

ANNOTATED GRAMMAR

Koiné Greek

by Thor F. Carden

**In hopes that you, the student,
may better understand and enjoy
God's Beautiful Bible.**

Koiné Greek II

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This course is dedicated to
Ron Scarlata
who believed in me when I needed him to
and to his wonderful daughter
Belinda Vatany
who encouraged me to develop this course

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ANNOTATED GRAMMAR FOR Koiné Greek

This is not meant to be an exhaustive grammar or a comprehensive review of the Greek grammar. These are notes I used and made while translating First John and a couple hundred other verses in the New Testament. I constantly update it. This one is from April 2, 2017.

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(1) PARSING & RENDERING

It is a four phase learning process. A detailed example is given as the first verse in the Introduction using John 11:35.

Note 101

First, find the grammar and lexical form of each word.

Note 102

(a) Second, find the meaning, the range of sense, for each word.

Put each word on their respective lines. It should look something like this:

Greek	Lexical Form	Range of Sense	Parsing

You may leave out “the” ὁ and “and” καί if you feel confident you can render without them seeing them on the chart.

Note 103a **Syntax Sorting Tool or Rendering Chart**

Third, put the words together in the sentence where they go using a syntax sorting chart. You will need approximately 1 chart for each verb. Usually infinitives don't require them. Sometimes you will have to add one because there is an "understood" verb. See notes 883-884 below.

VOCATIVE (Address, conjunction or introductory phrase)	VERB (Verb of the clause and its modifiers and helper words)	ACCUSATIVE (Direct Object or Predicate Nominative for εἶμι)
NOMINATIVE (Subject of the Clause)		DATIVE (Indirect Object or Predicate Adjective for εἶμι)

Described:

Conjunction and/or Introductory P hrase	VERB and Modifiers	D irect O bject and Modifiers or P redicate N ominative and Modifiers
S ubject and Modifiers		I ndirect O bject and Modifiers or P redicate A djective

Greek does not always use the same word order as English. In fact it seldom uses the same order. This means that if the Greek is translated into English word for word it seldom makes sense. This tool helps with that problem. Once a clause has been identified in the Greek, the English equivalents can be sorted into this chart based on the syntax markers of the Greek words. A reasonable English translation can then usually be read directly from the chart - first column from top to bottom, second column, and third column from top to bottom.

Abbreviated versions:

C/IP	VERB	DO or PN
Subj		IO or PA

VOCATIVE	VERB	ACCUSATIVE
NOMINATIVE		DATIVE

Note 103b

VOCATIVE	VERB	ACCUSATIVE
NOMINATIVE		DATIVE

Syntax Sorting Tool or Rendering Chart based on the kind of Verb

Below are examples of how the chart will look based on the nature of the verb.

How it is used with a transitive verb:

C/IP (maybe Vocative)	VERB	DO Noun in Accusative Case
Subj Nominative (might be implied by the verb)		IO Noun in Dative Case (maybe)

How it is used with an intransitive verb:

C/IP (maybe Vocative)	VERB	
Subj Nominative (might be implied by the verb)		IO Noun in Dative Case (maybe)

How it is used with a linking verb that has a predicate nominative:

C/IP (maybe Vocative)	VERB	PN Noun in Nominative Case
Subj Nominative (might be implied by the verb)		

How it is used with a linking verb that has a predicate adjective:

C/IP (maybe Vocative)	VERB	
Subj Nominative case noun (might be implied by the verb)		PA Nominative Case Adjective or Prepositional Phrase

Note 104

Fourth, compare your result with several credible English versions.

Note 105

(a) The idea is to convert the Greek into a readable English word order. This chart is meant to be a guide to help that process, not a limiting set of rules to make it difficult. (b) If the sentence is a question you will need to completely change the word order from this chart, to that of a typical English question. (c) When possible retain as much of the Greek word order as you can without making it sound awkward. (d) See the participle section for some additional ideas for using this chart.

VOCATIVE	VERB	ACCUSATIVE
NOMINATIVE		DATIVE

Note 106

In addition to vocative noun phrases, conjunctions, and other introductory phrases go in the Vocative slot.

Note 107

The Nominative slot is always used for the subject of the clause.

