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New Material in RG 11 Intensive Greek 2

Trawsnewid Addysg; Trawsnewid Bywydau
Transforming Education; Transforming Lives



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Issues to cover

- The passive voice – forms will be familiar but usage is new...
- ...and introducing passive forms, we also need to pick up ways of indicating by whom the action is performed (expressing the agent)
 - Greek distinguishes between things performing/causing an action and human agents
- Genitive absolute – an abbreviating ‘stand-alone’ construction (causal, temporal, concessive etc) with participle
- Minor issues: comparative and superlative of adverbs, adjective declension and optative of $\varphi\eta\mu\acute{\iota}$

Passive voice

- *ἀγαπῶ* versus *ἀγαπῶμαι* ‘I love’ / ‘I am being loved’
- The subject is acted upon
- Forms for the passive voice mostly overlaps with middle forms
 - Exception: aorist, where we will see specific forms for passive only
- We use present and imperfect passive forms from this section
- Decide on whether you’re dealing with a middle or passive form based on the context...

Passive voice and agent

- ...and especially, on whether your suspected passive is followed up by words expressing who carries out the action
- To describe an agent who is a person, Greek uses ὑπό with genitive
 - ἀεὶ γὰρ ὑπ' αὐτῶν ἐξαπατῶμεθα... 'for we are always deceived by them'
- To describe an agent which is a thing, Greek uses a clean dative (instrumental)

Genitive absolute

- The genitive case used here has no particular case-based meaning: it serves only as a means to identify and bring together the two parts of the genitive absolute
- Used to abbreviate a longer clause where simply attaching another participle to a noun already used in the sentence is not possible

Genitive absolute

- The noun involved in the genitive absolute cannot be used in any other syntactical function in the clause
 - *E.g.* if you need to use ‘Socrates’ as the direct object, you cannot also use him within the genitive absolute
- ‘Absolute’ here means that it is isolated from the rest of the clause; it can be removed without affecting the syntax of the rest of the clause

Genitive absolute: parts

- The genitive absolute normally has two key parts:
 - One noun [or pronoun] in the genitive
 - One participle in the genitive
- The tense of the participle is often important:
 - present participle for action concurrent with main verb action;
 - aorist participle for action preceding the main verb action...
- ...but use the same caution as for other participles in how strongly you render this in translation
- Occasionally, the noun is left out – only possible when no risk of confusion or when the verb normally stands without an explicitly stated subject

Examples

- RG 223: **κελεύοντος τοῦ κήρυκος**, τί μένεις; ‘With the herald giving orders, why are you waiting?’
 - The herald is not mentioned in the main part of the sentence, so genitive absolute is the only possible solution (if we want to use a participle)
- **τῶν ἄλλων πολεμούντων**, ἐγὼ αὐτὸς οὐ πολεμήσω, ἀλλ' εἰρήνην ἄξω ‘although the others fight, I will not fight, but live in peace’
 - concessive sense possible; also possible just to read the genitive absolute as a time reference
- **θεωμένων τῶν ἐταίρων** πολλή φιλονικία ἐγένετο ‘Because their comrades were watching, a great strife for victory arose.’
 - Here, too, the genitive absolute describes the action of someone(s) not mentioned in the rest of the sentence

Adverb comparison

- For the comparison of adverbs, the adjective's accusative neuter singular (comparative) and the accusative neuter plural (superlative) forms double as adverbs
- ...but note the irregular μάλα (very), μᾶλλον (more, rather more), and μάλιστα (much, very much)

Next steps

- Also add the optative present active forms for φημί – characterised by a clear view of the φα-stem together with the optative suffix –ιη- or –ι-
- ...and note the two-termination adjectives listed in RG 226: masculine and feminine forms coincide
 - Similar to 3rd declension adjectives in Latin