

The Rules on Contraction

Pages 135-138

The Big Five

- | | | | | | |
|----|----------------|---|----|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. | εο, οε, οο | → | ου | ποιε+ομεν → ποιούμεν | |
| | | | | πληρο+ετε → πληρούτε | |
| 2. | εε | → | ει | ποιε+ετε → ποιείτε | |
| 3. | ο or ω + vowel | → | ω | except rule #1 | ἀγαπα+ομεν → ἀγαπῶμεν |
| | | | | | ἀγαπα+ουσι → ἀγαπῶσι |
| 4. | αε | → | α | ἀγαπα+ετε → ἀγαπάτε | |
| | | | | ἀγαπα+ει → ἀγαπᾶ | |
| 5. | εα | → | η | ποιε+σαι → ποιεαι → ποιηι → ποιῆ | |

Other Rules on Contraction

6. οει → οι (this combination occurs in the second and third person singular of an omicron contract verb).

7. The Contraction of Diphthongs

- a. What happens with a diphthong depends upon whether the contract vowel and the first vowel of the diphthong are the same or different vowels.
- b. If the contract vowel and the first vowel of the diphthong are the same, they simplify (i.e., one of the double letters drops out).

εει → ει
οου → ου

- c. If the contract vowel and the first vowel of the diphthong are different, they contract. If the second vowel of the diphthong is an iota, it subscript if possible; if it is an upsilon it drops off.

αει → αἰ εου → ου (ε + ου → ουου → ου)

8. Contract verbs contract as if the true personal endings are those visible in the present active indicative.

ἀγαπαω

1 sg	αο	→	ἀγαπῶ	1 pl	αομεν	→	ἀγαπῶμεν
2 sg	αεις	→	ἀγαπᾶς	2 pl	αετε	→	ἀγαπάτε
3 sg	αει	→	ἀγαπᾷ	3 pl	αουσι	→	ἀγαπῶσι

Chapter 17: Contraction Worksheet: Present, Active, Indicative

ἀγαπα + ω _____

ἀγαπα + εις _____

ἀγαπα + ει _____

ἀγαπα + ομεν _____

ἀγαπα + ετε _____

ἀγαπα + ουσι _____

ποιέ + ω _____

ποιέ + εις _____

ποιέ + ει _____

ποιέ + ομεν _____

ποιέ + ετε _____

ποιέ + ουσι _____

πληρό + ω _____

πληρό + εις* * οει exception _____

πληρό + ει* * οει exception _____

πληρό + ομεν _____

πληρό + ετε _____

πληρό + ουσι _____

ἀγαπάω		ποιέω		πληρόω	
ἀγαπῶ	(αο)	ποιῶ	(εο)	πληρῶ	(οο)
ἀγαπᾶς	(αιεις)	ποιεῖς	(εεις)	πληροῖς	(οεις)
ἀγαπᾷ	(αιι)	ποιεῖ	(εει)	πληροῖ	(οει)
ἀγαπῶμεν	(αομεν)	ποιούμεν	(εομεν)	πληροῦμεν	(οομεν)
ἀγαπᾶτε	(αετε)	ποιεῖτε	(εετε)	πληροῦτε	(οετε)
ἀγαπῶσι[ν]	(αουσι)	ποιούσι[ν]	(εουσι)	πληροῦσι[ν]	(οουσι)

Contract Verb Summary

Ted Hildebrandt *Greek Tutor Multimedia CD-ROM*

Verbs ending in α , ϵ , or \omicron are known as contract verbs. For example, in the verb $\alpha\gamma\alpha\pi\acute{\alpha}\omega$ the stem ends with alpha. When endings are added to the verb the final vowel of the stem and the connecting vowel of the ending contract according to the following five rules.