Note 108

(a) The Accusative slot is usually used for the direct object of the verb or for the predicate nominative. (b) Although in a few rare instances direct objects will take the dative or genitive case. Context must be the guide.

Note 109

(a) The Dative slot is usually used for the indirect object of the verb or for a predicate adjective. (b) Sometimes prepositional phrases beginning with $\pi\rho\omicron\varsigma$ or $\epsilon\iota\varsigma$ might be better translated as indirect objects in English.

Note 110

(a) Put the verb in the central slot. (b) Adverbial phrases that modify the verb, go in the Verb slot with the verb of the clause, but sometimes it sounds better to put them into a different slot.

Note 111

Remember a single sentence can extend over more than one verse, or one verse can contain more than one sentence.

Note 112

Sometimes the literal Greek sounds awkward in English. You have license to make changes to make it flow better as long as you do not violate the original meaning.

Note 113

Greek uses endings to determine grammar for the most part, so they were free to order the words for other reasons. They tended to put what was most important to the speaker in the front of the clause, and the verb at the end. Most of the time it is impossible to capture this “importance” in the English without very wordy, lengthy, and far from literal renderings. It is something most English readers simply miss.

Note 114

The range of sense I include in my parsing charts are not necessarily all the possibilities, just the choices I believed to be most likely from the lexicons I have available. It is possible the lexicon you are using has a wider range of sense than mine. You may be able to make a better choice based on your information.

Note 125

Guidelines for Clause Divisions

Before we can sort the verse syntactically we need to divide it into clauses. Doing this will require a certain amount of tolerance for ambiguity because the rules I am about to tell you are not always true. They are given here in the order from most often true to least often true in terms of the number of exceptions. Rules (a), (c) and (e) are the ones most often applied to make a division. Rule (d) is assumed most of the time. The exceptions to it are usually only found when you begin to sort the clause into the syntax sorting chart and you end up with extra pieces and parts or missing pieces and parts.

- (a) Each clause will have only one verb phrase. Sometimes the verb phrase will be made up of two (or more) verbs joined by a conjunction. The verbs in a compound verb will always agree in person and number and usually agree in tense, voice and mood. Sometimes the verb phrase will be made up of two verbs joined periphrastically. A periphrastic verb is some form of the verb εἶμι (see chart on previous page) followed by another verb. They will agree in person and number but probably will disagree in tense, voice and/or mood. Usually, a clause has just one verb.
- (b) If you have two verbs together and they are not periphrastic divide the clauses between them.
- (c) A relative pronoun marks the beginning of a clause.
- (d) All the phrases that belong to a clause will appear together. (Participles tend to cause exceptions to this when they have to be treated as clauses.)
- (e) If there is no relative pronoun a conjunction will mark the beginning of a clause.
- (f) If you have two or more conjunctions together, divide the clause before the first one.
- (g) If a conjunction is καί be careful because it is equally likely to be connecting other components as it is clauses.
- (h) **When you have two conjunctions between the verbs and they are not together the one that is not καί divides the clauses.**
- (i) When there is nothing between two verbs but noun phrases you may not be able to divide the clauses until you are sorting them into the syntax sorting charts. However, sometimes you can look at the grammar and make a determination. For instance, if one of the verbs is linking and the other one is not, an accusative noun phrase will go with the one that is not, because linking verbs do not have direct objects.
- (j) Interrogative pronouns or comparative particles sometimes mark the beginning of clauses.
- (k) When all else fails look for punctuation in the Greek text. Most clauses are divided by commas or semi-colons. (see note 177) Periods or question marks (see note 178) appear between sentences which of course would be the beginning and ending of clause as well. However, keep in mind that punctuation was not in the original. It is someone's opinion.
- (l) If you have an exception to these, you will find out soon enough when you render the clause.

Textual Difficulties

Note 151

When dealing with textual difficulties we like to translate all the possibilities and then select the “best” based on context. Advanced Greek scholars have other criteria which they consider to be superior such as the perceived age of the manuscripts, what is known of their histories, and a “science” which is not entirely proven, called “textual criticism.” Only some of the textual difficulties are included here, I hope all of the important ones. These are set apart in the Greek with brackets [] or parenthesis ().

