
Hellênikê / ἑλληνική: an open-source introduction to ancient Greek

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1 Hellênikê / ἑλληνική: an open-source introduction to ancient Greek

Encounter a historical language and culture, and engage with how that language and culture continue to shape structures of power today.

This open-source textbook is one part of a project to develop a new two-semester introduction to ancient Greek at the College of the Holy Cross in 2022-2023. It is modeled on work by several members of our department over the past three years rethinking our introductory Latin courses. Like that project, our curriculum is based on these principles:

- the course emphasizes authentic examples of language, and is organized around a target text (in this textbook, Lysias, *Oration 1: On the Murder of Eratosthenes*). Instead of composing made-up Greek, we draw on the target text as much as possible.
- we follow modern principles of language pedagogy in presenting first those features of language (syntactic, morphological, lexical) that are frequent in Greek, are inherently complex, and are most different from English forms of expression and thought.
- we determine the sequence of content on the basis of computational analysis of the features needed to read authentic content.
- throughout the curriculum, we link the study of Greek to reflection on contemporary issues.

Like the Latin project before us, our work at Holy Cross is taking place through the college's Scholarship in Action program, and we gratefully acknowledge its support.

2 About this textbook

Download a PDF of this textbook.

2.1 Organization

After a brief section of “Preliminaries” introducing the Greek alphabet and accent, the chapters of this textbook introducing students to ancient Greek correspond to modules that we use as the basis for two to three weeks of our courses. We expect to cover modules 1-4 together in the first semester of a two-semester, full-year course.

Each of these chapters has three sections:

1. *language*: introduction of new features of the Greek language
2. *ancient Greek in action*: each module includes some reading or activities that ask students to relate content introduced in the language section of this module to some aspect of their life
3. *reading*: a minimally modified passage from the target text (in this edition, Lysias 1). This passage is the basis of an assignment we include in the section of the “Practice” chapter for this module.

These chapters are followed by sections of the textbook with practice and review material for each module. In the “practice” section, we include for each module some short exercises using forms and syntax from that module, and structured series of three assignments that we incorporate in our course. These series progress from an exercise to solid mastery of basic forms and syntax, to an analysis and translation of the reading passage for the module, to a guided composition.

The “review” chapter includes summaries of forms and syntax and a list of required vocabulary.

Finally, a reference section, offers a more comprehensive summary of forms.

2.1.1 A note on vocabulary

The first modules of the course emphasize a small core vocabulary (fewer than 200 words). This vocabulary is characterized by its frequency across many corpora of Greek texts. The common practice

of simply finding the most frequent terms in a *composite* list of Greek texts, however, effaces the differences in vocabulary from one corpus to another, so instead we look for overlapping items in the highest frequency lists of individual corpora.

The resulting lexemes include:

- function words (prepositions, particles, conjunctions)
- the article and pronouns
- a small core of extremely common verbs, especially those which have a large number of compounds. In counting the frequency of a simplex verb like φέρω, we include occurrences of compounds such as ἐπιφέρω or ἐκφέρω.

It includes a relatively small number of nouns, and fewer adjectives: these parts of speech vary more from one corpus to another.

As we get further into the course, we focus on a second tier of vocabulary: terms that are frequent in the target corpus and related or similar texts, but not necessarily in other Greek corpora. The goal is to have a large enough vocabulary to recognize 75-90% of the lexical items in the target text, excluding proper nouns and adjectives. For some target texts, a vocabulary of < 500 words may be adequate. This second vocabulary tier will include more verbs, a larger number of nouns, and some additional adjectives.

3 Preliminaries

Since ancient Greek is a historical language, our knowledge of it depends on written sources. Before we can begin our study of the language, we need to understand the writing system we use to represent ancient Greek.

3.1 The Greek alphabet

3.1.1 Background

Greeks began experimenting with alphabetic writing in the eighth century BCE when they became familiar with the alphabets used to write Semitic languages like Phoenician and Aramaic. Several adaptations of these Semitic models were used in different parts of the Greek world, with different numbers of letters, and different sounds for some of the letters in each alphabet. In 403 BCE, Athens officially adopted the form of the alphabet used in Ionia. Over the next century, this script soon became the standard form throughout the Greek world, and is the ancestor of what we think of as “the” Greek alphabet.

The alphabetic system defined sounds for each symbol. Another important feature was that it defined a sequence for the letters, just as we have maintained in our descendant of the Greek alphabet: it begins with “a and is followed by”b “c etc. You must learn the order of the letters in the Greek alphabet as well as their pronunciation so that you are able to use a dictionary and other reference works that are organized alphabetically.

The classical Greeks always read aloud. You should do the same. As soon as you begin learning the letters of the Greek alphabet, practice reading aloud to become comfortable pronouncing Greek words you have not seen before. As you progress, continue reading aloud to gain ease in doing so.

3.1.2 The basic letters

letter	name	pronunciation guide	practice Greek word
A α	alpha	drama (long, short)	ἀνὴρ (“man”)
B β	beta	book	βιβλίον (“book”)
Γ γ	gamma	good (“hard g”)	γυνή (“woman”)
Δ δ	delta	day	δῶρον (“gift”)
E ε	epsilon	bet	ἔργον (“work, deed”)
Z ζ	zeta	wisdom	ζῷον (“animal”)
H η	eta	ate; wait	ἡμέρα (“day”)
Θ θ	theta	thick	θεός (“god”)
I ι	iota	hit (short); machine (long)	ἰχθύς (“fish”)
K κ	kappa	kind	καρπός (“fruit”)
Λ λ	lambda	language	λόγος (“word”)
M μ	mu	mother	μήτηρ (“mother”)
N ν	nu	night	νόμος (“law, custom”)
Ξ ξ	xi	hex (= ‘ks’)	ξένος (“guest, host, stranger”)
O ο	omicron	pot	ὄνομα (“name”)
Π π	pi	person	πατήρ (“father”)
P ρ	rho	rose	ρήτωρ (“orator”)
Σ σ, ς	sigma	say	σῶμα (“body”)
T τ	tau	take	τέκνον (“child”)
Υ υ	upsilon	put (short); cute (long)	ὕπνος (“sleep”)
Φ φ	phi	photo	φωνή (“voice”)
Χ χ	chi	chorus	χάρις (“grace, thanks, favor”)
Ψ ψ	psi	upset	ψυχή (“spirit, soul, life”)
Ω ω	omega	bone	ὥρα (“season, hour”)

Note: lower case sigma has two forms: σ is used at the beginning or within a word; ς is used at the end of a word but is not pronounced differently.

3.1.3 Vowel length

Vowels can be long or short. As in a modern language like German, the long version of the vowel was literally held for a longer time than the short version. η and ω are always long; they correspond to the short vowels ε and ο respectively. Long and short versions of α, ι and υ were not distinguished in writing, but were pronounced differently.

3.1.4 Breathings

Another sound to add: words beginning with a vowel will have what is called a breathing mark written over that vowel. There are two kinds of breathing marks:

- smooth breathing looks like this ' and adds no sound to the vowel
- rough breathing looks like this ' and adds an 'h' sound to the vowel (words beginning with a rho also have a rough breathing, making it an 'rh' sound)

3.1.5 Diphthongs

Diphthongs are combinations of two vowels that result in one syllable. English has them, too. In Greek, diphthongs are combinations of iota or upsilon with other vowels.

diphthong	pronunciation guide	model Greek word
αι	aisle	αἰδώς ("sense of shame, respect")
αυ	house, plow	αὔριον ("tomorrow")
ει	weigh	εἰρήνη ("peace")
ευ	ε + υ	εὖ ("well," the adverb of "good")
οι	coin	οἰκία ("house, home")
ου	soup, boot	οὐρανός ("sky")
υι	wit	υἱός ("son")

Accents and breathing marks are written over the second vowel of a diphthong.

3.1.6 Iota subscript

When iota combines with long alpha, eta, or omega, one modern convention is to write it beneath the vowel as an “iota subscript,” which look like this: αῖ, ηῖ, ωῖ. “Iota subscript” became an alternate way of spelling a final iota when the final iota began to be dropped in pronunciation. Some guides suggest pronouncing such combinations as a diphthong; in practice, modern scholars commonly pronounce these identically to αῖ, ηῖ, and ωῖ. But in writing, the iota subscript is essential and cannot be ignored.

3.1.7 Tips for reading

- read out loud (as the ancient Greeks did!) to practice recognizing and putting together letter forms and sounds.
- we can’t precisely recover ancient pronunciation, but try to distinguish sounds that are spelled differently (e.g., ο/ω ε/η), and include accent in your pronunciation. Hear the difference between ἀστραπηβόλος, “one who throws lightning” (an adjective describing Zeus) and ἀστραπήβολος “one struck by lightning”. It makes a difference! English similarly distinguishes otherwise identical words based on (stress) accent. How does the way you pronounce the following English word change their meaning? *content, present, object, insult, permit*

3.1.8 Pronunciation practice

Practice reading these words out loud:

- Ἑρατοσθένης (name of the murdered man in Lysias, *Oration 1*)
- Εὐφίλητος (name of the man accused of murder)
- Σώστρατος (name of a friend of Εὐφίλητος)
- Ἀθηναῖοι

3.1.9 Other resources

A youtube video showing you how to write ancient Greek.

3.2 Ancient Greek accents (τόνος)

Ancient Greek in the fifth and fourth centuries BCE was spoken with a pitch accent: that is, the pitch of your voice would rise or fall on different syllables. Later, this evolved into a stress accent: as in English or modern Greek, accented syllables came to be pronounced instead with extra stress. Ancient

scholars worried about the “correct” pronunciation as pitch accent began to disappear, and devised a system of three accent marks to indicate the proper pitch for a syllable. Their word for these accents, *τόνος*, was also used to refer to systems of pitch in Greek music, and is the source of the English word “tone.”

The *acute* accent indicated that your voice should rise on the accented syllable, and was called *ὀξύτονον*, the “sharp” or “high pitch”. The *grave* accent indicated that the voice should fall. It was called the *βαρύτονον*, the “heavy” or “low pitch”. The *circumflex* signaled that your voice should rise and then fall on a single syllable. Its name was the *περισπόμενος τόνος*, a pitch that is bent or wrapped around as it travels up and then down. On an alpha, they could look like this:

- acute: *ᾱ́*
- grave: *ᾱ̀*
- circumflex: *ᾱ̃*

Because English speakers are accustomed to stress accents, we will pronounce any accented syllable, regardless of type of accent, with a stress accent.

3.2.1 Pronunciation practice

Practice pronouncing the following words. As you’ll learn in Module 2, Greek nouns change their endings to indicate their function. Each pair of words shows two forms of the same noun: pronounce them so that you can hear clearly which syllable is stressed in each instance.

- Εὐφίλητος (name of the man accused of murder in Lysias 1)
- Εὐφιλήτου
- Ἀθηναῖοι (Athenians)
- Ἀθηναίους
- πολίτης (the word for citizen of a city-state, compare English “political”)
- πολιτῶν

3.2.2 Accented words

Every Greek sentence was a flow of higher and lower pitches, and every word had its own accent, except for a very small number of special cases. One group of small words that do not carry an accent or affect the accents of other words are called *proclitics*. These include some forms of the article (“the”), *ὁ, ἡ, οἱ, αἱ*; a few prepositions like *εἰς* (“into”), *ἐκ* (“out of”), *ἐν* (“in”), and some conjunctions like *εἰ* (“if”) and *ὥς* (“as, that, since”). There are also *enclitics*, short words that affect the accents of other words in a sentence but do not have their own accent. We’ll learn more about enclitics in Module 2.

3.2.3 General rules

Accents are always written over vowels. If a diphthong is accented, the accent is written over the second vowel of the diphthong (e.g., εῦ, or Ἀθηναῖοι).

Accents appear on only the last three syllables of a word. Rather than refer to “the second syllable from the end,” for example, it’s traditional to use these names for the last three syllables:

- the *ultima* is the last syllable
- the *penult* is the penultimate, or next to last, syllable
- the *antepenult* is the one before the penult, or third from last

Each accent can appear only in certain positions depending on the length of the vowels in the word. Remember that η, and ω are always long, ε, and ο always short. α, ι, and υ may represent either long ᾱ, ī, ū or short ᾶ, ĭ, ŭ. Diphthongs are long, except for final -αι, -οι in some forms.

1. The grave accent appears only on the ultima.
2. The circumflex appears only on the ultima and penult.
3. The acute accent appears on ultima, penult and antepenult.

Let’s consider each individually.

3.2.4 The grave accent

A grave accent is really just a replacement for an acute accent. Within the context of a phrase or sentence, when a word with an acute accent on the ultima is followed directly by another accented word, its accent is changed from acute to grave. After a pause (indicated in our texts by a comma or period), the acute can remain unchanged.

Consider the word **αὐτήν** (the pronoun “her with acute accent on the ultima) in these two sentences from Lysias 1.

1. ἀπώλεσεν αὐτήν. (“He killed her.”)
2. ἐκέλευον αὐτήν ἀπιέναι. (“I ordered her to leave.”)

αὐτήν is the last word of the first sentence: we’ll pause at the period, and the accent can remain unchanged. In sentence 2, however, αὐτήν is followed by the accented word ἀπιέναι (“leave”); we have to change its acute to grave for the preferred sound and rhythm to the whole sentence.

Notice that since the grave accent occurs only in the context of a sentence, when you examples of forms noun, adjective, or verb forms in this textbook, you will not see or use a grave accent!

3.2.5 The circumflex

The circumflex can only be used on long syllables (that is, over a long vowel or diphthong). It can appear on the penult only when the ultima is short.

Consider these examples from a pair of common Greek words. As we'll see in Module 2, nouns and pronouns use different endings to show their function (a little like adding “s” to a noun to make it plural in English). Here are two forms of a noun meaning “divinity, god, goddess” (compare English words like “theology” and “theocracy”):

1. θεός
2. θεῶν

In both examples, the accent is on the ultima, but in the first example, the accent cannot be a circumflex, because the ultima is short. In the second form, the ultima is long and is accented with a circumflex.

The next pair of examples are a pronoun meaning “that person”.

1. ἐκεῖνος
2. ἐκείνη

Both forms are accented on the penult, and both forms have a long penult (the diphthong ει). In the first example, the ultima is short, so we can use a circumflex on the penult, but in the second example, the ultima is long, so a circumflex is not possible.

