

“CONTRACT” VERBS

Defined Verbs whose present stems end in a short vowel (**α**, **ε**, or **ο**) are called *Contract Verbs*. Contract verbs “contract” in the *Present* and *Imperfect* tenses (see *VERBS: Conjugation of Contract Verbs* chart, next page). Because a consonant (e.g., **-σ-**, **-θ-**, **-κ-**) is added to the stem in all other tenses, these final stem vowels “lengthen” in those tenses (see *Lengthenings* chart, below).

Lengthenings: *Future, Aorist, Perfect (Pluperfect, not shown here)*

| PRESENT | FUTURE | AORIST | PERFECT | “Lengthening” Rule |
|---------|---------|----------|-----------|--------------------|
| ἀγαπάω | ἀγαπήσω | ἠγαπήσα | ἠγαπήκα | α lengthens to η |
| φιλέω | φιλήσω | ἐφιλήσα | πέφιλήκα | ε lengthens to η |
| πληρώω | πληρώσω | ἐπληρώσα | πεπληρώσα | ο lengthens to ω |

Contractions Since in the *Present* and *Imperfect* tenses there is nothing added to the verb stem before the endings are joined, the short vowel of the stem meshes or “contracts” with the thematic vowel of the endings to form either a single, longer vowel or diphthong:

| CONTRACT VERBS VOWEL CONTRACTION PARADIGM | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|----|----|---|----|----|----|---|
| CONTRACT VERB ENDS : | PERSONAL ENDING THEMATIC VOWEL / DIPHTHONG | | | | | | | |
| | + | ε | ει | η | η | ο | ου | ω |
| | α | α | α | α | α | ω | ω | ω |
| | ε | ει | ει | η | η | ου | ου | ω |
| | ο | ου | οι | ω | οι | ου | ου | ω |

NOTE: For a detailed overview of *Contract Verb* “contractions” in their *Indicative, Subjunctive, Imperative* and *Infinitive* mode formations, see below.