Punctuation

Note 175

Most clauses are divided by commas or semi-colons (see note 177). Periods or question marks (see note 178) appear between sentences which of course would be the beginning and ending of clause as well.

Note 176

Keep in mind that punctuation was not in the original. It is someone's opinion.

Note 177

In most Greek texts a · is like an English ;
It is if they leave the bottom off their semi-colon.

Note 178

In most Greek texts a ; means an English ?
It looks like a semi-colon, but it is their question mark.

(2) NOUNS & PRONOUNS

Case

Note 201

Generally speaking (a) nominative is the subject or predicate adjective, (b) genitive indicates possession and makes the noun or pronoun act as a modifier or it is the object of a preposition, (c) dative indicates an indirect object or object of a preposition, and (d) accusative indicates a direct object or the object of a preposition. However there are exceptions.

Note 202

Genitive may be the subject of a participle or the direct object of certain verbs but it usually indicates possession.

Note 203

Verbs that take the dative for their direct object will take a dative subject when they are an infinitive.

Note 204

(a) If a noun or pronoun appears in the genitive without a preposition it almost always indicates possession or classification, (b) but in a few rare cases it is Ablative case, a throwback to classical Greek, indicating *departure* or *separation*. Use the preposition “from” to indicate this.

Note 205

(a) A dative noun or pronoun without a preposition is almost always the indirect object which can be translated with the preposition “to” if the word order in English does not make it clear. (b) However, it might be in the classical sense indicating Locative case which shows *position*. Use the prepositions “among”, “with” or “in” to indicate this.

Note 206

(a) An accusative noun or pronoun without a preposition is almost always the direct object of the verb. (b) In a few rare cases it is using the classical Greek Instrumental case indicating *means*. Use the prepositions “by” or “with” to indicate this in English.

Note 207

Sometimes nouns appear in the nominative case but are used as an object in the sentence. These are usually either proper names or are functioning as if they are the proper name of something.

Note 208

If a genitive appears as a direct object it may sound better in English by adding a preposition like to, in, against, toward, etc.

Note 209

Sometimes a noun in the accusative case indicates a direct object, but in English it sounds better and the meaning is more clear to use a preposition with the noun.

Note 210

An object of a preposition might be dative, genitive or accusative, but never nominative.

Note 211

Objects of a preposition will always immediately follow the preposition unless they are modified with articles or adjectives. In that case the modifiers will be between the preposition and the object, never after it.

Note 212

Most words do not have a vocative form, so when vocative is meant it appears in the nominative form. Context must be your guide.

Note 213

If you have too many words in the nominative case, it is possible that some of them are meant to be vocative.

Note 214

CASE CHART

Functional Case	Usual Greek Form	Description	Example
(a) Vocative	Vocative or Nominative	Direct address	Jesus "... cried with a loud voice, Lazarus , come forth." -- John 11:43
(b) Nominative	Nominative	Subject	"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son..." -- John 3:16
(c) Genitive	Genitive	Possession	"But seek ye first the kingdom of God , and his righteousness..." -- Matthew 6:33
(d) Ablative	Genitive (maybe preposition)	Departure or separation	"... the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven..." --- Revelation 21:2
(e) Dative	Dative	Indirect object of verb	"How shall we, that are dead to sin , live any longer therein?" -- Romans 6:2
(f) Locative	Dative (maybe preposition)	Location or position	"... what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles ..." -- Colossians 1:27
(g) Instrumental	Accusative (maybe preposition)	Means or association	"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God , they are the sons of God" -- Romans 8:14
(h) Accusative	Accusative	Direct object of verb	"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:" -- John 1:12

Nouns

Note 225

Sometimes a plural subject is used with a singular verb. This implies the noun is meant in the collective sense. Sometimes this can not be translated directly into English and the translator must decide if it is worth a wordy awkward translation to get the idea across or to simply let the subtle nuance go untranslated.

Note 226

(a) Nouns are sometimes strung together to form a single noun phrase. This is called apposition. For instance: "Jesus Christ God's Son" These will usually translate directly into English since we do the same thing. (b) Occasionally you will need to add a copulative verb to make the phrase sensible in English. (c) Sometimes they include a pronoun in with the nouns

Personal Pronouns (εγω, συ, αυτος ...)

