

# Greek Study Guide

## Some Step-by-Step Translation Issues

- I. Part of Speech: Identify a word's part of speech (noun, pronoun, adjective, verb, adverb, preposition, conjunction, particle, other) and basic dictionary form.
- II. Dealing with Nouns and Related Forms (Pronouns, Adjectives, Definite Article, Participles<sup>1</sup>)
  - A. Decline the Noun or Related Form
    1. **Gender:** Masculine, Feminine, or Neuter
    2. **Number:** Singular or Plural
    3. **Case:** Nominative, Genitive, Dative, Accusative, or Vocative
  - B. Determine the **Use of the Case** for Nouns, Pronouns, or Substantives.  
(Part of examining larger syntactical unit of sentence or clause)
  - C. Identify the antecedent of Pronouns and the referent of Adjectives and Participles.
    1. Pronouns will agree with their antecedent in gender and number, but not necessarily case.
    2. Adjectives/participles will agree with their referent in gender, number, and case (but will not necessarily have the same endings).
- III. Dealing with Verbs (to include Infinitives and Participles)
  - A. Parse the Verb
    1. **Tense/Aspect:**  
*Primary tenses:* Present, Future, Perfect  
*Secondary (past time) tenses:* Imperfect, Aorist, Pluperfect
    2. **Mood:**  
Moods: Indicative, Subjunctive, Imperative, or Optative  
Verbals: Infinitive or Participle [not technically moods]
    3. **Voice:** Active, Middle, or Passive
    4. **Person:** 1, 2, or 3.
    5. **Number:** Singular or Plural

Note: Infinitives do not have Person or Number; Participles do not have Person, but instead have Gender and Case (as do nouns and adjectives).
  - B. Review uses of Infinitives, Participles, Subjunctives, Imperatives, and Optatives before translating these.
  - C. Review aspect before translating any verb form.
    - See p. 60 in FGG (3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> editions) to translate imperfects and *all* present forms.

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<sup>1</sup>Participles are verbal adjectives, and so they both parse like verbs (tense/aspect and voice), but also decline like nouns (gender-number-case).

#### IV. Syntax

- A. Identify these main elements of a clause: Subject, verb, and direct object/predicate nominative.
  1. Note: In some sentences the subject may not be explicitly present through the form of a noun or pronoun, but instead is assumed by the form of the verb. EG: The subject of λύουσι is “they” even if no plural noun or pronoun is present in the clause.
  2. Note: The linking verb (εἰμί) sometimes may not be present, but is assumed from the context.
  3. Note: Not every sentence will have a direct object or a predicate nominative; for some verbs the direct object will be expressed by a case other than the accusative.
  
- B. Identify other parts of clause: Adjectives, participles, infinitives, adverbs, prepositional phrases, etc.
  1. Determine referent of adjectives and participles.
  2. Determine if prepositional phrase is adjectival (it has a definite article) or adverbial (it has no article).
  
- C. Determine if clause is independent/main clause or dependent/subordinate clause.
  1. If clause is independent/main clause, then it is the main sentence of this unit. Note: Not every main sentence will have dependent/subordinate clauses attached to it.
  
  2. If clause is dependent/subordinate, determine its relationship to the main clause:
    - a. Adjectival (relative clauses, attributive prepositional phrases, attributive participles)
      - Note: These will all be translated as a relative clause.
    - b. Adverbial (most other clauses)

## Verb Morphology – the Paradigm Verbs λύω and λείπω

Review verb paradigms on pp. 308-311 in *Fundamental Greek Grammar* (4<sup>th</sup> edition).

- A. λύω: The Weak/Regular Verb: The verb stem does not change when moving from the present tense to other tenses. All forms are formed predictably.

First principal part/Present – dictionary form; regular indicative mood connecting vowel pattern; primary endings.

λύω (I loose)

Second principal part/Future – add sigma to the end of the present stem; regular indicative mood connecting vowel pattern; primary endings.

λύσω (I will loose)

Third principal part/Aorist – future stem; add temporal augment to front of stem in indicative mood; use alpha connecting vowel pattern (except in subjunctive mood); secondary endings.

ἔλυσα (I loosed)

Fourth principal part/Perfect – reduplicate the front of the present stem with an epsilon; add a kappa to the end of the stem; use the aorist alpha connecting vowel; mix of primary/secondary active endings.

λέλυκα (I have loosed)

Fifth principal part/Perfect Middle-Passive – reduplicate the front of the present stem with an epsilon; no connecting vowel; primary middle-passive endings.

