

Greek Vowel Contractions

Chart by Dennis Bratcher

	e	ei	h	\$	o	ou	w	a	i	u	oi
a	a ¹	# ²	a	#	w	w	w	a	ai ³	au ³	%
e	ei	ei	h	\$	ou	ou	w	h ⁴	ei ³	eu ³	oi
o	ou	oi ⁵	w	oi	ou	ou	w	w	oi ³	ou ³	oi

1. Only when **a** comes first.
2. In present active infinitives **a/ + ei** ^ contracts to **a~~n~~** instead of **#a**.
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 **ou~~n~~** instead of **oia**.

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**