Reverse Koine Greek Parsing Chart (v1.7)

Stress-Tested, Trap-Aware, Decision Chart

Important methodological note. This chart resolves the vast majority of reverse-parsing traps by prioritizing **stem recognition, mood, and endings**. Where Greek morphology itself is genuinely ambiguous (e.g., contract present vs. liquid future), this chart **flags the ambiguity** and requires lemma/principal-part confirmation. This reflects linguistic reality, not a defect in the system.

GOLDEN RULES (READ FIRST)

1. σ never determines tense by itself.
   a. σ only narrows the field to **future or aorist**. Mood and endings decide.
2. **Augment belongs to past indicative only.**
3. No augment ≠ future.
4. **Mood outranks tense in parsing.**
5. **Imperatives are never future.**
6. **Recognition beats derivation.** Identify the stem you see.

σ-Stem Decision Logic

1. Identify **mood** (indicative / subjunctive / imperative)
2. Check **ending** → look up below
3. Only then determine tense
   σ + subjunctive ending = aorist subjunctive
   σ + imperative ending = aorist imperative

Core Verb Endings (Alphabetized)

Ending	#1 Candidate	Other Options	Diagnostic Checklist
-αι	aor act inf	dat sg / 3pl pres mid	1. σ before αι? → aor
-ατε	**aor Impv 2pl**	—	Imperative only; future impossible
-ας	2sg aor act ind (liquid & μι)	3sg pres/aor act	Augment + no σ? → **2sg aorist**
-ε(ν)	3sg impf ind	2nd aor, inf	1. Augment? → impf
-ει	pres ind / noun	—	Article → noun; no article → verb
-εις	2sg pres act ind	fut	1. σ before? → fut
-εται	3sg pres mid/pass ind	aor/fut/perf	1. Augment? → aor/fut / 2. θ before η? → aor pass / 3. Redupl? → perf
-ετε	pres ind 2pl / Pres Impv 2pl	—	Context: statement vs command
-έτω	Pres Act Impv 3sg	—	Imperative ending; imperatives are never future
-θι	2sg aor mid impv	—	Rare
-η / -ητε	aor subj	—	σ + lengthened vowel = aorist subj
-η/-ῇ	3sg pres mid ind (contract)	impv	1. Command? → impv
-ήσω	1sg fut mid	—	η + σω
-ήσει	3sg fut mid	—	η + σει
-ηκα	1sg perfect act	—	Redupl (+ κ)
-ημαι	1sg perfect mid/pass	—	Redupl + -μαι; Pluperfect only if augmented or clearly periphrastic
-κα	1sg perf act	—	Redupl + κα
-μαι	1sg perf mid/pass	pres mid	Redupl + μαι

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Ending	#1 Candidate	Other Options	Diagnostic Checklist
-μεν	1pl pres act (μι)	mid	1. -ομαι stem? → mid (Check for -ομαι stem before assuming middle)
-μένος	perf mid/pass ptc	—	Perfect participle; reduplication may be visible or suppressed
-μην	1sg impf mid / 1sg aor mid ind	1sg Plpf mid ind	1. Augment? → impf mid / 2. σα before? → aorist middle / 3. Redupl? → plpf mid (old form, rare in NT)
-μι	1sg pres act (μι)	—	μι-verb only
-ναι	inf aor act	pres inf	1. σ before? → aor
-ντο	3pl impf/aor mid (secondary)	—	1. Augment? → imperfect middle / 2. σα before? → aorist middle
-ομαι	1sg pres mid ind	—	—
-ομεν	1pl pres act ind	fut	1. σ before o? → fut
-ον	aor impv 2sg / aor or impf ind 1sg / Noun	—	**Mood, first** then context decisive
-ουσι(ν)	3pl pres act ind	dat pl	1. Article (τοῖς)? → noun
-σαν	3pl aor act ind	aor pass	1. θ before η? → pass
-ς	2sg pres act (μι)	nom sg	1. Article? → noun
-σει / -σουσι(ν)	Fut Ind	—	Indicative endings
-σε(ν)	3sg aor act ind (1st aor)	impf / 2nd aor	Aug + σα? → 1st aor
-σι(ν)	3sg pres act (μι)	dat pl	1. Movable ν? → verb
-σθαι	inf mid/pass	pres inf	1. θ? → aor
-ται	3sg perf mid/pass	pres mid/pass	Redupl + ται
-ω	pres ind (thematic / contract)	—	If σ present → future; if no σ → present. **2nd aorist never ends in -ω.** (Indicative 1sg 2nd aorist ends in -ον)
-ῶ	pres ind (contract) / fut ind (liquid)	—	**Morphology alone may be ambiguous. Lemma confirmation required.**
-ωμεν / -ῶμεν	aor subj	—	No future subj exists