λέλυμαι (I have been loosed/I am loosed)

Sixth principal part/Aorist Passive – add temporal augment to front of stem in indicative mood; add theta-eta to the end of the stem; no connecting vowel (except in the subjunctive mood); secondary *active* endings.

ἐλύθην (I was loosed)

- B. λείπω: The Strong/Irregular Verb: The verb stem changes when moving from the present tense to other tenses. The changes in the stem are unpredictable, but the verb patterns are predictable. The paradigm verb λείπω is irregular in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> principal parts. Other irregular verbs experience stem change in other principal parts as well.

First principal part/Present – dictionary form; regular indicative mood connecting vowel pattern; primary endings.

λείπω (I leave)

Second principal part/Future – add sigma to the end of the present stem; regular indicative mood connecting vowel pattern; primary endings.

λείψω (I will leave)

Third principal part/Aorist – stem changes in unpredictable way, from λειπ- to λιπ-; add temporal augment to front of stem in indicative mood; use regular indicative mood connecting vowel pattern; secondary endings.

ἔλιπον (I left)

Fourth principal part/Perfect – stem changes in unpredictable way, from λειπ- to λοιπ-; reduplicate the front of the present stem with an epsilon; use the aorist alpha connecting vowel; mix of primary/secondary active endings.

λέλοιπα (I have left)

Fifth principal part/Perfect Middle-Passive – reduplicate the front of the present stem with an epsilon; no connecting vowel; primary middle-passive endings.

λέλειμμαι (I have been left/I am left)

Sixth principal part/Aorist Passive – add temporal augment to front of stem in indicative mood; add theta-eta to the end of the stem; no connecting vowel (except in the subjunctive mood); secondary *active* endings.

ἐλείφθην (I was left)

## Case Usage in Greek

### Vocative Case

Direct Address

### Nominative Case

1. Subject of a verb
2. Predicate with a linking verb (εἶμι, γίνομαι, etc.)
3. In place of vocative for direct address

### Genitive Case

1. Possession
2. Object of certain prepositions
3. Personal agency of a passive voice verb (with ὑπό)
4. Subject of a genitive absolute participle
5. Direct object of certain verbs (especially verbs of sense, but not verbs of seeing)
6. Comparison
7. Relationship
8. Price or worth
9. Subjective Genitive: Subject of verbal action in “possessed” word whose root is based in a verb
10. Objective Genitive: Direct object of verbal action in “possessed” word whose root is based in a verb
11. Time use: Express time frame within which verbal action takes place

### Dative Case

1. Indirect object of a verb
2. Object of certain prepositions
3. Impersonal means or instrument of any verb
4. Advantage/disadvantage
5. Direct object of certain verbs (especially compound verbs)
6. Respect/epexegetical
7. Measure of difference (with comparative adverb ἤ)
8. Time use: Express a point in time when verbal action takes place

### Accusative Case

1. Direct object of most verbs
2. Object of certain prepositions
3. Subject of an infinitive
4. Adverbially (neuter accusative singular of an adjective; occasionally nouns)
5. Time: Extent of time when verbal action takes place
6. Place: Extent of place when verbal action takes place

## Adjectives

1. An adjective will have a referent (the noun that it is modifying). The adjective will agree with its referent in gender, number, and case. Note that an adjective will not necessarily have the same ending as its referent as the adjective and its referent will not necessarily use the same declension.
2. When the referent is definite, the definite article will normally appear directly before its referent.

Example: ὁ δοῦλος = “the slave”

3. Attributive position/use: In the attributive position an adjective is used to modify its referent. If the referent is a definite noun, then an attributive adjective will always follow the definite article. There are two ways this may appear: The adjective may appear between the article and the noun (the “sandwich” position) or it may follow the noun with the article repeated before the adjective (the “repeat” position).

Sandwich position: ὁ ἀγαθὸς λόγος = “the good word”

Repeat position: ὁ λόγος ὁ ἀγαθός = “the good word”

4. Predicate position/use: In predicate nominative with the verb “to be.” The verb “to be” does not need to be expressed, but can be assumed. Note that in this position the adjective will not follow the definite article.

Example:

ὁ δοῦλός ἐστιν ἀγαθός. “The slave is good.”

ὁ δοῦλος ἀγαθός. “The slave is good.”

5. Substantive position/use: The definite article is also used to make a noun out of an adjective. This is equivalent to the attributive position, but without an expressed referent.

