

## Introduction to New Testament Greek

### Week 10 – Verbs, Contract & Future Indicative

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The aim of this session is to teach the *Contract Verb* as it affects the form of the *Present* and *Imperfect* Verb which we learnt last session. We will then turn our attention to learning the *Future Indicative Verb* which involve learning a bunch of rules for mute *amalgamation*.

### Contract Verbs

Last session we learnt how *compound verbs* were constructed. This session we start with *contract verbs*.

*Contract verbs* have a (short) vowel built into the end of the stem (such as an '€', 'O' or an 'α') and as such are grouped together accordingly. There are '€ω' verbs, 'Oω' verbs and 'αω' verbs. They are called *contract verbs* because when connecting vowels are added to an ending, the two vowels combine and form either a *long vowel* or a *diphthong* – the process is called a *contraction*. For example, when φιλε + ετε come together the two vowels contract and the *contract verb* becomes φιλειτε (which means 'you love').

*Contract Verbs* are listed in the lexicon under their full-stem form (e.g. ποιέω = 'I make') yet only appear in the New Testament in their contracted form and so in order to work out the translation learning their uncontracted form is important.

There are some *rules for contraction* which must be learnt.

- For €ω verbs (e.g. from ποιέω = 'I make')

€ + € = €ι ▫	ποιέ + ετε = ποιειτε <sup>1</sup>
€ + O = Oυ ▫	ποιέ + ουσιν = ποιουσιν <sup>2</sup>
€ + any <i>long vowel</i> or <i>diphthong</i> = <i>no change</i>	ποιέ + ει = ποιει <sup>3</sup>
  
- For Oω verbs (e.g. from φανερω = 'I make clear')

O + η or ω (long vowel) = ω	φανερο + ω = φανερω <sup>4</sup>
O + € or O or Oυ (short vowel) = Oυ ▫	φανερο + ομεν = φανερουμεν <sup>5</sup>
O + €ι or Oι or η (any combination with ι) = Oι	φανερο + ει = φανεροι <sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Present Active Indicative – 2<sup>nd</sup> Person Plural  
<sup>2</sup> Present Active Indicative – 3<sup>rd</sup> Person Plural  
<sup>3</sup> Present Active Indicative – 3<sup>rd</sup> Person Singular  
<sup>4</sup> Present Active Indicative – 1<sup>st</sup> Person Singular  
<sup>5</sup> Present Active Indicative – 1<sup>st</sup> Person Plural  
<sup>6</sup> Present Active Indicative – 3<sup>rd</sup> Person Singular

## Introduction to New Testament Greek

### Week 10 – Verbs, Contract & Future Indicative

- For **-αω** verbs (e.g. from **γενναω** = 'I bear, beget')
    - α + ο** or **ω** or **ου** (long vowel – 'o' sound) = **ω**      **γεννα** + **ομεν** = **γεννωμεν**<sup>7</sup>
    - α + ε** or **η** (short vowel – 'e' sound) = **α**      **γεννα** + **ετε** = **γεννατε**<sup>8</sup>
    - α + ει** or **η** (any combination with **ι**) = **α**      **γεννα** + **εις** = **γεννας**<sup>9</sup>
- ▣ = by far the most common

Note that these rules for *contraction* will play a role only in the *Present* and *Imperfect Tense Verbs* (as there is no contraction of stem or ending given the suffix added to the verb stem in all other tenses begin with a consonant). As the *Imperfect verb* accepts an augment to the front of the stem, the *Imperfect Contract Verb* will involve changes to both the beginning and the end of the word. This is logical, but can be the source of some confusion (e.g. **πολέω** becomes **ἐπολλουν** in the *Imperfect Active Indicative 1<sup>st</sup> Person Singular* – **ἐ** + **πολε** + **ουν** = **ἐπολλουν**)

That said these rules of contraction do apply to each verb *mood* – *Indicative, Subjunctive, Imperative* and *Infinitive*.

### Exercises

- Fill in the below table for the *Present* and *Imperfect Active Indicative Verbs* for **πολέω** = 'I make'.

ACTIVE INDICATIVE VERB table for <b>πολέω</b>			
Num	Person	PRESENT <sup>10</sup>	IMPERFECT <sup>11</sup>
<i>Sing</i>	1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>πολω</b> <sup>12</sup>	<b>ἐπολλουν</b>
	2 <sup>nd</sup>		
	3 <sup>rd</sup>		
<i>Plu</i>	1 <sup>st</sup>		
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>πολειτε</b>	
	3 <sup>rd</sup>		

<sup>7</sup> Present Active Indicative – 1<sup>st</sup> Person Singular

<sup>8</sup> Present Active Indicative – 2<sup>nd</sup> Person Plural

<sup>9</sup> Present Active Indicative – 2<sup>nd</sup> Person Singular

<sup>10</sup> KEY: **πολω**; **πολεις**; **πολει**; **πολουμεν**; **πολειτε**; **πολουσιν**.