Note 240

(a) Personal Pronouns in the nominative case are usually not needed in Greek since the person of the verb supplies that information. (b) They occur sometimes for emphasis which might be shown in English by adding a reflexive pronoun, i.e. “He, himself, did ...” (c) They occur sometimes because the verb εμι is implied and so the subject must be explicit. (d) Sometimes they occur to show the gender of the subject. (e) They occur sometimes for no apparent reason. Context must rule your translation. Only use emphasis if you have some reason to do so.

Note 241

When a third person pronoun is used as the subject of a first or second person verb, it might be translated as a reflexive. “Αυτος ει...” becomes “You, yourself are...” Sometimes this subtle nuance is not important and can be left out if it makes the sound of the translation too awkward.

Note 242

If the person of the nominative pronoun disagrees with the person of the verb, the person of the verb dominates.

Note 243

The gender of a pronoun almost always matches the gender of the antecedent. In English gender specific pronouns should only be used for people or animals, and the neuter should be used in all other circumstances.

Note 244

Sometimes the third person pronoun means “same” instead of an English personal pronoun. Context must guide this decision.

Note 245 - Personal Pronouns

FIRST PERSON				
Case	Singular		Plural	
	Greek	English	Greek	English
Nom	εγω	I	ἡμεῖς	we
Gen	εμου, μου	my, mine	ἡμων	our, ours
Dat	εμοι, μοι	to me, with me	ἡμιν	to us, with us
Acc	εμε, με	me	ἡμας	us

SECOND PERSON				
Case	Singular		Plural	
	Greek	English	Greek	English
Nom	συ	you (thou)	υμεις	you
Gen	σου	your, yours (thy)	υμων	yours
Dat	σοι	to you, to (thee)	υμιν	to you, with you
Acc	σε	you (thee)	υμας	you

THIRD PERSON MASCULINE				
Case	Singular		Plural	
	Greek	English	Greek	English
Nom	αυτος	he	αυτοι	they
Gen	αυτου	his	αυτων	their, theirs
Dat	αυτω	to him, with him	αυτοις	to them, with them
Acc	αυτον	him	αυτους	them

THIRD PERSON FEMININE				
Case	Singular		Plural	
	Greek	English	Greek	English
Nom	αυτη	she	αυται	they
Gen	αυτης	her, hers	αυτων	their, theirs
Dat	αυτη	to her, with her	αυταις	to them, with them
Acc	αυτην	her	αυτας	them

THIRD PERSON NEUTER				
Case	Singular		Plural	
	Greek	English	Greek	English
Nom	αυτο	it	αυτα	they
Gen	αυτου	its	αυτων	their, theirs
Dat	αυτω	to it, with it	αυτοις	to them, with them
Acc	αυτο	it	αυτα	them

Demonstrative Pronouns (οὗτος, ἐκεῖνος)

Note 250

When translating the Demonstrative Pronouns οὗτος and ἐκεῖνος (this & that) translators have license to use other words to make it sound less awkward in English such as “men”, “women”, “things”, or even “the same.”

Note 251

Sometimes Demonstrative Pronouns act as nouns and sometimes as adjectives. They act as nouns when they are by themselves, but as adjectives if there is a noun to modify. Noun - “*That* is mine.” Adjective – “*That* food is mine.”

Note 252

Case	Masc Sing	Fem Sing	Neut Sing	Masc Plu	Fem Plu	Neut Plu
Demonstrative Pronoun - this, this one, these, these ones, this thing, these things, this man, etc.						
Nom	οὗτος	αὕτη	τούτο	οὗτοι	αὗται	ταυτα
Gen	τούτου	ταύτης	τούτου	τούτων	τούτων	τούτων
Dat	τούτῳ	ταύτῃ	τούτῳ	τούτοις	ταύταις	τούτοις
Acc	τούτον	ταύτην	τούτο	τούτους	ταύτας	ταυτα
Demonstrative Pronoun - that, that one, those, those ones, that thing, that man, etc.						
Nom	ἐκεῖνος	ἐκείνη	ἐκεῖνο	ἐκεῖνοι	ἐκεῖναι	ἐκεῖνα
Gen	ἐκείνου	ἐκείνης	ἐκείνου	ἐκείνων	ἐκείνων	ἐκείνων
Dat	ἐκείνῳ	ἐκείνῃ	ἐκείνῳ	ἐκείνοις	ἐκείναις	ἐκείνοις
Acc	ἐκεῖνον	ἐκείνην	ἐκεῖνο	ἐκείνους	ἐκείνας	ἐκεῖνα

