.
φοβάμαι I am afraid	**Φοβάμαι να οδηγήσω.**	I am afraid to drive.

Agreement: a different person after να

The verb after *να* has a subject of its own. When the subject is the same, English can drop it ("I want to go"); when it is different, Greek just changes the person: *Θέλω να πάω* ("I want to go"), *Θέλω να πας* ("I want you to go"), *Θέλω να πάμε μαζί* ("I want us to go together").

PERSON	ΘΈΛΩ ΝΑ ΦΎΓΩ	ENGLISH
εγώ	**Θέλω να φύγω.**	I want to leave.
εσύ	**Θέλεις να φύγεις.**	You want to leave.
αυτός	**Θέλει να φύγει.**	He wants to leave.
εμείς	**Θέλουμε να φύγουμε.**	We want to leave.
εσείς	**Θέλετε να φύγετε.**	You want to leave.
αυτοί	**Θέλουν να φύγουν.**	They want to leave.

Notice that both verbs change. *Πρέπει* does not, as in Chapter 4: the second verb carries the person (*πρέπει να φύγω, πρέπει να φύγεις*).

Simple or continuous after να?

The same choice as always: one occasion, or ongoing and repeated.

SIMPLE (ONE ACTION)	CONTINUOUS (ONGOING, HABIT)
Θέλω να τρέξω σήμερα. I want to run today.	**Μου αρέσει να τρέχω.** I like running.
Πρέπει να ξυπνήσω νωρίς αύριο. I must wake up early tomorrow.	**Πρέπει να ξυπνάω στις οκτώ κάθε μέρα.** I have to wake up at eight every day.
Αποφάσισα να μείνω. I decided to stay.	**Συνηθίζω να πίνω καφέ το πρωί.** I usually drink coffee in the morning.

Watch out: learners often pick the wrong aspect

> After *να*, English speakers tend to use the continuous form (the one that looks like the dictionary form) every time. For a single action on one occasion, the **simple** form is usually right: *θέλω να φάω*, *μπορώ να έρθω*. Use the continuous form for a habit, a regular activity or a preference (*μου αρέσει να*).

Purpose: για να

Για να means "in order to" and takes the same forms.

GREEK	ENGLISH
Πάω στην Ελλάδα για να μάθω ελληνικά.	I am going to Greece to learn Greek.
Ήρθα για να σε δω.	I came to see you.
Δουλεύει πολύ για να αγοράσει σπίτι.	He works hard to buy a house.

Saying no: να μην

After *να*, the negative is **μην** (or **μη** before a consonant in writing), not *δεν*: **να μην αργήσεις** ("not to be late"). The main verb can still use *δεν*: **Δεν θέλω να αργήσω.** ("I don't want to be late"), **Θέλω να μην αργήσω.** ("I want not to be late").

GREEK	ENGLISH
Πρόσεξε να μην πέσεις.	Be careful not to fall.
Ελπίζω να μην βρέξει.	I hope it doesn't rain.
Προσπαθώ να μην ξεχνάω.	I try not to forget.

Suggestions and offers: να πάμε;

A bare *να* + verb in the first person, spoken as a question, is the usual way to suggest or offer something. Pronouns come between *να* and the verb, as after *θα*.

GREEK	ENGLISH
Να πάμε για καφέ;	Shall we go for a coffee?
Να σε βοηθήσω;	Shall I help you?
Να σου φέρω κάτι;	Shall I bring you something?
Να μην περιμένουμε;	Shouldn't we wait? (literally "Should we not wait?")

Words in this chapter

GREEK	SAY IT	ENGLISH
να	nah	to, that (subjunctive particle)
για να	yah nah	in order to
μην	meen	not (after να)
αποφασίζω	ah-poh-fah-SEE-zoh	I decide
προσπαθώ	pros-pah-THOH	I try
προσέχω	pro-SEH-hoh	I take care, I watch out
ξεχνάω	kseh-HNAH-oh	I forget
θυμάμαι	thee-MAH-meh	I remember
αργώ	ar-GHOH	I am late
φέρνω	FEHR-noh	I bring
μαθαίνω	mah-THEH-noh	I learn
συνηθίζω	see-nee-THEE-zoh	I am used to, I usually

In Use — Στην πράξη

Read the exchanges aloud. Which verb after να is simple, and which is continuous?

① Invitation

A: Θέλεις να πάμε για καφέ;
Do you want to go for a coffee?

B: Δεν μπορώ τώρα. Πρέπει να τελειώσω τη δουλειά μου.
I can't now. I have to finish my work.

A: Να περιμένω;
Shall I wait?

B: Όχι, μην περιμένεις. Θα έρθω αργότερα.
No, don't wait. I will come later.

② Learning Greek

A: Γιατί πας στην Ελλάδα;
Why are you going to Greece?

B: Πάω για να μάθω καλύτερα ελληνικά.
I am going to learn Greek better.

A: Ελπίζω να περάσεις ωραία!
I hope you have a lovely time!

③ Be careful

A: Πρόσεξε να μην αργήσεις στο τρένο.
Be careful not to miss the train.

