

Chapter 7

Contract Verbs

7.1 In Chapter 3 we met the basic pattern of the Present Indicative Active of regular verbs

	Singular	Plural	
I	STEM- ω	STEM- ομεν	we
you (singular)	STEM- εις	STEM- ετε	y'all
he/she/it	STEM- ει	STEM- ουσιν	they

There is a "possibility for weirdness" when the stem of the verb ends in a vowel. The vowels of the personal endings interact with the ending vowel of the stem, and either contract together to form a broad vowel or diphthong, or knock out or swallow one of the vowels. Such verbs are called **Contract Verbs**.

In the First Person singular, the accent of the verb moves to the **-ω** and becomes a circumflex **-ῶ** - this is a sign that something weird has happened, and that a letter has dropped out or is hidden.

The general rules for contraction are :

- α** combines with **ο, ω, or ου** to give **ῶ**
 - α** combines with **ε** or **η** to give **ᾶ**
 - α** combines with any combination containing **ι** to give **ᾷ**
 - ε** combines with **ε** to give **ῆ**
 - ε** combines with **ο** to give **οῦ**
 - ε** drops out if it meets a long vowel or diphthong
 - ο** combines with a long vowel to give **ῶ**
 - ο** combines with a short vowel or **ου** to give **οῦ**
 - ο** combines with any combination containing **ι** to give **οῖ**
- (This last rule does not hold for the Infinitive, which we will meet later)

Contract verbs are listed in dictionaries in their uncontracted form

e.g. ἀγαπάω - I love ποιέω - I do, act, make πληρόω - I fulfil

and when learning vocabulary one should sound the contract vowel

e.g. aga-PAH-ohe poy-EH-ohe play-ROH-ohe

It is important to know that the vowel is part of the stem, because it will appear in other tenses of the verb.

Greek texts use the contracted forms, e.g. ἀγαπῶ, ποιῶ, πληρῶ.

They should be read and pronounced as written, with a stress on the ῶ.

7.2 The Present Indicative Active of **ἀγαπάω** (I love), a typical **-αω** verb

Person		Singular	Plural	
1	I love	ἀγαπῶ	ἀγαπῶμεν	we love
2	you love	ἀγαπᾶς	ἀγαπᾶτε	you love
3	he/she/it loves	ἀγαπᾷ	ἀγαπῶσιν	they love

Practice - until you can read and translate easily

1. ἀγαπῶ τοὺς ἀδελφούς. I love the brothers.
2. ἀγαπᾶτε τὸν Ἰησοῦν; Do you (plural) love Jesus?
3. Ναί, ἀγαπῶμεν αὐτόν. Yes, we love him.
4. τὰ παιδιά ἀγαπῶσιν τὸν διδάσκαλον. The children love the teacher.
5. οὐκ ἀγαπᾶς τοὺς Σαδδουκαῖους. You don't love the Sadducees.
6. ὁ θεὸς ἀγαπᾷ τὸν κόσμον. God loves the world.
7. ὁ Ἀβραάμ γεννᾷ τὸν Ἰσαάκ. Abraham begets Isaac.

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| 8. οἱ Φαρισαῖοι πλανῶσιν τὸν λαόν ; | Are the Pharisees leading the people astray? |
| 9. ὁ διάβολος πλανᾷ τὸν τυφλόν. | The devil leads the blind man astray. |
| 10. ἀγαπῶμεν τὰ τέκνα
καὶ οὐ πλανῶμεν αὐτά. | We love the children
and do not lead them astray. |

7.3 ζῶω (I am alive, I live) is slightly irregular, in that it behaves as if it were **ζήω**

Person		Singular	Plural	
1	I live	ζῶ	ζῶμεν	we live
2	you live	ζῆς	ζῆτε	you live
3	he/she/it lives	ζῆ	ζῶσιν	they live

Practice - until you can read and translate easily

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| 1. ζῶμεν ἐν Χριστῷ. | We live in Christ. |
| 2. ζῶ θεῷ. | I live to God. |
| 3. ὁ Σαδδουκαῖος ζῆ ἐν τῷ κόσμῳ. | The Sadducee lives in the world. |
| 4. ὁ λόγος τοῦ θεοῦ ζῆ ἐν τοῖς λαοῖς αὐτοῦ. | The word of God lives in his people. |