Relative Pronouns (Ὁς, ἡ, ὅ)

Note 260

Relative Pronouns introduce dependent clauses used as a noun or modifier to a noun in the main clause. Their English form depends on how the clause functions in the sentence.

Note 261

If the relative clause modifies a noun (or other substantive) it is usually translated “who”, “which” or “that.”

Note 262

If the relative clause is acting as a noun it is often necessary to supply a pronoun or a demonstrative pronoun for the sentence to make sense.

Note 263

The case of a Relative Pronoun may be that of its antecedent OR based on the usage of the pronoun in the relative clause, OR based on the usage of the relative pronoun in the sentence.

Note 264

Case	Masc Sing	Fem Sing	Neut Sing	Masc Plu	Fem Plu	Neut Plu
Relative Pronoun - who, which, that, of whom, of which, to whom, to which, etc.						
Nom	ὅς	ἥ	ὅ	οἱ	αἱ	ἃ
Gen	οὗ	ἥς	οὗ	ῶν	ῶν	ῶν
Dat	ᾧ	ἣ	ᾧ	οἷς	αἷς	οἷς
Acc	ὃν	ἣν	ὃ	οὓς	ἄς	ἃ

Reflexive & Intensive Pronouns (-του, αυτος)

Note 270

The personal pronoun can function as a reflexive when used as an adjective.

“Αυτο το δωρον” -- “the gift itself”

Note 271

Reflexive Pronouns - myself, yourself, himself, herself, itself, ourselves, yourselves, themselves

	1 st Person Singular		2 nd Person Singular		(b) Notice that in the plural there is no difference in the forms for the Reflexive Pronoun between 1 st , 2 nd , and 3 rd person. You will need to make that determination from the context.		
	Masc	Fem	Masc	Fem			
Gen	εμαυτου	εμαυτης	σεαυτου	σεαυτης			
Dat	εμαυτω	εμαυτη	σεαυτω	σεαυτη			
Acc	εμαυτον	εμαυτην	σεαυτον	σεαυτην			
	3 rd Person Singular			1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd Persons Plural			
	Masc	Fem	Neut	Masc		Fem	Neut
Gen	εαυτου	εαυτης	εαυτου	εαυτων	εαυτων	εαυτων	
Dat	εαυτω	εαυτη	εαυτω	εαυτοις	εαυταις	εαυτοις	
Acc	εαυτον	εαυτην	εαυτο	εαυτους	εαυτας	εαυτα	

Note 271b

Notice that in the plural there is no difference in the forms for the Reflexive Pronoun between 1st, 2nd, and 3rd person. You will need to make that determination from the context.

Reciprocal Pronouns (αλληλων)

Note 275

Interrogative & Indefinite Pronouns (τις, τι)

Note 280

These might indicate ambiguity (someone, something) or they might indicate a question (Who? What?, Which?) Context must be your guide.

Note 281

The way to tell if it is interrogative or indefinite is punctuation. A semi-colon is what most Greek texts use to indicate a question. So ; = ?

Note 282

Case	Masc Sing	Fem Sing	Neut Sing	Masc Plu	Fem Plu	Neut Plu
Interrogative Pronoun - who? what? whether? which?						
Nom	τίς	τίς	τί	τίνες	τίνες	τίνα
Gen	τίνος	τίνος	τίνος	τίνων	τίνων	τίνων
Dat	τίνι	τίνι	τίνι	τίσι(ν)	τίσι(ν)	τίσι(ν)
Acc	τίνα	τίνα	τί	τίνας	τίνας	τίνα
Indefinite Pronoun - a certain one, some one, a person, certain ones, etc						
Nom	τις	τις	τι	τινές	τινές	τινα
Gen	τινός	τινός	τινός	τινων	τινων	τινων
Dat	τινί	τινί	τινί	τισί(ν)	τισί(ν)	τισί(ν)
Acc	τινά	τινά	τι	τινάς	τινάς	τινά

