

### 12.4 The auxiliary verbs είμαι (be) and έχω (have)

In Greek there are two auxiliary verbs: είμαι and έχω. They can be used with full verbs supporting them to create perfect tenses. See formation of the perfect tenses. In the tables below both verbs are conjugated in the present and the imperfect tense:

είμαι		
Simple Present / Ενεστώτας		Imperfect tense / Παρατατικός
είμαι	I am	ήμουν I was
είσαι	you are	ήσουν you were
είναι	he/she/it is	ήταν he/she/it was
είμαστε	we are	ήμαστε we were
είστε	you are	ήσαστε you were
είναι	they are	ήταν they were

έχω		
Simple Present / Ενεστώτας		Imperfect tense / Παρατατικός
έχω	I have	είχα I had
έχεις	you have	είχες you had
έχει	he/she/it has	είχε he/she/it had
έχουμε	we have	είχαμε we had
έχετε	you have	είχατε you had
έχουν	they have	είχαν they had

### 12.5 Verbs with contracted forms

Some verbs as καίω, κλαίω, φταίω, ακούω, λέω, πάω, τρώ(γ)ω, φυλά(γ)ω have a vowel in the end of the stem, that is before the ending of the verb. In these verbs a synaeresis takes place in the second person singular and in all three persons plural of the simple present of the indicative and subjunctive mood, as well as in certain types of the imperative. A synaeresis is a phonological process in which two adjacent vowels contract into one. For example, the verb ακού-ω (hear, listen): 2<sup>nd</sup> person: ακού (-εις) - ακούς (you hear/listen), the two vowel sounds “ου-ει” are contracted together into one, “ου”.

In the table below the verbs ακούω (hear, listen), λέω (say, tell), πάω (go), τρώω (eat) are conjugated in the simple present:

Simple Present / Ενεστώτας			
ακούω I hear/listen	λέω I say/tell	πάω I go	τρώω I eat
ακούς you ...	λες you ...	πας you ...	τρως you ...
ακούει	λέει	πάει	τρώει
ακούμε	λέμε	πάμε	τρώμε
ακούτε	λέτε	πάτε	τρώτε
ακούν(ε)	λέν(ε)	πάν(ε)	τρών(ε)

In the medio-passive voice these verbs take the letter “ γ ” (“πάω” does not form the medio-passive voice) , for example: ακού-ω – ακού-γ-ομαι, λέ-ω – λέ-γ-ομαι, τρώ-ω – τρώ-γ-ομαι