

Contract Verbs

Chapter 7

Morphology

Εν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Contract Verbs are verbs whose stem ends in:

α ε ο

The contraction occurs when one of these (short) vowels comes into contact with the connecting vowel from the ending.

ποιε → + ετε → ποιετε → ποιείτε

The long vowels ι (iota) and υ (upsilon) are unaffected.

Morphology

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Alpha Contract Verbs

α → + ε, η → α
α → + ει, η → α
α → + ο, ου, ω → ω

Morphology

Εν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Epsilon Contract Verbs

ε → + ε, ει → ει
ε → + η → η
ε → + η → η
ε → + ο, ου → ου
ε → + ω → ω

Morphology

Εν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Omicron Contract Verbs

ο → + ε, ο, ου → ου
ο → + ει, η → οι
ο → + η, ω → ω

Contract verbs are common in the New Testament and **epsilon** contract verbs occur the most often (700+ times).

	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

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In what tenses does the contraction occur?

Only **present** and **imperfect** verbs are affected.
This is because other tenses (future, aorist, perfect)
add a consonant (σ or ξ) to the end of the stem.

καλεσ → + εις → καλέσεις

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Accents and Contract Verbs

Present tense contract verbs are accented with a **circumflex**
over the syllable where the contraction has occurred (non-
contract verbs do not have this circumflex).

ποιεῖτε

Present Epsilon Stem

Εν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

	Singular	Plural
1 st Person	ποι <u>ῶ</u>	ποι <u>οῦ</u> μεν
2 nd Person	ποι <u>εῖ</u> ς	ποι <u>εῖ</u> τε
3 rd Person	ποι <u>εῖ</u>	ποι <u>οῦ</u> σιν

Notice: the lexical form (ποιέω) is an uncontracted, artificial form.
As such, you will never see it in a text but it is given so that you
can determine what paradigm a particular verb will follow.

Imperfect Indicative of εἰμί

Εν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

	Singular	Plural
1 st Person	ἦμην	ἦμεν
2 nd Person	ἦς	ἦτε
3 rd Person	ἦν	ἦσαν

Alternate Direct Object Cases

Εν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Introduction

Direct objects are normally found in the accusative
case. Some verbs, however, take their direct
objects in the **genitive** or **dative** case.

In these cases, you do **not** translate the genitive
with "of" or the dative with "to/for."

Alternate Direct Object Cases

Εν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Genitive Direct Object

ἀκούω, ἄρχω, κρατέω, πληρόω

ἀκούουσιν τῆς φωνῆς

"They hear the voice"

Alternate Direct Object Cases

Εν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Genitive Direct Object

ἐκράτησεν τῆς χειρὸς αὐτῆς

“He grasped her hand”

ἐπληροῦντο χαρᾶς

“They were filled with joy”

Alternate Direct Object Cases

Εν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Dative Direct Object

ἀκολουθεῖω, ἀποκρίνομαι, πιστεύω, and προσκυνέω

ἀκολουθοῦσιν αὐτῷ

“they are following him”

ἀποκρίνεται αὐτοῖς

“he answers them”

Alternate Direct Object Cases

Εν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Dative Direct Object

οὐ πιστεύετε μοι

“you do not believe me”

προσεκύνει αὐτῷ

“he was worshipping him”

Vocabulary

Εν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

ἀπό, from, away from (gen)

διά, through (gen); because of (acc)
(diameter)

εἰς, into, among, for (acc) (eisegesis)

ἐκ, from, out of (gen) (exhale, exegesis)

ἐν, in, on, at, by, with (dat)

Vocabulary

Εν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

ἐπί, on, upon, over (gen); on, upon, at, in
(dat); on, upon, to, for (acc) (epigraph)

κατά, down, against (gen); according to
(acc) (cataphoric)

μετά, with, among (gen); after (acc)

παρά, from (gen); with (dat); beside, on, at
(acc) (parable, paramedic)

περί, about, concerning (gen); around (acc)
(perimeter)

Vocabulary

Εν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

πρός, to, toward (acc) (prosthesis)

σύν, with (dat) (syntax)

ὑπέρ, for, on behalf of (gen); above,
beyond (acc) (hypercritical, hyperactive)

ὑπό, by (gen); under, below (acc)
(hypotaxis, hypothesis)

ἐνώπιον, before, in the presence of