Distributive Pronouns (αμφοτερος, εκαστος)

Note 285

Alternative Pronouns (αλλος, ετερος)

Note 290

Negative Pronouns (ουδεις, μεδεις)

Note 295

(3) ADJECTIVES & ARTICLES

Adjectives

Note 301

An adjective almost always agrees with the noun it is modifying in number, gender and case.

Note 302

An adjective without a noun to modify is probably acting as a noun in the sentence.

Note 303

Comparative and superlative adjectives are sometimes ambiguous in Greek. You must depend on context to be sure.

Note 304 **The declensions** of the adjective δικαίος, αία, αίων (good) and the article ὁ, ἡ, τό (the) and the nouns, λόγος, οὐ, ὄ, (word), φῶς, φωτός, τό, (light), κοινωνία, ας, ἡ (fellowship), and ἀρχή, ης, ἡ, (beginning):

ὁ δικαίος λόγος	the good word – nominative
τοῦ δικαίου λόγου	of the good word – genitive
τῷ δικαίῳ λόγῳ	to/with the good word – dative
τὸν δικαίον λόγον	the good word – accusative
οἱ δίκαιοι λόγοι	the good words – nominative
τῶν δικαίων λόγων	of the good words – genitive
τοῖς δικαίοις λόγοις	to/with the good words – dative
τούς δικαίους λόγους	the good words – accusative
τὸ δικαίον φῶς	the good light – nominative
τοῦ δικαίου φωτός	of the good light – genitive
τῷ δικαίῳ φωτι	to/with the good light – dative
τὸ δικαίον φῶς	the good light – accusative
τὰ δίκαια φῶτα	the good lights – nominative
τῶν δικαίων φωτῶν	of the good lights – genitive
τοῖς δικαίοις φωτοῖς	to/with the good lights – dative
τὰ δίκαια φῶτα	the good lights – accusative
ἡ δίκαια ἀρχή	the good beginning – nominative
τῆς δικαίας ἀρχῆς	of the good beginning – genitive
τῇ δίκαιᾳ ἀρχῇ	to/with the good beginning – dative
τὴν δικαίαν ἀρχήν	the good beginning – accusative
αἱ δίκαιαι ἀρχαί	the good beginnings – nominative
τῶν δικαίων ἀρχῶν	of the good beginnings – genitive
ταῖς δικαίαις ἀρχαῖς	to/with the good beginnings – dative
τὰς δικαίας ἀρχὰς	the good beginnings – accusative
ἡ δίκαια κοινωνία	the good fellowship – nominative
τῆς δικαίας κοινωνίας	of the good fellowship – genitive
τῇ δίκαιᾳ κοινωνίᾳ	to/with the good fellowship – dative
τὴν δικαίαν κοινωνίαν	the good fellowship – accusative
αἱ δίκαιαι κοινωνίαι	the good fellowships – nominative
τῶν δικαίων κοινωνιῶν	of the good fellowships – genitive
ταῖς δικαίαις κοινωνίαις	to/with the good fellowships – dative
τὰς δικαίας κοινωνίας	the good fellowships – accusative

Articles ο, η, το

Note 351

The article sometimes can be translated as a demonstrative pronoun when the context requires it – “that”, “which” or even “who.” In fact the article began as a demonstrative pronoun in Classical Greek.

Note 352

The article sometimes can be translated as a personal pronoun – “he,” “she,” “them”, etc. or even “thing” when the context requires it.

Note 353

When the article is used with the postpositive particle δε it is usually translated with a personal pronoun. Ο δε – “but he”

Note 354

When the article appears before an adjective with no associated noun to modify, it means the adjective itself is meant to be understood as a noun.

Note 355

When an adjective appears without an article it may be acting as an adjective or a noun. Whenever there is a construction that seems like it has a missing the article it may be necessary to supply an “understood” εἰμι for the translation to make sense in English, or at least be less awkward.

