

## Lesson 2

ἀρετή *excellence*

### The Omega Verb – Present Tense

λύ-ω I loose (loosen)

Person	Singular		Plural	
1st	λύ-ω	<i>I loose</i>	λύ-ομεν	<i>we loose</i>
2nd	λύ-εις	<i>you loose</i>	λύ-ετε	<i>you all loose</i>
3rd	λύ-ει	<i>he, she, it looses</i>	λύ-ουσι(ν)	<i>they loose</i>

- ◆ Most Greek verbs end in omega in the first person singular of the present tense and follow the pattern of the model verb λύω.
- ◆ In the conjugation chart above, the Greek *present tense endings*, -ω, -εις, -ει, -ομεν, -ετε, -ουσι, are in blue. The Greek tense endings correspond to the English personal pronouns.
- ◆ The *present tense* is formed by adding the present tense endings to the *present stem*, λύ-.
- ◆ To find the *present stem* of an omega verb, drop the final -ω from the 1<sup>st</sup> person singular form.
- ◆ The 1<sup>st</sup> person singular of the present tense is known as the *lexical (dictionary) entry*.
- ◆ If the 3<sup>rd</sup> person plural form of the present tense (e.g., λύουσι) is followed by a punctuation mark or a word that begins with a vowel, the form *may* (not *must*) have -ν attached to the end (e.g., λύουσιν). This is called the "movable ν," and may occur in other tenses as well.

### Vocabulary

Greek	English	Cognates
ἀκούω	I hear	<i>acoustics</i>
βλέπω	I see	
γράφω	I write	<i>graphics</i>
θέλω	I wish, will, desire	
λέγω	I say, speak, tell	
λύω	I loose (loosen), destroy	<i>analyze</i>
καί (conj.)	and	

- ◆ Below are the English pronouns and the corresponding Greek present tense endings.

Person	Singular	Plural
1st (person speaking)	<i>I</i> -ω	<i>we</i> -ομεν
2nd (person spoken to)	<i>you</i> -εις	<i>you all</i> -ετε
3rd (person spoken about)	<i>he, she, it</i> -ει	<i>they</i> -ουσι(ν)

- ◆ The Greek present tense usually corresponds to the English *progressive present*, though it can also be translated by the *simple present* or *emphatic present* depending on the context.

<i>I am losing</i>	progressive present
<i>I loose</i>	simple present
<i>I do loose</i>	emphatic present

### Present Active Infinitive

- ◆ The infinitive is a *verbal noun* that means *to* + the verb. To form the present infinitive, add -ειν to the present stem.

λύειν    *to loose*

- ◆ **Complementary Infinitive.** When an infinitive completes the action of a main verb, such as θέλω, it is a *direct object* with a special name, the *complementary infinitive*. The infinitive may precede or follow its verb.

θέλω λύειν.    *I wish to loose.*                    βλέπειν θέλει.    *He wishes to see.*

**ἀρετή** **Saying Notes:** The Greek idea of ἀρετή is difficult to translate. The English word “excellence” is often used, but ἀρετή is more than just excellence. It is the excellence that a person can achieve by being the best he can possibly be, whatever the endeavour. Notice that ἀρετή is about being *one’s* best, not being *the* best. Remember to pursue ἀρετή in all areas of your life, including the study of Greek.