

12.3.1 The simple present / Ενεστώτας

The simple present generally describes an action, an event or condition that takes place in the present.

The simple present is used:

- to describe an action, an event or condition that is occurring at the moment of speaking
Τώρα **διαβάζω** την εφημερίδα. I am reading the newspaper now.
- to express general truths
Η γη **γυρίζει** γύρω από τον ήλιο. The earth rotates around the sun.
- to show a habit, repetition or continuity
Πηγαίνω στο σχολείο κάθε μέρα. I go to school every day.
Μένω στην Ελλάδα. I live in Greece.
- to refer to an action or an event that will certainly occur in the near future
Αύριο **φεύγω** για την Ιταλία. I am leaving for Italy tomorrow.
- to describe events taken place in the past in order to make them more vivid (historical present)
Καθώς μιλούσαμε, **ανοίγει** η πόρτα και While we were talking, the door opens and

12.3.1.1 Formation of the simple present of the active voice

Group A, 1st conjugation

Characteristics

The personal endings of the simple present of the verbs belonging to group A are:

-ω, -εις, -ει, -οουμε, -ετε, -ουν

Formation steps

The verbs γράφω (write) εν διαβάζω (read) are used as examples:

1. Find the present stem of the verb (ommit -ω).

γράφω – γραφ-	διαβάζω – διαβαζ-
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2. Place the endings

-ω, -εις, -ει, -οουμε, -ετε, -ουν

after the stem and put the stress mark on the second-to-last syllable.

γράφ- ω	διαβάζ- ω
γράφ- εις	διαβάζ- εις
γράφ- ει	διαβάζ- ει
γράφ- οουμε	διαβάζ- οουμε
γράφ- ετε	διαβάζ- ετε
γράφ- ουν	διαβάζ- ουν

Notice that the the first and the second person plural bear the stress mark on the third-to-last syllable.

You can see the personal endings of the simple present of the active voice of the 1st conjugation and the conjugation of the verbs used above in the table below:

-ω	γράφω	I write	διαβάζω	I read
-εις	γράφεις	you write	διαβάζεις	you read
-ει	γράφει	he/she/it writes	διαβάζει	he/she/it reads
-οουμε	γράφουμε	we write	διαβάζουμε	we read
-ετε	γράφετε	you write	διαβάζετε	you read
-ουν (ε)	γράφουν (ε)	they write	διαβάζουν (ε)	they read

Group B, 2nd conjugation

Characteristics

The personal endings of the simple present of the verbs belonging to group B are:

B1: -ώ(-άω), -άς, -ά(-άει), -άμε(-ούμε), -άτε, -άνε (-ούν)

B2: -ώ, -είς, -εί, -ούμε, -είτε, -ούν.

Formation steps

The verbs μιλώ (speak) and μπορώ (can) are used as examples:

1. Find the present stem of the verb (omit -ω).

B1	B2
μιλώ – μιλ-	μπορώ – μπορ-

2. Place the endings

-ώ(-άω), -άς, -ά(-άει), -άμε(-ούμε), -άτε, -άνε (-ούν)

after the stem of the B1 verbs

or the endings

-ώ, -είς, -εί, -ούμε, -είτε, -ούν

after the stem of the B2 verbs

B1	B2
μιλώ(-άω), μιλάς, μιλά(-άει), ...	μπορώ, μπορείς, μπορεί, ...

You can see the personal endings of the simple present of both subgroups of the 2nd conjugation and the conjugation of the verbs μιλώ (speak) and μπορώ (can) in the table below:

B1			B2		
-ω (-άω)	μιλώ (-άω)	I speak	-ώ	μπορώ	I can
-ας	μιλάς	you speak	-είς	μπορείς	you can
-α (-άει)	μιλά (-άει)	he/she/it speaks	-εί	μπορεί	he/she/it can
-άμε (-ούμε)	μιλάμε (-ούμε)	we speak	-ούμε	μπορούμε	we can
-άτε	μιλάτε	you speak	-είτε	μπορείτε	you can
-άνε (-ούν)	μιλάνε (-ούν)	they speak	-ούν(ε)	μπορούν	they can

12.3.1.2 Formation of the simple present of the medio-passive voice

Notice that some Greek verbs in the medio-passive voice have an active meaning in English as έρχομαι (come), κοιμάμαι (sleep) etc. .

Group A, 1st conjugation

Characteristics

The personal endings of the simple present of the medio-passive voice of the verbs belonging to group A are:

-ομαι, -εσαι, -εται, -όμαστε, -εστε, -ονται.

