

12.4 The auxiliary verbs είμαι (be) and έχω (have)

In Greek there are two auxiliary verbs: είμαι and έχω. They can be used with full verbs supporting them to create perfect tenses. See formation of the perfect tenses. In the tables below both verbs are conjugated in the present and the imperfect tense:

είμαι			
Simple Present / Ενεστώτας		Imperfect tense / Παρατατικός	
είμαι	I am	ήμουν	I was
είσαι	you are	ήσουν	you were
είναι	he/she/it is	ήταν	he/she/it was
είμαστε	we are	ήμαστε	we were
είστε	you are	ήσαστε	you were
είναι	they are	ήταν	they were

έχω			
Simple Present / Ενεστώτας		Imperfect tense / Παρατατικός	
έχω	I have	είχα	I had
έχεις	you have	είχες	you had
έχει	he/she/it has	είχε	he/she/it had
έχουμε	we have	είχαμε	we had
έχετε	you have	είχατε	you had
έχουν	they have	είχαν	they had

12.5 Verbs with a vowel before the ending

Some verbs have a vowel in the end of the stem, that is before the ending of the verb. These verbs drop the vowel of the ending in the present tense of the active voice **except the 1st and the 3rd person singular**. For example the verb ακού-ω (hear, listen):

2nd person: ακού (-εις) - ακούς (you hear/listen), the “ ει ” of the ending is dropped.

In the table below the verbs ακούω (hear, listen), λέω (say, tell), πάω (go), τρώω (eat) are conjugated in the simple present:

Simple Present / Ενεστώτας			
ακούω I hear/listen	λέω I say/tell	πάω I go	τρώω I eat
ακούς you ...	λες you ...	πας you ...	τρως you ...
ακούει	λέει	πάει	τρώει
ακούμε	λέμε	πάμε	τρώμε
ακούτε	λέτε	πάτε	τρώτε
ακούν(ε)	λέν(ε)	πάν(ε)	τρών(ε)

In the medio-passive voice these verbs take the letter “ γ ” (“πάω” does not form the medio-passive voice) , for example:

ακού-ω – ακού-γ-ομαι

λέ-ω – λέ-γ-ομαι

τρώ-ω – τρώ-γ-ομαι