B: Μην ανησυχείς. Θα φύγω νωρίς.
Don't worry. I will leave early.

📋 Quick Reference — Σύνοψη

TOPIC	SUMMARY
form	*να* + present endings on the simple or continuous stem
no infinitive	the verb after *να* has its own person: *θέλω να πας*
common verbs	*θέλω, μπορώ, πρέπει, ξέρω, ελπίζω, αρχίζω, μου αρέσει*
simple or continuous	one occasion or ongoing / habit
purpose	*για να* + verb

TOPIC	SUMMARY
negative	*να μην* + verb
suggestion	*Να πάμε; Να σε βοηθήσω;*

🖍️ Try It Yourself — Ασκήσεις

Say or write the answer first, then click to check.

1. Say “I want to learn Greek”.

▼ Show answer

Θέλω να μάθω ελληνικά.

2. Say “I want you to come”.

▼ Show answer

Θέλω να έρθεις.

3. Say “We can help” and “They have to leave”.

▼ Show answer

Μπορούμε να βοηθήσουμε. / Πρέπει να φύγουν.

4. Say “I like cooking” (a general preference).

▼ Show answer

Μου αρέσει να μαγειρεύω. The continuous form fits a general preference.

5. Say “I came to see you”.

▼ Show answer

Ήρθα για να σε δω.

6. Say “I don’t want to be late” and “I hope it doesn’t rain”.

▼ Show answer

Δεν θέλω να αργήσω. / Ελπίζω να μην βρέξει.

7. Offer help: “Shall I help you?”.

▼ Show answer

Να σε βοηθήσω;

8. Suggest to a friend: “Shall we go to the cinema?”.

▼ Show answer

Να πάμε στον κινηματογράφο;

9. Why does *Πρέπει να φύγω / φύγεις / φύγουμε* change only the second verb?

▼ Show answer

Πρέπει is impersonal and never changes; the verb after *να* carries the person.

10. Which is right for “I want to eat now”: *θέλω να τρώω* or *θέλω να φάω*? Why?

▼ Show answer

Θέλω να φάω. It is one action on one occasion, so the simple form is the natural choice.

Not Yet Verified

Checked (one web search on 2026-11-22): that Greek verbs contrast imperfective and perfective aspect, with *γράφω* against *γράψω* as the continuous and simple subjunctive stems; that *να* + the continuous form is used for habits (*Κάθε μέρα πρέπει να ξυπνάω στις 8, Δεν συνηθίζω να ξυπνάω πριν τις επτά*); that *Αποφάσισε να τρέξει* is a perfective example and *Μου αρέσει να τρέχω* an imperfective one; and that learners often struggle to choose the aspect after *να* (sources: Transparent Greek blog, study of Serbian learners of Greek, Wikipedia: Modern Greek grammar, from search results only, not read in full).

Not checked, from general knowledge: the list of verbs that take *να* and their exact patterns (*φοβάμαι να, αρχίζω να, ξέρω να*); *για να* for purpose; *να μην* and the spelling *μη(ν)*; *Να πάμε;* and *Να σε βοηθήσω;* as suggestions and offers; the rule of thumb about choosing the simple form for one occasion; the vocabulary list; the three dialogs (written for this course); every stress mark and the

respellings. No dictionary or grammar book was consulted. Check a grammar book or a native speaker before relying on them.

Coming up in Chapter 10: The Imperative. Commands with the simple stem (*γράψε, γράψτε*) and the continuous stem (*γράφε*), negative commands with *μην*, polite requests and pronouns with the imperative (*πες μου*).

📣 Commands and Requests — Η προστακτική

*The imperative is the mood for orders, advice, instructions and requests: "Come in!", "Write to me", "Don't worry". Greek has only **two forms**, one for you (singular) and one for you (plural, or polite singular). Like every other form in this course, each exists in a **simple** and a **continuous** version.*

THE RULE IN ONE BOX

Simple imperative (one action, do it now): *γράψε!* (singular), *γράψτε!* (plural). **Continuous imperative** (keep doing it, do it regularly): *γράφε!*, *γράφετε!*. A **negative command** is not made from the imperative: use ***μην*** + the *you* form of the verb, *μην γράψεις*. **Pronouns come after** the imperative: *γράψε μου*.

Simple and continuous

	SINGULAR (ΕΣΎ)	PLURAL / POLITE (ΕΣΕΊΣ)
simple	γράψε	γράψτε
continuous	γράφε	γράφετε
simple	διάβασε	διαβάστε
continuous	διάβαζε	διαβάζετε
simple	μίλησε	μιλήστε
continuous	μίλα	μιλάτε

The singular simple form is the simple stem plus *-ε* (*γράψ-* → *γράψε*); the plural adds *-τε* to the stem (*γράψτε*), with the stress on the stem. The continuous plural is the same as the present plural (*γράφετε*), so it is the stress and the context, not the ending, that tell you it is a command. Group B verbs have their own continuous forms (*μίλα, μιλάτε*).

Which one to use?