Imperative Recognition (Explicit)
Imperative mood is carried by endings alone.

Aorist Active Imperative
- **ον** → 2sg (φύλαξον)
- **ατε** → 2pl (φυλάξατε)

Present Active Imperative
- **ε** → 2sg
- **ετε** → 2pl

Reverse Koine Greek Parsing Chart

Known Morphological Ambiguities (Flagged, Not "Solved")

- **Contract present vs liquid future (-ῶ)**
- **Pronoun disambiguation (τίς/τις, αὕτη/αὐτή)** — requires clause-level analysis
- These are morphological ambiguities, not parsing failures.

Aorist Passive vs Future Passive

Marker	Parse
-θη- + non-σ ending	Aorist Passive
-θησ-	Future Passive
-θῆτε	Aorist Pass Subj / Impv 2pl

Middle-Voice Verbs with Active Meaning (Commonly Called "Deponents")

Ending	Example	Voice	Tense	Note
-ομαι	ἔρχομαι, πορεύομαι	Middle	Present	Subject acts with personal involvement
-οῦμαι	ἐπορεύουμαι	Middle	Imperfect	Contract middle
-ήσομαι	πορεύσομαι, ἐλεύσομαι	Middle	Future	No active future in NT
-ήθην	ἐβαπτίσθην, ἠγέρθην	Passive	Aorist passive	Often middle/reflexive nuance

These are **genuine middle forms**. The subject is both agent and affected party ("I go myself"). The label "deponent" is traditional but unnecessary.

Full μι-Verbs

Verb	1sg	2sg	3sg	1pl	2pl	3pl	Notes
δίδωμι	δίδωμι	δίδως	δίδωσι(ν)	δίδομεν	δίδοτε	διδόασι(ν)	Redupl δ-
τίθημι	τίθημι	τίθης	τίθησι(ν)	τίθεμεν	τίθετε	τιθέασι(ν)	
ἵστημι	ἵστημι	ἵστης	ἵστησι(ν)	ἵσταμεν	ἵστατε	ἵστασι(ν)	
Aorist	ἔδωκα	ἔθηκα	ἔστησα	—	—	—	2nd aor

Quick Test: Stem ends in **-μι** + **-σι(ν)** in 3sg → μι-verb.

-μι Verbs & Suppletive Systems

Do not attempt derivation. Identify the stem you see.

Form	Lemma	Parse
ἔδωκεν	δίδωμι	Aor Act Ind
ἔθηκεν	τίθημι	Aor Act Ind
εἶπον	λέγω	2nd Aor Act Ind
ἔστηκα	ἵστημι	Perfect (present sense)

Perfect System

Tense	Active Endings	Mid/Pass Endings	Redupl Clue
Perfect	-κα, -ας, -ε, -αμεν, -ατε, -ασι(ν)	-μαι, -σαι, -ται, -μεθα, -σθε, -νται	πε-/κε-/τε-

Perfect 3sg in Koine: Always **-ε(ν)** or **-δε** (never -σι).
→ **-δε** = perfect 3sg from stems ending in dental (οἶδα → οἶδε, ἵστημι → ἕστηκε).

