

Athenaze 5a

Learning Objectives:

- learning vocabulary for 5a
- *a*-contract verbs: all persons and numbers of the pres. ind. act.; pres. act. inf.
 - τιμά-ω → τιμῶ
 - τιμά-εις → τιμᾶς
 - τιμά-ει → τιμᾷ
 - τιμά-ομεν → τιμῶμεν
 - τιμά-ετε → τιμᾶτε
 - τιμά-ουσι(ν) → τιμῶσι(ν)
 - *τιμά-ειν → τιμᾶν
- see the chart that sets out the general patterns of contraction (unit 4A)
- *a*-contracts are pretty easy to deal with. In melding the final alpha of the present-tense stem with the personal endings (-ω, -εις, -ει, -ομεν, -ετε, -ουσι), note that:
 - every combination of *a* with any “e” sound (vowel or diphthong) yields a long \bar{a}
 - every combination of *a* with any “o” sound (vowel or diphthong) yields a long ω
 - if an iota appears in the personal ending, it shows up as an iota subscript in the contracted form
- the one apparent exception to the above pattern is the pres. act. infinitive (τιμᾶν). This results from the melding of the present-tense stem with the original, uncontracted form of the pres. act. inf. ending (-ε-ειν):
 - τιμά-ε-ειν → τιμᾶ-ειν → τιμᾶν
 - put another way: the epsilon-iota of the regular active infinitive (e.g., λύειν) is a spurious diphthong, in that the iota is the result of a later contraction and does not represent a distinct sound in the original uncontracted form. You cannot use the form of the spurious diphthong to anticipate the results of a second contraction.
- recessive accent of finite verbs — review
- the definite article at the beginning of a clause
 - phrases such as ὁ μὲν ... ὁ δὲ ... (“The one ..., the other ...” [to be discussed in class]) recall the original force of the definite article as a demonstrative adjective (“that” — see notes for unit 1A). Such adjectives are often employed in Greek where English employs a personal pronoun (“he,” “she,” “it,” etc.)
- elision — the “cutting” off of a final short vowel between separate words and within compound words
 - ἄρα ἐθέλεις → ἄρ' ἐθέλεις
 - ἀπὸ Ἑλλάδος → ἀφ' Ἑλλάδος
 - ἀνά + αἶρω → ἀναίρω
 - κατὰ + ὄραω → καθορώ

- elision is usually restricted to short (i.e., one- or, more frequently, two-syllable words) that are relatively unemphatic and easily recognized in their elided form (e.g., prepositions, adverbs, conjunctions)
- the ancients were quite haphazard in the degree to which they marked elision in written texts, although the elided version of the phrases was likely what they pronounced aloud. In your own compositions, you need not worry about employing elision between separate words, but should be able to interpret elided forms when you run into them.
- note the accommodations that must be made if the second term begins with an aspirated vowel or diphthong (final $\kappa \rightarrow \chi$ final $\pi \rightarrow \phi$ final $\tau \rightarrow \theta$)

Just for the record:

- movable nu is employed to prevent elision (although you will occasionally run into elided forms of ἐστί)
- note that the final vowels of *περί* and *πρό* do not elide; other exceptions will be noted as we run across them
- in cases where the elided vowel would originally have had an acute accent:
 - disyllabic prepositions and conjunctions simply lose their accent:
 - ἀπὸ → ἀπ' / ἀφ'
 - other disyllables throw their accent back onto the preceding syllable:
 - πολλὰ ἔπαθον → πόλλ' ἔπαθον
 - φημὶ ἐγὼ → φήμ' ἐγὼ
 - note that the resulting accent remains acute — it does not change to a grave, nor does it change to a circumflex accent when it happens to fall on a long vowel or diphthong
 - in the case of an enclitic that cannot throw its accent back, the accent is simply dropped
 - οὔτω ποτέ ῆν → οὔτω ποτ' ῆν
 - in such cases, putting the accent on the first syllable of the enclitic could in fact alter the meaning of the word (in the case of ποτέ, from an indefinite adverb to an interrogative adverb)