SIMPLE (ONCE, NOW)	CONTINUOUS (REPEATEDLY, AS A HABIT)
Γράψε μου ένα μήνυμα. Write me a message (this once).	**Γράφε μου κάθε μέρα.** Write to me every day.
Κάθισε εδώ. Sit here.	**Κάθε πρωί διάβαζε λίγο.** Read a little every morning.

Watch out: the simple form is the usual command

For a single instruction, such as “Open the door” or “Come here”, use the simple form: *Άνοιξε την πόρτα, Έλα εδώ*. The continuous form tells someone to repeat or keep doing something. If you only learn one, learn the simple.

Irregular imperatives to know

The very common verbs have imperatives that you cannot guess from the present. Learn them as a set.

VERB	SINGULAR	PLURAL	ENGLISH
έρχομαι	**έλα**	**ελάτε**	come
λέω	**πες**	**πείτε**	say, tell
βλέπω	**δες**	**δείτε**	look, see
τρώω	**φάε**	**φάτε**	eat
πίνω	**πιες**	**πιείτε**	drink
παίρνω	**πάρε**	**πάρτε**	take
δίνω	**δώσε**	**δώστε**	give
φέρνω	**φέρε**	**φέρτε**	bring
κάνω	**κάνε**	**κάντε**	do, make
ακούω	**άκου**	**ακούστε**	listen

VERB	SINGULAR	PLURAL	ENGLISH
περιμένω	περίμενε	περιμένετε	wait

Negative commands: μην

You cannot put *δεν* or *μην* in front of the imperative and make a command. Greek instead borrows the **subjunctive form** (Chapter 9): **μην** (or **να μην**) + the *you* form. The simple stem forbids one action, the continuous stem forbids a habit.

POSITIVE	NEGATIVE	ENGLISH
Περίμενε.	Μην περιμένεις.	Wait. / Don't wait.
Ανησυχήστε.	Μην ανησυχείτε.	Worry. / Don't worry.
Πήγαινε.	Μην πας.	Go. / Don't go.
Φάε αυτό.	Μην το φας.	Eat this. / Don't eat it.
Μιλάς πολύ.	Μην μιλάς τόσο πολύ.	You talk a lot. / Don't talk so much.

Pronouns after the imperative

Unstressed object pronouns, which come *before* an ordinary verb (*μου τηλεφωνεί*), come **after** a positive imperative and are written as part of one word group: **πες μου** ("tell me"), **φέρε μου νερό** ("bring me water"), **δώσε μου** ("give me"), **περίμενέ με** ("wait for me"). The stress marks may move when a pronoun is added: this is a detail to hear rather than memorise. In a negative command the pronoun goes back before the verb: **Μη μου πεις.** ("Don't tell me").

GREEK	ENGLISH
Πες μου την αλήθεια.	Tell me the truth.
Φέρτε μας τον λογαριασμό.	Bring us the bill.
Βοήθησέ με, παρακαλώ.	Help me, please.

GREEK	ENGLISH
Μη μου πεις!	Don’t tell me!

Polite requests

The imperative can sound abrupt, so add **παρακαλώ** (“please”), use the plural/polite form for strangers, or soften with a question: **Μπορείτε να με βοηθήσετε;** (“Can you help me?”), **Θα μπορούσατε…;** (“Could you…?”). The unit with *να* comes from Chapter 9.

Words in this chapter

GREEK	SAY IT	ENGLISH
έλα	EH-lah	come (singular)
πες	pehs	say, tell
δες	thehs	look, see
πάρε	PAH-reh	take
δώσε	THOH-seh	give
φέρε	FEH-reh	bring
κάθισε	KAH-thee-seh	sit down
περίμενε	peh-REE-meh-neh	wait
μην	meen	don’t
παρακαλώ	pah-rah-kah-LOH	please; you’re welcome
ανησυχώ	ah-nee-see-HOH	I worry
λογαριασμός	loh-ghah-ree-ZMOS	bill, account

🗣️ In Use — Στην πράξη

Read the exchanges aloud. Which commands are positive, and which negative?

① At the door

A: Έλα μέσα! Κάθισε εδώ.
Come in! Sit here.

B: Ευχαριστώ. Μην ανησυχείς, δεν θα μείνω πολύ.
Thanks. Don't worry, I won't stay long.

② In the taverna

A: Συγγνώμη, φέρτε μας τον λογαριασμό, παρακαλώ.
Excuse me, bring us the bill, please.

B: Αμέσως. Περιμένετε ένα λεπτό.
Straight away. Wait a minute.

③ A phone call

A: Πάρε με τηλέφωνο το βράδυ.
Phone me in the evening.

B: Εντάξει. Μην ξεχάσεις το ραντεβού μας.
Okay. Don't forget our appointment.

📋 Quick Reference — Σύνοψη

TOPIC	SUMMARY
forms	singular (εσύ) and plural / polite (εσείς) only
simple	*γράψε, γράψτε*: one command, now
continuous	*γράφε, γράφετε*: keep doing, habit
irregular	*έλα, πες, δες, φάε, πιες, πάρε, δώσε, φέρε, κάνε, άκου*
negative	*μην* + the *you* form: *μην περιμένεις*
pronouns	after the positive imperative (*πες μου*); before the verb after *μην*

TOPIC	SUMMARY
politeness	*παρακαλώ*, the plural form, *Μπορείτε να…;*

🖍️ Try It Yourself — Ασκήσεις

Say or write the answer first, then click to check.