3.2.6 The acute accent

An acute accent can appear on any of the last three syllables. It only appears on the antepenult if the ultima is short. It can be used on the penult anytime the ultima is long, or when both the penult and ultima are short. These two patterns complement the use of the circumflex on the penult when the penult is long and the ultima short: taken together, these three patterns cover all instances of accent on the penult, as summarized here:

Accent to use	Syllable length	Example
<i>Acute</i>	× –	ἀνθρώπου
<i>Acute</i>	◡	φόνος
<i>Circumflex</i>	– ◡	τοῦτο

3.2.7 Summary table

Accented syllable	Syllable length	Examples
<i>Acute on antepenult</i>	× × ◡	ἄνθρωπος
<i>Acute on penult</i>	× –	ἀνθρώπου
<i>Acute on penult</i>	◡	φόνος
<i>Circumflex on penult</i>	– ◡	τοῦτο
<i>Acute on ultima</i>	×	αὐτή, αὐτός
<i>Circumflex on ultima</i>	–	αὐτοῦ

4 Module 1: the Greek verb

4.1 Overview of module 1

4.1.1 Language: overview

Module 1 introduces these features of Greek:

- verbal units expressing a subject and action
- how to recognize finite verb forms and identify them with person, number, tense, mood, voice
- principal parts of Greek verbs
- the aorist and imperfect indicative tenses

4.1.2 Ancient Greek in action: overview

Different languages imagine the world and express thoughts about it differently. To narrate past events, for example, English does not have a single verb tense that correspond to the ideas expressed by the Greek imperfect tense. What does reading and translating involve when there are several choices and no one exact equivalent? Module 1 includes reflections of English speakers encountering a past tense in Spanish and Italian that is similar in its range of meaning to the Greek imperfect tense.

4.1.3 Reading: overview

In our reading in module 1, we meet Euphiletus, the speaker in Lysias, *Oration 1*. Euphiletus describes the early days of his marriage (to a wife who is never named). We will begin to consider and grapple with cultural as well as linguistic concepts and differences.

4.2 The Greek verb (τὸ ῥῆμα)

We will see several kinds of *verbal unit* that Greek uses to express a subject and action. In this module, we begin our study of Greek with the most important one: *finite verbs*.

No Greek sentence is complete without an expressed or implied finite verb expressing the action of the sentence.

4.3 Verbal units

When people listen to their native language, we don't simply hear a stream of sound: we intuitively cluster meaningful units together. When we learn to read, we similarly learn how to recognize clusters of letters and words, to “chunk” the text into meaningful units.

As you learn how to read ancient Greek, we will emphasize this crucial skill. Rather than simply analyzing one word at a time reading left to right, you will learn how to see sentences and whole paragraphs as compositions of smaller pieces, each with a recognizable structure and meaning.

We will use the term *verbal unit* to refer to the most important underlying structure in Greek. A *verb* is a word that expresses an action or a state of being. (As Schoolhouse Rock put it decades ago, “Verb: that’s what happening.”) A verbal unit combines some form of a verb with a subject to express a complete idea.

Compared to English, Greek has an extremely rich system of verb forms to create different kinds of verbal units. In module 3, for example, we will learn how Greek can use participles to form verbal units quite different from anything in English.

The most important verbal unit in Greek, however, is the *finite verb*. Every sentence has at least one verbal unit expressed with a finite verb plus a subject, even if these are only implied. Subjects and verbs can be implied in English, too: if someone asks you “Coffee or tea?” they are implying “Would you like coffee or tea? a sentence with a subject (“you”) and verb (“would like”).

The Greek grammatical term for a verb is ῥῆμα, a word that can mean “a statement”: even if you leave out every other word, the finite verb constitutes a complete statement.

4.4 Finite Verb Forms

Finite verb forms have five properties: **person**, **number**, **tense**, **voice**, and **mood**. To properly identify a finite verb form, you must identify all five properties. Ancient Greek finite verb forms contain all of this information in the verb form itself. In English, we often need other words to convey some of this information, such as subject pronouns to convey the person and number, and auxiliary (or “helping”) verbs to express tense, mood, and voice.

4.4.1 Person

A verb's person expresses the subject of the verb in relation to the "speaker" of the sentence.

1. The first person (I or we in English) subject includes the speaker.
2. The second person (you in English) subject is the addressee(s) of the speaker.
3. The third person (he, she, it, they in English) subject is a person or thing separate from the speaker and addressee.

4.4.2 Number

Number combines with person in describing the subject of verb. It indicates when the subject is singular or plural. In English, for example, first person singular is "I" while first person plural is "we."

Ancient Greek also has an additional, less common "number" known as the dual, when the subject is two persons, animals, body parts (e.g., eyes, hands), or things acting together. We will not see dual verb forms in our readings this year.

4.4.3 Tense

The tense of a finite verb describes the time of the action and/or its aspect. "Aspect" refers to what kind of action the verb is representing.

Over these two semesters of learning ancient Greek, we will consider six tenses, which are divided into "primary" and "secondary" tenses. The three "primary" tenses represent actions in the present or future; the three "secondary" tenses are all past tenses.

- Primary tenses: Present, Future, Perfect
- Secondary tenses: Imperfect, Aorist, Pluperfect

Multiple tenses for action in a particular "time" (such as the past) differ in terms of *aspect*. Aspect emphasizes the type of action being represented, or how the action is being depicted. Aspects include **simple, ongoing or continuous** and **completed**. Tense can indicate both time and aspect, or, in some verb forms, aspect alone.

4.4.4 Voice

Voice expresses the relationship between the action of the verb and the subject. English has two voices: active, in which the subject is performing the action of the verb ("I love"), and passive, in which the subject is receiving the action of the verb ("I am loved").

Ancient Greek has active and passive voices that operate the same way. It also has a third voice, the middle. In the middle voice, the subject performs the action of the verb with a particular interest or reference between the subject and the action of the verb, such as reflexive (“I love myself”), reciprocal (“we love each other”), initiating the action to be performed by another (“I got my hair cut” or “I am having my house painted”) or with a particular self-interest (“I love for my own reasons, in my own interests”).

Take some time to think about how the middle voice imagines actions with nuances different from the active. How does English express those ideas, if it does? In some uses (and for some verbs in all uses), the middle forms will have a meaning that is best represented by an active verb form in English. But paying attention to the ideas that the middle form represents is important for understanding ancient Greek modes of expression.

For some verb tenses, the middle and the passive share the same form. If you are identifying the form alone, you should identify it as “middle/passive.” In a sentence, however, you will consider other syntactic structures within the clause or sentence to determine whether that particular use is middle or is passive, in order to understand the clause or sentence correctly.

4.4.5 Mood

The mood of a verb indicates the function of the expression and the nature of the action in the speaker’s conception. “Mood” and “mode” come from the same root in English: the “mood” of a verb is the “mode” in which the verb is operating.

Ancient Greek has four moods: (1) the indicative, used to express a statement or question of a factual nature (in the eyes of the speaker) in the past, present, or future; (2) the imperative, used to give a command; (3) the subjunctive and (4) the optative, which have many uses in subordinate clauses and are also used to express potential or possible action.

4.4.6 Negation with finite verb forms

There are two basic words in ancient Greek used to negate a finite verb form: οὐ and μή (both meaning “not”).

- οὐ: Indicative verbs in most clauses are negated with οὐ. Note that οὐ has a smooth breathing and no accent. If the word that follows οὐ in a sentence begins with a vowel also with a smooth breathing, οὐ becomes οὐκ. If the word following begins with a rough breathing, οὐ becomes οὐχ.
- μή: Some verbs in other moods or in certain types of clauses use μή instead. We will meet μή again in Module 4.

4.5 Principal parts of verbs

All verb forms in these many combinations of person, number, tense, mood and voice, as well as infinitives and participles, are formed using the verb's principal parts.

English verbs have principal parts, too, although native speakers may not learn them as such. In English, the principal parts can include the present, past, and past participle: for example, play, played, played; swim, swam, swum; go, went, gone; do, did, done.

The standard number of principal parts for Ancient Greek verbs is six, although for some verbs fewer principal parts, even only one or two, may exist; and for others, alternatives may exist and increase the total number.

Learning the principal parts of verbs is important so that you will be able to create correct verb forms and so that you will be able to recognize verb forms in a text, both for what person, number, tense, voice, and mood they are and also what verb they come from. In a glossary or a lexicon Greek verbs are listed according to the first principal part, and so if you are looking a verb up you will need to be able to move from a verb form made from any principal part to its first principal part in order to find it in the lexicon.

4.5.1 Forms of Principal Parts

All principal parts of an Ancient Greek verb are 1st person singular forms.

Principal part	Form
1st	1st person singular present active indicative OR 1st person singular present middle indicative if active forms do not exist
2nd	1st person singular future active indicative OR 1st person singular future middle indicative if active forms do not exist
3rd	1st person singular aorist active indicative OR 1st person singular aorist middle indicative if active forms do not exist
4th	1st person singular perfect active indicative
5th	1st person singular perfect middle/passive indicative

Principal part	Form
6th	1st person singular aorist passive indicative

4.5.2 Verb conjugations

Greek verbs are organized into two “conjugations,” a grouping where they share common endings. **Thematic** verbs include a thematic vowel in their endings; **athematic** verbs do not. Thematic verbs are also called “-ω verbs” and athematic verbs may be called “-μι verbs” after the common ending of the first principal part.

4.5.3 Examples of principal parts

Principal parts are listed in order, 1–6. If a verb does not have a particular principal part, that absence is marked by —. Note that more than one form may exist for a principal part: those are indicated with “or”.

βαίνω, βήσομαι, ἔβην, βέβηκα, βέβημαι, ἐβάθην go, walk, step

βάλλω, βαλέω, ἔβαλον, βέβληκα, βέβλημαι, ἐβλήθην throw, hit (by throwing), strike (by throwing), pelt

γίγνομαι, γενήσομαι, ἐγενόμην, γέγονα, γεγένημαι, — become, come to be, be born, be

δείκνυμι, δείξω, ἔδειξα, δέδειχα, δέδειγμαι, ἐδείχθην show, demonstrate

δύναμαι, δυνήσομαι, —, —, δεδύναμαι, ἐδυνήθην be able, can, be capable, have the power

εἰμί, ἔσομαι, —, —, —, — be, exist

ἔρχομαι, ἐλεύσομαι, ἦλθον, ἐλήλυθα, —, — go, come

ἔχω, ἔξω or στήσω, ἔσχον, ἔσχηκα, —έσχημαι, ἐσχέθην have, hold, possess; be able; be (in a particular state)

ἡγέομαι, ἡγήσομαι, ἡγησάμην, —, ἦγμαι, ἡγήθην lead; think, consider, believe

κελεύω, κελεύσω, ἐκέλευσα, κεκέλευσα, κεκέλευμαι, ἐκελεύσθην bid, order, command, exhort

λαμβάνω, λήψομαι, ἔλαβον, εἴληφα, εἴλημμαι, ἐλήφθην take, receive, catch, grasp

λέγω, λέξω, ἔλεξα or εἶπον, εἶρηκα, εἶρηκα, λέλεγμαι, ἐλέχθην say, speak, tell

ὁράω, ὄψομαι, εἶδον, ἑώρακα or ἐόρακα, ἑώραμαι or ὤμμαι, ὤφθην see, look, understand

ποιέω, ποιήσω, ἐποίησα, πεποίηκα, πεποίημαι, ἐποιήθην do, make, create, compose

πράττω, πράξω, ἔπραξα, πέπραχα or πέπραγα, πέπραγμαι, ἐπράχθην do, accomplish, make, act
τυγχάνω, τεύξομαι, ἔτυχον, τετύχηκα, —, — happen (happen to be, happen upon), obtain, get

4.5.4 Looking for patterns

As you learn principal parts, you should practice noticing patterns and then using those patterns to help you recognize, retrieve, use, and even take an educated guess at, a principal part. Here are some general patterns to start noticing, but you should work at discovering others that help you memorize, recall, and work with principal parts.

4.5.4.1 Endings

Since all the forms are first-person singular, the ending reflects that person-number. The ending will indicate which conjugation the verb belongs to. In the first principal part, the endings -ω and -ομαι indicate the *thematic* conjugation, while the endings -μι and -μαι (with some letter other than omicron before it) indicate the *athematic* conjugation.

For those principal parts that could be either active or middle (that is, the 1st, 2nd, 3rd principal parts), the ending will also indicate the voice: -ω or -μι (1st and 2nd principal parts), and -οι or -αι (3rd) are active, while -μαι (1st and 2nd) and -μεν (3rd) are middle.

For the 4th principal part, which is always active, you can expect the ending -αι. For the 5th, which is always middle/passive, the ending is -μαι. And the 6th principal part, which is always passive, will end in -ην.

4.5.4.2 Prefixes

For the 3rd and 6th principal parts, which are aorist (a secondary tense) you will see an *augment* prefixed to the verbal stem. The augment is an indication of a secondary tense in the indicative mood (all principal parts are in the indicative mood). The augment may appear as the addition of an ε- before a stem that begins with a consonant, or it may appear as the lengthening of the initial vowel if the stem begins with a vowel.

For the 4th and 5th principal parts, which are in the perfect tense, the stem will show *reduplication* as a sign of the perfect tense. The reduplication may appear as a repetition of the initial consonant of the verb stem. If the initial consonant is aspirated (θ, φ, χ), the reduplication is the corresponding non-aspirated consonant (τ, π, κ, respectively). If the stem starts with multiple consonants, the reduplication will be simply ε-. If the stem starts with a vowel, the reduplication will appear as a lengthened vowel.

4.5.4.3 Stem changes

As in English, very common verbs show greater changes to the verb stem in different principal parts. Compare ἔρχομαι (present) and ἦλθον (aorist) with “go” (present) and “went” (past) in English.

Some changes to verb stems appear with many more regular verbs:

- A sigma may be added to the present stem for the future and/or aorist active stem (2nd and 3rd principal parts, e.g., κελεύω, κελεύσω, ἐκέλευσα),
- A kappa may be part of the stem in the perfect active (4th principal part, e.g., κεκέλευκα).
- The 6th principal part may have a theta at the end of its stem, e.g. ἐδυνήθην

4.6 Formation of finite verbs: recessive accent

The accent on finite verb forms in ancient Greek is described as *recessive*, meaning that the accent recedes as far back from the end of the word as the possible, in accordance with the set of rules governing accentuation.

Review the general principles of accent in the preliminaries section. Can you see how they imply the following rules of thumb for placing accent on a recessive verb form?

1. The accent cannot recede further back than the antepenult. Therefore, the accent will reside on one of the last three syllables of a finite verb form, even if it has more than three syllables.
2. If the ultima is long, the accent can only recede to the penult and is an acute accent on the penult.
3. If the ultima is short (recall that final -αι and -οι are usually short):
 - a. if there are three or more syllables in the form, the accent will recede to the antepenult and be an acute accent on that syllable.
 - b. if there are two syllables, the accent will be on the penult. Since the ultima is short, when the penult is accented its form will depend on the quantity of the penult syllable: if it is short, the accent will be acute. If it is long, the accent will be a circumflex.