<sup>11</sup> KEY: **ἐπολλουν**; **ἐπολεις**; **ἐπολει**; **ἐπολουμεν**; **ἐπολειτε**; **ἐπολλουν**.

<sup>12</sup> The following is quite advanced (so you may want to ignore it for the moment!). In the 1<sup>st</sup> person singular of the **ε** and **ο** contracts, there is one extra step in the contraction process – no personal ending is used! This means that the connecting vowel lengthens to compensate and the ensuing contraction is between the contract vowel and the lengthened connecting vowel. (e.g. **πολέ** + **ω** (ε + long vowel = no change) so = **πολω** or **φανερω** + **ω** (ο + ω = ω) = **φανερω**. It may be easier just to remember the paradigm.

**Introduction to New Testament Greek**  
**Week 10 – Verbs, Contract & Future Indicative**

2. Fill in the below table for the *Present* and *Imperfect Middle/Passive Indicative Verbs* for **φανερῶ** = 'I make clear'.

MIDDLE/PASSIVE INDICATIVE VERB table for φανερῶ			
Num	Person	PRESENT <sup>13</sup>	IMPERFECT <sup>14</sup>
<i>Sing</i>	1 <sup>st</sup>	φανερῶ <sup>15</sup>	
	2 <sup>nd</sup>		ἐφανερου
	3 <sup>rd</sup>		
<i>Plu</i>	1 <sup>st</sup>		
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	φανερουθε	
	3 <sup>rd</sup>		

3. Fill in the below table for the *Present Middle Passive* and *Imperfect Active Verbs* for **γεννῶ** = 'I bear, beget'.

INDICATIVE VERB table for γεννῶ			
Num	Person	PRESENT MIDDLE/PASSIVE <sup>16</sup>	IMPERFECT ACTIVE <sup>17</sup>
<i>Sing</i>	1 <sup>st</sup>	γεννῶμαι	
	2 <sup>nd</sup>		
	3 <sup>rd</sup>		
<i>Plu</i>	1 <sup>st</sup>		ἐγεννωμεν
	2 <sup>nd</sup>		
	3 <sup>rd</sup>		

## Future Verbs

Let's turn our attention to the future! The *Future Verb* is used to describe an event or process that occurs in the future from the speaker's perspective. It can occur in the *active* or *middle* voice (e.g. 'I will learn Greek') or in the *passive* voice (e.g. 'I will be learning Greek').

The *future verb* looks like the *present verb* as it has the same endings as the present in all voices. The distinctive feature of the *future verb* is the addition of the *sigma* ('σ') placed after the stem. This *sigma* is called a *future time morpheme* and effectively means 'will' in English. In the *passive* voice the σ joins a θη to create the ending. The θη is the distinctive feature of the *passive* specific verb.

<sup>13</sup> KEY: φανερουμαι; φανερου; φανερουται; φανερουμεθα; φανερουθε; φανερουνται.

<sup>14</sup> KEY: ἐφανερουμην; ἐφανερου; ἐφανερουτο; ἐφανερουμεθα; ἐφανερουθε; ἐφανερουντο.

<sup>15</sup> See footnote 12.

<sup>16</sup> KEY: γεννῶμαι; γεννα; γενναται; γεννωμεθα; γεννασθε; γεννωνται.

<sup>17</sup> KEY: ἐγεννων; ἐγεννας; ἐγεννα; ἐγεννωμεν; ἐγεννατε; ἐγεννων.

## Introduction to New Testament Greek

### Week 10 – Verbs, Contract & Future Indicative

The paradigms for the *Future Active, Middle and Passive Indicative Verb* for λύω is:

FUTURE INDICATIVE VERB							
Num	Pers	ACTIVE		MIDDLE		PASSIVE	
<i>Sing</i>	1 <sup>st</sup>	λύσω	I will loose	λύσομαι	I myself will loose	λύθησομαι	I will be loosed
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	λύσεις	you will loose	λύση	you will loose	λύθηση	you will be loosed
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	λύσει	he/she will loose	λύσεται	he/she will loose	λύθησεται	he/she will be loosed
<i>Plu</i>	1 <sup>st</sup>	λύσομεν	we will loose	λύσομεθα	we will loose	λύθησομεθα	we will be loosed
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	λύσετε	you will loose	λύσεσθε	you will loose	λύθησεσθε	you will be loosed
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	λύσουσι(ν)	they will loose	λύσονται	they will loose	λύθησονται	they will be loosed

What do you notice? Similarities with the *Present Active* and *Present Middle/Passive*?