1. Give the simple imperative of *γράφω*, singular and plural.

▼ Show answer

γράψε / γράψτε

2. Say “Come here” to a friend and to a group.

▼ Show answer

Έλα εδώ. / Ελάτε εδώ.

3. Tell a friend “Look!” and “Tell me”.

▼ Show answer

Δες! / Πες μου.

4. Politely ask a waiter: “Bring us two coffees, please”.

▼ Show answer

Φέρτε μας δύο καφέδες, παρακαλώ.

5. Make negative: *Περίμενε εδώ.*

▼ Show answer

Μην περιμένεις εδώ.

6. Tell a group “Don’t worry”.

▼ Show answer

Μην ανησυχείτε.

7. What is the difference between *Γράψε μου* and *Γράφε μου*?

▼ Show answer

The first asks for one message, now (simple); the second asks you to keep writing, regularly (continuous).

8. Where does the pronoun go in *"Help me"* and in *"Don't help me"*?

▼ Show answer

After the positive imperative (*Βοήθησέ με*), before the verb in the negative (*Μη με βοηθήσεις*).

9. Say "Take this" and "Give me that".

▼ Show answer

Πάρε αυτό. / Δώσε μου εκείνο.

10. Give a softer way of saying "Help me!" to a stranger.

▼ Show answer

Μπορείτε να με βοηθήσετε, παρακαλώ;

Not Yet Verified

Checked (one web search on 2026-11-22): that the imperative cannot be negated directly and that a subjunctive form with *μην* or *να μην* takes its place (the source's example is *Να μην πατάτε το πράσινο*, a second person plural form); that object pronouns come after the verb in the imperative but before it in other moods; and that the imperative is used only in the second person (sources: polyglotclub.com: imperative mood in Greek, Chondrogianni, ISTAL 19, Bošković: clitic switch in Greek imperatives, from search results only, not read in full).

Not checked, from general knowledge: the formation of the simple and continuous imperative (*-ε / -τε*), the whole irregular list (*έλα, πες, δες, φάε, πιες, πάρε, δώσε, φέρε, κάνε, άκου* and the plurals), the continuous Group B forms (*μίλα, μιλάτε*), the stress shift when a pronoun is added (*περίμενέ με*), the exact form of negative commands (*μην πας, μην το φας*), the polite requests, the vocabulary list, the three dialogs (written for this course), every stress mark and the respellings. No dictionary or grammar

book was consulted. Check a grammar book or a native speaker before relying on them; the search suggested Holton, Mackridge and Philippaki-Warburton's grammar for the stem-level rules.

Coming up in Chapter 11: The Passive Voice. The present and continuous past in *-ομαι* and *-όμουν* (*ντύνομαι, κοιμάμαι*), verbs that exist only in the passive, the simple past passive in *-θηκα* and *από* for the doer.

The Passive Voice — Η παθητική φωνή

*So far every verb has been **active**: the subject does the action. Greek also has a **passive** set of endings, which often means "is done to" (The letter is written) or "does it to itself" (I get dressed). It has a second job that surprises English speakers: many ordinary verbs, such as ἔρχομαι ("I come") and κοιμάμαι ("I sleep"), **exist only in this form** yet mean something active.*

THE RULE IN ONE BOX

The passive has its **own endings** in every tense, not a helper verb. **Present:** *-ομαι, -εσαι, -εται, -όμαστε, -εστε, -ονται* (*ντύνομαι*). **Continuous past:** *-όμουν, -όσουν, -όταν, -όμασταν, -όσασταν, -ονταν* (*ντυνόμουν*). **Simple past:** *-θηκα, -θηκες, -θηκε, -θήκαμε, -θήκατε, -θηκαν* (*ντύθηκα*). The doer, if named, follows ***από***.

Present passive

PERSON	ΝΤΎΝΟΜΑΙ (GET DRESSED)	ΈΡΧΟΜΑΙ (COME)	ΚΟΙΜΆΜΑΙ (SLEEP)
εγώ	ντύνομαι	έρχομαι	κοιμάμαι
εσύ	ντύνεσαι	έρχεσαι	κοιμάσαι
αυτός, αυτή, αυτό	ντύνεται	έρχεται	κοιμάται
εμείς	ντυνόμαστε	ερχόμαστε	κοιμόμαστε
εσείς	ντύνεστε	έρχεστε	κοιμάστε
αυτοί, αυτές, αυτά	ντύνονται	έρχονται	κοιμούνται

The first two columns follow the *-ομαι* pattern (compare Group A, Chapter 2). *Κοιμάμαι* follows the contracted pattern (compare Group B, Chapter 3): the stress sits on the ending, and the endings are *-άμαι, -άσαι, -άται, -όμαστε, -άστε, -ούνται*. Notice that in the plural the stress moves in *ντυνόμαστε, ερχόμαστε*.

