

## “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.