



Greek Advanced

Writing a commentary

Commentary writing

- You have all had some experience in writing commentaries already, whether assessed or non-assessed
- You also all have experience of using commentaries like Mastornarde's
 - What other types of commentaries have you seen?
 - Check out the difference between Todd's commentary on Lysias and DeJong's narrative commentary on the Odyssey (both TSD ebooks)

What does a commentary contain?

Examples:

- Analysis of style – what other text does your text resemble? E.g. epic, other tragedy, rhetoric...
- Comment on literary context – how does your passage play with earlier texts?
- Bringing the historical context to bear on the text
- Textual critical comments and analysis
- Relating the passage to other parts of the play

Reach

- The great amount of different types of commentaries means that you need to introduce the reader clearly to what you aim to provide
- If you are interested in a specific issue in your text, feel free to explore it
- Acknowledge other issues in the text and refer the reader briefly to other discussions of these (e.g. in Mastornarde's commentary)

How do you do it?

- Analysis of style
- Comment on literary context
- Bringing the historical context to bear on the text
- Textual critical comments and analysis
- Relating the passage to other parts of the play
- Read and re-read the passage carefully
- Reading the whole text (in translation if necessary)
- Reading of intertexts and other examples of the author's work
- Database searches
 - JSTOR, library catalogue
- Reading scholarship

Scholarly dictionaries

- Two main dictionaries are used in anglophone scholarship
 - Lidell Scott Jones' *Greek-English Lexicon*: the full-size edition, although the Intermediate version is handy on an everyday basis
 - *Thesaurus Linguae Graecae*
- The two are very different:
 - LSJ provides analysis but only a selection of examples
 - TLG provides no analysis but its full version allows you to search for examples in all extant Greek texts
 - The free online version (<http://www.tlg.uci.edu/>) covers a selection of canonical texts
 - You can also request a full TLG search for a particular work from me

μάντις in the LSJ

Lemma

inspired, Βάκχη E.Hec.121 (anap.); Ἀπόλλων Orac.ap.Luc.JTr.31: pl., as Subst., *diviners*, Man.6.306.

μάντις, ὁ, gen. εως, Ion. 105; voc. μάντι: pl., gen. μάντεων (written μαντειον IG1².503); dat. μάντεσι Thgn.545: also fem., acc. sg. μάντιδα δάφνην App.Anth.6.122; nom. pl. μάντιδες Suid. s. v. Σίβυλλα:—*diviner, seer, prophet*, ἀλλ' ἄγε δὴ τινα μ. ἐρείομεν ἢ ἱερῆα ἢ καὶ ὄνειροπόλον Il.1.62, cf. Od.17.384; μάντι κακῶν *prophet of ill*, Il.1.106; with the Greek armies, Simon.94, IG1².929.129: distd. from χρησμολόγος, Th.8.1; μ. ἀνὴρ Pi.I.6(5).51; of Apollo, A.Ag.1202, Ch.559, Eu.169 (lyr.); ὁ μάντις μάντιν ἐκπράξας ἐμέ, of Apollo and Cassandra, Id. Ag.1275; of the Pythian priestess, Id.Eu.29; of Amphiaraus, Id.Th.382, etc.: c. dat. pers., ὁ Θρηξί μ. E.Hec.1267 (of Dionysus), cf. Or.363: c. acc. neut. Pron., μάντις... οὐ καλὸς τὰδε Id.Heracl.65: as fem., A.Ag.1.c., S.El.472 (lyr.), E.Med.239; μ. κόρα Pi.P.11.33.

2. metaph., *presager, foreboder*, μ. εἰμ' ἐσθλῶν ἀγώνων S.OC1080 (lyr.), cf. Ant.1160, A.Th.402; οὐδὲ μ. τῶν μελλόντων S.Aj.1419 (anap.); γνώμη δ' ἀρίστη μ. E.Hel.757.

3. Adj., τοῦδε μάντεως χοροῦ of this prophetic band, dub. in S.Fr.113. II. a kind of *grasshopper*, the *praying mantis*, *Mantis religiosa*, Theoc.10.18, Dsc.Eup.1.149. III. *green garden-frog*, *Rana arborea*, so called as *predicting* the weather, Hsch. IV. a kind of *cabbage*, Nic.Fr.85.7. V. applied to comets, Herm.ap.Stob.1.21.9. (Deriv. from μαίνομαι by Pl.Ti.72a,b.)

μαντιχώρας, ου, ὁ, v. μαρτιχώρας.

μάντοι, Dor. for μέντοι, IG4²(1).121.38 (Epid., iv B. c.).

How to reference a dictionary

- For the *LSJ*:
- s.v. μάντις 2 refers to the second part of the lemma for μάντις, the transferred usage of the word
 - sub voce
- To build up the case that μάντις also carries other associations, you would need to refer to μάντις 1
 - Also consider other words based on the same root

Grammar and syntax

- For grammar and syntax questions, you can find a range of examples in the Kühner/Blass Ausführliche Griechische Grammatik (2 vols), which is available online (linked on Moodle)
- This is useful for finding parallel examples for unusual constructions