

Beginning Greek I
Session 5: Greek Person and Number

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“Person” is the relationship of the speaker or writer to who is being spoken or written about.

- About oneself
- About the person or people being spoken to
- About another person or group of people

In English we show “person” with pronouns or nouns.

- First person – Pronouns – *I*
- Second person – Pronouns – *You*
- Third person – Pronouns and nouns – *He, she, it, they* or nouns

Greek also can indicate person with the use of pronouns, but Greek can also indicate person in the verb itself without an additional word.

“Number” is self explanatory. It refers to how many people, place, or things are the subject of a noun.

Greek verbs

As we have learned, Greek verbs are formed by

Stem + Vowel + Ending

We have already learned that endings on verbs help indicate:

- Tense - primary (present, future, perfect); secondary (imperfect, aorist, pluperfect)
- Voice – active or middle/passive

Endings also indicate person and number. *Remember contraction of connecting vowel-endings.*

Active voice

1st person, singular	Lu – w	I loosen.
2nd person, singular	Lu – eiv	You loosen.
3rd person, singular	Lu – ei	He/she/it loosens.
1st person, plural	Lu – o – men	We loosen.
2nd person, plural	Lu – e – te	You (plural) loosen.
3rd person, plural	Lu – ousi	They loosen.

Middle/passive voice

1st person, singular	Lu – o - mai	I am loosened. OR I loosen myself.
2nd person, singular	Lu – h (sai)	You are loosened. OR You loosen yourself.
3rd person, singular	Lu - e – tai	He/she/it is loosened. OR He/she/it loosens he/she/itself.
1st person, plural	Lu – o – meqa	We are loosened. OR We loosen ourselves.
2nd person, plural	Lu – e – sqe	You (pl) are loosened. OR You (pl) loosen yourselves.
3rd person, plural	Lu - o– ntai	They are loosened. OR They loosen themselves.

Before we move on, let's take a look at the secondary endings. Remember that these go with imperfect, aorist, and pluperfect. We will look only at the imperfect.

PRIMARY

Active

1st person, singular	Λυ – ω	I loosen.
2nd person, singular	Λυ – εις	You loosen.
3rd person, singular	Λυ – ει	He/she/it loosens.
1st person, plural	Λυ – ο – μεν	We loosen.
2nd person, plural	Λυ – ε – τε	You (plural) loosen.
3rd person, plural	Λυ – ουσι	They loosen.8

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Middle/passive

1st person, singular	Lu – ο – mai	I am loosened. OR I loosen myself.
2nd person, singular	Lu – h (sai)	You are loosened. OR You loosen yourself.
3rd person, singular	Lu – e – tai	He/she/it is loosened. OR He/she/it loosens he/she/itself.
1st person, plural	Lu – ο – meqa	We are loosened. OR We loosen ourselves.
2nd person, plural	Lu – e – sqe	You (pl) are loosened. OR You (pl) loosen yourselves.
3rd person, plural	Lu – ο – ntai	They are loosened. OR They loosen themselves.

SECONDARY

Active

1st person, singular	e0/lu-o-n	I was loosening.
2nd person, singular	e0/lu – e-v	You were loosening.
3rd person, singular	e0/lu – e	He/she/it was loosening.
1st person, plural	e0lu/ – ο – men	We were loosening.
2nd person, plural	e0lu/ – e – te	You (plural) were loosening.
3rd person, plural	e0/lu – o-n	They were loosening.

Middle/passive

1st person, singular	e0lu – ο – mhn	I am loosened. OR I loosen myself.
2nd person, singular	e0lu – ou (so)	You are loosened. OR You loosen yourself.
3rd person, singular	e0lu/ - e – to	He/she/it is loosened. OR He/she/it loosens he/she/itself.
1st person, plural	e0lu/ – ο – meqa	We are loosened. OR We loosen ourselves.
2nd person, plural	e0lu/ – e – sqe	You (pl) are loosened. OR You (pl) loosen yourselves.
3rd person, plural	e0lu/ - ο – nto	They are loosened. OR They loosen themselves.

English to Greek

Using the Greek stem, γρᾶφ add the proper ending to indicate the following person and number.

1. We are writing.
2. He is writing.

3. She is writing.
4. You (singular) are writing.
5. They are writing.
6. You (plural) are writing.
7. I am writing.

Using the stem, λυ add the proper ending to indicate the following person and number.

1. I am loosening myself.
2. We are being loosened.
3. They are loosening themselves.
4. It is being loosened.
5. She is loosening herself.
6. You (singular) are being loosened.
7. You (plural) are being loosened.

Greek to English

- Stem + connecting vowel + ending
- Augment + stem + connecting vowel + ending
- Reduplication + stem + k + connecting vowel + ending
- Stem + s + connecting vowel + ending
- Augment + stem + s + connecting vowel + ending
- Augment + reduplication + stem + k + connecting vowel + ending
- Augment + stem change + connecting vowel + ending

Let's look again at the verbs from chapter 1. See if you can figure out the person and number for each. Add the proper English pronoun.

1. γράφομεν
2. ἦν
3. ἀκηκόαμεν

4. έωράκαμεν
5. έθεασάμεθα
6. έψηλάφησαν
7. έφανερώθη
8. μαρτυροϋμεν
9. άπαγγέλλομεν
10. έχητε
11. πεπληρωμένη
12. έστιν
13. έχομεν
14. περιπατῶμεν
15. ψευδόμεθα
16. ποιοϋμεν
17. καθαρίζει
18. ειπωμεν
19. πλανῶμεν
20. όμολογῶμεν

21. ήμαρτήκαμεν