

Athletes and Competition

Building Your Greek Vocabulary

A lesson for the *Paideia* web-app

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The “Battle” of Competition

- Athletic competitions were taken very seriously
 - Originated in military training
 - Competition was like a form of battle
- ὁ ἀγών, “struggle, competition, race; assembly, gathering”
 - Gen.: του ἀγῶνος (stem ἀγων-)
- ἀγωνίζομαι, “I compete; I struggle, fight”
 - Future: ἀγωνιοῦμαι
 - Remember ζ + σ = σ
 - so ἡγωνισαμην



Training

- ἡ παράκλησις, "encouragement"
 - Alternate sense: "appeal, request; summons"
 - Gen.: παρακλησεως (stem παρακλησε-)
 - Dat. sing.: παρακλησει; Nom. plur.: παρακλησεις
 - But acc. sing.: παρακλησιν
- παρακαλέω, "I encourage; I summon"
 - Contract vowel doesn't lengthen (e.g., aor. παρεκαλεσα)
 - 2nd aor. pass.: παρεκληθην (stem, παρακλη-)
- ὁ παράκλητος, "advocate, legal assistant"



The Events

- κρατέω, "I hold, take hold, seize; I hold up, hold back"
 - Contract vowel lengthens normally (e.g., fut. κρατησω)
- τρέχω, "I run"
 - Future and aorist based on stem δραμ- (2nd aor.: ἐδραμον)
 - Fut. is deponent and liquid: δραμουμαι (δραμ – εσ – ομαι)
- βάλλω, "I throw"
 - Stem ending in double consonant often loses one outside the present
 - 2nd Aor.: ἐβαλον (stem, βαλ-)
 - 2nd Aor. pass.: ἐβληθην (stem, βλη-)
- τὸ θηρίον, "(wild) animal"



Adverbs for the Judging

- **κακώς**, "poorly, badly, in a bad way"
 - From the adjective **κακος**, -η, -ον
- **καλώς**, "well, in a good way"
 - From the adjective **καλος**, -η, -ον
- **ταχέως**, "quickly, speedily"
 - From the adjective **ταχυς**, -εια, -υ
 - predictable variations on 3rd declension if you remember these endings
 - plural is regular 3rd declension (exc. nom. fem. plural)

| | Masc. | Fem. | Neut. | |
|------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|----------|
| nom. | ταχ <u>υ</u> ς | ταχ <u>ει</u> α | ταχ <u>υ</u> | singular |
| gen. | ταχ <u>ου</u> ς | ταχ <u>ει</u> ας | ταχ <u>ου</u> ς | |
| dat. | ταχ <u>ει</u> | ταχ <u>ει</u> α | ταχ <u>ει</u> | |
| acc. | ταχ <u>υ</u> ν | ταχ <u>ει</u> αν | ταχ <u>υ</u> | |
| voc. | ταχ <u>υ</u> | ταχ <u>ει</u> α | ταχ <u>υ</u> | |
| nom. | ταχ <u>ει</u> ς | ταχ <u>ει</u> αι | ταχ <u>η</u> | plural |
| gen. | ταχ <u>ε</u> ων | ταχ <u>ε</u> ων | ταχ <u>ε</u> ων | |
| dat. | ταχ <u>ε</u> σι | ταχ <u>ε</u> σι | ταχ <u>ε</u> σι | |
| acc. | ταχ <u>ε</u> ας | ταχ <u>ε</u> ας | ταχ <u>η</u> | |
| voc. | ταχ <u>ει</u> ς | ταχ <u>ει</u> αι | ταχ <u>η</u> | |



The Victory

- ἀξίος, -ή, -όν, "worthy; fitting, suitable"
- ἡ νίκη, "victory"
 - Worshipped as a goddess
- νικάω, "I win, conquer, overcome; I excel"
 - Contract vowel lengthens normally (e.g., aor. ἐνίκησα)



The Rewards

- ἡ δόξα, "glory, honour, reputation; opinion"
- δοξάζω, "I glorify, I honour"
 - Remember ζ + σ = σ (so aor. ἐδοξασα)
- αἰώνιος, -η, -ον, "eternal" (adj.)
- καυχάομαι, "I boast, brag"
 - Regular lengthening of contract vowel (e.g., aor. ἐκαυχησαμην)

