

Chapter 16: Primary Active Endings Paradigm

	<i>form</i>	<i>translation</i>	<i>connecting vowel</i>	<i>personal ending</i>
1 <i>sg</i>	λύ ω	I am loosing	ο	— ¹
2 <i>sg</i>	λύ εις	You are loosing	ε	ς ²
3 <i>sg</i>	λύ ει	He/she/it is loosing	ε	ι ³
1 <i>pl</i>	λύ ομεν	We are loosing	ο	μεν
2 <i>pl</i>	λύ ετε	You are loosing	ε	τε
3 <i>pl</i>	λύ ουσι [ν]	They are loosing	ο	νσι ⁴

¹ No personal ending is used and the connecting vowel omicron lengthens to omega to compensate for the loss (*λυ + ο + — → λύω)

² The personal ending actually is σι. The sigma dropped out and was evidently added back on to the end (λυέσι → λύει → λύεις). It seems easier to think that the sigma and iota underwent metathesis, i.e., they switched places. Just remember that the ending is sigma and the connecting vowel changes.

³ The ending actually is τι, but the tau dropped out. The original form can be seen in ἐστί.

⁴ The third plural ending can take a movable nu. The nu in the personal ending (νσι) drops out because of the following sigma (just as it does in the accusative plural of second declension nouns) and the connecting vowel omicron lengthens to ου to compensate for the loss (λυονσι → λουσι → λύουσι). It is important to remember that the ending actually is νσι because it will make other forms easier to remember.

What to Memorize

Memorize the primary active endings and their connecting vowel (ο + —, ε + ς, ε + ι, ο + μεν, ε + τε, ο + νσι) as well as what they change into when affixed to verbs (ω, εις, ει, ομεν, ετε, ουσι[ν]). While this may seem cumbersome, it will help you understand other forms and pay off in the long run. Practice writing the following until you can do it from memory:

ο + — → ω

ε + ς → εις

ε + ι → ει

ο + μεν → ομεν

ε + τε → ετε

ο + νσι → ουσι

Chapter 16: Primary Active Endings Worksheet

Conn. Vowel	Personal Ending	→	Conn. Vowel	Personal Ending
_____	_____	→	_____	_____
_____	_____	→	_____	_____
_____	_____		_____	_____ → _____

ἀκούω I hear, learn, obey, understand
 βλέπω I see, look at
 ἔχω I have, hold

λύω I loose, untie, destroy
 πιστεύω I believe, have faith (in), trust

λύω	ἀκούουσι
βλέπομεν	λύετε
ἔχομεν	ἔχω
ἀκούετε	ἀκούεις
λύεις	πιστεύουσι
πιστεύει	λύει
βλέπω	ἔχει
λύουσι	ἀκούομεν
πιστεύω	βλέπετε
ἔχουσι	ἀκούω
βλέπουσι	λύομεν
ἀκούω	πιστεύεις
πιστεύεις	πιστεύετε
βλέπει	ἀκούει
ἔχεις	ἔχετε
ἀκούω	βλέπεις
ἔχετε	λύουσι