Three jobs of the passive

JOB	ACTIVE	PASSIVE
done to the subject	**Ο Γιώργος γράφει το γράμμα.** Giorgos writes the letter.	**Το γράμμα γράφεται από τον Γιώργο.** The letter is being written by Giorgos.
does it to himself or herself	**Ντύνω το παιδί.** I dress the child.	**Ντύνομαι.** I get dressed.
active meaning, passive form	(none)	**Έρχομαι από την Αθήνα.** I am coming from Athens.

> **Watch out: the passive is less common than in English**
>
> English says “The shop was closed” or “English is spoken here” very readily. Greek often prefers an active sentence with a plural subject (*Μιλούν αγγλικά εδώ*, “They speak English here”) and uses the passive mostly for reflexive actions and for the deponent verbs. Do not translate English passives word for word.

Verbs that exist only in the passive

You use these verbs all the time. Learn them in the passive form and do not look for an active partner.

VERB	MEANING	SIMPLE PAST (I)
έρχομαι	I come	**ήρθα**
κοιμάμαι	I sleep	**κοιμήθηκα**
θυμάμαι	I remember	**θυμήθηκα**
φοβάμαι	I am afraid	**φοβήθηκα**
σκέφτομαι	I think	**σκέφτηκα**

VERB	MEANING	SIMPLE PAST (I)
χρειάζομαι	I need	**χρειάστηκα**
ντρέπομαι	I am ashamed	**ντράπηκα**
γίνομαι	I become, I happen	**έγινα**
δέχομαι	I accept, I receive	**δέχτηκα**

Continuous past passive

The past endings are one set, *-όμουν, -όσουν, -όταν, -όμασταν, -όσασταν, -ονταν*, which you met in *ήμουν* and *κοιμόσουν* (Chapter 5).

PERSON	ΝΤΥΝΌΜΟΥΝ	ΚΟΙΜΌΜΟΥΝ
εγώ	**ντυνόμουν**	**κοιμόμουν**
εσύ	**ντυνόσουν**	**κοιμόσουν**
αυτός	**ντυνόταν**	**κοιμόταν**
εμείς	**ντυνόμασταν**	**κοιμόμασταν**
εσείς	**ντυνόσασταν**	**κοιμόσασταν**
αυτοί	**ντύνονταν**	**κοιμούνταν**

Simple past passive: -θηκα

The simple past of the passive is made with ***-θηκ-*** and the usual past endings. The stem often changes slightly: *ντύνω → ντύθηκα*, *γράφω → γράφτηκα*, *πλένω → πλύθηκα*. The augment appears only when the stress needs it.

PERSON	ΝΤΎΘΗΚΑ (GOT DRESSED)	ΚΟΙΜΉΘΗΚΑ (SLEPT)
εγώ	**ντύθηκα**	**κοιμήθηκα**

PERSON	ΝΤΎΘΗΚΑ (GOT DRESSED)	ΚΟΙΜΉΘΗΚΑ (SLEPT)
εσύ	**ντύθηκες**	**κοιμήθηκες**
αυτός	**ντύθηκε**	**κοιμήθηκε**
εμείς	**ντυθήκαμε**	**κοιμηθήκαμε**
εσείς	**ντυθήκατε**	**κοιμηθήκατε**
αυτοί	**ντύθηκαν**	**κοιμήθηκαν**

The future and the subjunctive of the passive

The simple future and the subjunctive use the stem in *-θ-* with the endings *-ώ, -είς, -εί, -ούμε, -είτε, -ούν*: *θα κοιμηθώ* (“I will sleep”), *να ντυθώ* (“to get dressed”). The continuous forms are the present forms: *θα ντύνομαι, να ντύνομαι*.

Naming the doer: από

When the passive names who did the action, use **από** + accusative, as in Greek Grammar 1: **Το βιβλίο γράφτηκε από έναν φίλο μου.** (“The book was written by a friend of mine”).

Words in this chapter

GREEK	SAY IT	ENGLISH
ντύνομαι	DEE-noh-meh	I get dressed
πλένομαι	PLEH-noh-meh	I wash (myself)
κοιμάμαι	kee-MAH-meh	I sleep
ξυπνάω	ksee-PNAH-oh	I wake up
θυμάμαι	thee-MAH-meh	I remember
φοβάμαι	foh-VAH-meh	I am afraid

GREEK	SAY IT	ENGLISH
σκέφτομαι	SKEHF-toh-meh	I think
χρειάζομαι	hree-AH-zoh-meh	I need
γίνομαι	YEE-noh-meh	I become, I happen
χτενίζομαι	hteh-NEE-zoh-meh	I comb my hair
ετοιμάζομαι	eh-tee-MAH-zoh-meh	I get ready
από	ah-POH	by, from

🗣️ In Use — Στην πράξη

Read the exchanges aloud. Which verbs have passive endings but an active meaning?

① A late night

A: Πότε κοιμήθηκες χθες;
When did you go to sleep yesterday?

B: Κοιμήθηκα πολύ αργά. Ετοιμάζομαι τώρα να φύγω.
I went to sleep very late. I am getting ready to leave now.

② Remembering

A: Θυμάσαι το όνομά του;
Do you remember his name?

