

Chapter 20: Verbal Roots & Liquid Verbs

General Ideas About Verbal Roots

1. The “root” of a verb is its most basic form.
2. The “stem” of a verb is the basic form of that verb in a particular tense.
3. The present tense stem and the verbal root of some verbs are the same.
4. Some verbs modify their verbal root when forming their different tense stems. This is especially true in the formation of the present tense.

Eight Ways in Which the Verbal Root Is Modified to Form the Present Tense

1. Verbal Root = Present Tense Stem (Verbal Root → 1-S,Pres,Act,Ind, 1-S,Fut,Act,Ind)
 - a. Roots ending in iota or upsilon (*λυ → λύω, λύσω) I loose, untie, set free
 - b. Contract verbs (*ποιε → ποιῶ, ποιήσω) I do, make
 - c. Roots ending in a stop (*συνάγ → συνάγω, συνάξω) I gather, bring together
 - d. Liquid verbs (λ, μ, ν, ρ) (*κριν → κρίνω, κρινῶ) I separate, judge, consider
2. Verbal Root + Consonantal Iota (ι) = Present Tense Stem
 - a. λλ → λ (*βαλ → βάλλω, βαλῶ) I throw, let fall, place
 - b. ι (*αρ + ι → αιρ → αἴρω, ἀρῶ) I lift up, take up, carry
 - c. ιζω (*σωδ → σωζω, σώσω) I save, keep from harm, rescue
 - d. σσ (*ταραχ → ταράσσω, ταράξω) I stir up, disturb, throw into confusion
3. Verbal Root + Nu = Present Tense Stem
*λαβ → λαμβάνω, λήμψομαι I take, take away, receive
The ν causes various changes depending on the vowel it follows (labials, velars, etc)
4. Verbal Root + Tau = Present Tense Stem
*σκάπτ → σκάπτω, σκάψω I dig, dig up (something)
5. Verbal Root + (I)σκ = Present Tense Stem
*αποθαν → ἀποθνήσκω → ἀποθανοῦμαι
*γνω → γιγνώσκω → γινώσκω → γνώσομαι
6. μι Verbs (Chapter 34)
7. Verbal Root Undergoes Ablaut to Form different Tense Stem
*γεν → γίνομαι, γενήσομαι It came to be, came about, happens
8. Verb Uses Multiple Verbal Roots to Form Different Tense Stems.
*ερχ → ἔρχομαι I come; *ἔλευθ → ἐλεύσομαι I go, come
*όρα → ὁράω I see; *οπ → ὄψομαι I see, catch sight of, notice
*λεψ → λέγω I say; *ερ → ἔρω I say

Six Principle Parts (p. 164)

Present	Future	Aorist Act	Perfect Act	Perfect Mid/pass	Aorist Pas
λύω	λύσω	ἔλυσα	ἔλυκα	λέλυμαι	ἐλύθη