In addition, if a finite verb form is only one syllable and that syllable is long, it will carry a circumflex accent.

Tip: other situations with circumflex accents on finite verb forms

We will see that when vowels contract and two vowels combine to one sound, circumflex accents mark those contractions when possible under the rules for circumflex accents.

4.6.1 Practice for recessive accents

On the following finite verb forms, determine the correct placement and type of accent in accordance with the rules of recessive accents, and then put it there. These verb forms are taken from Lysias 1.6–11.

1. ἔδοξε
2. ἡγαγομην
3. διεκειμην
4. ἔθελῃ
5. ἐφύλαττον
6. γιγνεται
7. ἐπιστευον
8. ἐτελευτησε
9. γεγενηται
10. διαφθειρεται
11. ἐγενετο
12. ἐθηλαζεν
13. δεοι
14. κινδυνευσῃ
15. διητωμην
16. ἀπρηι
17. ἐγιγνετο
18. ὑπωπτευσα
19. διεκειμην
20. ἦκον
21. ἐβοα (alpha is long)
22. ἐδυσκολαινεῖν

4.7 The aorist indicative

The form of a finite verb in ancient Greek expresses the *subject* as well as the *verb*: it is a complete verbal unit by itself. Example: the form ἐκέλευσε means “he or she ordered”; the form ἐκέλευσαν means “they ordered.” These are already complete sentences that do not need a separate word for “he”/“she” or “they.”

4.7.1 The indicative mood and narrating events in the past

As already described above, finite verbs have five properties: person, number, tense, mood, and voice.

“Indicative” is a mood, one of the four that ancient Greek has. It is the mode of verb used for narrating factual events. As such, it is a frequently seen mood in most texts.

Ancient Greek has more than one tense for narrating events in the past. The distinction between those past tenses, then, is one of *aspect* —that is, how to think of or picture the action the verb is representing.

- the *aorist* tense expresses an action as single and simple, without indication of its completion or continuation
- the *imperfect* tense expresses an action as continuous, started, ongoing, habitual or in any way incomplete

The choice of tense, then, involves not only an indication that the events happened in the past, but other information about the event. Do you want to emphasize it as a single incident? Choose the aorist indicative if so. Or do you want to indicate that it happened over a length of time, was repeated or habitual, perhaps was started but not completed? The imperfect indicative will give you the means to add those shades of meaning.

4.7.2 Meaning of aorist indicative

The aorist indicative represents the action in a way that can be (and has been) described as “single,” “simple,” “distinct,” the equivalent to a snapshot of the action. The tense that is the closest to this idea in English is the “simple past,” the past tense formed in the active voice by adding *-ed* to the verb stem, or made by changes to the stem, with no other “helping” verbs. Examples of the “simple past” in the active voice: He walked, she ran, they watched. She taught, they learned.

To understand a verb form, you must take into account all five properties: person, number, tense, mood and voice. In the active voice, the subject performs the action. In the passive voice, the subject receives the action. The middle voice is, as the name indicates, in between active and passive, where the subject performs the action in some way for themselves.

The verb ἄρχω in the active voice, for example, means “to be first and from that sense” to rule”. In the passive voice, it means “to be ruled”. The middle voice means “to make yourself first” or “put yourself at the first position” of something, and therefore “to begin” something.

In the following examples, we’ll see how to form the aorist indicative of the verb δείκνυμι “to show” and κελεύω, “to command”. In the third person plural of the aorist indicative, their meaning will be:

- Active: “they showed,” “they commanded”
- Middle: “they showed (for their own benefit),” “they commanded themselves”
- Passive: “they were shown,” “they were commanded”

4.7.3 Forming the aorist indicative

To learn this tense + mood, you will need to learn the person and number in all three voices: active, middle, and passive.

As you learn it for any particular verb, you will notice that not all verbs appear in all three voices. For example, in the aorist indicative the verb γίγνομαι “to become” always and only uses the middle voice.

The aorist tense forms the active and middle voices from the *third* principal part; it forms the passive voice from the *sixth* principal part. So you will need to pay attention to the principal parts for any particular verb to see what forms are possible. For example, if the third principal part appears in the middle voice, that implies that no active forms are used. If a verb does not have a sixth principal part, that implies that no passive forms are used.

As you look at the third principal part, there are two different patterns of endings. These are referred to as “first” and “second” aorists. The different endings do not have different meanings except in rare cases when both exist for the same verb. That is, both first and second aorists, both sets of endings, represent the single action in the past, and you will accordingly translate each with the English simple past. Compare the two systems of past-tense formation in English: adding “-ed” to the verb stem (which are called “regular” or “weak” verbs) or a change in the verb stem (“irregular” or “strong” verbs): I walked (weak) vs. I went (strong). I consumed (weak) vs. I ate (strong).

You can recognize a verb that has a first aorist by a third principal ending in -α or -άμην. Verbs that have a second aorist have a third principal part that ends in -οῦν or -όμην. We will return to the second aorist forms later in this module.

4.7.3.1 Aorist active and middle indicative of first aorist verbs

Once you have identified a verb as a first aorist verb, you form other persons and numbers by the following process:

- (1) principal parts are always in a first person singular indicative: start by dropping the first singular ending from the third principal part, and remove any accent:

ἔδειξα -> ἐδειξ-

ἐκέλευσα -> ἐκελευσ-

- (2) Add the appropriate ending for the person and number. In this module, you need to memorize the following endings for the *third person*, singular and plural.

Person and Number	Active ending	Middle ending
3rd singular	-ε	-ατο
3rd plural	-ᾶν	-αντο

- (3) Apply recessive accent.

4.7.3.2 Aorist Passive Indicative

You may see somewhere the reference to “first” and “second” aorists in the aorist passive, but for most purposes, that is a complication we need not be concerned with. All sixth principal parts can be used the same way to form aorist passive forms.

- (1) Drop the first singular ending -ην from the sixth principal part and remove the accent:

ἐδείχθην -> ἐδειχθ-

ἐκελεύθην -> ἐκελευθ-

- (2) Add the appropriate ending for the person and number:

Person and Number	Passive Ending
3rd singular	-η
3rd plural	-ησαν

- (3) Apply recessive accent.

4.7.3.3 Examples

	Active	Middle	Passive
3rd singular	ἔδειξε	ἐδείξατο	ἐδείχθη
3rd plural	ἔδειξαν	ἐδείξαντο	ἐδείχθησαν

	Active	Middle	Passive
3rd singular	ἐκέλευσε	ἐκελεύσατο	ἐκελεύθη
3rd plural	ἐκέλευσαν	ἐκελεύσαντο	ἐκελεύθησαν

4.7.4 Vocabulary to memorize

Learn these paradigm verbs: be able to produce the first, third and sixth principal parts (**emphasized like this** in the list) from memory.

- **δείκνυμι**, δείξω, **ἔδειξα**, δέδειχα, δέδειγμα, **ἐδείχθην**, “to show”
 - compound **ἐπιδείκνυμι**, ἐπιδείξω, **ἐπέδειξα**, ἐπιδέδειχα, ἐπιδέδειγμα, **ἐπεδείχθην**, “to demonstrate, prove”
- **κελεύω**, κελεύσω, **ἐκέλευσα**, κεκέλευκα, κεκέλευμαι, **ἐκελεύσθην**, “to order”

4.7.5 Vocabulary to practice with (no need to memorize)

- ἀπόλλυμι
- δυσκολαίνω
- καθεύδω
- θηλάζω
- ὀργίζω. “to anger”. Use the middle voice to express “grew angry”.
- ὑποπτεύω

4.8 The imperfect indicative

The imperfect indicative is another way of narrating factual events in the past. As we have seen, the aorist views an action as a single action completed in the past. The imperfect, by contrast, expresses an action that is incomplete, repeated, continuous or ongoing, habitual, or in some other way *not* viewed as single and complete. To express similar ideas, English uses additional “helping” verbs: “she was going,” “he started to go,” “they used to go.”

4.8.1 Forming the imperfect indicative of -ω or thematic verbs

You form all three voices of the imperfect tense from the *first* principal part. As with the aorist, you will drop the first-person ending, remove accents, and add the appropriate ending for the person and

number you want. For the imperfect tense, you also add a prefix called the **augment**.

Augment: Past tenses in the indicative mood are indicated by two features: their set of personal endings, and an *augment* added to the front of the verb stem. Compare the first and third parts of verbs you already know. The third principal part (used for the aorist active and middle) shows the addition of an epsilon to the first principal part's stem. If the stem begins with a consonant, you will see the epsilon in front of it. If the stem begins with a vowel, you will see that vowel lengthened. Either of these changes is called an *augment*. The imperfect tense shows the same pattern, but uses the first principal part. So when you need to add an augment, look to the third principal part to see what it should be.

- (1) start by removing the first person singular ending (-ω or -ομαι) and accent from the first principal part, and add the augment

κελεύω -> ἐκελεύ-

- (2) Add the appropriate ending. For this module, you should memorize the *third person* endings for singular and plural. Note that in *all* person-number combinations of the imperfect indicative, the middle and passive have identical endings.

Person and Number	Active ending	Middle ending	Passive ending
3rd singular	-ε	-ετο	-ετο
3rd plural	-ον	-οντο	-οντο

- (3) Apply recessive accent.

Example of κελεύω “command”

Person and Number	Active	Middle	Passive
3rd singular	ἐκέλευε	ἐκελεύετο	ἐκελεύετο
3rd plural	ἐκέλευον	ἐκελεύοντο	ἐκελεύοντο

Depending on the context, these third person imperfect indicative active verb forms could mean “she/he/it was commanding” or “he/she/it used to command” (3rd singular) or “they were commanding” (3rd plural), etc.

The imperfect indicative middle would add to the active sense that the subject was giving these commands for their own benefit or interests or to themselves.

The imperfect indicative passive means that the subject is now the one receiving the orders: “he/she/it was being commanded” or “they were being commanded,” etc.

4.8.2 Forming the imperfect indicative of -μι or athematic verbs like δείκνυμι

When we learned aorist forms, the third principal part of the verb δείκνυμι (“to show, demonstrate”), ἔδειξα, indicated that its forms were like that of any other first aorist. Since the imperfect is formed from the first principal part, we will notice that δείκνυμι belongs to the group of -μι verbs (or athematic verbs), rather than the -ω or thematic verbs. The meaning, usage, and formation of the imperfect indicative remains the same; the only difference is that -μι verbs use a slightly different set of endings.

As with -ω/thematic verbs, for the imperfect indicative of -μι/athematic verbs, all three voices use the *first* principal part, with the addition of an **augment**, and the middle and passive voices have identical forms in this tense.

- (1) start by removing the first person singular ending (-μι or -μαι) and accent from the first principal part, and add the augment

δείκνυμι -> ἔδεικνυ-

- (2) Add appropriate ending. In this module, you should memorize the *third person* endings for singular and plural. The key difference in the endings is that they do not include the *thematic vowel* (hence the name of the conjugation *athematic*).

Person and Number	Active ending	Middle ending
3rd singular	—	-το
3rd plural	-ν	-ντο

- (3) Apply recessive accent.

Example of δείκνυμι “show, demonstrate” (note that the upsilon is a long upsilon)

Person and Number	Active ending	Middle ending	Passive ending
3rd singular	ἔδεικνυ	ἔδεικνυτο	ἔδεικνυτο
3rd plural	ἔδεικνυν	ἔδεικνυντο	ἔδεικνυντο

To repeat, the meaning and usage of these forms is the same. The range of meaning for the active

forms could include “she/he/it was showing” or “he/she/it used to show” (3rd singular) or “they were showing” (3rd plural), etc.

The imperfect indicative middle would add to the active sense that the subject was showing for their own benefit or interests.

The imperfect indicative passive means that the subject is now the one receiving the action: “he/she it was being shown” or “they were being shown.”

4.9 Clauses and coordination

A verbal unit containing a *finite* verb form is called a *clause*. A sentence consists of one or more clauses.

Ancient Greek normally connects, or *coordinates*, successive clauses and sentences explicitly. In many styles of English, starting every sentence by connecting it to the previous one could quickly seem excessive, but doing so is more the norm in many styles of ancient Greek prose and even poetry, and serves to concisely clarify the relation of clauses to each. The words that do this work in Greek are *conjunctions* and coordinating *particles*.

4.9.1 Coordinating conjunctions

Coordinating conjunctions join together parallel clauses (that is, a verbal unit expressed by a finite verb). (In module 3, we will look at *subordinating conjunctions*.) One of the most common coordinating conjunctions is καί. Like the English “and” it joins together two things of the same kind. This could be a pair of nouns, like “peanut butter and jelly” or whole sentences, “I ate the sandwich and I drank the milk.”

When joining a pair of nouns or short phrases, Lysias (like many prose authors) likes to put a καί before each of the items. The phrase ἐν δημοκρατίᾳ means “in a democracy”; ἐν ὀλιγαρχίᾳ means “in an oligarchy”. When Lysias joins them like this

καὶ ἐν δημοκρατίᾳ καὶ ἐν ὀλιγαρχίᾳ

he means, “*both* in a democracy, *and* in an oligarchy”.

καί is equally good for joining whole clauses.

ἔδοξέ μοι γῆμαι καὶ γυναῖκα ἡγαγόμεν εἰς τὴν οἰκίαν.

I decided to marry, **and** took a wife.

ἔδοξε and ἡγαγόμεν are both verbs in the aorist tense.

4.9.2 Coordinating particles

The use of small words that we call *particles* to add nuances of meaning is a characteristic and ubiquitous feature of ancient Greek. Many of these particles can coordinate parallel clauses, just like coordinating conjunctions, but are placed *after* the first word of the unit they introduce (whereas conjunctions are the first word of the new clause). One term for this placement is “postpositive” (meaning something like “placed after”).

The most common particle in Greek is δέ. It marks an item in a list, that normally begins with an item marked by the particle μέν. Here, the speaker Euphiletus lists two clauses: the first is what *he* did; the second is what his (unnamed) wife did.

ἐγὼ **μέν** ἐγέγων (“I began to laugh”)

ἐκείνη **δὲ** προστίθησι τὴν θύραν (“She locks the door”)

We can join these in various ways in English: “I began to laugh, and she locks the door” would be perfectly idiomatic.

Euphiletus then uses καί to connect an additional clause to the second item:

ἐκείνη **δὲ** προστίθησι τὴν θύραν **καὶ** τὴν κλεῖν ἐφέλκεται (“She locks the door and takes the key”)

μέν and δέ beautifully outline that there are two thoughts here; καί continues the second thought. Perhaps we should make a stronger contrast in English between the first two items? We could also express this with:

“I started to laugh, but she locks the door and takes the key.”

