

**Elision**

A short vowel at the end of a word is dropped, when followed by another vowel

δῶματα ἔχοντες → δῶματ' ἔχοντες

οἴκαδε ἰκέσθαι → οἴκαδ' ἰκέσθαι

ἐπὶ ὤμων → ἐπ' ὤμων

Il.3.136-7 αὐτὰρ Ἀλέξανδρος καὶ ἄρηϊφίλος Μενέλαος

μακρῆς ἐγγείησι μαχήσονται περὶ σεῖο

*But Alexander and Menelaos, dear to Ares, will do battle with long spears over you*

Il.3.253-4 αὐτὰρ Ἀλέξανδρος καὶ ἄρηϊφίλος Μενέλαος

μακρῆς ἐγγείησι μαχήσονται ἀμφὶ γυναικί·

*But Alexander and Menelaos, dear to Ares, will do battle with long spears over a woman*

**Correption**

Normally, diphthongs and long vowels scan as long (as in αἰδεῖσθαί below)

But at the end of the word, when followed by another vowel, they can scan as short.

— — | — √√|—√ V| — √√ | — V √ |—√

Il.1.23 αἰδεῖσθαί θ' ἱερῆα καὶ ἀγλαὰ δέχθαι ἄποινα

*to show respect to the priest and accept the glorious ransom*

— V √ | — √

— V √ | —

Il.1.23 δέχθαι ἄποινα

Il.1.113 οἴκοι ἔχειν

— √ V | — — | —

— V √ | — √√ | — √

Il.2.133 Ἴλιου ἐκπέρσαι

Il.16.746 πόντω ἐν ἰχθυόεντι

### Correption in Homer:

|                                |     |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| -αι and -οι                    | 77% |
| -ει                            | 5%  |
| -ου (< -οο)                    | 5%  |
| Long Vowels $\bar{\alpha}$ η ω | 6%  |
| Long Diphthongs α η φ          | 7 % |

### Diphthong Elision

Verb Endings:

Pronouns:

|                            |                     |      |        |      |
|----------------------------|---------------------|------|--------|------|
| 1sg.midpass. -μαι          | dat.sg. 1pers.prn.  | μοι  |        |      |
| 2sg.midpass. -σαι          | dat.sg. 2pers.prn.  | σοι  | (ptcl. | τοι) |
| 3sg.midpass. -ται          | (dat.sg. 3pers.prn. | φοι) |        |      |
| 3pl.midpass. -νται / -αται |                     |      |        |      |
| midpass.inf. -σθαι         |                     |      |        |      |
| (inf. -μεναι)              |                     |      |        |      |

Especially common in speech (but so are ξειν'(ε), δαιμόνι'(ε), δεῦρ' ἄγ'(ε), βᾶσκ'(ε)...)

Especially common in line-initial position

|                 | 1 <sup>st</sup> Foot | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Foot | Elsewhere |           |
|-----------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Elided -μ'(αι)  | 41%                  | 3%                   | 56%       | (34 exx.) |
| Elided -σθ'(αι) | 81%                  | 12%                  | 7%        | (42 exx.) |

Diphthong elision “most probably represents a loss of [y] from the sequence [-aye-]...  
....with consequent elision of the [-a].” W.S. Allen, *Vox Graeca*, p94

Why is it that we can elide λύομαι and λίσσομαι but not κεφαλαί or ἡμέραι or μαχησόμενοι?

Why is it that we can elide ἔρχεσθαι but not πελάσσαι?

## Long Diphthong Correption arising from Case Changes of Formulae

— v v | — vv|—v

— v v | — vv|—v

Il.19.378 πόντον ἐπ' ἰχθυόεντα

Il.16.746 πόντω ἐν ἰχθυόεντι

Il.19.128 καὶ οὐρανὸν ἀστερόεντα

Il.4.44 καὶ οὐρανῶ ἀστερόεντι

Od.3.270 ἐς νῆσον ἐρήμην

Od.12.351 ἐν νήσῳ ἐρήμῃ

Il.10.374-5

ὁ δ' ἄρ' ἔστι τάρβησέν τε

βαμβαίνων· ἄραβος δὲ διὰ στόμα γίγνεται ὀδόντων (γίγνεται)

*he stood there terrified, stammering, and his teeth were chattering in his mouth*

Il.13.282-3 ἐν δέ τέ οἱ κραδίη μεγάλη στέρνοισι πατάσσει

κῆρας ὀιομένῳ, πάταγος δέ τε γίγνεται ὀδόντων· (γίγνεται)

*as he thinks of his possible death his heart beats loudly in his chest, and his teeth chatter*

γίγνεται(ο) 3sg.impf.

γίγνεται(αι) 3sg.pres.

μ'(ε) acc.sg.

μ'(οι) dat.sg.