Contractions take place in the *present* and *imperfect* tenses:

$\alpha\gamma\alpha\pi + \acute{\alpha} + \omicron\mu\epsilon\nu \rightarrow \alpha\gamma\alpha\pi\acute{\omega}\mu\epsilon\nu$

In the *aorist* and *future* where the suffix σ is used, the final stem vowel lengthens:

$\alpha\gamma\alpha\pi + \acute{\alpha} + \sigma + \omicron\mu\epsilon\nu \rightarrow \alpha\gamma\alpha\pi\acute{\eta}\sigma\omicron\mu\epsilon\nu$

Rule 1: Two Like Vowels

Two like vowels combine into their common long vowel.

$\alpha + \alpha \rightarrow \alpha$; $\epsilon + \eta \rightarrow \eta$; $\omicron + \omega \rightarrow \omega$; $\pi\lambda\eta\rho\omicron + \omega \rightarrow \pi\lambda\eta\rho\acute{\omega}$

Two exceptions: $\epsilon + \epsilon \rightarrow \epsilon\iota$; $\omicron + \omicron \rightarrow \omicron\upsilon$; $\pi\omicron\iota\epsilon + \epsilon\tau\epsilon \rightarrow \pi\omicron\iota\epsilon\acute{\iota}\tau\epsilon$

Rule 2: Omicron Overcomes

An \omicron or ω will overcome an α , ϵ , or η becoming ω .

$\alpha\gamma\alpha\pi\acute{\alpha} + \omega \rightarrow \alpha\gamma\alpha\pi\acute{\omega}$

Exception: $\epsilon + \omicron \rightarrow \omicron\upsilon$; $\omicron + \epsilon \rightarrow \omicron\upsilon$; $\pi\omicron\iota\acute{\epsilon} + \omicron\mu\epsilon\nu \rightarrow \pi\omicron\iota\omicron\upsilon\mu\epsilon\nu$

Rule 3: First Overcomers

When an α , ϵ , or η come together, whichever comes first becomes its own matching long vowel.

$\alpha + \epsilon$ or $\alpha + \eta$ become long α ; $\epsilon + \alpha \rightarrow \eta$; $\alpha\gamma\alpha\pi\acute{\alpha} + \epsilon\tau\epsilon \rightarrow \alpha\gamma\alpha\pi\acute{\alpha}\tau\epsilon$

Rule 4: Same Vowel Diphthong

A vowel similar to the first vowel of a diphthong drops out.

$\omicron + \omicron\upsilon \rightarrow \omicron\upsilon$; $\epsilon + \epsilon\iota \rightarrow \epsilon\iota$; $\pi\omicron\iota\acute{\epsilon} + \epsilon\iota\varsigma \rightarrow \pi\omicron\iota\epsilon\acute{\iota}\varsigma$

Rule 5: Dissimilar Diphthong

A vowel dissimilar to the diphthong that follows it will contract using the preceding rules.

- Unless the third vowel is an upsilon in which case the upsilon drops out.
- Unless the third vowel is an iota in which case the iota becomes an iota subscript.

Exceptions: $\omicron + \epsilon\iota \rightarrow \omicron\iota$; $\epsilon + \omicron\iota \rightarrow \omicron\iota$; $\omicron + \eta \rightarrow \omicron\iota$

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| | | | | πληρο+ετε → | _____ |
| 2. | εε | → | _____ | ποιε+ετε → | _____ |
| 3. | ο or ω + vowel | → | _____ | ἀγαπα+ομεν → | _____ |
| | | | | ἀγαπα+ουσι → | _____ |
| 4. | αε | → | _____ | ἀγαπα+ετε → | _____ |
| | | | | ἀγαπα+ει → | _____ |
| 5. | εα | → | _____ | ποιε+σαι → | _____ |

Other Rules on Contraction

6. οει →
(this combination occurs in the second and third person singular of an omicron contract verb).

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- c. If the contract vowel and the first vowel of the diphthong are different, they contract. If the second vowel of the diphthong is an iota, it subscript if possible; if it is an upsilon it drops off.

αει → _____ εου → _____

8. Contract verbs contract as if the true personal endings are those visible in the present active indicative.

				ἀγαπαω			
1 sg	αο	→	_____	1 pl	αομεν	→	_____
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3 sg	αει	→	_____	3 pl	αουσι	→	_____