4.9.2.1 Aside on reading and translating

The verb ἐγέγων is a first singular active in the imperfect tense, so one possibility is to take it as meaning “I started to laugh.” The speaker uses the present tense for the wife’s actions, just as we might in English switch into the present tense in narrating past events, to emphasize a vivid moment: “I laughed, and BOOM! she locks the door!” One possibility for putting together μέν and δὲ here could be, “I started to laugh, then she locks the door and takes the key”. There is no single “correct” translation. One of the delights of reading ancient Greek is the opportunity to see a range of meaning that no single translation can capture.

4.9.3 Vocabulary to memorize

These conjunctions *introduce* a clause:

- ἀλλά. Strong contrast with previous clause. (“but”)
- καί. Couples following clause with previous clauses. (“and”)

These particles are the *second* element of the new clause, or, as mentioned above, they are “postpositive”:

- γάρ. This clause explains the previous clause.
- οὖν. This clause draws a conclusion from the previous clause.
- τε. Couples this clause with the previous clause (similar to καί).
- μέν ... δέ. The use of these particles together show a contrast of some sort along with a connection. A series of two or more clauses can be joined into a *list* using the particles μέν...δέ...<δέ...>; δέ can be repeated to join as many clauses as you like into a single list.

4.10 Contract verbs

The thematic verbs we have been learning and using all have stems of the first principal part ending in a *consonant*. When the first principal part of a thematic (-ω) verb ends in a *vowel*, you use the same endings you have already learned, but the thematic vowel of the ending contracts with the vowel of the stem to form another vowel or a diphthong.

Note: Some verbs that do not have verb stems ending in a vowel in the first principal part do have a vowel at the end of their stem in the *second* principal part, which is used for the future active and middle. We will review these contractions for those forms when we learn the future tense forms.

4.10.1 Stems ending in -ε-

Vocabulary to memorize:

- ἀδικέω
- δοκέω
- ποιέω

The first principal part of an “epsilon contract verb” will be listed in a lexicon or glossary with the first principal part ending in ε before the first person ending of -ω.

Recall that our imperfect active and middle/passive indicative personal endings for thematic verbs start with vowels, either an ε or an ο:

Person and Number	Active ending	Middle and Passive ending
3rd singular	-ε	-ετο
3rd plural	-ον	-οντο

The rules of contraction that you will need to learn for these endings (as we learn more endings, we will add others) are as follows:

- ε + ε = ει
- ε + ο = ου

The rule of accentuation that you will need for contractions is that if one of the vowels within the sequence would have been accented before the contraction, the contracted syllable, a diphthong, will be accented, and will be accented with a circumflex, if possible under the rules of accentuation for circumflex accents: that is, it is a long syllable (which the diphthong is), the syllable is the penult or ultima, and if the penult that the ultima is short.

With that additional information, the process of forming the imperfect indicative follows the process already outlined:

- (1) start by removing the first person singular ending (-ω or -ομαι) and accent from the first principal part, and add the augment

ἀδικέω -> ἠδίκη-

δοκέω -> ἔδοκε-

ποιέω -> ἔποιε-

- (2) Add appropriate ending and **contract the vowel at the end of the stem with the vowel at the beginning of the personal ending.**
- (3) Apply recessive accent, keeping in mind the contraction.

Example: Imperfect indicative of ἀδικέω

Person and Number	Active ending	Middle and Passive ending
3rd singular	ἠδίκηι	ἠδικεῖτο
3rd plural	ἠδίκουσιν	ἠδικοῦντο

To practice, complete the following:

Imperfect indicative of δοκέω:

Person and Number	Active ending	Middle and Passive ending
3rd singular		
3rd plural		

Imperfect indicative of ποιέω:

Person and Number	Active ending	Middle and Passive ending
3rd singular		
3rd plural		

4.10.2 Stems ending in -α-

Vocabulary to memorize:

- ὁράω

Verbs whose present stem from the first principal part ends in *α* operate the same way, but the contractions resulting from the combination of *α* with the endings are different. The contractions you will need to know for these verbs in the forms we have learned so far are:

- $\alpha + \epsilon = \alpha$ (long alpha, $\bar{\alpha}$)
- $\alpha + \omicron = \omega$

Example: Imperfect indicative of ὁράω (augmented stem: ὥρα-)

Person and Number	Active ending	Middle and Passive ending
3rd singular	ὥρα	ὥρᾶται
3rd plural	ὥρων	ὥρῶντο

4.11 The second aorist

A small group of verbs use a different set of endings to form the *active* and *middle* voices of the aorist indicative. You will be happy to learn that these second aorist endings are actually identical to the endings you have already learned for the imperfect active and middle of -ω verbs. We recognize that a verb has a “second aorist” set of endings for the aorist active and middle when the third principal part ends in -ον or -όμην.

Examples: ἦλθον (from ἔρχομαι), εἶπον (from λέγω), ἐγενόμην (from γίγνομαι).

4.11.0.1 Active and middle of second aorist -ω verbs

Formation follows the same process as first aorist active and middle forms.

- (1) principal parts give an example form in the first singular indicative active of a representative tense: start by dropping the first singular ending -ον or -όμην and remove the accent from the third principal part:

ἦλθον -> ἦλθ-

εἶπον -> εἶπ-

ἐγενόμην -> ἐγεν-

- (2) Add the appropriate ending. In this module, you should memorize *third person* endings for singular and plural.

Person and Number	Active ending	Middle ending
3rd singular	-ε	-ετο
3rd plural	-ον	-οντο

Notice that these endings are identical to the endings of the imperfect indicative. You will distinguish the imperfect from the aorist for these verbs by noticing which verb stem (which principal part) the ending is applied to. In the imperfect the ending is applied to the first principal part stem, and in the aorist the ending is applied to the third stem. Examples: ἦρχετο (imperfect) “She was going” vs. ἦλθε (aorist) “She went”; ἔλεγε “She was saying” vs. εἶπε “She said.”

Note that the first person singular active ending in the second aorist -ον is the same as that of the third personal plural active.

- (3) Apply recessive accent.

4.11.0.2 Examples

	Active	Middle	Passive
3rd singular	ἤλθε	ἤλθετο	no 6th principal part
3rd plural	ἤλθον	ἤλθοντο	no 6th principal part

Note that the first principal part ἔρχομαι shows us that there is no active voice for the forms made from that principal part (“present system”), while ἤλθον shows us that the aorist indicative appears in the active voice using second aorist endings.

	Active	Middle	Passive
3rd singular	εἶπε	εἶπετο	ἐλέχθη
3rd plural	εἶπον	εἶποντο	ἐλέχθησαν

Since the aorist passive is formed from the sixth principal part, those forms follow the same formation regardless of whether the third principal part is a first aorist or second aorist.

4.11.0.3 Practice

Recall that the first, third and sixth principal parts of the verb “throw, hit (by throwing), strike (by throwing)” are βάλλω, ἔβαλον and ἐβλήθη.

Compose the correct Greek form for the highlighted verb in the following English phrases, and fully identify the form (person, number, tense, mood, voice).

1. She *used to throw* the dice.
2. He *hit* Pandorus with a spear.
3. He *was struck* by the weapon.
4. They “*were throwing (for themselves)* their cloaks around their shoulders”. (a Greek idiom for putting on a garment)

4.12 Ancient Greek in action: the imperfect tense

As you've seen in this module, while the Greek imperfect and aorist tenses can both refer to events in the past, they express different ideas about how an event takes place in time. (This is sometimes called *grammatical aspect*).

4.12.1 A. Melisa Cahnmann-Taylor, “Widowed NYC Teacher Studies Spanish in Mexico”

Melisa Cahnmann-Taylor, poem from *Imperfect Tense*, “Widowed NYC Teacher Studies Spanish in Mexico”

4.12.2 B. Jhumpa Lahiri, *In Other Words*

Jhumpa Lahiri, excerpt from *In Other Words*, “The Imperfect” (pp. 103-114)

4.13 Reading

Based on Lysias 1, sections 7-8: the early days of Euphiletos' marriage.

ἔδοξε Εὐφιλήτῳ γῆμαι καὶ γυναῖκα ἡγάγετο εἰς τὴν οἰκίαν. παιδίον δέ ἐγένετο αὐτῷ, καὶ ἐπίστευε ἤδη καὶ πάντα ἐκείνη παρέδωκε. ἐν μὲν οὖν τῷ πρώτῳ χρόνῳ, πασῶν ἦν βελτίστη. ἀλλὰ ἡ Εὐφιλήτου μήτηρ ἐτελεύτησε, καὶ πάντων τῶν κακῶν αἰτία ἐγένετο.

5 Module 2: nouns and adjectives

5.1 Overview of module 2

5.1.1 Language: overview

Module 2 introduces these features of Greek:

- functions of nouns and how cases express these functions
- how to recognize noun forms and identify them with gender, case, and number
- parts of speech that work with nouns or in place of nouns: the article, adjectives, pronouns, and prepositions
- types of clauses

5.1.2 Ancient Greek in action: overview

Tom Hendrickson, “Gender Diversity in Greek and Latin”

5.1.3 Practice, Reading, and Composition

We will continue with the story Euphiletos is telling in court about his marriage, and how he started to become suspicious about what was going on with his wife.

5.2 Nouns (τὸ ὄνομα) and adjectives (τὸ ἐπίθετον)

In this module, we’ll learn first about another part of speech, nouns (ancient Greek ὀνόματα, the *names* for people and things) and their functions. We then will also learn other parts of speech that work with nouns in sentences: words that describe nouns like the article and adjectives (Greek ἐπίθετα, literally “add ons”), words that stand in for nouns, like pronouns and substantive adjectives, and prepositions, words that create phrases with nouns. We will also learn about types of clauses, with details about both nouns and verbs.

In English sentences, word order indicates the function of nouns. There is the old story illustrating the contrast between “Dog bites man” as commonplace but “Man bites dog” as newsworthy. The meaning of the sentence changes when the nouns are put in different positions. Ancient Greek would show us who is biting whom by the case of each noun: the form of the noun changes depending on whether it is acting as the subject (the one biting) or the object (the one being bitten). We will learn these functions for nouns, as well as others, and the changes in form that indicate these functions. Adjectives, we will see, also indicate their function through case endings.

5.3 Greek nouns

“Noun” is a part of speech. The ancient Greek word for noun is ὄνομα, which means “name.” Nouns name a person, animal, place, or thing (whether that “thing” is concrete or abstract). In a clause or sentence, nouns can fulfill various functions. A noun might be the subject of the verb: the person, place, or thing doing the action the verb represents. A noun might be the object of the verb, the recipient of the verb’s action, or the indirect (or secondary) object of that action. A noun might further describe another noun, or be paired with a preposition to act adjectivally or adverbially. It may describe the means by which the action of the verb happens. Or it might name the addressee of the sentence. In ancient Greek, the function of the noun is represented by its case, and the case is indicated by the ending attached to the noun’s stem. We have already seen that endings provide a great deal of information in a verb form, and the same is true for nouns. Identifying the case of a noun is key to understanding how it is functioning in that particular sentence.

5.3.1 Overview of nouns

All ancient Greek nouns have gender, case, and number.

- There are three grammatical **genders**: masculine, feminine, and neuter.
- **Case** indicates the function of a noun in a sentence. Cases are expressed and identified by endings. There are five cases: nominative, genitive, dative, accusative, vocative.
- Ancient Greek has three **numbers**: singular, plural, and dual. Dual is a less common number used for two nouns considered a pair, such as eyes, hands, oxen yoked together, twin brothers. In our readings this year, we will see only one instance of the dual, and so we will not include the dual in the forms we will be learning.

5.3.1.1 Dictionary entry of nouns

The dictionary entry of a noun efficiently encodes all the information you need to know in order to produce all of its cases and numbers. The first part tells you its nominative singular form, the second part is its genitive singular form, and the third part, in the form of the article, tells you its gender(s).

5.3.1.2 Declension

Nouns are organized into “declensions,” a category of nouns that share the same set of endings. In ancient Greek, there are three declensions of nouns. In this module, we will learn forms of the nominative, genitive, dative, and accusative cases of all three declensions.

5.3.1.3 Accents on nouns: persistent accent

You have been introduced to and have practiced the general rules for Greek accents and the rules for determining accents on verbs, which are *recessive* accents.

The same general rules for accents apply to nouns and adjectives, but nouns and adjectives carry what we call a *persistent* accent, which means that you must learn where the accent resides as you learn the word. Then, you apply the rules of accentuation as you decline the noun or adjective into its full range of cases.

Reminder of rules that you will apply in declining persistent accents:

- the accent will fall on one of the final three syllables
- the antepenult can be accented only with an acute accent and only when the ultima is short
- circumflex accents appear only on long vowels and diphthongs
- when the penult is accented, it will be accented with an acute if it is a short vowel or if the ultima is long. If the penult is long and the ultima is short and the penult is accented, it will be accented with a circumflex.

Some general rules and results of rules for persistent accents:

1. The position of the persistent accent is shown on the nominative form of adjectives and nominative/genitive forms of nouns. You must learn the position of the accent when you learn the word—there is no way of predicting it other than simply learning it along with the word. The “position” is the vowel that carries the accent in the nominative(/genitive) form(s). When you are studying your vocabulary, practice saying the word out loud with the accented syllable stressed so you can remember the accent along with the word.

2. The accent will stay on that syllable unless it is forced to move because of the rules above. One example of an accent on a noun or adjective that changes position is when the persistent accent starts on the antepenult in the nominative form. Remember, the antepenult can only carry an accent when the ultima is short, and when in other cases the ultima changes to long, that accent will have to move to the penult (ex. ἄνθρωπος has the accent on the penult in the nominative and its ultima has a short alpha. In the genitive, the ultima is then long (the eta is always long) and so the accent shifts to the penult: ἀνθρώπου.)
3. The accent may, however, change from one kind of accent to another while on the same syllable—again, observing the rules above. So when a noun starts with a persistent accent of a circumflex on the penult, that, too, will change form but not place depending on the quantity of the ending (ex. δῶρον has the penult accented—the omega is always long while the ultima has an omicron, which is always short, and so the accent must be a circumflex. In the genitive, the ultima becomes a long diphthong ου, and so the accent must be an acute according to the rules: δώρου.)
4. If the penult has a short vowel and carries the persistent accent, the accent never changes place or form: ex. λόγος, λόγου, λόγῳ, λόγον, λόγοι, λόγων, λόγοις, λόγους.
5. When the ultima is accented, it will change from an acute in the nominative singular to a circumflex in the genitive and dative singular, then back to an acute in the accusative. This is a pattern you should learn as you learn your declensions, such as the article later in this module. You will see that the genitive plural and the dative plural carry a circumflex, as well. Ex. ἀγορά, ἀγορᾶς, ἀγορᾷ, ἀγοράν.
6. Remember that final –οι and final –αι on noun and adjective forms count as short when determining accents, even though they are diphthongs.