There is not a lot of new learning here assuming that you have learnt your paradigms for the *Present Active* and *Middle/Passive* verbs.

#### Amalgamation

Although the *future verb* in its basic form is quite simple, we do have to muddy the water just a little!

#### Adding the Future Time Morpheme ('σ')

When the stem of the verb ends in a consonant (technically a *mute*<sup>18</sup>) a change occurs when the *future time morpheme* ('σ') is added. This happens because the two consonants (the *mute* + the *sigma*) form a double consonant which is hard to pronounce. This is called *amalgamation*.

So the *rules for mutes* are:

- For gutturals:

κ, γ, χ + σ = ξ (e.g. the future of ἄγω = 'I lead' is ἄξω (ἄγ + σω))

- For labials:

π, β, φ + σ = ψ (e.g. the future of γράφω = 'I write' is γράψω (γράφ + σω))

- For dentals:

τ, δ, θ + σ = σ (e.g. the future of πείθω = 'I persuade' is πείσω (πειθ + σω))

<sup>18</sup>

A *mute* (or stop) is one of these nine Greek letters: κ, γ, χ (gutturals), π, β, φ (labials), τ, δ, θ (dentals).

## Introduction to New Testament Greek

### Week 10 – Verbs, Contract & Future Indicative

---

Given we have just learnt *contract verbs* it should also be mentioned that **–εω** verbs undergo a lengthening of the **ε** to **η** before the **σ** (e.g. the future of **φιλεω** = ‘I love’ is **φιλησω** (φιλε + η + σω))

#### ***Adding the Passive Distinctive Morpheme (‘θη’)***

When the stem of the verb ends in a *mute* and the *passive distinctive morpheme* (‘θη’) is added a slightly different change occurs. As with the future amalgamation this happens because the two consonants (the *mute* + the *theta*) form a double consonant which is hard to pronounce.

So the *rules for mutes* here are:

- For gutturals:

**κ, γ, χ + θ = χθ** (e.g. the *future passive* of **ἄγω** = ‘I lead’ is **ἄχθησομαι**  
(ἄγ + θησομαι))

- For labials:

**π, β, φ + θ = φθ** (e.g. the *future passive* of **γράφω** = ‘I write’ is **γράφθησομαι**  
(γράφ + θησομαι))

- For dentals:

**τ, δ, θ + θ = σθ** (e.g. the *future passive* of **πειθω** = ‘I persuade’ is **πεισθησομαι**  
(πειθ + θησομαι))

As above, **–εω** *contract verbs* undergo a lengthening of the **ε** to **η** before the **θησ** (e.g. the *future passive* of **φιλεω** = ‘I love’ is **φιληθησομαι** (φιλε + η + θησομαι))

These rules for *amalgamation* (both of the *future time morpheme* and the *passive distinctive morpheme*) apply for *Future verbs* and *Aorist verbs*<sup>19</sup>.

*Breath!!!*

#### **Contract Verbs and the Sigma (‘σ’)**

Don’t dismay. We will come out of the woods soon!

There is one last rule you need to know about *contract verbs*. We have learnt what happens when a *contract vowel* comes in contact with the *connecting vowel* – they contract!

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<sup>19</sup> We have not learnt *Aorist Verbs* yet, but they also involve adding a *sigma* (in the *Active* and *Middle*) and the *passive distinctive morpheme* (in the *Passive*).

## Introduction to New Testament Greek

### Week 10 – Verbs, Contract & Future Indicative

---

This rule is applied when the *contract vowel* (-**εω**, -**οω**, -**αω**) comes in contact with the *future time morpheme* ('**σ**'). When this happens, **the contract vowel lengthens before the σ**. As such this rule will only apply when we are dealing with words which accept a *sigma* before the ending – so *future verbs* and (as we will learn later) *aorist verbs*.

Some examples:

**ποιέω** in the *future* is - **ποιε** + **σ** + ending = **ποιησω** (so the **ε** lengthens to a **η**)

**φανερωω** in the *future* is - **φανερο** + **σ** + ending = **φανερωσω** (so the **ο** lengthens to a **ω**)

**γενναω** in the *future* is - **γεννα** + **σ** + ending = **γεννησω** (so the **α** lengthens to a **η**)

There – that was not too hard! Let's put some of this into practice.