Il.6.165 ὃς μ' ἔθελεν φιλότῃ μιγήμεναι οὐκ ἔθελούση

dat.sg. μ'(οι) ... ἔθελούση

Il.16.207 ταῦτά μ' ἀγειρόμενοι θάμ' ἐβάζετε·

Od.23.21-2 εἰ γάρ τις μ' ἄλλη γε γυναικῶν, αἶ μοι ἔασι,

ταῦτ' ἔλθοῦσ' ἤγγειλε καὶ ἐξ ὕπνου ἀνέγειρε

*If any of the other women came and woke me up and told me this*

Il.13.725 Ἔκτορα εἶπε παραστάς

Il.6.75 Ἔκτορι εἶπε παραστάς



II.23.735-7 μηκέτ' ἐρείδεσθον, μῆ δὲ τρίβεσθε κακοῖσι·  
 νίκη δ' ἀμφοτέροισιν· ἀέθλια δ' ἴσ' ἀνελόντες  
 ἔρχεσθ', ὄφρα καὶ ἄλλοι ἀθλεύωσιν Ἀχαιοί.

*Do not exert yourselves or wear yourselves out any more. The victory belongs to both of you:  
 accept equal prizes and leave, so that the other Achaeans can compete.*

ἔρχεσθ' can be either ἔρχεσθαι or ἔρχεσθε

Is this why we can elide ἔρχεσθαι but not πελάσαι, τανύσσαι or ἐρύσσαι?

For πελάσαι, πελάσαι etc. there's no ambiguity with the imperative πελάσσον, πελάσον

| Stage | μ'(οι)   | -σθ'(αι)   | -τ'(αι), -ντ'(αι)  | -μ'(αι)                                  |
|-------|--|--|--|--|
| 1     | μ' always represents μ'(ε), never μ'(οι), but με ~ μοι in certain contexts | -σθ' always represents -σθ'(ε), never -σθ'(αι), but -σθε ~ -σθαι in certain contexts | -τ' and -ντ' always represent -τ'(ο) -ντ'(ο), never -τ'(αι) -ντ'(αι), but -το -ντο ~ | -μαι is never elided                     |
| 2a    | μοι overtakes με in these contexts   | -σθαι overtakes -σθε in these contexts   | -ται -νται in certain contexts   |  |
| 2b    | μ'(ε) in these contexts is reanalysed as μ'(οι)                            | -σθ'(ε) in these contexts is reanalysed as -σθ'(αι)                                  |  |  |
| 3a    | μ'(οι) is extended to unambiguous contexts: e.g. μ'(οι) ἐθελούση           | -σθ'(αι) is extended to imperative use with 2.sg.: e.g. γήμασθ'(αι)                  | -τ' -ντ' are extended to -τ'(αι) -ντ'(αι) as well as -τ'(ο) -ντ'(ο)                  |  |
| 3b    |  | -σθ'(αι) is extended to 'true' infinitives: e.g. μηδ' ἕα ἄντην / ἔρχεσθ'             | -τ'(αι) -ντ'(αι) are extended to futures: e.g. ἐπικείσετ', κείσονται                 | Diphthong Elision is extended to -μ'(αι) |

Od.19.204-6 τῆς δ' ἄρ' ἀκουούσης ῥέε δάκρυα, τήκετο δὲ χρώς.  
 ὡς δὲ χιῶν κατατήκετ' ἐν ἀκροπόλοισιν ὄρεσσι,  
 ἦν τ' εὐῖρος κατέτηξεν, ἐπὶν ζέφυρος καταχεύη,

*And tears flowed from her as she listened, and her heart melted. Just as snow melts on the high mountain tops, when the south wind has thawed it and the west wind has blown upon it...*

Il.13.568-9 αἰδοίων τε μεσηγῦ καὶ ὀμφαλοῦ, ἔνθα μάλιστα  
 γίγνεται Ἄρης ἀλεγεινὸς οἴζυροῖσι βροτοῖσιν.

*(the spear hit him) between the crotch and the navel, where Ares is especially deadly to poor mortals*

|            | μοι | σοι | τοι | -μαι | -σαι | -ται | -νται / -αται | -σθαι | -μεναι | Total |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|---------------|-------|--------|-------|
| Speech     | 9   | 1   | 5   | 34   | 1    | 49   | 23            | 33    | 4      | 91%   |
| Not speech | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0    | 0    | 7    | 0             | 9     | 1      | 9%    |

Il.15.697-8 φαίης κ' ἀκμηῆτας καὶ ἀτειρέας ἀλλήλοισιν  
 ἄντεσθ' ἐν πολέμῳ, ὡς ἐσσυμένως ἐμάχοντο.

*You would think that they faced each other in war unwearied and untired, so fiercely did they fight*

Il.20.467-9 οὐ γάρ τι γλυκύθυμος ἀνήρ ἦν οὐδ' ἀγανόφρων,  
 ἀλλὰ μάλ' ἐμμεμαῶς· ὁ μὲν ἤπτετο χεῖρεσι γούνων  
 ἰέμενος λίσσεσθ', ὁ δὲ φασγάνῳ οὐτα καθ' ἧπαρ·

*For he was not a soft-hearted or kindly man, but very fierce. His foe clutched at his knees with his hands, trying to beseech him, but he stabbed him in the liver with his sword.*

Il.22.338 λίσσομ' ὑπὲρ ψυχῆς καὶ γούνων σῶν τε τοκῆων  
*I beg you, by your life, and your knees, and your parents...*

**Sappho and Alcaeus:** ἄδομ' (ἄδομαι), βόλλητ' (βόλληται), πέλοντ' (πέλονται), μέλπεσθ' (μέλπεσθαι) etc.

καίτ' (καίτοι), μέντ' (μέντοι), **λῦσ'** (λῦσαι), **Ψάφ'** (Ψάφου)