Formation steps

The verb ντύνομαι (get dressed) is used as example:

1. Find the present stem of the verb (omit -ω, -ομαι).

ντύνω – ντύνομαι – ντύν-

2. Place after the stem the endings

-ομαι, -εσαι, -εται, -όμαστε, -εστε, -ονται.

ντύν-ομαι
ντύν-εσαι
ντύν-εται
ντυν-όμαστε
ντύν-εστε
ντύν-ονται

You can see the personal endings of the simple present of the medio-passive voice of the 1st conjugation and the conjugation of the verb ντύνομαι (get dressed) in the table below:

-ομαι	ντύνομαι	I am (or get) dressed
-εσαι	ντύνεσαι	you are dressed
-εται	ντύνεται	he/she/it is dressed
-όμαστε	ντυνόμαστε	we are dressed
-εστε	ντύνεστε	you are dressed
-ονται	ντύνονται	they are dressed

Group B, 2nd conjugation

Characteristics

The endings of the simple present of the medio-passive voice of verbs belonging to group B are:

B1: **-ιέμαι, -ιέσαι, -ιέται, -ιόμαστε, ιέστε, -ιούνται**

B2: **-ούμαι/άμαι, -άσαι, -άται, -όμαστε, -άστε, -οούνται**

Arch. conj.: **-ούμαι, -είσαι, -είται, -ούμαστε, -είστε, -οούνται**

Formation steps

Verbs B1 and B2

The verbs αγαπιέμαι (be loved) εν κοιμούμαι / κοιμάμαι (sleep) are used as examples:

1. Find the present stem of the verb (omit -ώ, -ιέμαι, -ούμαι, -άμαι).

B1	B2
αγαπώ – αγαπιέμαι – αγαπ	κοιμούμαι / κοιμάμαι – κοιμ

2. Place the endings

-ιέμαι, -ιέσαι, -ιέται, -ιόμαστε, ιέστε, -ιούνται

after the stem of the B1 verbs

or the endings

-ούμαι/άμαι, -άσαι, -άται, -όμαστε, -άστε, -οούνται

after the stem of the B2 verbs

B1	B2
αγαπ-ιέμαι αγαπ-ιέσαι αγαπ-ιέται ...	κοιμ-ούμαι/άμαι κοιμ-άσαι κοιμ-άται ...

You can see the personal endings of the simple present of the medio-passive voice of the 2nd conjugation and the conjugation of the verb αγαπιέμαι (be loved), κοιμούμαι (sleep) in the table below:

B1			B2		
-ιέμαι	αγαπιέμαι	I am loved	-ούμαι/άμαι	κοιμούμαι/άμαι	I sleep
-ιέσαι	αγαπιέσαι	you are loved	-άσαι	κοιμάσαι	you sleep
-ιέται	αγαπιέται	he...	-άται	κοιμάται	he ...
-ιόμαστε	αγαπιόμαστε	we ...	-όμαστε	κοιμόμαστε	we ...
-ιέστε	αγαπιέστε	you ...	-άστε	κοιμάστε	you ...
-ιούνται	αγαπιούνται	they ...	-ούνται	κοιμούνται	they ...

Verbs with archaic conjugation

Some verbs ending in -ούμαι as διηγούμαι (narrate), αποτελούμαι (consist), μιμούμαι (imitate), απασχολούμαι (busy oneself with, employ) etc. follow the archaic conjugation.

The verb διηγούμαι (narrate) is used as example:

1. Find the present stem of the verb (omit -ούμαι).

διηγούμαι – διηγ-

2. Place after the stem the personal endings of the archaic conjugation

-ούμαι, -είσαι, -είται, -όμαστε, -είστε, -ούνται

διηγ-ούμαι

διηγ-είσαι

διηγ-είται

διηγ-όμαστε

διηγ-είστε

διηγ-ούνται

You can see the endings of the simple present of the medio-passive voice of the verbs with the archaic conjugation and the conjugation of the verb διηγούμαι (narrate) in the table below:

-ούμαι	διηγούμαι	I narrate
-είσαι	διηγείσαι	you narrate
-είται	διηγείται	he ...
-όμαστε	διηγόμαστε	we ...
-είστε	διηγείστε	you ...
-ούνται	διηγούνται	they ...

Some seldom used verbs ending in **-ώμαι** follow the archaic conjugation as well, as the verb εγγυώμαι (guarantee):

εγγυ-ώμαι, εγγυ-άσαι, εγγυ-άται, εγγυ-όμαστε, εγγυ-άστε, εγγυ-ώνται.