Practice and learn patterns of persistent accents so that as you learn vocabulary you can recognize what the persistent will do in each case in the singular and plural. In the “Practice” section in this module, you will find demonstrations of these patterns as well as opportunities for practicing them.

5.3.2 Functions of cases: the nominative and genitive cases

The **nominative case** is a naming case. Its most frequent function is to indicate the subject of a finite verb. Subject-verb agreement means that the person and number of the subject must be the same as the person and number of the verb. So a *singular* noun in the nominative will have a 3rd person *singular* verb form. In most cases, a nominative *plural* noun acting as the subject will agree with a 3rd person *plural* verb. Note, however, that in Ancient Greek, **neuter** nominative *plural* nouns acting as the subject often take a 3rd person *singular* verb form.

The **genitive case** is used to relate one noun to another/make one noun depend on another. We often translate nouns in the genitive case with the English preposition “of.” We will learn more about the

range of functions of the genitive case later in this module.

5.3.3 Forms of the nominative and genitive cases

The case endings of nouns the singular nominative and genitive cases reflect both the noun's gender and what declension it belongs to.

5.3.3.1 First declension

Note on the persistent accent: the first declension has one important exception to the expected position of the accent, in the genitive plural. The genitive plural ending of the first declension is always accented with a circumflex. There is a reason for this apparent exception, which has to do with the linguistic development of these forms over time: that circumflex reflects a vowel contraction similar to those you have seen in contract verbs.

Notice below that all the plural endings in this declension are the same, even with the variations in the singular.

For feminine first-declension nouns that end in -ῆ

Case	Singular	Plural
Nominative	-ῆ	-αι
Genitive	-ῆς	-ῶν

For feminine first-declension nouns that end in -ᾶ

Case	Singular	Plural
Nominative	-ᾶ	-αι
Genitive	-ᾶς	-ῶν

For feminine first-declension nouns that end in -ᾱ

Case	Singular	Plural
Nominative	-ᾱ	-αι

Case	Singular	Plural
Genitive	-ης	-ῶν

For masculine first-declension nouns that end in -ης / -ᾶς

Case	Singular	Plural
Nominative	-ης / -ᾶς	-αι
Genitive	-οῦ	-ῶν

5.3.3.2 Second declension

For masculine or feminine second-declension nouns that end in -ος

Case	Singular	Plural
Nominative	-ος	-οι
Genitive	-οῦ	-ων

For neuter second-declension nouns that end in -ον

Case	Singular	Plural
Nominative	-ον	-ᾶ
Genitive	-οῦ	-ων

5.3.3.3 Third declension

The third declension also contains nouns of all three genders: masculine, feminine, and neuter. The third declension is sometimes called the “consonant declension” because most nouns in this declension have stems ending in a consonant. Because of linguistic changes to different kinds of stems, a variety of patterns exists that you will need to become familiar with over time. Here we introduce just the basic pattern of endings that signify the third declension.

For masculine or feminine third-declension nouns:

Case	Singular	Plural
Nominative	-ς or no ending	-ες
Genitive	-ος	-ων

Note that the *genitive* singular ending in this declension, -ος, is the same as the masculine or feminine ending of the *nominative* singular form in the second declension. That shows us that knowing what declension a noun belongs to, as well as what gender it is, is crucial for knowing what form the ending is indicating.

For neuter third-declension nouns:

Case	Singular	Plural
Nominative	-	-ᾶ
Genitive	-ος	-ων

Compare also the neuter nominative plural ending in both the second and third declensions, -ᾶ, and one of the feminine nominative singular forms in the first declension, also -ᾶ.

5.4 The article

The article is used so frequently in ancient Greek that it must and will become familiar, with its uses and nuances grasped with practice.

English has a definite article, “the” and an indefinite article, “a” or “an.” Ancient Greek has only one article, and its uses are both straightforward and subtle.

5.4.1 Forms of the article

The article modifying a noun agrees with it in gender, case, and number. There is a full paradigm of forms with all three genders in all cases and numbers, and it is important to learn to recognize these forms easily. Pay careful attention to and memorize the spelling, including accents, breathing marks, and iota subscripts, on these forms. There is no vocative form of the article.

Case	Singular			Plural		
	Masc	Fem	Neut	Masc	Fem	Neut
Nominative	ὁ	ἡ	τό	οἱ	αἱ	τά
Genitive	τοῦ	τῆς	τοῦ	τῶν	τῶν	τῶν
Dative	τῷ	τῇ	τῷ	τοῖς	ταῖς	τοῖς
Accusative	τόν	τήν	τό	τούς	τάς	τά

Note that the alpha in the neuter nominative and accusative plural form, *τά*, is a short alpha, while the alpha in the feminine accusative plural form, *τάς*, is a long alpha. The accent pattern of the article is that of a persistent accent on the ultima: acute in nominative and accusative cases—with the important exception here of the *proclitic* (unaccented) forms in the masculine/feminine nominative forms *ὁ, ἡ, οἱ, αἱ*—and circumflex on the genitive and dative forms.

5.4.2 Some uses of the article

- Like the English definite article, the ancient Greek article may modify its noun by making it definite or particular: *ἡ οἰκία* “the house”
- If indicated by the context, the article can convey a possessive adjective: *ὁ ἀνὴρ ἐκ τῆς οἰκίας ἦλθεν*, “The man went out of **his** house”
- Differently from English, however, the article may be used to denote a general class, *οἱ ἄνθρωποι* “people” or “humans”
- Also differently from English, the article is frequently used with a proper noun, exs. *ὁ Ἐρατοσθένης* “Eratosthenes”; *αἱ Ἀθῆναι* “Athens” or with abstract nouns, ex. *ἡ δημοκρατία* “democracy”
- The article has “noun-making” powers: the article can be used with another part of speech, such as infinitives, participles, adjectives, and even particles, to create nouns or “substantives.” We will see in more detail later in this module how it is used this way with adjectives.

5.4.3 The article and attributive and predicate positions

As we will see in more detail as we continue this module, nouns can be modified in several ways. Word order of these modifiers in relation to the noun and its article can have an effect on meaning that we should pay attention to. Words can be placed between the article and noun to emphasize that those

words are modifying the noun in particular ways. Or modifiers can be placed outside of the noun and its article to emphasize other kinds of relationships. These two different positions are called the **attributive** position and the **predicate** position.

Attributive position in ancient Greek follows the article that modifies the noun. The article can be repeated to create this position. So attributive position can look like any of the following

- ἡ μεγάλη γυνή ‘the tall woman’
- ἡ γυνὴ ἡ μεγάλη ‘the tall woman’
- γυνὴ ἡ μεγάλη ‘the tall woman’

What nuance of emphasis might you infer that each of the three different ways of creating attributive position offer?

Predicate position is a placement outside of the article + noun phrase.

In the sections below on the genitive case, adjectives, and prepositions, pay attention to how these positions are used in different kinds of modifications of nouns.

5.5 The genitive case

As we noted briefly above, the genitive case shows a connection between that noun and another noun. In this section, we start with some broad categories of connection that are represented by the genitive.

Notice that different uses may result in using similar words in English translation, such as “of”: that coincidence provides ease of translation, but we should nevertheless pay attention to what the relationship is. Translation of the genitive is also not *restricted* to using “of” and considering how English expresses that same relationship between nouns is a good habit to get into as you practice reading and translating.

5.5.1 Some general uses of the genitive

- *Possessive genitive*: the genitive case represents the possessor of the other noun. As such, it can be translated into English with the preposition “of” or with the possessive marker “’s”. Example: ἡ τοῦ ἀνδρὸς οἰκία “the house of the man” or “the man’s house.” Possessive genitives are usually placed in attributive position.
- *Partitive genitive* or *Genitive of the whole*: the genitive expresses a group or a “whole” and the noun it is modifying is part of or one among that group. Example: ἡ βελτίστη γυνὴ πασῶν “the best wife of all.” The partitive genitive is generally in the predicate position.

- *Subjective genitive* or *objective genitive*: when a noun is related to a verb, the genitive can express either the subject or the object of that verbal idea. Understanding the difference between them, even if the same phrasing is used to express each, allows for greater clarity. For example, in the English phrase “the fear of the Athenians,” are the Athenians the ones fearing (subjective genitive) or the ones being feared by someone else (objective genitive)? You would have to tell from context, and you can see that it does make a difference in meaning.
 - Subjective genitives, when the genitive is the “doer” of the implied action of the other noun, is usually in attributive position. Example: ἡ τοῦ παιδίου βοά “the cry of the baby” or “the baby’s cry”
 - Objective genitives, when the genitive represents the object of the implied action, is usually in the predicate position. Example: πάντων τῶν κακῶν ἡ αἰτία “the cause of all my problems”

Other uses of the genitive we will meet later in this module, when the genitive is used with prepositions:

- *Motion away or separation*
- *Agent*

More uses will be introduced and discussed in future modules.

5.6 Direct and indirect objects

Two more functions that nouns can have in a clause is to act as the direct object of the verb, or as the indirect object of the verb. In order for a verb to take an object, it must be a *transitive* verb, a verb that expresses an action that acts upon a recipient. The noun that is the recipient of the action is called the *direct object*. Some verbs may express actions that also involve a secondary recipient: that noun is acting as the *indirect object*.

In ancient Greek, the **accusative** case is the most common way of expressing a *direct object*.

The **dative** case is the most common way of expressing the *indirect object*.

5.6.1 Direct Object: function of the accusative case

The direct object of a verb has the action that the verb is expressing done to it.

| She closed *the door*.

The door is what is being closed, so in ancient Greek it goes into the accusative case: τὴν θύραν προσέθηκεν.

5.6.2 Indirect Object: function of the dative case

One verb that makes it easy to see the role of the indirect object, in both English and Ancient Greek, is the verb “to give.” In English, we can express the indirect object either by word order or with a preposition such as “to.”

“They gave gifts to her.” or “They gave her gifts.”

In both sentences “gifts” is the direct object of the verb “gave”: the gifts are what is being directly affected by the action of the verb. The indirect object in both sentences is “her”: as the recipient of the gifts, the action of giving affected her in a secondary or indirect way. English expresses that by putting the indirect object before the direct object in the sentence, or with the preposition “to.”

Can you think of other verbs in English that frequently have both a direct and an indirect object expressed with this syntax?

In Ancient Greek, the indirect object is expressed with the dative case. Word order can be used for other kinds of emphasis.

πάντα τὰ ἑμαυτοῦ ἐκέινῃ παρέδωκα Lysias 1.6: “I gave over all of my things *to her*”

5.6.3 Forms of Dative and Accusative Cases

We have already met some of the forms of the dative and accusative cases in the article. Those case endings will show up again in the first and second declensions of nouns and adjectives.

Case and number	1st Declension	Second Declension	Second Declension N	Third Declension	Third Declension N
	F/M	M/F		M/F	
Dative Singular	-ῃ / -ᾷ	-ῶ	-ῶ	-ι	-ι
Accusative Singular	-ην / -αν	-ον	-ον	-α	- (same form as nominative)
Dative Plural	-αις	-οις	-οις	-σι	-σι
Accusative Plural	-ας	-ους	-α	-ας	-α

Look for patterns in these endings that can help you recognize the case endings.

Note that for a neuter noun or adjective in any declension, the accusative singular form will always be the same as the nominative singular form, and the accusative plural forms will always be the same as the nominative plural form.

Note that the dative plural ending of third declension nouns will have a “moveable nu” placed on the ending if the next word in the sentence starts with a vowel or if it is the last word in a sentence.

Note that the alpha in the 1st declension accusative ending -ας is a long alpha, while in the third declension masculine/feminine accusative plural ending -ας the alpha is short.

5.7 Adjectives (τὸ ἐπίθετον)

“Adjective” is a part of speech. The Greek name is τὸ ἐπίθετον, which, as noted at the beginning of the module, means “add-on” or “placed on.” The function of adjectives is to modify nouns or pronouns. That is, the adjective describes or delineates the noun or pronoun further, it is “placed on” the noun or “adds on” to it.

Like nouns, adjectives have gender, case, and number. To identify the form of an adjective, you must identify all three features.

5.7.1 Dictionary entry and declension of adjectives

The dictionary entry of an adjective will be all the nominative singular forms. The order of those nominative singular forms that dictionaries use is: masculine nominative singular, feminine nominative singular, and neuter nominative singular. For some adjectives, the feminine and masculine forms share the same endings, and so there will be only two sets of endings, the first listed for the masculine and feminine and the second for the neuter. Third declension adjectives have a wider variety of endings, just as the nouns do, and may also have different endings for the masculine, feminine, and neuter forms, or one set for the masculine and feminine and another for the neuter.

Adjectives in ancient Greek are organized into the same three declensions as nouns, and like nouns, adjectives belong to each of the three declensions. An adjective of any declension can modify a noun of any declension.

You will identify the declension of an adjective by the endings of the nominative singular forms and the corresponding noun declension endings.

5.7.1.1 Example of adjective declension

Many three-ending adjectives are what we call “first and second declension” adjectives because the feminine forms use first declension case endings while the masculine and neuter forms use second declension adjectives. A representative example of these adjectives is ἀγαθός, ἀγαθή, ἀγαθόν. An English translation for this adjective is “good,” and like “good” in English, there is a range of ways people or things can be ἀγαθός, ἀγαθή, ἀγαθόν. As you see this adjective in your readings, what nuances of meaning does the context give to this adjective?

Declension of ἀγαθός, ἀγαθή, ἀγαθόν

Case	Singular			Plural		
	Masc	Fem	Neut	Masc	Fem	Neut
Nominative	ἀγαθός	ἀγαθή	ἀγαθόν	ἀγαθοί	ἀγαθαί	ἀγαθά
Genitive	ἀγαθοῦ	ἀγαθῆς	ἀγαθοῦ	ἀγαθῶν	ἀγαθῶν	ἀγαθῶν
Dative	ἀγαθῷ	ἀγαθῇ	ἀγαθῷ	ἀγαθοῖς	ἀγαθαῖς	ἀγαθοῖς
Accusative	ἀγαθόν	ἀγαθήν	ἀγαθόν	ἀγαθούς	ἀγαθάς	ἀγαθά

5.7.2 Noun-adjective agreement

In ancient Greek, an adjective modifying a noun must agree with, or match, that noun in gender, case, and number. Adjectives from any of the three declensions can modify nouns from any of the three declensions. That is, the adjective need not “match” the noun in *declension* and the case endings belonging to that declension, although sometimes by coincidence, the endings will look the same, especially if the adjective and noun come from the same declension.