B: Όχι, δεν θυμάμαι. Θα το σκεφτώ και θα σου πω.
No, I don't remember. I will think about it and tell you.

③ Getting ready

A: Ντύθηκες ήδη;
Have you already got dressed?

B: Όχι ακόμα. Ντύνομαι και έρχομαι.
Not yet. I am getting dressed and I am coming.

📋 Quick Reference — Σύνοψη

TOPIC	SUMMARY
present	*-ομαι, -εσαι, -εται, -όμαστε, -εστε, -ονται*
contracted present	*κοιμάμαι, κοιμάσαι, κοιμάται, κοιμόμαστε, κοιμάστε, κοιμούνται*
continuous past	*-όμουν, -όσουν, -όταν, -όμασταν, -όσασταν, -ονταν*
simple past	*-θηκα, -θηκες, -θηκε, -θήκαμε, -θήκατε, -θηκαν*
future, subjunctive	simple: stem in *-θ-* + *-ώ, -είς, -εί*...; continuous: as the present
only passive	*έρχομαι, κοιμάμαι, θυμάμαι, φοβάμαι, σκέφτομαι, χρειάζομαι, γίνομαι*
doer	*από* + accusative

🖍️ Try It Yourself — Ασκήσεις

Say or write the answer first, then click to check.

1. Write the six present forms of *έρχομαι*.

▼ Show answer

έρχομαι, έρχεσαι, έρχεται, ερχόμαστε, έρχεστε, έρχονται

2. Say “We sleep late on Sundays”.

▼ Show answer

Την Κυριακή κοιμόμαστε αργά.

3. Say “I was sleeping when you phoned”. (*τηλεφώνησες*)

▼ Show answer

Κοιμόμουν όταν τηλεφώνησες.

4. Say “She got dressed quickly”. (*γρήγορα*)

▼ Show answer

Ντύθηκε γρήγορα.

5. Say “I remember you” and “I am afraid”.

▼ Show answer

Σε θυμάμαι. / *Φοβάμαι.*

6. Say “I need help”. (*βοήθεια*)

▼ Show answer

Χρειάζομαι βοήθεια.

7. What is odd about *κοιμάμαι* and *έρχομαι*?

▼ Show answer

They have passive endings but an active meaning, and no active forms at all.

8. Write the simple past of *φοβάμαι* for “I” and “we”.

▼ Show answer

φοβήθηκα and *φοβηθήκαμε*

9. Say “The bill was paid by my brother”. (*ο λογαριασμός, πληρώθηκε*)

▼ Show answer

Ο λογαριασμός πληρώθηκε από τον αδελφό μου.

10. Say “I will sleep early tonight”. (*απόψε*)

▼ Show answer

Απόψε θα κοιμηθώ νωρίς.

Not Yet Verified

Checked (one web search on 2026-11-22): that the first-conjugation passive present has the endings *-ομαι, -εσαι, -εται, -όμαστε, -εστε, -ονται*; and that deponent verbs, with passive endings and active meaning, are a large class, including *έρχομαι* (sources: projectrazon.github.io: Modern Greek

verbs, polyglotclub.com: voices of verbs, polyglotclub.com: Greek deponent verbs, WALS: Modern Greek deponency, from search results only, not read in full; one page describes the passive as built with *είμαι*, which conflicts with the other sources, so I did not use it).

Not checked, from general knowledge: the *-θηκα* simple past (the search found nothing on it) and every past form in the tables (*ντύθηκα, κοιμήθηκα, πλύθηκα, γράφτηκα, φοβήθηκα*); the continuous past endings (*-όμουν…*); the contracted table for *κοιμάμαι*; the future and subjunctive in *-θώ*; the list of passive-only verbs and their simple pasts; the claim that Greek prefers the active; *από* for the doer; the vocabulary list; the three dialogs (written for this course); every stress mark and the respellings. No dictionary or grammar book was consulted. Check a grammar book (for example Holton, Mackridge and Philippaki-Warburton) or a native speaker before relying on them.

Coming up in Chapter 12: Putting It Together. One verb followed through every tense, both aspects and both voices, a short text analysed, and a recap of the whole course. This is the last chapter of Greek Grammar 3.

🧩 The Whole Verb — Όλο το ρήμα

*Eleven chapters have taken the Greek verb apart. This last chapter puts it back together. You will see **one verb, γράφω, in every form of the course**, a checklist for choosing the right one, a short story analysed word by word, and the mistakes that learners make most often. After that, Greek Grammar 4 takes the verb further.*

THE WHOLE COURSE IN ONE BOX

Every verb form is a choice of five things: the **person** (the ending), the **tense** (present, past, future), the **stem** (continuous or simple), the **mood** (indicative, *να*, imperative) and the **voice** (active or passive). Past tenses add the **augment**, the future adds ***θα***, the subjunctive adds ***να***, and the negative uses ***δεν*** or ***μην***.