7.4 The Present Indicative Active of ποιέω (I do, act, make), an **-έω** verb

Person		Singular	Plural	
1	I do	ποιῶ	ποιοῦμεν	we do
2	you do	ποιεῖς	ποιεῖτε	you do
3	he/she/it does	ποιεῖ	ποιοῦσιν	they do

Practice - until you can read and translate easily

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| 1. ὁ θεὸς ποιεῖ τὸν κόσμον. | God makes the world. |
| 2. ποιοῦμεν τὰ ἔργα τοῦ θεοῦ ; | Are we doing the works of God? |
| 3. οὐ ποιεῖτε τὸ ἔργον τοῦ διαβόλου. | You are not doing the work of the devil. |
| 4. φιλεῖς τὰ παιδιά. | You love the children. |
| 5. ζητῶ τὰ πρόβατα. | I am seeking the sheep. |
| 6. ὁ Ἰησοῦς καλεῖ τοὺς ἀποστόλους αὐτοῦ. | Jesus calls his apostles. |
| 7. περιπατοῦμεν ἐν τῷ ἱερῷ. | We walk in the temple. |
| 8. κρατεῖτε τοὺς ἄρτους. | You (plural) grab the loaves. |
| 9. φιλοῦσιν οἱ ἀδελφοὶ τοὺς υἰοὺς ; | Do the brothers love the sons? |
| 10. οἱ πρεσβύτεροι λαλοῦσιν τοῖς τέκνοις. | The elders talk to the children. |

NOTE : **αἰτέω** (I request) can take a double Accusative : the thing requested, and the person asked

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| 1. ὁ λεπρὸς αἰτεῖ τὸν διάκονον τοὺς ἄρτους. | The leper asks the servant for the loaves. |
| 2. τὰ παιδιά αἰτοῦσιν τὸν διδάσκαλον βιβλία. | The children ask the teacher for books. |
| 3. αἰτοῦμεν τὸν θεὸν τὸν ἄρτον. | We ask God for bread. |
| 4. οἱ Ἰουδαῖοι αἰτοῦσιν τὸν Ἰησοῦν σημεῖον. | The Jews ask Jesus for a sign. |
| 5. οὐκ αἰτεῖτε τὸν κύριον σημεῖον. | You do not ask the Lord for a sign. |

7.5 The Present Indicative Active of πληρόω (I fill, fulfill), an **-όω** verb

Person		Singular	Plural	
1	I fulfill	πληρῶ	πληροῦμεν	we fulfill
2	you fulfill	πληροῖς	πληροῦτε	you fulfill
3	he/she/it fulfills	πληροῖ	πληροῦσιν	they fulfill

Practice - until you can read and translate easily

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| 1. οἱ ἄνθρωποι σταυροῦσιν τὸν Ἰησοῦν. | The men crucify Jesus. |
| 2. ὁ Ἰησοῦς τελειοῖ τὰ ἔργα τοῦ θεοῦ. | Jesus completes the works of God. |
| 3. φανερῶ οὖν τὸ μυστήριον
τοῦ Χριστοῦ αὐτοῖς. | Then I reveal the mystery
of Christ to them. |
| 4. σταυροῦτε τὸν δοῦλον ; | Are you crucifying the slave? |
| 5. ὁ Ἰησοῦς πληροῖ τοὺς λόγους τοῦ θεοῦ. | Jesus fulfils the words of God. |
| 6. φανεροῦμεν τοὺς νόμους τοῦ κυρίου. | We reveal the laws of the Lord. |
| 7. τελειοῦμεν τὸ ἔργον τοῦ θεοῦ ; | Do we complete the work of God? |
| 8. πληροῖς οὖν τὸν νόμον τοῦ κυρίου. | Then you (singular) fulfill the law of the Lord. |
| 9. ὁ διδάσκαλος φανεροῖ τὸν νόμον τοῖς παιδίοις. | The teacher reveals the law to the children. |
| 10. ὁ Ἰωάννης πληροῖ τὸν λόγον τοῦ θεοῦ. | John fulfils the word of God. |

