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New material in RG Section 5

Intensive Greek 1

Trawsnewid Addysg; Trawsnewid Bywydau
Transforming Education; Transforming Lives



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New in Section 5

- Imperfect tense
 - Augument in verbs
- Future tense
 - indicative active and middle
 - of εἰμί and ἔρχομαι
- Indefinites and interrogatives: overview
- Further noun patterns in 3rd declension

Tense in Greek

- Greek has seven tenses, four of which relate to past tense
- These four (imperfect, aorist, perfect, and pluperfect) differ in aspect, i.e. in what they tell of how the verb action is performed (continuous, completed, repeated, one-off, with a remaining result etc).
- Aspect is also taken into account for verb forms that do not relate to past events, e.g. imperatives:
 - We have already frequently used aorist imperative forms: ἔλθε δεῦρο where the aorist form highlights the explosive, one-off character of the verb
- Aspect will become increasingly important as we move forward.

Past tense & aspect

- Greek uses *imperfect* to express past verb actions that are continuing, repeated or uncompleted...
- ...but in Section 6 we will see that it uses *aorist* for single past events (one-off, finished, 'explosive' actions)
- To distinguish the past tense forms, indicative forms in imperfect and aorist have an initial *augment*, ε

Imperfect indicative active & middle

ἔπαυον

ἔπαύομην

ἔπαυες

ἐπαύου

ἔπαυε

ἔπαυετο

ἐπαύομεν

ἐπαυόμεθα

ἐπαύετε

ἐπαύεσθε

ἔπαυον

ἐπαύντο

Imperfect indicative active & middle

ἔ | παυ | ον

- Active endings: -ον, -εσ, -ε, -ομεν, -ετε, -ον:
NB the overlap between 1st sg and 3rd pl
- Middle endings: -ομην, -ου, -ετο, -ομεθα,
-εσθε, -οντο
- Note the changes to the contract verbs, RG
106 and 107

Adding the augment

- The augment is added at the beginning of the verb stem
- => if the verb has a prefix, the augment is inserted between prefix and stem:
 - εἰς|βαίνω becomes εἰς|**έ**|βαινον
 - NB: for prefixes ending in a vowel, e.g. ἀπο- but excepting περί-, the augment ε 'wins'
- For verb stems which begin with a vowel, early linguistic developments means that the initial vowel is simply lengthened, with diphthongs ending in iota getting an iota subscript:
 - ἀκούω becomes **ῥ**κουν
 - οἰκέω becomes **ῶ**κουν
- Verb stems that begin with a long vowel simply stay long. Here only the endings will tell you that you are dealing with an imperfect form.

Future tense

- The question of aspect affects the future tense much less:
 - Future forms occur only in indicative, optative, infinitive and participles – and of these, the optative mood is rarely used, and infinitives and participles in future tense become rare in koine Greek.
- In active and middle, the future is normally created by adding $-\sigma-$ to the verb stem before adding the same person endings as we use in present indicative

Future of παύω in active and middle

- παύσω
- παύσεις
- παύσει
- παύσομεν
- παύσετε
- παύσουσι(ν)
- παύσομαι
- παύση / παύσει
- παύσεται
- παυσόμεθα
- παύσεσθε
- παύσονται

We are now seeing middle forms of verbs that occur both in active and in middle voice: we discussed this in relation to RG Sections 2A-2D and RG 124 elaborates on the meaning of such middle forms.

Adding the future –σ

- For once, contract verbs cause little problem, lengthening the contract vowel but then adding σ as normal
 - e.g. ποιήσω, δηλώσω etc
- Instead, verbs with stems ending in consonants prompt orthographical changes
 - β, π, τπ, ϕ => ψ
 - γ, κ, σκ, χ (ττ) => ξ
 - δ, ζ, θ, τ => σ only

Futures without σ

- Verbs with stems ending in mute consonants and liquids (μ , ν , λ , ρ) form their future by becoming ε -contract stems:
 - $\mu\acute{\epsilon}\nu\omega \Rightarrow \mu\epsilon\nu\acute{\epsilon}\omega > \mu\epsilon\nu\tilde{\omega}$
- Verbs ending in $-\acute{\iota}\zeta\omega$ also often form their future by becoming ε -contract stems

Irregularities

- Note that some verbs have an active form in the present, but only a middle in the future (RG 119)
 - In addition to these, note that εἶμι (inf: ἰέναι) functions as the future of ἔρχομαι
- Common irregular verbs may have specific future forms: RG sets them out in 120

‘To be’ and ‘to go’ in the future

- ἔσομαι
- ἔσει / ἔση
- ἔσται
- ἐσόμεθα
- ἔσεσθε
- ἔσονται
- εἶμι
- εἶ
- εἶσι(ν)
- ἴμεν
- ἴτε
- ἴασι(ν)

Nouns: πατήρ

	Sg.	pl.
N	πατήρ	πατέρες
A	πατέρα	πατέρας
G	πατρός	πατέρων
D	πατρί	πατράσι(ν)
V	πάτερ	

Two other family words decline in the same fashion: ἡ μήτηρ (mother) and ἡ θυγάτηρ (daughter)

Finally...

- Also take note of the different uses of indefinite and interrogative phrases in RG 125
- $\pi\omicron\upsilon\tilde{\nu}$; and $\acute{\omicron}\pi\omicron\upsilon$ as interrogatives in direct and indirect questions
- ..but $\pi\omicron\upsilon$ and $\acute{\omicron}\pi\omicron\upsilon$ as indefinite and relative connectives respectively, noting especially that indefinite forms are all enclitic