

Lesson 1

Conjugation of ω-verbs: Present Indicative Active

Νυνὶ δὲ μένει πίστις, ἐλπίς, ἀγάπη. But now abides faith, hope, love. I Cor. 13:13

1. Verbs. The verb is the word in the sentence which affirms or predicates something; e.g., Paul preaches. The Greek verb has a very full inflection, but most of its forms are represented in some way in the English verb system. As in English, the verb forms are divided into finite verbs (those limited by person and number and which define predication) and the infinitive or verbal forms (those which are not limited as to person and number; e.g., the infinitive, to preach, and the participle, preaching).

2. Omega-Verbs. There are two types of verb conjugations in Greek. The more numerous is the type that ends in ω in the first person singular present indicative. These are called Omega-verbs. The other type ends in μι and is called the μι-verbs. The ω-verbs are later but have practically displaced the other type.

3. The Verb λύω. A verb of the type λύω is described or “located” as “present indicative active first singular.” This means that the verb is in the present tense, the indicative mood, the active voice, the first person, and the singular number. The student must understand what these mean before he can proceed. They mean nearly the same thing in English:

Tense means “kind of action” (not time, as in English); i.e., whether the action is continuous or stated as a point. Present tense denotes action that is continuous or going on. This kind of action is called “linear” or “durative.” Only in the indicative mood does the Greek verb signify time. In the present indicative, then, the idea is “continuous action in present time.”

Mood refers to the manner of affirmation. In the indicative mood the assertion is made as a fact. “I loose” states the thing as a fact. This mood is also used in questions: “Did I loose?” and in negatives οὐ λύω, I do not loose.” The other moods make their statements less positively, If I loose (subjunctive), “You loose” (imperative).

Voice tells how the verb is related to the subject. The active voice tells that the subject “I” does the acting. The passive would mean I am loosed.”

Person refers to whether it is “I” (first—speaker), “you” (second—person spoken to), “he” (third—person or things spoken of), who is doing the loosing.

Number describes whether the subject represents one actor (“I” “you,” “he”) or more than one (“we,” “you,” “they”); hence singular and plural.

4. Conjugation. A verb is conjugated when all the inflections of its forms are exhibited so as to show differences in tense, mood, voice, person, and number. The following section gives the conjugation of λύω in the present indicative active, with both numbers and all persons.

Present indicative active of λύω, I loose:

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|----------|--|--------|---|
| 1. λύω | <u>I loose</u> , <u>am loosing</u> , <u>do loose</u> | λύομεν | <u>We loose</u> , <u>are loosing</u> , etc. |
| 2. λύεις | <u>You loose</u> , etc. | λύετε | <u>You “all” loose</u> , etc. |
| 3. λύει | <u>He (she, it) looses</u> , etc. | λύουσι | <u>They loose</u> , etc. |

Present indicative active infinitive, λύειν, to loose, to be loosing.

5. Formation. The verb λύω presents a stem (λυ-) which is unchanged throughout; a connecting vowel ο/ε (ο before μ and ν) which is called the thematic vowel; and a set of endings clearly seen in μέν and τε of the plural endings. These are called personal endings. In λύ-ετε what is the stem? Connecting vowel? Personal ending? These endings tell the person and number of the verb:

-ω	<u>I</u>	-ομεν	<u>We</u>
-εις	<u>You (Thou)</u>	-ετε	<u>You (“You all” - Ye)</u>
-ει	<u>He, she, it</u>	-ουσι	<u>They</u>

6. Accent. Notice that the accent of verbs is recessive. If the ultima is long, the accent falls on the penult; otherwise on the antepenult.

7. Translation. The English student must make several adjustments in his thinking when he comes to the Greek verb. First, the Greek verb when it is unaccompanied by a substantive carries its own subject: λύετε means you loose. When the subject of the verb is expressed, the verb ending agrees with that subject: Ἰησοῦς λύει, Jesus looses. By taking the proper ending and adding it to the stem of the verb any form can be made:

ἄγω	<u>I lead</u>	ἄγει	<u>He leads</u>
λέγομεν	<u>We speak</u>	χριστὸς γινώσκει	<u>Christ knows</u> .

Another difference from English is that Greek has only one form for the progressive present, “I am loosing,” the emphatic present, “I do loose,” and the regular present, “I loose.” It is always possible in a given context for the translation to be any one of these three.

8. The infinitive. The present active infinitive is formed by adding the ending εἶν to the stem of the present tense. Its use includes nearly all the similar uses of the English infinitive.

ἐγὼ θέλω γράφειν I wish to write.

9. Vocabulary. All the ω verbs given in the vocabulary are inflected like λύω. Write out the conjugations of γράφω and λέγω with translation.

ἄγω,	<u>I lead</u> , <u>bring</u>	γράφω,	<u>I write</u> (graphic; i.e. written)
ἀκούω,	<u>I hear</u> (acoustic)	geo-	(γῆ, earth; -graphy (writing))
βάλλω,	<u>I throw</u> (ballistics) <u>cast</u> , <u>thrust</u>	δέ,	<u>but</u> , <u>and</u> (postpositive, must be 2 nd in clause)
βλέπω,	<u>I see</u>	ἐγὼ	<u>I</u> (ego)
γινώσκω,	<u>I know</u> , <u>realize</u> , <u>learn</u>	εὕρισκω,	<u>I find</u>

ἔχω, I have, get, hold,
 θέλω, I wish, am willing, delighted in
 Ἰησοῦς Jesus
 καί, (conjunction) and, also, even
 λαμβάνω, I take, receive

λύω, I loose, (analysis, loosing into parts)
 οὐ, not (οὐκ before vowels or diphthongs;
 οὐχ before rough breathings)
 σώζω, I save, heal
 λέγω, I speak, say, tell, (-logy)

10. Exercises.

I. Practice saying aloud the conjugations of the other verbs in the above vocabulary.

II. Text A.

Ἰησοῦς θέλει σώζειν. Ἰησοῦς λέγει· ἐγὼ δὲ ἀκούω. ἀκούεις, οὐ δὲ γινώσκεις. θέλω γινώσκειν. ἀκούουσι καὶ γινώσκουσι. ἀκούομεν καὶ βλέπομεν. βλέπει, οὐ δὲ γινώσκει. οὐ θέλει ἀκούειν. ἀκούετε καὶ λαμβάνετε; θέλομεν γινώσκειν καὶ λαμβάνειν. Ἰησοῦς σώζει. οὐκ ἀκούει καὶ λαμβάνει.

III. Text.

1. λέγω, ἐγὼ λέγω, Ἰησοῦς λέγει, οὐ λέγει, Ἰησοῦς οὐ λέγει.
2. θέλω ἔχειν, θέλεις εὐρίσκειν, θέλει λέγειν, θέλομεν ἀκούειν.
3. λαμβάνομεν, γράφομεν, γινώσκομεν, βλέπομεν, ἀκούομεν, βάλλομεν.
4. λαμβάνετε, γράφετε, γινώσκετε, βλέπετε, ἀκούετε, βάλλετε.
5. ἀκούεις, οὐ λαμβάνεις, ἀκούουσι, οὐ θέλουσι λαμβάνειν.
6. γινώσκει, οὐ γινώσκετε; ἐγὼ γινώσκω· οὐ δὲ γινώσκουσι. γινώσκεις;

IV. Translate.

1. We take. We have. Jesus receives. I find.
2. Jesus saves. He leads. They lead and speak.
3. I wish to find, but you (sing.) wish to lead.