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Reverse Koine Greek Parsing Chart

Perfect System (Visible & Suppressed)

Clue	Interpretation
Reduplication (explicit or phonological)	Perfect stem
-κ-	Perfect Active
No visible reduplication	May be suppressed (especially in compounds)
Stative meaning (οἶδα, πέποιθα)	Perfect with present sense

Pluperfect (Koine)

Form	Identification
ἐ- + **perfect stem** + -κειν / -κει / -κεσαν	Pluperfect Active
ἦν + **perfect participle**	Periphrastic Pluperfect

⚠️ **Note:** Forms in -ηκα belong to the **perfect**, not the pluperfect.
Koine pluperfects are identified by ἐ- + **perfect stem** + -κειν family or periphrasis.

Participles — Reliable Reverse Anchors

Ending	Parse
-ων / -ουσα / -ον	Pres Act
-όμενος / -ομένη / -όμενον	Pres Mid / Pass
-σας / -σασα / -σαν	Aor Act
-θείς / -θεῖσα / -θέν	Aor Pass
-μένος / -μένη / -μένον	Perf Mid / Pass

1pl Middle-Voice Endings (-μεθα Family)

Ending	Tense / Voice	Typical Form	Quick Test
-μεθα	Present middle	λυόμεθα	No augment, no σ
-μεθα	Imperfect middle	ἐλυόμεθα	Augment present
-όμεθα	Present middle (contract)	ποιούμεθα	Contract stem
-σόμεθα	Future middle	λυσόμεθα	σ + ο + μεθα
-σάμεθα	Aorist middle	ἐλυσάμεθα	σα + μεθα

Rule: Any 1pl ending with **-μεθα** (or variant) = **middle voice**. Look **before** the μεθα for tense.

Reduplication + Stop Assimilation

Redupl	Stem Initial	Result	Example
πε- / βε- / φε-	π, β, φ	**πε**	πίπτω → πέπτωκα
κε- / γε- / χε-	κ, γ, χ	**κε**	κρίνω → κέκρικα
τε- / δε- / θε-	τ, δ, θ	**τε**	θνήσκω → τέθνηκα
-ψ-	π/β + σ	Labial + σ	λείπω → ἔλειψα (aor)
-θη-	Aorist passive	—	ἐκλήθην
-θῆ-	Future passive	—	βαπτισθήσομαι
-θη-	Bare stem	(before any ending)	Look one letter ahead

Rule: Redupl + κα / μαι / ται = perfect. No augment = present perfect.
Rule: π + σ → ψ in aorist / future.
Rule: θ + η = passive (aorist or future). Check letter after η: ν / ς / μεν → aorist; σ → future.

Expanded Square of Stops

Cluster	Original	Clue	Example
-ππ-	-μπ- / -νπ-	Labial prefix	συμπίπτω → συν- + πίπτω

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Cluster	Original	Clue	Example
-ττ-	-ντ- / -νδ- / -δ- / -θ-	Dental prefix OR stem + σ	ἐντίθημι → ἐν- + τίθημι τρέπω → τρέψω
-κκ-	-γκ- / -νκ-	Velar prefix	συγκαλέω → συν- + καλέω
-γγ-	-γκ-	Velar + γ-root	συγγενής → συν- + γένος
-γχ-	-γκ-	Velar + χ-root	συγχαίρω → συν- + γαίρω
-σσ-	-ζ- / -σ-	Sigma double	γίγνομαι → γενήσομαι
-ψ-	π/β + σ	Labial + σ assimilation	λείπω → ἔλειψα
-θη-	Aorist passive stem	θ + η	ἐκλήθην
-θῆ-	Future passive stem	θ + η + σ	βαπτισθήσομαι

Rule: Look for doubled consonants — they usually come from assimilation or prefix + stem.

Infinitive Look-Alike Alert

Ending	Looks Like	Actually Is	Quick Test
-ειν	3sg pres act ind	pres act inf	ἵνα/τοῦ + verb?
-αι	dat sg noun / 3pl pres mid	aor act inf	σ before αι?
-σθαι	dat pl noun	mid/pass inf (all tenses)	θ present?
-ναι	dat pl noun	2nd aor act inf	No σ?
-θῆναι	future passive	future passive inf	θ + η + ναι?

