

## Modern Greek for Beginners I

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Handout 16

### Second conjugation of verbs

So far the verbs we saw ended in an accentless  $\omega$  and had a consonant at the end of the stem, e.g.  $\theta\acute{\epsilon}\lambda\text{-}\omega$

There is another class of verbs which can be described as follows: They either have an accented  $\acute{\omega}$  or their stem ends in a vowel. Here are the three types of verb that you will find in this conjugation

αγαπά-ω	μισ-ώ	πά-ω
αγαπά-ς	μισ-είς	πά-ς
αγαπά-ει	μισ-εί	πά-ει
αγαπά-με	μισ-ούμε	πά-με
αγαπά-τε	μισ-είτε	πά-τε
αγαπά-νε	μισ-ούν	πά-νε

The most common type is the first one. Any verb that ends in  $\text{-}\acute{\omega}$  will have these same endings. One complication is that, since Greek does not like to have two vowels next to each other, the 1st and 3rd person singular may appear shortened as follows

αγαπώ  
αγαπά

Another complication is that the great frequency of these verbs has had an effect on verbs of the second type. Therefore a verb like  $\text{οδηγ}\acute{\omega}$  is supposed to be conjugated as  $\text{μισ}\acute{\omega}$ , but many people will use the  $\text{αγαπ}\acute{\omega}$  endings

οδηγᾶω	οδηγῶ
οδηγᾶς	οδηγεῖς
οδηγᾶ	οδηγεῖ
οδηγᾶμε	οδηγούμε
οδηγᾶτε	οδηγεῖτε
οδηγᾶνε	οδηγούν

The third type of verbs is the smallest in number. These are verbs that end in a vowel+ $\omega$  combination and the vowel is not  $\alpha$ . As you can see above they use the same endings as  $\text{αγαπ}\acute{\alpha}\omega$  but substitute their own vowel instead of  $\alpha$ . The fact that  $\text{π}\acute{\alpha}\omega$  has an  $\alpha$  ending for the stem is simply coincidence. Some examples are  $\text{τρ}\acute{\alpha}\omega$ ,  $\text{ακ}\acute{\alpha}\omega$ , and  $\text{λ}\acute{\epsilon}\omega$ .

### Παρατατικός

For the first two types of verbs the formation of the Παρατατικός is the following?

Take the stem without the final vowel and add the ending  $\text{ούσα}$ .

$\text{οδηγ}\text{-}\alpha\text{-}\omega$   $\text{οδηγ}\text{-}\acute{\alpha}\omega$ ,  $\text{αργ}\text{-}\acute{\omega}$ ,  $\text{αργ}\text{-}\acute{\alpha}\omega$

Then conjugate the verb according to the normal endings

οδηγούσα
οδηγούσες

οδηγούσε
οδηγούσαμε
οδηγούσατε
οδηγούσαν

For the third type, all you need to do to form the Παρατατικός is to pretend that the original form of the verb has a γ in it.

Examples τρώ(γ)ω έτρωγα, λέ(γ)ω έλεγα

The endings are the same as in all other cases of Παρατατικός

Translation practice

He does not drive

Where does the bus stop? Where stops the bus?

Why are you singing?

What were they saying?