Examples of noun-adjective agreement from Lysias 1.6-10

τὸν ἄλλον χρόνον masculine accusative singular

τῷ πρώτῳ χρόνῳ masculine dative singular

πολὺν χρόνον masculine accusative singular

οἰκειότητα μεγίστην feminine accusative singular

οἰκονόμος δεινή feminine nominative singular

ἡ ἐμὴ γυνή feminine nominative singular (but note that γυνή is a 3rd declension noun, and the genitive case would be τῆς ἐμῆς γυναικός)

γυναῖκα σωφρονεστάτην feminine accusative singular

πάντων τῶν κακῶν neuter genitive plural

οἰκίδιον διπλοῦν neuter nominative singular

Because of the lack in English of gender and case with nouns and lack of even number with adjectives, English does not have explicit rules about noun-adjective agreement (as it does for subject-verb agreement, for example). The adjective does not change form between *one green shoe* and *two green shoes*, an *old woman* or a group of *old men*.

But note that English has interesting “ingrained” rules about the *order* of adjectives when there is more than one. Most native speakers of English know these rules as just what “sounds right” or “sounds wrong,” “Old green shoes” obeys these rules while “green old shoes” does not. See more here [<https://www.bbc.com/culture/article/20160908-the-language-rules-we-know-but-dont-know-we-know>] for language rules English speakers know but don’t know we know

English language learners are sometimes asked to learn these rules about adjective order explicitly. That is a good reminder of the way in which language rules are sometimes defined for non-native-speakers (as we all are for ancient Greek) in a way that complicates the sense of a language meant to communicate.

5.7.3 Adjective placement: attributive and predicate positions

Adjectives can describe a noun, and thus in ancient Greek must agree with that noun in gender, case, and number, from different syntactical positions in a sentence.

As we saw earlier in the section on the article, one of those positions is called the **attributive** position, when the adjective qualifies the noun within a noun phrase. The other is called the **predicate** position, when the adjective is part of the predicate of the clause or sentence. Compare these examples in English:

The tall woman went to the market. The adjective “tall” is in the attributive position.

The woman is tall. The adjective “tall” is in the predicate position, syntactically connected to the verb of the sentence.

In both sentences, the adjective “tall” describes the woman, and so in ancient Greek would be the same gender, case, and number as the noun “woman”: since “woman” is the subject of each sentence, the adjective will be feminine, nominative, singular, as the noun is.

Attributive position in ancient Greek follows the article that modifies the noun. The article can be repeated to create this position:

- ἡ μεγάλη γυνή ‘the tall woman’
- ἡ γυνή ἡ μεγάλη ‘the tall woman’
- γυνή ἡ μεγάλη ‘the tall woman’

Note that the article may be absent, and if so, the word order of adjective and noun is less restricted, such as the example of οἰκονόμος δεινὴ above.

Predicate position is a placement outside of the article + noun phrase.

ἡ μεγάλη γυνή εἰς τὴν ἀγορὰν ἦλθον. OR ἡ γυνή ἡ μεγάλη εἰς τὴν ἀγορὰν ἦλθον. *The tall woman went to the market.* (attributive position)

ἡ γυνή μεγάλη ἐστίν. *The woman is tall.* (predicate position)

5.7.4 Adjectives used as nouns, substantive adjectives

Adjectives, and indeed any kind of modifier, can be used with the article to function as nouns. A term for this use is “substantive adjectives.” English does this, too. In a sentence such as “Only the good die young,” we understand “the good” to refer to “good persons,” a group that is abstract in nature. In the sentence “That’s all for the good,” we understand “the good” to refer to an abstract quality.

Ancient Greek tends to use substantive adjectives much more often than English does, though, and takes advantage of the gender and number of adjectives to express a wider variety of the understood noun. Because ancient Greek has that flexibility, to understand and translate it properly, you must supply a noun that reflects that gender and number:

- ὁ ἀγαθός, masculine singular, “the good man”; οἱ ἀγαθοί masculine plural “good men,” “the good men” or “the good” (ancient Greek defaults to the masculine when describing a group of persons of mixed gender, whether possible or actual)
- ἡ ἀγαθή feminine singular, “the good woman”; αἱ ἀγαθαί feminine plural “the good women,” “good women”
- τὸ ἀγαθόν neuter singular, “the good thing” or “the good” as an abstract quality; τὰ ἀγαθὰ “good things,” “the good things,” “goods” or “the good”. Neuter plural substantives are especially flexible in meaning and thus can be used in a variety of contexts.

5.8 Types of clauses

Recall that every instance of a finite verb identifies a clause. When we have chunked together the words in a clause, the case of nouns will tell us how they function in the clause (subject, direct or indirect object, etc.). Looking at the verb of a clause together with the main nouns (if any), we can think about clauses in one of three categories, according to the type of verb that defines it: *transitive*, *intransitive* or *linking*.

5.8.1 Transitive verb clauses

The clause is formed with a transitive verb. The clause may contain a direct object if the verb is in the active or middle voice. The transitive verb can have a passive form. In the passive, the agent can be expressed with ὑπό + genitive.

ἡ ἐμὴ γυνὴ ὑπὸ τούτου τοῦ ἀνθρώπου ὤφθη (ὀφθεῖσα in text)
(== ὁ ἄνθρωπος τὴν ἐμὴν γυναῖκα εἶδε.)

5.8.2 Intransitive verb clauses

The clause is formed with an intransitive verb. An intransitive verb does not take a direct object, so we will not expect to see one in this type of clause.

ἦκον ἀπροσδοκίῳ ἐξ ἀγροῦ

5.8.3 Linking verb clauses

The clause contains a linking verb, whether expressed or implied. A linking clause joins together a nominative subject and a nominative predicate with a verb referring to a state of being (εἰμί). Note that in ancient Greek, when the linking verb is in the third person, εἰμί can be omitted and understood from context.

οἰκονόμος δεινὴ καὶ φειδωλὸς ἀγαθὴ {ἦν}

5.8.3.1 Practice with coordinating clauses

Find the subject (explicit or implicit) and verb of each clause. Categorize each as transitive, intransitive, or linking.

ἦκον **μὲν** ἀπροσδοκίῳ ἐξ ἀγροῦ,

μετὰ **δε** τὸ δεῖπνον τὸ παιδίον ἐβόα

καὶ ἐδυσκόλαιεν ...

ὁ **γάρ** ἄνθρωπος ἔνδον ἦν:

5.8.4 Independent and dependent clauses

Another possible way of structuring sentences involves making one clause (or multiple clauses) *dependent* on another clause.

We recognize a clause as “independent” if it can stand on its own as a sentence, even if it is connected by coordination with other independent clauses, as in the previous section.

A dependent clause further explains or defines the independent clause that it is attached to. It is recognized by the fact that as it is structured in this sentence, it cannot stand on its own because it does not express a complete thought. As it is structured with the independent, or “main,” clause, the dependent clause does have defined boundaries, so that it is clear which words belong to which clause. Recognizing those boundaries is important to correctly reading and understanding a sentence with multiple clauses.

One common type of dependent clause is structured by a relative adverb or a relative pronoun. The word “relative” indicates that the word establishes and shows a relationship between the action expressed in the dependent clause and that expressed in the independent clause.

Relative adverbs, such as “when, after, since, because” in English, show and define a temporal or causal relationship between the action of the relative adverbial (dependent) clause and the action of the main clause.

- “When our child was born, I was already trusting my wife.”
- “After my mother died, all my problems started.”

Relative pronouns, “who, which, that,” are used to create a clause that further describes or defines a noun in the main clause. In the next section, we will introduce the relative pronoun in ancient Greek and learn in more detail how they form relative clauses.

5.9 Pronouns (ἡ ἀντωνυμία)

“Pronoun” is a part of speech. Pronouns are used in place of and in reference to a noun: the Greek name ἀντωνυμία means “in place of a noun.” The noun that a pronoun replaces and refers to is called the pronoun’s *antecedent*.

Like nouns, pronouns in ancient Greek have grammatical gender, case, and number. The case of a pronoun, like that of a noun, will tell you its function in a clause.

There are several types of pronouns in ancient Greek, as there are in English: personal, demonstrative, relative, interrogative, indefinite, reflexive, and reciprocal. We know and use all of these types of pronouns without perhaps knowing their classification. In this section, we will learn the ancient Greek personal pronouns, demonstrative pronouns, and the relative pronoun.

5.9.1 Personal pronouns

The designation “personal” for personal pronouns is connected to the idea of “person” as a feature of verbs: that is, first person, second person, and third person just as we use those terms for verbs. Thus for these pronouns, gender and number have a relationship with person. First person (“I” in the singular and “we” in the plural) and second person (“you”) personal pronouns are understood to have grammatical gender corresponding to embodied gender of the person or persons they are referring to. Third person pronouns (“he, she, it” in singular, “they” in plural) in ancient Greek have different forms in the singular of grammatical gender depending on the gender (grammatical or embodied) of the person or thing referred to. That is, grammatical gender of nouns will be reflected in the grammatical gender of the pronoun that refers to it.

Pronouns are among the words in English that still have cases. We have a “subjective” case of pronouns that is like the nominative: I, we, he, she. The “objective” case of pronouns are used for objects of verbs or objects of prepositions, and so that is what we will use for the “oblique” cases (a category covering the genitive, dative, and accusative cases) in ancient Greek: me, us, him, her, them. In English, we no longer have distinctions for the second person in cases, just as with number: “you” is used in all cases and numbers, and “it” is also used for both the subjective and objective cases.

Case	1st person	English equivalent	2nd person	English equivalent
	singular		singular	
nominative	ἐγώ	I	σύ	you
genitive	μου / ἐμοῦ	(of) me	σου / σοῦ	(of) you
dative	μοι / ἐμοί	(to/for) me	σοι / σοί	(to/for) you
accusative	με / ἐμέ	me	σε / σέ	you
	plural		plural	
nominative	ἡμεῖς	we	ὑμεῖς	you
genitive	ἡμῶν	(of) us	ὑμῶν	(of) you

Case	1st person	English equivalent	2nd person	English equivalent
dative	ἡμῖν	(to/for) us	ὑμῖν	(to/for) you
accusative	ἡμᾶς	us	ὑμᾶς	you

We have already seen in studying person with verb forms that ancient Greek verbs do not require a separate pronoun to express the subject. Because they are not needed, nominative personal pronouns are not used to express the subject unless the speaker wants to place special emphasis on that subject. The English equivalent of using the nominative pronoun would be heavy stress and perhaps even pointing when spoken, or underlining or italics in writing, such as “***We*** are studying Greek.”

The singular of the first and second person pronouns also have emphatic and unemphatic forms that operate in a similar way. The first form listed above is unemphatic. If the speaker wants to emphasize ***me*** or ***you*** in the sentence, then the second form will be used. In the first person singular, note that the emphatic form involves both an extra letter/syllable and an accent, while in the second person singular the difference is indicated solely by the accent. The unemphatic forms of both the first and second person singular pronouns are listed without an accent. They belong to a class of words called **enclitics**. (See next section.)

5.9.2 Demonstrative adjectives and pronouns

The label “demonstrative” signifies that these words “point” to their referent. They may act as adjectives, modifying an expressed noun, or they may be used on their own, acting as a pronoun. English has two commonly used demonstratives: “this” and “that,” which can also be used as adjectives modifying a noun (this woman, that house) or on their own as pronouns. Ancient Greek has three demonstrative adjectives/pronouns, and it is important to understand the conceptual meaning of each one.

ὅδε, ἦδε, τόδε (“this”) is used to point to something present and visible or immediate, similar to colloquial English using “this here” to describe someone or something. Conceptually it is a “first person” demonstrative, meaning that the speaker is involved with what is being pointed at. Within a text or narrative, ὅδε, ἦδε, τόδε points *forward* to what comes next, making it similar in such a context to a phrase like “the following” in English.

οὗτος, αὕτη, τοῦτο (“this” or “that”) is conceptually between the closeness of ὅδε, ἦδε, τόδε and the distance of ἐκεῖνος, ἐκείνη, ἐκεῖνο and is “second person” (closer to the addressee than the speaker). In contrast to ὅδε, ἦδε, τόδε in narrative or text, οὗτος, αὕτη, τοῦτο looks *back* and so points to “the preceding.” It points to something closer in text than ἐκεῖνος, ἐκείνη, ἐκεῖνο, and so means “the latter” in contrast to “the former” (for which ἐκεῖνος, ἐκείνη, ἐκεῖνο would be used).

ἐκεῖνος, ἐκεῖνη, ἐκεῖνο (“that”) is conceptually pointing further away than the other two demonstratives, as in a “third person” idea. The use of ἐκεῖνος, ἐκεῖνη, ἐκεῖνο may have an intentionally distancing effect, as “that” can in English (“I would never do *that*!”)

When functioning as adjectives, demonstratives are used in ancient Greek along with the article and in predicate position. Examples:

- ἦδε ἡ ἡμέρα “this day” (meaning “this very day, this day now, today”)
- τούτον τὸν ἄνδρα “this/that man”
- τοῖς ἀνθρώποις ἐκείνοις “to/for those people”

(Since English does not use its article along with demonstratives, we do not translate the article in these constructions. Leaving the article out of the translation is necessary to be idiomatic in English. That is another example of how translation is not a “one-to-one” substitution of words.)

When used as pronouns, the demonstratives are used on their own. They receive their gender and case from their *antecedent*, the noun they refer back to, but the case expresses the use of the pronoun in its own clause. If the antecedent is implied or understood, rather than expressed, we understand a noun that matches the gender and number of the demonstrative pronoun: ἐκεῖνος “that man” (masculine and singular), ταῦτα “these things” (neuter and plural), τῇσδε “of this (here) woman” (feminine and singular).

5.9.2.1 Declensions of demonstrative pronouns

Declension of ὅδε, ἦδε, τόδε

Case	Singular			Plural		
	Masc	Fem	Neut	Masc	Fem	Neut
Nominative	ὅδε	ἦδε	τόδε	οἶδε	αἶδε	τάδε
Genitive	τοῦδε	τῇσδε	τοῦδε	τῶνδε	τῶνδε	τῶνδε
Dative	τῷδε	τῇδε	τῷδε	τοῖσδε	ταῖσδε	τοῖσδε
Accusative	τόνδε	τήνδε	τόδε	τούσδε	τάσδε	τάδε

Notes on the forms of ὅδε, ἦδε, τόδε:

- ὅδε, ἦδε, τόδε is the article + the enclitic particle -δε. The enclitic nature of -δε accounts for the accents appearing on the masculine and feminine nominative forms (while the article forms

are proclitics) and for the accents remaining what they are on the article on forms like τήνδε, τούσδε, and τάσδε, which seem to be “breaking” the rule about circumflex accents on a long penult when the ultima is short.