#### Exercises<sup>20</sup>

4. Form the *future active indicative* of::

- 2<sup>nd</sup> person singular of **ἀναγινώσκω**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> person singular of **παράγω**
- 1<sup>st</sup> person plural of **προσφέρω**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> person plural of **κατοικέω**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> person plural of **ἀπάγω**

5. Form the *future middle indicative* of:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> person singular of **ἐνδύω**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> person plural of **παραλαμβάνω**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> person singular of **περιπατέω**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> person plural of **συνάγω**
- 1<sup>st</sup> person plural of **γράφω**

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<sup>20</sup> Key: 4. ἀναγινώσξεις; παράξει; προσφέρσομεν; κατοικησετε; ἀπάξουσιν. 5. ἐνδύσεται; παραλαμβάνεσθε; περιπατησῆ; συνάξονται; γράψομεθα. 6. βλεφθησονται; σταυροθησεται; λαληθησομεθα; πευφθησεσθε; διωχθησῆ.

## Introduction to New Testament Greek

### Week 10 – Verbs, Contract & Future Indicative

---

6. Form the *future passive indicative* of:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> person plural of **βλεπω**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> person singular of **σταυρω**
- 1<sup>st</sup> person plural of **λαλεω**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> person plural of **πειπω**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> person singular of **διωκω**

7. Translate the following verses from Mark<sup>21</sup>:

- ἐγὼ ἐβάπτισα (baptised) ὑμᾶς ὕδατι (water), αὐτὸς δὲ βαπτίσει ὑμᾶς ἐν πνεύματι (spirit) ἁγίῳ (holy).
- καὶ εἶπεν (said) αὐτοῖς ὁ Ἰησοῦς, Δεῦτε (Follow) ὀπίσω μου, καὶ ποιήσω ὑμᾶς γενέσθαι (you become) ἄλιεις (fisherman) ἀνθρώπων.
- καὶ λέγει αὐτοῖς, Ἔγωμεν (Let us go) ἀλλαχοῦ (elsewhere) εἰς τὰς ἐχομένας (nearby) κωμοπόλεις (villages), ἵνα καὶ ἐκεῖ (there) κηρύξω.

### Vocab List 9 – Contract Verbs - εω

αἰτέω	I seek (Mk 6:22)
ἀκολουθέω	I follow (Mk 1:18)
δέω	I bind (Mk 3:27)
δοκέω	I think, consider (Mk 6:49)
ζητέω	I seek (Mk 1:37)
ἐλεέω	I have mercy on (Mk 5:19)

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<sup>21</sup> KEY: 1. Mark 1:8; 2. 1:17; 3. 1:38

**Introduction to New Testament Greek**  
**Week 10 – Verbs, Contract & Future Indicative**

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εὐχαριστέω	I give thanks (Mk 8:6)
θεωρέω	I see, watch (Mk 3:11) •
καλέω	I call (Mk 1:20) •
κρατέω	I hold, take hold (Mk 1:31)
λαλέω	I say, speak (Mk 1:34) •
μαρτυρέω	I bear witness, testify (Mt 23:31) •
μισέω	I hate (Mk 13:13)
οἰκοδομέω	I build (Mk 12:1) •
ὁμολογέω	I confess (Mt 7:23)
ποιέω	I do, make (Mk 1:3)
τηρέω	I keep (Mt 19:17) •
φιλέω	I love (deep, friendship) (Mk 14:44) •
φωνέω	I call (Mk 1:26) •

**Contract Verbs - οω**

δικαιόω	I justify (Mt 11:19)
πληρόω	I fill, fulfill (Mk 1:15) •
σταυρόω	I crucify (Mk 15:13) •
φανερόω	I make clear, make known (Mk 4:22) •

**Contract Verbs - αω**

ἀγαπάω	I love (sacrificial) (Mk 10:21)
γεννάω	I bear, beget (Mk 14:21) •
ἐπερωτάω	I ask (request) (Mk 5:9)



## Introduction to New Testament Greek

### Week 10 – Verbs, Contract & Future Indicative

---

ἐπιτιμάω	I rebuke, warn (Mk 1:25) •
ἔρωτάω	I ask (a question) (Mk 4:10)
ὁράω	I see (Mk 1:44)
πλανάω	I lead astray (Mk 12:24) •
τιμάω	I honour (Mk 7:6) •
ζάω	I live (Mk 5:23)

• = indicates a *Liquid Stem Verb* – these verbs have stems which end in either λ, μ, ν, or ρ. More will be explained about *liquid stem verbs* in Unit 12 to come.

#### For next week:

1. Commit to memory the paradigms for the *Future Indicative Verb*.
2. Commit to memory the *amalgamation rules (the rules for mutes)*
3. Learn the Vocab from list 9 (and develop flash cards).

**NOTE: At the beginning of next session there will be a Greek Vocab Quiz (taken from the vocab lists 5-9).**

## Bibliography

In putting this material together the following texts may have been consulted.

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Note to leader: Bring highlighters and interlinear Bible