

Dr. Shirley's Greek Courses

Grammar

The Present Indicative Middle and Passive

The **Passive Voice** is used when the subject receives the action of the verb : is acted upon, rather than performs the action. eg. "The man was bitten by the dog"

The **Middle Voice** is used when the subject not only acts, but is also involved in the consequences of the action. Its nearest English equivalent is the Reflexive. eg. "I sit", equivalent to "I sit myself down", "I come or go", equivalent to "I move myself".

The Middle Voice uses the same personal endings as the Passive for all tenses except the Future, Future Perfect, and First and Second Aorists. The rest of the sentence, and the context, will show whether the sense is Middle or Passive.

NOTE - There are some verbs in Greek which use Middle or Passive endings, but which are best translated by an Active verb in English. These are called Deponent Verbs, and have their own Grammar and Vocabulary pages.

Present	I come/go (I move myself)	I begin	I become	I clothe myself
–ομαι	ἔρχομαι	ἄρχομαι	γίνομαι	ἐνδύομαι
–η	ἔρχη	ἄρχη	γίνη	ἐνδύη
–εται	ἔρχεται	ἄρχεται	γίνεται	ἐνδύεται
–ομεθα	ἔρχομεθα	ἄρχομεθα	γινόμεθα	ἐνδύομεθα
–εσθε	ἔρχεσθε	ἄρχεσθε	γινεσθε	ἐνδύεσθε
–ονται	ἔρχονται	ἄρχονται	γίνονται	ἐνδύονται

Strictly speaking, the endings are –μαι, –σαι, –ται, –μεθα, –σθε, –νται, but a vowel with an "o" or "e" sound was added for ease of pronunciation, and the second person singular dropped the sigma. The vowel is sometimes called the "variable vowel", or the "euphonic vowel".

The –εω –αω and –οω verbs contract the vowels as usual :

I love	I am loved	I honor	I am honored	I fill	I am filled
φιλω̄	φιλουμαι	τιμῶ	τιμωμαι	πληρῶ	πληρουμαι
φιλεις	φιλη	τιμας	τιμα	πληροισ	πληροι
φιλει	φιλειται	τιμα	τιματα	πληροι	πληρουται
φιλουμεν	φιλουμεθα	τιμωμεν	τιμωμεθα	πληρουμεν	πληρουμεθα
φιλειτε	φιλεισθε	τιματε	τιμασθε	πληρουτε	πληρουσθε
φιλουσιν	φιλουνται	τιμωσιν	τιμωνται	πληρουσιν	πληρουνται