One verb, every form (first person singular)

FORM	CONTINUOUS STEM	SIMPLE STEM
present	**γράφω** I write, I am writing	(none: the present is always continuous)
past	**έγραφα** I was writing, I used to write	**έγραψα** I wrote
future	**θα γράφω** I will write regularly	**θα γράψω** I will write (once)
subjunctive	**να γράφω** to write (habitually)	**να γράψω** to write (one time)
imperative (you)	**γράφε / γράφετε**	**γράψε / γράψτε**
negative command	**μην γράφεις**	**μην γράψεις**

The same verb in the passive

FORM	CONTINUOUS STEM	SIMPLE STEM
present	**γράφομαι** I am (being) written	(none)
past	**γραφόμουν** I was being written	**γράφτηκα** I was written
future, subjunctive	**θα γράφομαι, να γράφομαι**	**θα γραφτώ, να γραφτώ**

A person is a person in every one of these forms. Here is the third person singular, “she”, through the same forms, to show that only the ending changes.

FORM	SHE (CONTINUOUS)	SHE (SIMPLE)
present	**γράφει**	(none)
past	**έγραφε**	**έγραψε**
future	**θα γράφει**	**θα γράψει**
subjunctive	**να γράφει**	**να γράψει**

Choosing the right form: a checklist

ASK YOURSELF	IF YES	CHAPTER
Who is the subject?	choose the ending: *-ω, -εις, -ει…*	1
Is it a Group A or Group B verb?	stress on the stem: A; stress on the ending: B	2, 3
Is it *είμαι*, *έχω* or another very common irregular?	use the learned forms	4
Is it now, or a habit?	present (continuous stem)	2, 3
Was it going on or repeated?	continuous past	5
Did it happen once and finish?	simple past (check for an irregular stem)	6, 7

ASK YOURSELF	IF YES	CHAPTER
Will it happen?	*θα* + simple (once) or continuous (repeated)	8
Is it wanted, possible, necessary, or a purpose?	*να* + the right stem, *μην* for no	9
Is it a command?	imperative; *μην* + you-form for no	10
Does the subject receive the action, or is the verb passive-only?	passive endings; *-θηκα* for the simple past	11

A short text, analysed

Read the passage first. Then see what each verb is doing.

Η ΚΥΡΙΑΚΉ

Χθες ήταν Κυριακή και έβρεχε. Ξύπνησα αργά, ντύθηκα και πήγα στην κουζίνα. Έφτιαξα καφέ και διάβαζα το βιβλίο μου, όταν χτύπησε το τηλέφωνο. Ήταν ο Νίκος. «Θέλεις να πάμε για καφέ;» με ρώτησε. «Δεν μπορώ τώρα», του είπα, «αλλά θα έρθω αύριο.»

Yesterday it was Sunday and it was raining. I woke up late, got dressed and went to the kitchen. I made coffee and was reading my book when the phone rang. It was Nikos. "Do you want to go for a coffee?" he asked me. "I can't now", I told him, "but I will come tomorrow."

VERB	FORM	WHY
ήταν, έβρεχε	continuous past	the scene (Chapter 5)
ξύπνησα, πήγα, έφτιαξα	simple past	events in order (Chapters 6, 7)
ντύθηκα	simple past passive	a reflexive action (Chapter 11)
διάβαζα	continuous past	in progress when the phone rang (Chapter 5)

VERB	FORM	WHY
χτύπησε	simple past	a single event interrupting it
Θέλεις να πάμε	present + *να*	an invitation (Chapter 9); the second verb has its own person
με ρώτησε, του είπα	simple past	events; *είπα* is irregular (Chapter 7)
Δεν μπορώ	present, negative	*δεν* before the verb (Chapter 2)
θα έρθω	simple future	one event in the future (Chapter 8)

Common mistakes

MISTAKE	CORRECT	WHY
Εγώ γράφω, εσύ γράφεις... in every sentence	**Γράφω...**	the ending carries the subject (Chapter 1)
βλέπησα, τρώησα	**είδα, έφαγα**	irregular simple stems (Chapter 7)
θα έγραψα	**θα γράψω**	no augment in the future (Chapter 8)
θέλω να φάω όλα τα Σάββατα for a habit	**θέλω να τρώω...**	continuous stem for a habit (Chapter 9)
δεν περιμένε	**μην περιμένεις**	no *δεν* in commands (Chapter 10)
Έρχομαι treated as active-only	passive endings throughout	deponent verbs (Chapter 11)

Words in this chapter

GREEK	SAY IT	ENGLISH
το ρήμα	toh REE-mah	verb

GREEK	SAY IT	ENGLISH
ο χρόνος	oh HROH-nos	tense; time, year
η φωνή	ee foh-NEE	voice
ενεργητική	eh-nehr-yee-TEE-kee	active
παθητική	pah-thee-TEE-kee	passive
η υποτακτική	ee ee-poh-tahk-tee-KEE	subjunctive
η προστακτική	ee pros-tahk-tee-KEE	imperative
ο ενεστώτας	oh eh-neh-STOH-tahs	present tense
ο αόριστος	oh ah-OH-ree-stos	simple past (aorist)
ο μέλλοντας	oh MEH-lohn-dahs	future
η κατάληξη	ee kah-TAH-lee-ksee	ending
το θέμα	toh THEH-mah	stem; topic

In Use — Στην πράξη

Read the exchanges aloud and name the form of every verb.