Example: οἱ νεκροὶ (ἄνθρωποι) = οἱ νεκροί = “the dead”

## Procedure for Resolving Participles in Greek

- 1. Parse the participle:** Tense/“Mood” [= Participle]/Voice/Gender/Number/Case
- 2. Identify the referent,** that is, the noun or pronoun to which the participle refers. The referent will agree with the participle in G/N/C; the referent is the subject of the verbal action in the participle. (Note: If the participle is standing alone as a substantive—see # 4 below—then there will be no referent in the sentence.)
- 3. Determine “relative time” of participles action in relation to the main verb:** Participles have no time sense in themselves (since they are not indicative mood verbs!). Remember: If it is a present tense participle, then the rule of thumb is that it will have the same time sense as the main verb. If it is an aorist participle, then the rule of thumb is that it will be one step back in time from the main verb.

Present tense main verb: Translate present participle as present (same time as).

Present tense main verb: Translate aorist participle as aorist (one step back in time).

Secondary tense main verb: Translate present participle as imperfect (same time as).

Secondary tense main verb: Translate aorist participle as pluperfect (one step back in time).

### **4. Determine participle’s position and translate:** Attributive or Predicate

- It is **attributive** if the participle follows a definite article. If it is attributive, then it is acting directly like an adjective to modify its referent. *Translate as a relative clause.*

But note that an attributive participle could be standing on its own as a **substantive**; in this case there will be no referent in the same sentence.

Note also that if the referent is indefinite, then a participle in attributive position would also not have the definite article. In such cases the participle could either be attributive or predicate. *Context must decide.*

- It is predicate if it does not follow the definite article. If it is predicate, then it is introducing a clause that is acting adverbially to the main verb of the sentence. *Translate as a subordinate clause introduced by a fitting subordinating conjunction based on context.* Some key uses:

(1) Temporal: For present participles “while” or “as”; for aorist participles “after”

(2) Causal: “Because,” “on account of,” “since,” etc.

(3) Concessive: “Even though,” “although,” etc.

(4) Attendant Circumstance: Make simple participle with “-ing” ending.

### Attributive participle:

Βλέπω τὸν δοῦλον τὸν λαμβάνοντα τὰ ἀργύρια. “I see the slave **who is taking** the silver.”

- The participle is attributive because has a definite article. Translate as a relative clause that modifies its referent (here δοῦλον). Present participle is same time as main verb.

Βλέπω τὸν δοῦλον τὸν λαβόντα τὰ ἀργύρια. “I see the slave **who took** the silver.”

- Aorist participle is one step back in time from main verb.

Εἶδον τὸν δοῦλον τὸν λαμβάνοντα τὰ ἀργύρια. “I saw the slave **who was taking** the silver.”

Εἶδον τὸν δοῦλον τὸν λαβόντα τὰ ἀργύρια. “I saw the slave **who had taken** the silver.”

### Substantive participle:

Βλέπω τὸν λαμβάνοντα τὰ ἀργύρια. “I see the one/man who is taking the silver.”

- There is no referent of the participle in this sentence; the participle stands alone as a noun.

Βλέπω τὸν λαβόντα τὰ ἀργύρια. “I see the one/man who took the silver.”

Εἶδον τὸν λαμβάνοντα τὰ ἀργύρια. “I saw the one/man who was taking the silver.”

Εἶδον τὸν λαβόντα τὰ ἀργύρια. “I saw the one/man who had taken the silver.”

### Predicate participle:

Βλέπω τὸν δοῦλον λαμβάνοντα τὰ ἀργύρια. “I see the slave **while he is taking** the silver.”

- The participle is predicate because it does not have a definite article while its referent does. Translate it as an adverbial clause that modifies the verb (Βλέπω).

Βλέπω τὸν δοῦλον λαβόντα τὰ ἀργύρια. “I see the slave **after he took** the silver.”

Εἶδον τὸν δοῦλον τὸν λαμβάνοντα τὰ ἀργύρια. “I saw the slave **while he was taking** the silver.”

Εἶδον τὸν δοῦλον τὸν λαβόντα τὰ ἀργύρια. “I saw the slave **after he had taken** the silver.”

### Watch for this:

If a noun is indefinite, an attributive participle modifying that noun would not have the definite article either. In such a case the participle might be attributive or predicate. Context might help determine what it is, but it could be ambiguous.

Εἶδον δοῦλον λαβόντα τὰ ἀργύρια.

Could be attributive: “I saw a slave **who had taken** the silver.”

Or predicate: “I saw a slave **after he had taken** the silver.”

## Review of the Uses of the Infinitive

### A. Without the Definite Article — “SOAPER”:

1. **S**ubject of an impersonal verb (e.g., δεῖ or ἔξεστί).
2. Direct **O**bject of a verb (usually a verb expressing want, wish, desire, command, request, praying, etc.)
3. **A**ppositional with the demonstrative pronoun.
4. **P**urpose (usually with verbs expressing movement or doing).
5. **E**pexegetical with or “explaining” certain nouns or adjectives.
6. **R**esult, with infinitive following the conjunction ὥστε.

