

Remedial syntax: How to recognize the structure of sentences

IDENTIFYING CONJUGATED (PERSONAL) VERBS AND THEIR SUBJECTS

ENGLISH	GREEK
<p>Examples of personal forms of verbs: he heals, we teach, the house is large</p> <p>Because the endings of the present are all the same except in the 3rd person, the pronoun must be expressed in English. If the verb is in the 3rd person, the subject may be a noun: Books teach.</p> <p>Used by themselves, the following are not conjugated or personal forms of the English verb: healing, to heal (Yet "they are healing" is a personal form of the verb "to heal." It presents the action as progressive.)</p>	<p>In Greek the subject is often left out, since it is indicated by the ending of the verb (which in the present tense is unique for each person of the sg and pl).</p> <p>Through lesson 3, you learn only two irregular forms of the verb to be (sg ἐστίν, pl εἰσίν) and the regular present tense of a few verbs YOU WANT TO REMEMBER THESE ENDINGS -ω, -εις, -ει, -ομεν, -ετε-, ουσι</p> <p>The first or second persons of the verb may have as a subject a personal pronoun: ἐγὼ διδάσκω (= I teach)</p> <p>Just as in English, a noun cannot be the subject of a first or second person of the verb, but it may be the subject of a 3rd person. τὸ βιβλίον διδάσκει = the book teaches</p> <p>The Greek διδάσκει may be translated as "he teaches, he is teaching, or (emphatic) he does teach."</p>

RECOGNIZING PREDICATE NOMINATIVES AND DIRECT OBJECTS

Types of verbs	ENGLISH	GREEK
<p>LINKING VERBS DENOTE A STATE OR CONDITION: To be and similar (become, seem, etc.)</p>	<p>You (sg) are my friend The treaty is new They seem angry These clauses may be represented by an equation: A = B. Sometimes they may be reversed: B = A.</p>	<p>If A is / seems / becomes B, B is the PREDICATE NOMINATIVE The Greek Nominative is the case of Subject and Predicate of a linking verb (friend, new, angry in the examples on the left would take nominative endings in Greek). You know the endings of masculine nouns in the nominative: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 10px;"> singular -ος plural -οι </div> and of neuter nouns in the nominative, <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 10px;"> singular -ον plural -α </div> </p>
<p>VERBS DENOTING ACTIONS: a) transitive</p>	<p>The action of the verb is exercised on someone or something: the D O. A verb such as 'to write' implies that something (a direct object) is written. Note that this D O may not be expressed (She wrote all night: the verb is still transitive, even if a DO is not expressed.) To discover if a verb may take a D O, turn the expression around: He wrote <u>a letter</u> --A letter was written.</p>	<p>Once you have translated S and V, consider if your verb may take a D O. It will be in the accusative. You know the endings of masculine nouns in the accusative: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 10px;"> singular -ον plural -ους </div> and of neuter nouns in the accusative, <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 10px;"> singular -ον plural -α </div> </p>
<p>VERBS DENOTING ACTIONS: b) intransitive</p>	<p>To sleep (no one / nothing is "being slept") An intransitive verb may take a D O: "to live" is intransitive, but we may say "She lived <u>a long life</u> (D O)"</p>	<p>Do not expect to find now the D O of an intransitive verb</p>

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RECOGNIZING INDIRECT OBJECTS

	English	Greek
ANY VERB MAY HAVE AN INDIRECT OBJECT	<p>to / for someone or something:</p> <p>Typically, the indirect object receives an advantage or a disadvantage from a verbal action:</p> <p>Children bring joy <u>to their parents</u>.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">S V DO IO</p>	<p>The dative case marks the indirect object</p> <p>You know the endings of masculine and neuter nouns in the dative:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">singular -ῳ plural -οις</p>

THOSE GENITIVES, HANGING FROM ANY BRANCH LIKE MONKEYS!

	English	Greek
Nouns modifying other nouns are often in the genitive	<p>“the end of the story” or “my brother’s book”</p> <p>The noun from which a genitive “hangs” may have any function in a sentence:</p> <p>She told the end (D O) of the story, The end (S) of the story was sad</p>	<p>So far you have seen mostly Greek genitives meaning “of”</p> <p>You know the endings of masculine and neuter nouns in the genitive:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">singular -ου plural -ων</p>