7.6 Sentences for reading and translation

1. ὁ παραλυτικὸς αἰτεῖ ἀργύριον τοὺς ἀποστόλους ἐν τῷ ἱερῷ.
2. τὰ δαιμόνια βλασφημοῦσιν τὸν κύριον καὶ ποιοῦσιν τὰ ἔργα τοῦ διαβόλου.
3. οἱ Ἰουδαῖοι ζητοῦσιν σημεῖον ἐκ τῶν οὐρανῶν.
4. ὁ πρεσβύτερος καλεῖ τὸν διάκονον ἀλλ' αὐτὸς οὐκ ἀκούει.
5. οἱ ἀπόστολοι λέγουσιν τοῖς ἀδελφοῖς καὶ παρακαλοῦσιν αὐτούς.
6. ἀγαπῶμεν τὸν θεὸν καὶ τηρούμεν τὸν νόμον αὐτοῦ.
7. ὁ τυφλὸς κρατεῖ τὸν ἄρτον καὶ τηρεῖ αὐτόν.
8. τὰ παιδιά αἰτοῦσιν τὸν διδάσκαλον τοὺς ἄρτους.
9. οἱ ἄνθρωποι οὐκ ἀγαπῶσιν τὸν κύριον καὶ οὐ τηροῦσιν τοὺς νόμους αὐτοῦ.
10. ἀγαπῶ τοὺς διακόνους τοῦ θεοῦ καὶ παρακαλῶ αὐτούς.

7.7 Writing Practice : Write the Greek, while saying aloud (Matt. 6:9-10)

Πάτερ ἡμῶν ὁ ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς, ἀγιασθήτω τὸ ὄνομά σου, ἐλθέτω ἡ βασιλεία σου, γενηθήτω τὸ θέλημά σου, ὡς ἐν οὐρανῷ καὶ ἐπὶ γῆς.	Our Father, the (one) in the heavens, let your name be sanctified, let your kingdom come, let your will / wish happen (come to pass), just as in heaven (so) also on earth.
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7.8 New Testament Passage for reading and translation : John 21:15-17

In your Greek New Testament, read the passage aloud several times until you can read it without long pauses or stumbling. Then use the helps and Vocabulary 7.9 to translate it.

ἠρίστησαν	they had eaten breakfast
Σίμων Ἰωάννου	Simon (son) of John
πλέον τουτων	more than these
βόσκε	tend, feed
μου	of me, my
δεύτερον	second
με	me (<i>Accusative</i>)
σὺ οἶδας	you know
σε	you (<i>Accusative</i>)
ποιῖμαινε	tend (like a shepherd)
τὸ τρίτον	the third (time)
ἐλυπήθη	he was grieved
πάντα	all things (<i>Accusative</i>)
σὺ γινώσκεις	you know

7.9 Vocabulary to learn

ἀγαπάω	I love (<i>love between Christians, and God's love for the world</i>)
γεννάω	I beget
ζάω	I live
πλανάω	I lead astray, err (<i>the planets wander amongst the stars</i>)
αἰτέω	I request, ask (<i>for something</i>)
ἀκολουθέω	I follow (<i>an acolyte is someone who follows the priest in the liturgy</i>)
βλασφημέω	I blaspheme
δέω	I bind
ζητέω	I seek
καλέω	I call
κρατέω	I grasp, seize, take by force (<i>from κράτος - power, strength</i>) (<i>one of the Greek titles for God is ὁ παντοκράτωρ - the all-powerful, Almighty</i>)
λαλέω	I speak, talk
παρακαλέω	I urge, encourage, strengthen (<i>A Greek citizen had to present his own case in a law court, but was allowed to call (καλέω) someone to stand beside (παρα) him to help him present his case.</i>)
περιπατέω	I walk. I conduct myself (<i>literally "I walk around / about"</i>)
ποιέω	I do, act, make
τηρέω	I keep, guard
φιλέω	I love (<i>as between family members, close friends</i>)
δικαίω	I justify, acquit
πληρόω	I fill, fulfil (<i>particularly prophecy</i>)
σταυρόω	I crucify (<i>from σταυρός - a cross</i>)
τελειόω	I make perfect, make complete
φανερόω	I make known, reveal
ὁ ἄρτος	bread plural = "loaves"
τὸ ἄρνιον	lamb
γινώσκω	I know
εἶπεν	he/she/it said
ναί	yes
ὅτε	when
ὅτι	that
οὖν	then (<i>comes second in a phrase</i>)
πάλιν	again
ὥς	as, just as