

Some Observations on the person/number/voice inflection scene

- Changes in the 3rd singular/plural declension due to the movable nu

You can see it on the chart...a nu with parenthesis about it. (chart on page 17) It happens that sometimes when the letter iota is final, it has a tendency to be "lost in the vocalic shuffle". A nu is placed following it just to hold it for pronunciation reasons. It is never indicated in the text...you just have to know about it and know what it is.

- Endings that are alike are usually clear in context...that is, whether an active or passive is required, etc.

- The root of the verb is the non-inflected stem. You can find it by removing the personal ending from the forms as they are given in the Lexicon...for example

Personal
endings in
Present
Indicative
Active

$\lambda\upsilon\omega = \lambda\upsilon + \omega$ (to loose)

$\delta\acute{\iota}\delta\omega\mu\epsilon\iota = \delta\epsilon\delta\omega + \mu\epsilon\iota$ (to give)

If the root ends with a vowel...consonantal suffixes are just added to it.

If the root ends with a consonant...consonantal suffixes will have a vowel supplied for joining.

If the root ends with a vowel, vocalic suffixes will have a change as the vowels are combined (learned by observation)

If the root ends with a consonant, vocalic suffixes are joined directly to it.

- Middle/Passive endings are the same...so when you are looking at a word you note that it is Active or Middle/Passive. Context will help you decide. There are some verbs that take a middle/passive ending but are active in meaning. These are called "deponent" verbs and will be studied as a separate class.

- And for most of this data you will need more technical help in time to come but it is enough for us now.

3. How Tenses are Formed

Here is a very interesting and somewhat tricky segment of the course. We try to learn how tenses are formed, in this course, now that we can identify words (verbs) on the basis of person and number. One can learn a bunch of paradigms and in a full course that is proper. But there are a lot of key signs and if you master some of these you can easily see how tenses are formed and then you can recognize them with some ease. There are "regular verbs" that follow predictable patterns and "irregulars" that have patterns of their own. For the moment we will work with the former.