### B. With the Definite Article — “Articular Infinitive”

Note: The definite article is always neuter singular.

1. With the neuter singular nominative article the infinitive can be the subject of the verb ἐστί (the Present Indicative Active 3rd singular of εἶμι).
2. With six prepositions followed by the article in the governed case with the infinitive, the infinitive becomes the verb of a subordinate clause whose “time” is determined by the preposition and the verb of the main sentence.

μετὰ + τὸ + infinitive [eg, λύσαι] “After he loosed/had loosed. . . .”

πρὸ + τοῦ + infinitive “Before he looses/loosed. . . .”

διὰ + τὸ + infinitive “Because he looses/loosed/had loosed. . . .”

πρὸς + τὸ + infinitive “In order to loose. . . .”

εἰς + τὸ + infinitive “In order to loose. . . .”

ἐν + τῷ + infinitive “While he looses/was loosing. . . .”

## Review of Uses of the Subjunctive

### A. Independent Uses/Main Verb of Clause (“HEND”)

1. **Hortatory/Cohortative:** Only with 1st person plural *and* period as final punctuation. (“Let us. . . .”)
2. **Emphatic Denial:** Double negative οὐ μή with aorist subjunctive. (“. . . will certainly/surely not. . . .”)
3. **Negative Command:** The negative particle μή with aorist subjunctive (normally 2nd person singular); may have connotation of prohibiting act not yet begun/engaged in. (“Do not [begin to]. . . .”)
4. **Deliberative:** Only with 1st person plural *and* question mark as final punctuation. (“Shall we. . . .”)

### B. Dependent Uses/Verb in Subordinate Clause:

1. Uses with ἵνα: “SOAPER” (see Infinitive):
  - a. **Subject** of an impersonal verb (e.g., δεῖ or ἔξεστί).
  - b. Direct **Object** of a verb (usually a verb expressing want, wish, desire, command, request, praying, etc.)
  - c. **Appositional** with the demonstrative pronoun.
  - d. **Purpose** (usually with verbs expressing movement or doing).
  - e. **Epexegetical** with or “explaining” certain nouns or adjectives.
  - f. **Result.** That this is a use is debated. If this use does exist, it is rare. Always consider purpose as possibility first.
2. Uses with ἄν and related forms:
  - a. Temporal Clauses—ὅταν + subjunctive:
    - (1) Future: w/ future tense verb in main clause.
    - (2) General: w/ present tense verb in main clause.
  - b. Conditional Clauses—ἐάν + subjunctive:
    - (1) Future More Vivid: w/ future tense verb in main clause.
    - (2) Present General: w/ present tense verb in main clause.
  - c. Relative Clauses— ἄν + relative pronoun + subjunctive:
    - (1) Future: w/ future tense verb in main clause.
    - (2) General: w/ present tense verb in main clause.
  - d. Locative Clauses— ἄν + ὅπου + subjunctive:
    - (1) Future: w/ future tense verb in main clause.
    - (2) General: w/ present tense verb in main clause.

### **Conditional Sentences: Wallace and Voelz**

1. First class conditional sentence (Assumed true for the sake of the argument) in Wallace = Simple Particular in Voelz
  - If-clause =  $\epsilon\iota$  + indicative. Then-clause = indicative/imperative
  - Present SP: If-clause =  $\epsilon\iota$  + present indicative. Then-clause = present indicative/imperative
  - Past SP: If-clause =  $\epsilon\iota$  + aorist/imperfect indicative. Then-clause = aorist/imperfect indicative/imperative
2. Second class conditional sentence (Wallace) = Contrary to Fact (Voelz)
  - If-clause =  $\epsilon\iota$  + indicative. Then-clause =  $\check{\alpha}v$  + indicative.
  - Present CTF: If-clause =  $\epsilon\iota$  + imperfect indicative. Then-clause =  $\check{\alpha}v$  + imperfect indicative.
  - Past CTF: If-clause =  $\epsilon\iota$  + aorist indicative. Then-clause =  $\check{\alpha}v$  + aorist indicative.
3. Third class conditional sentence (Wallace) = Present General/Future More Vivid (Voelz)
  - PG: If-clause =  $\epsilon\acute{\alpha}v$  + subjunctive. Then-clause = present indicative
  - FMV: If-clause =  $\epsilon\acute{\alpha}v$  + subjunctive. Then-clause = future indicative