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Intensive Greek 1

Trawsnewid Addysg; Trawsnewid Bywydau
Transforming Education; Transforming Lives



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Reading Greek Sections 7A-C

- These sections focus on two main issues:
 - Verbs: present infinitive forms and (some of) their uses
 - Adjectives: comparison
- Also included is past tense of εἶμι and some irregular infinitive forms

Present infinitive

- Greek infinitives are recognisable by their form only, and appear without an infinitive marker
 - Cf. 'to' in English, 'zu' in German
- Regular non-contract verbs work like this:
- Active: παιδεύ-ειν
- Middle: παιδεύ-εσθαι

Present infinitive contract verbs

- Contraction occurs between the vowel-ending stem and the infinitive ending
- A-stems:
 - ἀγαπάω ἀγαπᾶν
 - θεάομαι θεᾷσθαι
- E-stems:
 - ποιέω ποιεῖν
 - φοβέομαι φοβεῖσθαι
- O-stems:
 - δηλόω δηλοῦν
 - δούλομαι δουλοῦσθαι

Irregular infinitives (present)

- Note the following common verbs:
 - εἰμί εἶναι
 - εἶμι ἰέναι
 - οἶδα εἰδέναι
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- Thus, we so far have two endings associated with the active infinitive, –ειν and –ναι
 - These will recur in other tenses too:
 - –ειν where thematic conjugation occurs (e.g. in the second aorist) + aorist passive
 - –ναι for a-thematic conjugation (e.g. –μι verbs)
 - ...and in the sigmatic aorist, we will also see –αι as an infinitive ending

Verbs taking an infinitive

- As in English, some verbs (wish, seem, think, it is necessary, etc) are followed by an infinitive
 - Cf. RG 153 listing βούλομαι, δοκέω, δεῖ, and ἀνάγκη ἐστί
- The subject of the infinitive is normally placed in the accusative
 - This also applies to other infinitive constructions we will encounter in Intensive 2
- However, if the subject is the same for the infinitive as for the governing verb (e.g. βούλομαι), no specific subject needs to be spelled out

Verbs taking the infinitive: examples

- ὁ βασιλεὺς ἐβούλετο τὸν κήρυκα
κολάζειν
- The king wanted to punish the herald
- ‘The king’ is the subject both of ἐβούλετο
and κολάζειν

Verbs taking the infinitive: examples

- The verb δεῖ is impersonal
 - The (new) subject of the infinitive must be spelled out – in the accusative
 - δεῖ ἡμᾶς θυσίας θύειν
- Diagram illustrating the relationship between the subject and the infinitive:
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- Lit.: It is necessary that we sacrifice sacrifices => It is necessary for us to make sacrifices
 - The same applies to ἀνάγκη ἐστί – but note that this can also be construed with a dative

Adjectives: comparison

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
σοφός	σοφώτερος / α / ον	σοφώτατος / α / ον
δεινός	δεινότερος / α / ον	δεινοτάτος / α / ον

The endings for comparative and superlative open with a short vowel in adjectives with a long vowel or a diphthong in their stem...

...and with a long vowel in adjectives with a short vowel.

Adjectives: comparison

- Do note the irregular adjectives listed in RG 159 – unsurprisingly, the commonly used *πολύς* and *μέγας* are included here.
- For these adjectives, the comparative decline like *εὖφρων*
 - *κακός* => *κακίων* in nom.sg.m., *κακίονος* in gen.sg.m

εἶμι in the imperfect

- ἦα / ἦειν
 - ἦεισθα
 - ἦει(ν)
 - ἦμεν
 - ἦτε
 - ἦσαν
- Note that the 'future' meaning of εἶμι is no longer relevant
 - ἦα really does mean 'I was going/I went'
 - ...but also note that normally other verbs are chosen to express this