Declension of οὗτος, αὕτη, τοῦτο

Case	Singular			Plural		
	Masc	Fem	Neut	Masc	Fem	Neut
Nominative	οὗτος	αὕτη	τοῦτο	οὗτοι	αὗται	ταῦτα
Genitive	τούτου	ταύτης	τούτου	τούτων	τούτων	τούτων
Dative	τούτῳ	ταύτῃ	τούτῳ	τούτοῖς	ταύταις	τούτοις
Accusative	τούτον	ταύτην	τοῦτο	τούτους	ταύτας	ταῦτα

Notes on the forms of οὗτος, αὕτη, τοῦτο:

- The stem follows a pattern similar to the article, with the stem starting in tau in most forms, but with a rough breathing instead in the masculine and feminine nominative forms, both singular and plural.
- The masculine and neuter forms have second declension endings with the diphthong **ου** in the stem, while the feminine forms have first declension endings with the diphthong **αυ** in the stem.
- The exception in the feminine is the genitive plural, which is assimilated to the same form as the masculine and neuter genitive plural, τούτων.
- The neuter nominative and accusative plural forms use the αυ diphthong in phonetic assimilation with its ending -α.
- The neuter singular nominative and accusative are a different kind of second declension ending (-ο instead of -ον).
- The persistent accent pattern is the accent on a long penult. Thus the accent does not move from the penult, and will be a circumflex when the ultima is short and an acute when the ultima is long.

Declension of ἐκεῖνος, ἐκείνη, ἐκεῖνο

Case	Singular			Plural		
	Masc	Fem	Neut	Masc	Fem	Neut
Nominative	ἐκεῖνος	ἐκείνη	ἐκεῖνο	ἐκεῖνοι	ἐκεῖναι	ἐκεῖνα
Genitive	ἐκείνου	ἐκείνης	ἐκείνου	ἐκείνων	ἐκείνων	ἐκείνων
Dative	ἐκείνῳ	ἐκείνῃ	ἐκείνῳ	ἐκείνοις	ἐκείναις	ἐκείνοις
Accusative	ἐκεῖνον	ἐκείνην	ἐκεῖνο	ἐκείνους	ἐκείνας	ἐκεῖνα

Notes on the forms of ἐκεῖνος, ἐκείνη, ἐκεῖνο:

- The masculine and neuter forms have second declension endings while the feminine forms have first declension endings.
- The neuter singular nominative and accusative are a different kind of second declension ending (-ο instead of -ον).
- The persistent accent pattern is the accent on a long penult. Thus the accent does not move from the penult, and will be a circumflex when the ultima is short and an acute when the ultima is long.

5.9.3 Relative pronoun

The relative pronoun is used to create dependent clauses that further describe or define a noun or pronoun in a sentence. The relative pronoun in English is *who*, *which*, or *that*. Relative clauses are dependent clauses, appearing with an independent clause in a sentence. The relative clause begins with a relative pronoun, which refers to a noun or pronoun in the independent clause, its *antecedent*. Because the relative clause is modifying that noun or pronoun, the form of the relative pronoun matches the antecedent in **gender** and **number**. Because the relative clause is its own verbal unit, with its own subject and verb, the **case** of the relative pronoun is determined by its use in its own clause.

5.9.3.1 Declension of ὅς, ἥ, ὅ

Case	Singular			Plural		
	Masc	Fem	Neut	Masc	Fem	Neut

Case	Singular			Plural		
Nominative	ὅς	ἥ	ὅ	οἱ	αἱ	ἅ
Genitive	οὗ	ἥς	οὔ	ῶν	ῶν	ῶν
Dative	ῷ	ἥ	ῷ	οῖς	αῖς	οῖς
Accusative	ὅν	ἥν	ὅ	οὓς	ἅς	ἅ

Notes on the forms of ὅς, ἥ, ὅ

- the forms of the relative pronoun are similar to those of the article, without the initial tau that the article has in most forms and with a rough breathing on all forms. Note the difference in the masculine nominative singular ὅς from the article ὁ. With forms of the relative pronoun like ἥ, οἱ, and αἱ, the only difference between the article and the relative pronoun is the accent on the relative pronoun form.
- the accent pattern is also like that of the article, and like a persistent accent on the ultima: acute on nominative and accusative forms and circumflex on genitive and dative forms.

5.9.3.2 Examples of relative clauses

Identify the relative pronoun in the following sentences. What is its antecedent? What are the boundaries of the relative clause (where does it begin and where does it end)? What form of the relative pronoun would be used in ancient Greek (what is the gender, case, and number)?

- The woman who goes to the market brought messages to my wife.
- The house that I own has two floors.
- The husband narrated to the jurors the events which occurred.

Compose in English your own sentences in English with relative clauses. Can you find ways to use relative pronouns in all four cases?

5.10 Enclitics

There are two classes of words in ancient Greek that do not carry accents.

You have already encountered some examples of the class of words called **proclitics** (such as the forms of the article ὁ, ἡ, οἱ, αἱ and the negating word οὐ) and will meet more in the section in this module on prepositions and in future modules. Proclitics do not carry an accent of their own, and

do not affect the accent of other words in a sentence. Proclitics may be used as the first word in a clause.

Enclitics do interact with the accent of the word that precedes them in a sentence: their name signifies their “leaning on” the word they follow. Enclitics cannot be the first word in a clause since they need a word ahead of them to lean on. Enclitics are generally listed without an accent in paradigms and in glossaries or lexica. Enclitic words are frequently one syllable but may be two syllables. In addition to the pronouns you are learning above, another enclitic you have already encountered in Module 1 is the conjunction τε.

5.10.1 Enclitic accent rules

1. A word accented on the ultima, with an acute or circumflex, retains that accent when followed by an enclitic word. The acute does not change to grave because the enclitic is “added on” to the word in terms of pronunciation. The enclitic remains unaccented.
2. A word accented on the antepenult with an acute or a word accented on the penult with a circumflex will have an acute accent added to the ultima. That is the circumstance when you will see two accents on the same word. The enclitic remains unaccented.
3. A word accented with an acute on the penult will not have any accent changes when followed by an enclitic. A one-syllable enclitic following such a word will remain unaccented. A two-syllable enclitic following a word accented on the penult with an acute will be accented on its own ultima. That is one circumstance in which you will see an enclitic accented.
4. A proclitic followed by an enclitic will receive an acute accent. An enclitic followed by another enclitic in a sentence will also receive that enclitic’s accent on its ultima, which will remain acute.

5.10.2 Practice recognizing enclitics

Looking through the following passage (Lysias 1.6–7), identify which words are enclitics and how they have affected the accents of the preceding words. What rules are at play in these examples? Which words without accents are proclitics rather than enclitics?

ἐγὼ γάρ, ὦ Ἀθηναῖοι, ἐπειδὴ ἔδοξέ μοι γῆμαι καὶ γυναῖκα ἡγαγόμεν εἰς τὴν οἰκίαν, τὸν μὲν ἄλλον χρόνον οὕτω διεκείμεν ὥστε μήτε λυπεῖν μήτε λῖαν ἐπ’ ἐκείνη εἶναι ὃ τι ἂν ἐθέλη ποιεῖν, ἐφύλαττον τε ὡς οἶόν τε ἦν, καὶ προσεῖχον τὸν νοῦν ὥσπερ εἰκὸς ἦν. ἐπειδὴ δέ μοι παιδίον γίγνεται, ἐπίστευσον ἤδη καὶ πάντα τὰ ἑμαυτοῦ ἐκείνη παρέδωκα, ἡγούμενος ταύτην οἰκειότητα μεγίστην εἶναι: ἐν μὲν οὖν τῷ πρώτῳ χρόνῳ, ὦ Ἀθηναῖοι, πασῶν ἦν βελτίστη: καὶ γὰρ οἰκονόμος δεινὴ καὶ φειδωλὸς ἀγαθὴ καὶ ἀκριβῶς πάντα διοικοῦσα: ἐπειδὴ δέ μοι ἡ μήτηρ ἐτελεύτησε, πάντων τῶν κακῶν ἀποθανοῦσα αἰτία μοι γεγένηται.

5.11 Prepositions (ἡ πρόθεσις)

Preposition is a part of speech, like noun or verb or adjective, in both English and ancient Greek. Its ancient Greek name is πρόθεσις, which means “put before,” which is generally the placement of a preposition in relation to the noun it governs. (“Preposition” comes from Latin that also means “put before.”) Prepositions carry a persistent accent that you should learn as you learn the word.

A preposition is used to create a relationship between a noun and another word. A preposition and a noun create a *prepositional phrase*. That prepositional phrase may act *adjectivally* to modify another noun or *adverbially* to modify a predicate. Compare the uses of the prepositional phrase “on the beach” in these two English sentences:

The women on the beach were playing. (describes which women, adjectival)

The women were playing on the beach. (describes where they were playing, adverbial)

The nouns in a prepositional phrase in ancient Greek will be one of the oblique cases: genitive, dative, and accusative. We have already learned that noun cases in Greek have particular functions. These functions broadly determine which of the cases will be the object of a particular preposition. For example, the genitive conveys motion away from, the dative is used for a stationary position, and the accusative for motion toward or into. That relationship of case and function is apparent also with some prepositions that take more than one case of noun: which case is used shades the meaning of the preposition, sometimes subtly, sometimes substantially.

Therefore, it is important as you learn prepositions as vocabulary that you also learn which case(s) of noun each takes as its object, and how the case of the object affects the meaning of the preposition. Preposition usage in English is highly idiomatic, and so the practice of translation requires, as always, a good understanding of what the Greek is expressing and how English expresses that same idea, rather than a single equivalence of word to word.

5.11.0.1 Frequently used prepositions that take only one case

Preposition	case of noun object	English near-equivalents
ἀπό	+ genitive	away from, from
εἰς	+ accusative	into, to, toward, in regard to
ἐκ, ἐξ	+ genitive	out of, from
ἐν	+ dative	in, on, among, within

Preposition	case of noun object	English near-equivalents
σύν	+ dative	with

Note that the prepositions εἰς, ἐκ/ἐξ, and ἐν are **proclitics**, so they do not carry an accent or affect the accent of other words in a sentence.

5.11.0.2 Frequently used prepositions that take more than one case

Preposition	case of noun object	English near-equivalents
ἐπί	+ genitive	near, at, upon
ἐπί	+ dative	at, on, upon, in addition to
ἐπί	+ accusative	to, onto, up to, toward; against
—	—	—
κατά	+ genitive	down from, against
κατά	+ accusative	down to, down along, in accordance with
—	—	—
μετά	+ genitive	among, with
μετά	+ accusative	after
—	—	—
παρά	+ genitive	from the side of
παρά	+ dative	at the side of, next to, beside
παρά	+ accusative	to the side of, beside, beyond, contrary to
—	—	—
περί	+ genitive	around, about
περί	+ dative	around, about
περί	+ accusative	around, concerning
—	—	—
πρός	+ genitive	from
πρός	+ dative	near, beside; in addition to

Preposition	case of noun object	English near-equivalents
πρός	+ accusative	to, toward, against; regarding
—	—	—
ὑπό	+ genitive	from under; by (personal agent, see below)
ὑπό	+ dative	under (stationary), at the hands of
ὑπό	+ accusative	under (motion toward)

5.11.1 Compound Verbs

The adverbial properties of prepositions can also be seen in so-called compound verbs, in which a preposition becomes a prefix on a verb and shades its meaning according. For example, ἔρχομαι ‘to go’ → εἰσέρχομαι ‘to go into, enter’

5.11.2 Agent: a use of the preposition ὑπό + genitive

We have seen that the subject of a passive verb is the recipient of the action expressed by that verb: for example, “he is caught.” To express who is the agent of the action of the passive verb, English uses the preposition “by”: “he is caught by her husband.” Ancient Greek expresses the personal agent of a passive verb with the preposition ὑπό plus a noun in the genitive. You can remember the three “P’s” of personal agent: **p**assive verb, **p**reposition ὑπό, and **p**erson in the genitive case.

5.12 Ancient Greek in action: gender identity and language

- Grammatical gender and gender diversity: draw on sources in Tom Hendrickson, “Gender Diversity in Greek and Latin”

5.13 Reading

Practice, reading and composition based on Lysias 1, 11-14: curious events in the household of Euphiletos.

6 Module 3: participles

Practice, reading and composition based on Lysias 1, sections 16-19: an elderly woman reveals to Euphiletos that his wife is having an affair with Eratosthenes.

6.1 Overview of module 3

6.1.1 Language

Main areas of focus are:

- participles: a verbal unit
- attributive, circumstantial, supplementary participles
- absolute construction

6.1.2 Making Connections

Reading the Second Amendment

6.1.3 Practice, Reading, and Composition

- πάντων τῶν κακῶν ἀποθανοῦσα αἰτία μοι γεγένηται
- ἢ ἐμὴ γυνὴ ὑπὸ τούτου τοῦ ἀνθρώπου ὀφθεῖσα, χρόνῳ διαφθείρεται
- οἰκίδιον ἔστι μοι διπλοῦν, ἴσα ἔχον τὰ ἄνω τοῖς κάτω
- ... ἵνα δὲ μὴ κινδυνεύῃ κατὰ τῆς κλίμακος καταβαίνουσα
- προϊόντος τοῦ χρόνου...
- ἵνα παύσῃται κλᾶον
- ὥς ἀσμένῃ με ἑορακυῖα ἦκοντα διὰ χρόνου.
- πρότερον δὲ μεθύων εἴλκες αὐτήν
- καὶ τούτων οὐδὲν ἐνθουμούμενος οὐδ' ὑπονοῶν ἐκάθευδον ἄσμενος
- χρόνου μεταξὺ διαγενομένου καὶ ἐμοῦ πολὺ ἀπολελειμμένους τῶν ἐμαυτοῦ κακῶν, προσέρχεται μοί τις πρεσβυτίς...

6.2 Participles (ἡ μετοχή)

TBA: the next verbal unit

6.3 Participles: introduction

Participles are a kind of adjective created from a verb. They share qualities of both verbs and adjectives (and in fact, the ancient Greek grammatical term for “participle,” μετοχή, literally means “a sharing”). Like any other adjective, participles have gender, case and number, and agree with the noun they describe in all those properties. But like other verb forms, participles have tense and voice, and function alongside finite verbs as a second kind of verbal unit.

6.3.1 English participles

English has a very limited set of participles. We can add *ing* to a verb stem to create a participle in a present tense and active voice. In a phrase like the cliché “babbling brook” “brook” is a noun described by the adjective “babbling”. “Babbling” is a participle in the active voice: we’re saying that “the brook babbles.” It’s also in the present tense: the brook is babbling as we speak.