① Telling a story

A: Τι έκανες το Σαββατοκύριακο;

What did you do at the weekend?

B: Ξύπνησα αργά και διάβαζα όλο το πρωί. Το απόγευμα πήγα βόλτα.

I woke up late and read all morning. In the afternoon I went for a walk.

② Plans and hopes

A: Τι θα κάνεις του χρόνου;

What will you do next year?

B: Θα πάω στην Ελλάδα. Θέλω να μάθω καλά ελληνικά και να μιλάω με όλους.

I will go to Greece. I want to learn Greek well and speak with everyone.

③ Advice

A: Πρέπει να κοιμάσαι νωρίς.

You must go to bed early.

B: Έχεις δίκιο. Απόψε θα κοιμηθώ στις δέκα και δεν θα δω τηλεόραση.

You are right. Tonight I will sleep at ten and I won't watch television.

📋 Quick Reference — Σύνοψη

TOPIC	SUMMARY
person	endings; the pronoun only for emphasis
two stems	continuous *γράφ-*; simple *γράψ-*
groups	A in *-ω* (*γράφω*); B contracted (*μιλάω / μιλώ*)
present	continuous stem + *-ω, -εις, -ει, -ουμε, -ετε, -ουν(ε)*
past	augment + stem + *-α, -ες, -ε, -αμε, -ατε, -αν* (Group B continuous: *-ούσα…*)
future	*θα* + simple or continuous
subjunctive	*να* + simple or continuous; no infinitive
imperative	*γράψε / γράψτε, γράφε / γράφετε*; *μην* + you-form for no
passive	*-ομαι, -όμουν, -θηκα*; many passive-only verbs

🖍️ Try It Yourself — Ασκήσεις

Say or write the answer first, then click to check.

1. Give the first person singular of *γράφω* in the present, the continuous past, the simple past and the simple future.

▼ Show answer

γράφω, έγραφα, έγραψα, θα γράψω

2. Translate: “I was reading when you phoned.”

▼ Show answer

Διάβαζα όταν τηλεφώνησες. The first verb is the scene, the second the event.

3. Translate: “We saw the film and ate at a tavern.” (*η ταινία*)

▼ Show answer

Είδαμε την ταινία και φάγαμε σε μια ταβέρνα.

4. Translate: “I want you to come with me.” (*μαζί μου*)

▼ Show answer

Θέλω να έρθεις μαζί μου.

5. Translate: “Don’t forget to phone me.”

▼ Show answer

Μην ξεχάσεις να μου τηλεφωνήσεις.

6. Translate: “He must be tired; he slept very little.”

▼ Show answer

Θα είναι κουρασμένος· κοιμήθηκε πολύ λίγο. (*Θα* for likelihood, passive-form verb in the simple past.)

7. Which stem would you choose in “Every morning I used to drink coffee”, and why?

▼ Show answer

The continuous stem, because it is a habit: *Κάθε πρωί έπινα καφέ.*

8. Correct the mistake: *Χθες βλέπησα τον Νίκο.*

▼ Show answer

Χθες είδα τον Νίκο. The simple past of *βλέπω* is irregular.

9. Say “Come in and sit down” to a friend and to a group.

▼ Show answer

Έλα μέσα και κάθισε. / Ελάτε μέσα και καθίστε.

10. Write three sentences about your own day yesterday, using one continuous past and two simple past forms.

▼ Show answer

There is no single answer. For example: *Έβρεχε όλη μέρα. Έμεινα στο σπίτι και έφτιαξα φαγητό.* (“It rained all day. I stayed at home and made food.”)

Not Yet Verified

Checked (one web search on 2026-11-22): only that the present of *γράφω* is *γράφω, γράφεις, γράφει, γράφουμε, γράφετε, γράφουν*, that *έγραφα* is the first person imperfect, and that the future is built with *θα* (sources: Wikibooks: Modern Greek, Lesson 4b, vaia.com: Greek verb conjugations, Universal Dependencies: Greek tense, from search results only, not read in full). The search did **not** find the simple past *έγραψα*, the passive *γράφτηκα* or the passive *γράφομαι*, and it noted that a full table is at ilearngreek.com, Lesson 32, whose tables I could not read.
Not checked, from general knowledge: every other form in the tables, especially the passive forms (*γραφόμουν, γράφτηκα, θα γραφτώ*); the checklist; the passage and its analysis; the grammar terms in the vocabulary list; the three dialogs and the practice sentences (written for this course); every stress mark and the respellings. Throughout this course the forms were written from general knowledge with only partial checking against web sources: before relying on any paradigm, compare it with a Greek grammar (for example Holton, Mackridge and Philippaki-Warburton) or a native speaker. No dictionary or grammar book was consulted.

Course complete. You now have the whole verb of Modern Greek in outline: endings, two stems, present, two pasts, the future, the subjunctive, the imperative and the passive. **Next: Greek Grammar 4** takes the verb further (perfect tenses such as *έχω γράψει*, participles, conditionals) and moves on to the sentence: clause types, indirect speech, word order and written style.