Golden Rule: Context beats morphology. Follows ἵνα/τοῦ? → infinitive.

Look-Alike Alert — The Major Traps

Form	Looks Like	Almost Always Is (NT)	Quick Test
-αι	dat sg noun / 3pl pres mid	aor act inf	σ before αι?
-ειν	3sg pres act ind	pres act inf	ἵνα/τοῦ + verb?
-ναι	dat pl noun	2nd aor act inf	No σ?
-σθαι	dat pl noun	mid/pass inf (all tenses)	θ present?
-θῆναι	future passive	future passive inf	θ + η + ναι?
-ῃ	2sg pres act subj	3sg 2nd aor act subj (μι)	μι-verb stem?
-η	3sg pres mid ind (contract)	2sg pres act subj (contract)	ἵνα/μή/ἐάν? → subjunctive
-ῆς	2sg pres mid ind (contract)	2sg aor act subj (liquid)	Stem change?
-ης	2sg pres mid ind	2sg 2nd aor act subj	Augment + no σ → aorist
-ῃσθα	2sg pres mid ind	2sg aor mid ind (μι)	μι-verb?
-ητε	1pl pres act ind (contract)	2pl pres act subj	ἵνα/μή? → subj
-ῆτε	1pl pres pass ind	2pl aor pass impv/subj	Augment or θ? → aorist
-οῦμαι	1sg pres pass ind	Middle with active meaning	No active form?
-ωμεν	1pl pres act subj	1pl 2nd aor act subj	Augment + no σ → aorist
-ῶμεν	1pl pres act ind (contract)	1pl pres act subj (contract)	ἵνα/μή/ἐάν? → subjunctive

Noun/Adjective Collisions

Ending	Verb Option	Noun/Adj Option	Quick Test
-ον	1sg aor/ind impf	acc sg m/n	Movable ν?
-αι	3pl pres mid ind	dat pl	Article?
-ει	3sg pres act ind	dat sg	Article (τῷ)?
-ας	acc pl m	2sg aor act ind (μι)	Augment?

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Reverse Koine Greek Parsing Chart

Worked Examples (Start → Finish)

EXAMPLE: ἐκλήθησαν

> → Ending: -θησαν → see -σαν
> → Augment? Yes | θ before η? Yes → 3pl aor pass ind
> → "they were called"

EXAMPLE: λελυμένος

> → -μένος + Redupl → perf mid/pass ptc
> → "having been loosed"

EXAMPLE: δεήσεται

> → -ήσεται → 3sg future middle indicative
> → "he/she/it will pray"

Quick Tips

- Liquid futures: No σ (μενῶ, κρινῶ)
- -σαι = feminine nom pl participle (pres mid/pass)
- Redupl + κα/μαι/ται = perfect
- -ῆτε with augment/θ = aorist passive, not present

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Changelog

Version	Date	New
v1.7	Dec 31, 2025	**Stress-Tested Edition** - Corrected pluperfect endings; clarified -ω ambiguity; surfaced aorist imperative endings; refined participle tables; added explicit ambiguity warnings where lemma confirmation is required.
v1.6	Dec 30, 2025	MASTER EDITION — Infinitive alert, -μεθα family, ψ assimilation, -θῇ, full look-alikes, 150-card Anki
v1.5	Dec 7, 2025	True middle-voice verbs (no deponents), full μι-verbs, 120-card Anki
v1.4	Nov 30, 2025	Perfect system, reduplication stops, Look-Alike Alert
v1.3	Nov 23, 2025	-ήσει futures, -σαι ptc, liquid fut, sigma doubles, Anki deck
v1.2	Nov 16, 2025	Participles, nouns, search bar
v1.1	Nov 9, 2025	Square of Stops
v1.0	Nov 2, 2025	Core verbs

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