We can also add *ed* to a verb stem to create a participle in a past tense and passive voice. The phrase “dreaded news” describes the noun “news” with an adjective made from the verb “to dread”. The voice is passive: the news is not the active subject dreading something, but the passive subject, the thing that is dreaded. The tense is past: the news was already dreaded before we speak.

6.3.2 Participles in Greek

Like finite verbs, participles are a verbal unit. That is, they express a verbal idea with a subject. Finite verbs

You’ve seen that the subject of finite verb may be implied by the person and number of the verb form (“he” or “she” for example, could be the subject of a third singular form), and that expressed subjects of finite verbs are in the nominative case.

The subject of a participle is a noun or pronoun

Participles: a verbal unit

Participles: an adjective

προσέρχεται μοί τις πρεσβύτες ἄνθρωπος, ὑπὸ γυναικὸς ὑποπεμφθεῖσα ἣν ἐκεῖνος ἐμοίχευεν, ὡς ἐγὼ ὕστερον ἤκουον

ὁ γὰρ ἀνὴρ ὁ ὑβρίζων εἰς σὲ καὶ τὴν σὴν γυναῖκα ἐχθρὸς ὢν ἡμῖν τυγχάνει.
τὴν θεράπειναν τὴν εἰς τὴν ἀγορὰν βαδίζουσιν

6.4 Present-tense participles

- Formation
- meaning

examples:

πρότερον δὲ μεθύων εἴλκεσ ἀυτὴν

καὶ τούτων οὐδὲν ἐνθυμούμενος οὐδ' ὑπονοῶν ἐκάθευδον ἄσμενος

6.5 Aorist participles

- Formation
- meaning

6.6 Ancient Greek in action: reading the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution

A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed

6.7 Module 3: reading

6.7.1 Chunking more complex sentences

- this display indents by level of subordination:

πάντων τῶν κακῶν

ἀποθανοῦσα

αἰτία μοι **γεγένηται**

- start by reading down the left-most (principal) elements:

πάντων τῶν κακῶν ... αἰτία μοι **γεγένηται**

Then proceed in one level, and work on each subordinate construction.

When you're done, reread it like a printed text:

πάντων τῶν κακῶν ἀποθανοῦσα αἰτία μοι γεγένηται

Another example...

ἢ ἐμὴ γυνή

ὑπὸ τούτου τοῦ ἀνθρώπου **ὀφθεῖσα**,

χρόνῳ **διαφθείρεται**

7 Module 4: subordination

7.1 Overview of module 4

7.1.1 Language

Module 4 introduces

- morphology of optative mood, all three voices, in the present and aorist tenses for the third singular and third plural persons
- the optative in subordinate clauses after past tense verbs
- introducing subordinating conjunctions, use of μή

7.1.2 Making Connections

- Phuc Tran on the power of a non-indicative mood
- Jhumpa Lahiri on the optative?

7.1.3 Practice, Reading, and Composition

- Continuing with Lysias 1, sections 20-22(?)
- Can express purpose in two different ways

8 Practice

Studying a language requires practice.

8.1 Module 1, verbs: practice

- drills identifying verb forms?
- drills on principal parts?
- drills on singular<->plural?
- drills on imperfect<->aorist?
- drills changing voice?

8.1.1 Structured assignments

- mastering forms and syntax
- reading: analysis and translation
- composition

8.2 Reading from Lysias 1.7-1.8 (simplified)

Each verbal unit is placed on a separate line. The verbal expression and any connecting words are **highlighted like this**.

ἔδοξε μὲν Εὐφιλήτῳ γῆμαι

καὶ γυναῖκα **ἡγάγετο** εἰς τὴν οἰκίαν.

παιδίον **δὲ ἐγένετο** αὐτῷ,

καὶ ἐπίστευε ἤδη

καὶ πάντα ἐκείνη **παρέδωκε**.

ἐν **μὲν οὖν** τῷ πρώτῳ χρόνῳ, πασῶν **ἦν** βελτίστη.

ἀλλὰ ἡ Εὐφιλήτου μήτηρ **ἐτελεύτησε**

καὶ πάντων τῶν κακῶν αἰτία **ἐγένετο**.

8.2.1 Questions

1. Fully identify each of the following verbs (that is, identify their person, number, tense, mood and voice), and give their first principal part.
 - ἔδοξε
 - ἡγάγετο
 - ἐγένετο
 - ἐτελεύτησε
2. Notice that ἐπίστευε and παρέδωκε are coordinated with καί, but are in different tenses. Why do you think Lysias chooses the specific tenses he uses here? The little adverb ἤδη may gives us a clue for ἐπίστευε: it can mean that its clause only happened *after* the previously narrated events.

8.2.2 Glosses and notes

- Εὐφιλῆτω “to Euphiletus”.
- γῆμαι “to marry” (an infinitive form of the verb γαμέω)
- γυναῖκα, “woman, wife”. In the Liddell-Scott Greek lexicon, read definition B.1.2 for the verb ἄγω. (You’ll need to scroll a ways to find it!) This definition specifically refers to using the noun γυναῖκα as the direct object of ἄγω.
- εἰς τὴν οἰκίαν “to his house”. Notice that in definition B.1.2 of ἄγω linked above, the second example (from the historian Herodotus, abbreviated “Hdt.”) has the phrase γυναῖκα ἄ. εἰς τὰ οἰκία, an exactly equivalent phrase to Lysias’ γυναῖκα ἄ. εἰς τὴν οἰκίαν.
- παιδίον “a child” (subject of the verb)
- αὐτῷ “to him” (refers to Euphiletus)
- ἐν τῷ πρώτῳ χρόνῳ “at first” The whole phrase goes together: the particles μὲν οὖν start a new clause, and the phrase “at first” is the first piece of that clause.
- ἦν Understand Euphiletus’ wife as the subject: “She was...”
- πασῶν βελτίστη “the best of all women”.
- **μὲν οὖν ... ἀλλὰ** μὲν starts a new topic; οὖν adds an additional nuance of emphasis to this clause – “really, in fact”. Here, μὲν is not continued by δέ; instead, the conjunction ἀλλά introduces a strong contrasting clause (here in fact, two clauses joined by καί: their verbs are ἐτελεύτησε and ἐγένετο).

- ἡ Εὐφιλήτου μήτηρ “Euphiletus’ mother” (subject of the verb ἐτελεύτησε; assume it continues as subject of the following verb ἐγένετο as well).
- πάντων τῶν κακῶν αἰτία “the cause of all his troubles”.

8.2.3 Translation

Using the glosses below, and keeping in mind the insight you have gained from answering the preceding questions, please compose an idiomatic translation into English of the passage above.

8.3 Nouns and adjectives: practice

8.3.1 Persistent Accent Practice

Study and practice the following basic patterns of persistent accents on nouns.

1. Persistent accent on the antepenult. Only acute accents live on antepenult, and it will be on the antepenult whenever the ultima is short (a requirement for the antepenult to be accented). When the ultima is long, the accent shifts to the penult, and will be acute.

Examples: ἄνθρωπος, ἀνθρώπου, ὁ / ἡ “human being, person” (second declension); | | Case | Form | |
 | — | — | — | — | | Singular | | | | | Nominative | ἄνθρωπος | | | Genitive | ἀνθρώπου | | | Dative | ἀνθρώπῳ
 | | | Accusative | ἄνθρωπον | | | Vocative | ἄνθρωπε | | | Plural | | | | | Nominative | ἄνθρωποι | | | Genitive |
 ἀνθρώπων | | | Dative | ἀνθρώποις | | | Accusative | ἀνθρώπους | | | Vocative | ἄνθρωποι |

2. Persistent accent on a long penult. Accent will remain on penult (with exception of genitive plural in first declension). If ultima is short, accent will be circumflex; if ultima is long, accent will be acute. Examples: γνώμη, γνώμης, ἡ “judgment, opinion” (first declension) and δῶρον, δώρου, τό “gift” (second declension)

	Case	Form	
Singular			
	Nominative	γνώμη	δῶρον
	Genitive	γνώμης	δώρου
	Dative	γνώμῃ	δώρῳ
	Accusative	γνώμην	δῶρον
	Vocative	γνώμη	δῶρον

Case	Form
Plural	
Nominative	γνῶμαι δῶρα
Genitive	γνωμῶν δώρων
Dative	γνώμαις δώροις
Accusative	γνώμας δῶρα
Vocative	γνῶμαι δῶρα

3. Persistent accent on a short penult. The accent will remain on the penult and will remain acute (with exception of genitive plural in first declension). (Recall that circumflex accents are carried only by long vowels and diphthongs.) Examples: οἰκία, οἰκίας, ἡ “house” (first declension); χρόνος, χρόνου, ὁ “time, time period” (second declension); and ἔργον, ἔργου, τό “work, deed” (second declension).

Case	Form
Singular	
Nominative	οἰκία χρόνος ἔργον
Genitive	οἰκίας χρόνου ἔργου
Dative	οἰκίᾳ χρόνῳ ἔργῳ
Accusative	οἰκίαν χρόνον ἔργον
Vocative	οἰκία χρόνε ἔργον
Plural	
Nominative	οἰκίαι χρόνοι ἔργα
Genitive	οἰκιῶν χρόνων ἔργων
Dative	οἰκίαις χρόνοις ἔργοις
Accusative	οἰκίας χρόνους ἔργα
Vocative	οἰκίαι χρόνοι ἔργα

4. Persistent accent on the ultima. || Case | Form | — | — | — | Singular ||| Nominative ||| Genitive ||| Dative ||| Accusative ||| Vocative || Plural ||| Nominative ||| Genitive |||

Dative ||| Accusative ||| Vocative ||

Identify the pattern to which each of the following nouns belongs to, and practice the accent pattern in the full declension of the noun:

παιδίον, παιδίου, τό ήμέρα, ήμέρας, ή λόγος, λόγου, ό

8.4 Module 2: assignments

8.5 Participles: practice

8.6 Module 3: assignments

8.7 Subordination: practice

- drills on identifying verb forms of subjunctives/optatives
- drills on creating verb forms of subjunctives/optatives
- drills on translating purposes clauses
- drills on composing purpose clauses, running through various parts of sequence of tenses

8.8 Module 4: assignments

9 Language summary and review

9.1 Module 1: language summary and review

9.1.1 Module 1: vocabulary

Links are to the standard scholarly reference lexicon for ancient Greek by Liddell-Scott-Jones.

9.1.1.1 Conjunctions and connecting particles

- ἀλλά
- γάρ
- καί
- μέν...δέ...δέ
- οὐν
- τε

9.1.1.2 Verbs

For this module, memorize the first, third and sixth principal parts of each verb.

- βαίνω, βήσομαι, ἔβην, βέβηκα, βέβαμαι, ἐβάθην go, walk, step
- βάλλω, βαλέω, ἔβαλον, βέβληκα, βέβλημαι, ἐβλήθην throw, hit (by throwing), strike (by throwing), pelt
- γίγνομαι, γενήσομαι, ἐγενόμην, γέγονα, γεγέννημαι, — become, come to be, be born, be
- δείκνυμι, δείξω, ἔδειξα δέδειχα, δέδειγμαι, ἐδείχθην show, demonstrate
- δοκέω. to think, suppose, have or form an opinion, decide. Especially in the latter sense, it is frequently used impersonally in the third person singular, it seems best (to someone) and therefore (someone) decided. Example: ἔδοξε μοι, “I decided”. (μοι is a pronoun meaning “to me”.)
- δύναμαι, δυνήσομαι, —, —, δεδύναμαι, ἐδυνήθην be able, can, be capable, have the power
- εἰμί, ἔσομαι, —, —, —, — be, exist.
- ἔρχομαι, ἐλεύσομαι, ἦλθον, ἐλήλυθα, —, — go, come

- ἔχω, ἔξω or σχήσω, ἔσχον, ἔσχηκα, -έσχημαι, ἐσχέθην have, hold, possess; be able; be (in a particular state)
- ἡγέομαι, ἡγήσομαι, ἡγησάμην, —, ἡγηναι, ἡγήθην lead; think, consider, believe
- κελεύω, κελεύσω, ἐκέλευσα, κεκέλευκα, κεκέλευσμαι, ἐκελεύσθην bid, order, command, exhort
- λαμβάνω, λήψομαι, ἔλαβον, εἴληφα, εἴλημμαι, ἐλήφθην take, receive, catch, grasp
- λέγω, λέξω, ἔλεξα or εἶπον, εἶρηκα, εἶρηκα, λέλεγμαι, ἐλέχθην say, speak, tell
- ὁράω, ὄψομαι, εἶδον, ἑώρακα or ἑόρακα, ἑώραμαι or ὤμμαι, ὤφθην see, look, understand
- ποιέω, ποιήσω, ἐποίησα, πεποίηκα, πεποίημαι, ἐποιήθην do, make, create, compose
- πράττω, πράξω, ἔπραξα, πέπραχα or πέπραγα, πέπραγμαι, ἐπράχθην do, accomplish, make, act
- τελευτάω, τελευτήσω, ἐτελεύτησα, τετελεύτηκα, τετέλευτημαι, ἐτελευτήθην *bring to an end or come to an end, die.*
- τυγχάνω, τεύξομαι, ἔτυχον, τετύχηκα, —, — *happen (happen to be, happen upon), obtain, get*

9.1.1.3 Irregular forms to learn

- ἦν third-person singular imperfect indicative active of εἰμί, “she/he/it was”

9.1.2 Module 1: summary of forms and grammar

To form the **imperfect indicative** in all three voices:

- use the *first principal part*
- find the stem by dropping **ω** or **νυμι**

To form the **aorist indicative** in **active or middle** forms

- use the *third principal part*
- find the stem by dropping **α** from “first” aorists, or **ον** from “second” aorists

To form the **aorist indicative** in **passive** forms

- use the *sixth principal part*
- find the stem by dropping **ην**

9.1.2.1 Models

Synopsis of δείκνυμι and κελεύω in the third person for all voices of imperfect and aorist indicative.

9.2 Module 2: reference and review

9.2.1 Summary of forms and grammar

9.2.2 Vocabulary

9.3 Module 3: language summary and review

9.4 Module 4: language summary and review

10 Reference

10.1 Morphology

10.1.1 Verbs

Complete conjugation of:

κελεύω

δείκνυμι

10.1.2 Nouns

Complete declension of:

?

10.1.3 Adjectives

Complete declension of:

10.2 Syntax

10.2.1 Coordination

10.2.2 Subordination

10.2.2.1 Purpose

10.2.2.2 Sequence of moods

11 Postscript

- studying Greek beyond this course or textbook

