

3. Dropping vowels or consonants

In some words, vowels or consonants may drop out. This can happen at the beginning, middle or end of words. The following points describe this phenomenon briefly with examples.

3.1 Vowels

Two consecutive vowels in a word can be joined together. In case of two identical vowels one of the two remains. For example: ακούουν - ακούν, λέετε - λέτε. If the vowels are different then the stronger one remains. The strongest is the "α." Less strong are the following vowels in order of strength: ο(ω), ου, ε, ι(η,υ). For example: **Νικόλαος - Νικόλας, τρώετε - τρώτε.**

In the articles του, τα, το and the words θα, από, the vowel can drop out if the following word also begins with a vowel. An apostrophe replaces the vowel that is dropped. For example: **του ουρανού - τ' ουρανού, το άλογο - τ' άλογο, θα ακούσετε - θ' ακούσετε, από όλους - απ' όλους**

Vowels at the beginning of words may fall away if the preceding word ends with a vowel. The vowel usually falls away in verbs with the accent mark on the vowel and when the preceding word is a personal pronoun, the interrogative πού, the relative pronoun που or the words θα, να. In the place of the omitted vowel comes an apostrophe. For example: **μου είπε - μου 'πε, θα είμαι - θα 'μαι, να έρθεις - να 'ρθεις.**

Sometimes a vowel at the end of a word can fall away even if the following word begins with a consonant. The vowel usually falls away in the short words από, μέσα and in verbs in the imperative mood followed by the genitive or accusative case either singular or plural of the 3rd person personal pronoun, e.g. "του, της, τον, τη(ν), το ...". Instead of the vowel comes an apostrophe. For example: **φέρε το - φέρ' το, από το σπίτι - απ' το σπίτι.**

Notice the adverb "μέσα". If the word following begins with a consonant, then the α falls away but there will be no apostrophe, the "σ" just becomes "ς". For example: **μέσα στο σπίτι - μες στο σπίτι**

3.2 Consonants

3.2.1 The letter "γ" between vowels

In some words, the letter "γ" can fall away when it is between vowels. For example: **λέγω - λέω, τρώγω - τρώω.**

In some other words, the "γ" can be inserted between two vowels, especially between two vowels that have the same sound, for euphonic reasons. For example: **έκαιε - έκαιγε, έκλαιε - έκλαιγε.**

3.2.2 The letter "ν" at the end of words

Some short words sometimes get the "ν" at the end and sometimes not. These words are the articles το(ν), τη(ν), the indefinite article and numeral ένα(ν), the personal pronoun αυτή(ν), τη(ν) and the negative words δε(ν), μη(ν). **Note** that the **personal pronoun "αυτόν, τον" always gets a "ν".**

The above-mentioned words get the letter "ν" at the end if the following word begins with a vowel or the consonants **κ, π, τ, ξ, ψ, γκ, μπ, ντ.** For example:

τον άνθρωπο, δεν είμαι, τη μητέρα