

Dr. Shirley's Greek Courses

Grammar

The Infinitive

The Infinitive has the form "to do something" . It is treated as one of the Moods of the Verb; it shows Voice (Active, Middle, Passive) and Tense, but does not take personal endings.

The Infinitive functions as a Neuter Verbal Noun.

1. As subject of a verb eg. "To sing improves the voice."
2. As object of a verb eg. "I gave him something to eat."
3. As a predicate complement eg. "I have something to say."

Greek also uses the Infinitive with prepositions (where English might use a participle) :

1. **ἐν** - time at which to do something
2. **πρὸ** - before doing something
3. **μετὰ** - after doing something
4. **διὰ** - because (reason) to do something
5. **εἰς, πρὸς** - purpose (in order) to do something
6. **τοῦ** - purpose (in order) to do something

Infinitives can be Active (to sing, to go, to be, to read), Middle (to seat oneself), or Passive (to be loved, to be struck, to be called)

The endings are **-εἶν, -αἰ, -ναἰ, -σθαι** (for contract verbs **-εἶν** becomes **-ᾶν -εῖν -οῦν**)

| Present | Active | Middle and Passive | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| | Present Stem + εἶν | Present Stem + euphonic vowel + σθαι | |
| | λυεἶν (to loose) | λυεσθαι (to loose oneself, to be loosed) | |
| | φιλεἶν (to love) | φιλεισθαι (to love oneself, to be loved) | |
| | ἀγαπαῖν (to love) | ἀγαπασθαι (to love oneself, to be loved) | |
| | φανερῶν (to make clear) | φανερῶσθαι (to make oneself clear, to be made clear) | |
| | διδόναι (to give) | διδόσθαι (to give oneself, to be given) | |
| | ἵσταναἰ (to cause to stand) | ἵστασθαι (to stand oneself, to be stood) | |
| | τιθεῖναι (to place) | τιθεσθαι (to set oneself in place, to be set in place) | |
| | εἶναι (to be) | (no Middle or Passive forms) | |
| Future | Active | Middle | Passive |
| | Present Stem + σ + εἶν | Present Stem + σε + σθαι | Present Stem + θησε + σθαι |
| Aorist 1 | Active | Middle | Passive |
| | Stem + σ + αἰ | Stem + σα + σθαι | Stem + θη + ναι |
| | λυσαι (to loose) | λυσασθαι (to loose oneself), | λυθηναι (to be loosed) |
| Aorist 2 | Active | Middle | Passive |
| | Aorist Stem + εἶν | Aorist Stem + euphonic vowel + σθαι | Aorist Stem + η + ναι |
| | βαλεἶν (to throw) | βαλεσθαι (to throw oneself) | βαληναι (to be thrown) |
| | δουναι (to give) | | |
| | στηναι (to cause to stand) | | |
| | θειναι (to put in place) | | |
| Perfect | Active | Middle and Passive | |
| | Perfect Stem + κε + ναι | Perfect Stem + euphonic vowel + σθαι | |
| | λελυκεναι (to have loosed) | λελυσθαι (to have loosed oneself, to have been loosed) | |
| Future Perfect Passive | | Perfect Stem + σε + σθαι | |
| | | λελυσεσθαι (to will have been loosed) | |