



Unit 5 Lesson 2: India

Sanskrit, Greek, Latin and Hindi: the present tense

Sanskrit, Greek and Latin

	Sanskrit	Greek	Latin	Sanskrit	Greek	Latin
	to bear	to bear	to bear	to give	to give	to give
I	bharāmi	fero	fero	dadāmi	didōmi	do
You	bharāsi	feres	fers	dadāsi	didōs	das
He/she	bharāti	feret	fert	dadāti	didōsi	dat
We	bharāmah	feromen	ferimus	dadāmah	didomen	damus
You	bhavātha	ferete	fertis	dadātha	didote	datis
They	bhavānti	ferousi	ferunt	dadānti	didoāsi	dant

1. What points of similarity can you see between Sanskrit, Greek and Latin in these verbs?
2. Compare the present tense of any other languages you know. Are there any similarities between them and Greek, Latin and Sanskrit?
3. Can you identify words for 'bear' or 'give' in English or French – or any other language – which bear a similarity to these Sanskrit, Greek and Latin words?
4. What is Sanskrit and how does it fit into the family of languages?
5. How does the history of these languages explain these similarities?



Hindi

sonaa to sleep

	Masculine	Feminine
I sleep	main sota hoon	main sotee hoon
You sleep	too sota hai	too sotee hai
He/she sleeps	yeh/voh sota hai	yeh/voh sotee hai
We sleep	ham sote hain	ham sotee hain
You sleep	tum/aap sote hain	tum/aap sotee hain
They sleep	ye/ve sote hain	ye/vo sotee hain

1. What are the grammatical rules for forming the present tense in Hindi?
2. Which words are the personal pronouns? Do they have any similarities to any language you know?
3. What are the two different ways in which English does the present tense? How would you teach it to a beginner?