# Greek Vowel Contractions

Chart by Dennis Bratcher

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>e</th>
<th>ei</th>
<th>h</th>
<th>$</th>
<th>o</th>
<th>ou</th>
<th>w</th>
<th>a</th>
<th>i</th>
<th>u</th>
<th>oi</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td>a</td>
<td>a¹</td>
<td>a</td>
<td>#</td>
<td>w</td>
<td>w</td>
<td>w</td>
<td>a</td>
<td>aì³</td>
<td>au³</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e</td>
<td>ei</td>
<td>ei</td>
<td>h</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>ou</td>
<td>ou</td>
<td>w</td>
<td>h⁴</td>
<td>eì³</td>
<td>eu³</td>
<td>oi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o</td>
<td>ou</td>
<td>oi⁵</td>
<td>w</td>
<td>oi</td>
<td>ou</td>
<td>ou</td>
<td>w</td>
<td>w</td>
<td>oi³</td>
<td>ou³</td>
<td>oi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Only when a comes first.
2. In present active infinitives a/ + ei ^ contracts to aì instead of #ì.
3. This combination forms a diphthong only when the open vowel (a, e, or o) comes first.
4. Only when e comes first.
5. In present active infinitives o/ + ei ^ contracts to ouì instead of oi ì.

Note: The contracted a is always long.

This chart illustrates how Greek vowels contract, especially in contract verbs. Normally the vowel in the left column will occur first in a word and the vowel in the top row will be the first vowel of the suffix.

Example:  uncontracted form    - agapa + eij
vowel contraction     - a + ei = #
contracted form        - agap #j

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