



Verbs, PART I

OBJECTIVE : Introduce the present active indicative conjugation. Begin learning vocabulary.

Memory Verse:

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ Λόγος

In (the) beginning was the Word

John 1:1a

Each day begin by reading the Memory verse. It may be a little tricky at first to remember the sounds of all the new letters, but it does get easy with practice! After a few days, start seeing how far you can get in the verse without looking at the paper. You will be working on this verse for several weeks, so you will have plenty of time to get used to reading it, and hopefully to memorize it. Each week, we will be adding a new phrase to the verse, until you have successfully memorized all of John 1:1.

Notice that there are a few capital letters in this verse. Although this verse begins with a capital letter, capitals (called *uncials* in Greek) were originally not used to begin sentences. In fact, when the New Testament was first written, spaces were not used between the words either. I, for one, am glad the spaces have been inserted. ἐνἀρχῇἦνὁλόγος and so on would give me a headache! The uncial forms in this verse are listed here. Pay special attention to these forms and try to remember them as you are introduced to them.

Epsilon: Ε/ε Lambda: Λ/λ

day 1: Introduction to verbs.

A verb is a word that shows *action*. Walking is an action. In English, we use nouns (the name of a person, place, thing or idea) to show who or what is performing the action. “Mary walks.” Sometimes we use pronouns in the place of nouns. Instead of saying “Mary walks”, I could use the pronoun ‘she’. “She walks.” In English, I cannot just say “walk” and expect you to understand what I mean. You do not know if I mean “I walk” or “They walk” or “You walk”. We need a pronoun to indicate who is doing the action by telling us the *number* (singular or plural) and the *person* (first, second or third). When you read “she”, you knew that there was only one

person walking, and that that person was not you yourself (the “first person”) or the person with whom you were speaking (“second person”), but someone outside of the conversation (the “third person”).

In Greek, however, these pronouns are not needed. This is because the pronoun is included in the verb endings. The English ‘we destroy’ is translated into a single word λύομεν. ‘I destroy’ in Greek is λύω. The ending is different, because the pronoun is contained in the ending.

Today you will practice writing in Greek. Carefully copy this week’s memory verse in your workbook.

day 2: Vocabulary.

All of the vocabulary words for this week are verbs. Look carefully at these words to see what they all have in common. Practice reading them several times.

ἀκούω

βλέπω

ἔχω

λύω

πιστεύω

Notice that they all end with an omega.

Here are the English translations:

ἀκούω

I hear

βλέπω

I see

ἔχω

I have or hold