

Clauses

The Structure of Greek Sentences

A lesson for the *Paideia* web-app
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What Is a Clause?

- A clause expresses one "state of affairs" or "situation"
 - one action, event, or state
- One verb with its modifiers
- Can be a whole sentence
 - [I want pizza.]
- A sentence can have several clauses
 - [I want [to eat pizza].]
 - [I like pizza], but [I don't want [to eat it now].]



Greek Clauses

- The clause is the basic building-block of Greek
 - Rather than the sentence
 - Often the only punctuation would mark clauses, not sentences
- In Greek, the verb is the heart of the clause, not the subject
 - Much more than in English
 - The subject is often contained in a Greek verb
 - Subject not at the front of the clause
 - a verb (all on its own) can be a complete Greek clause!



Verbs and Subjects

- The verb expresses the core "situation"
 - All of the other parts of the clause fill out our picture of that core situation
 - They "modify" (add to) the idea expressed by the verb
- The subject of the clause is one kind of modifier
 - Tells us who/what is doing the action
 - But not necessarily the most important information



She ran.



Verbless Clauses

- Second kind of Greek clause has no verb at all!
 - *Μαρια μητηρ.*
 - the verb "to be" is assumed

Subject	Copula	Complement
<u>Μαρια</u>	[is]	μητηρ.
Mary	is	a mother.



Verbless Clauses

- Both subject and complement in nominative case
 - Can be in any order

Σιμων πατηρ.

Σιμων | is | πατηρ.

Simon is a father.

Πατηρ Σιμων.


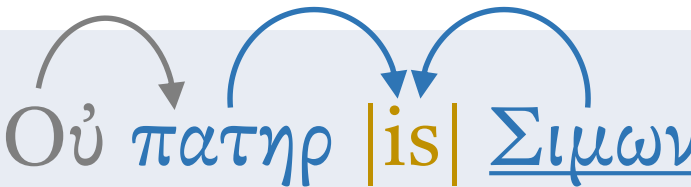
Πατηρ | is | Σιμων.

Simon is a father.



Verbless Clauses and Negation

- The negative particle (οὐ) comes before the element it negates
 - In verbless clauses, usually before the complement

Σιμων οὐ πατηρ.	 <p>Σιμων is οὐ πατηρ.</p>	Simon is not a father.
Οὐ πατηρ Σιμων.	 <p>Οὐ πατηρ is Σιμων.</p>	Simon is not a father.



Verbless Clauses and Definite Articles

- The definite article will sometimes be left off the complement
 - Helps to identify which is subject and which is complement

Ἡ γυνὴ μητὴρ.	<u>Ἡ γυνὴ</u> is μητὴρ.	The woman is the mother.
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Μητὴρ ἡ γυνὴ.	Μητὴρ is <u>ἡ γυνὴ</u> .	The woman is the mother.
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