

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)	
	ἀγαπᾶν (to love)	ἀγαπασθαι (to love oneself, to be loved)	
	φανερουν (to make clear)	φανερουσθαι (to make oneself clear, to be made clear)	
	διδοναἰ (to give)	διδουσθαι (to give oneself, to be given)	
	ἵσταναἰ (to cause to stand)	ἵστασθαι (to stand oneself, to be stood)	
	τιθεναι (to place)	τιθεσθαι (to set oneself in place, to be set in place)	
	εἶναἰ (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 + ναἰ
	λυσαι (to loose)	λυσασθαι (to loose oneself),	λυθηναἰ (to be loosed)
Aorist 2	Active	Middle	Passive
	Aorist Stem + εἶν	Aorist Stem + euphonic vowel + σθαι	Aorist Stem + η + ναἰ
	βαλεἶν (to throw)	βαλεσθαι (to throw oneself)	βαληναἰ (to be thrown)
	δουναι (to give)		
	στηναἰ (to cause to stand)		
	θειναἰ (to put in place)		
Perfect	Active	Middle and Passive	
	Perfect Stem + κε + ναἰ	Perfect Stem + euphonic vowel + σθαι	
	λελυκεναἰ (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)	