Note 356

(a) When an article appears before a preposition the article and phrase it may be translated as a subordinate clause with an “understood” εἰμι. So

“τοις εν τω φωτι” becomes “*who are* in the light” or “*that are* in the light.”

(b) but it might also simply turning the entire phrase into a substantive.

Note 357

When both the nouns associated with εἰμι are nominative the way to distinguish the subject from the predicate nominative is the article. The one with the article is the subject. If they both have an article or neither has an article the first to appear in the sentence is the subject.

Note 358

Τις and εις sometimes act as articles.

Note 359

(a) When two nouns connected by kai both have an article they refer to two different things. (b) When only the first has an article they both refer to the same thing. (Titus 2:13)

Note 360

(a) Even though Greek often includes “the” when it sounds awkward in English there are a few occasions when Greek leaves off the article, and we need to supply it in English. Context must rule your judgement. (b) There are also times when Greek has the article and it sounds awkward in English and should be left out.

Note 361

The Article Declension

Number	Singular			Plural		
Gender	Msc	Fem	Ntr	Msc	Fem	Ntr
Nominative	ὁ	ἡ	το	οἱ	αἱ	τα
Genitive	του	της	του	των	των	των
Dative	τω	τη	τω	τοις	ταις	τοις
Accusative	τον	την	το	τους	τας	τα

(4) PREPOSITIONS

Note 401

(a) Prepositional phrases consist of a preposition, a noun, and any modifiers of the noun. (b) Some prepositions take only one case for the object of the prepositions. When the preposition takes more than one case, the case of the object changes how the preposition is translated. It is sorted into the rendering chart connected to whatever word is modified.

Note 402

Generally, when a preposition that takes multiple cases as an object, Genitive indicates motion away from, separation or a lack of separation.

Dative indicates rest or position

Accusative indicates motion or direction

For instance:

Επι, επ, εφ may be translated “on” meaning contact with the genitive, “over” meaning position in the dative, and “to” meaning direction in the accusative.

Note 409

Dangling prepositions existed in Greek in a sense. They took the form called by Grammarians “Compound Verbs” Instead of dangling the preposition on the end of the clause like we do in English, they attached them to the front of the Verb.

This is not usually an issue since most lexicons just treat them like a different word. For example, throw and throw out:

βάλλω throw, cast, put, thrust, toss, offer, give, sow,

ἐκβάλλω bring forth, cast forth, drive out, expel

This might be because in classical Greek prepositions came from adverbs.

Note 425 Preposition Chart

Greek Prepositions	Genitive motion away from, separation or lack of it	Dative indicates rest, or position	Accusative indicates motion or direction
ανα			among, between, by, up, upwards with numerals = each
αντι	in behalf of, for, instead of, because, over, against		
απο, απ, αφ	from (away from), of, out of, since, for, off		
δια, δι	through, by, by means of, with		on account of, because of, reason, why, because, therefore, since
εις			in, into (result), among, unto, for, toward, against, so that
εκ, εξ	from, out of, of, by		
εν		in, on, among, by, with (means)	
επι, επ, εφ	on, over, at the time of, upon, at, by, before, (emphasizing contact)	on the basis of, upon, on, at, over, before, (emphasizing position)	against, upon, on, up to, to, over, (emphasizing motion or direction)
κατα, καθ	down from, against		throughout, during, according to, in accordance with, along
μετα, μετ, μεθ	with, together with, among, accompanied by		after, afterward, behind
παρα, παρ	from	beside, by the side of, in the presence of, with, before	alongside of, to the side of, beside, along, beyond
περι	concerning, about, regarding		around, all around, the vicinity of
προ	before, prior to		
προς	for	at	to, toward, towards, beside, against, with, at
συν		with, along with	
υπερ	for, for the sake of, in behalf of, instead of		over, above, beyond
υπο, υπ, υφ	by (agent)		under

Note 426

Preposition Usage & Translation in the New Testament

Preposition	King James Translations (Count after the word)	New American Standard Translations (Count before the word)
ανα	by 3, apiece 2, every man 2, each 1, several 1, among 1, through 1, between 1, by 1, in 1	2: each, each one 1: among, apiece, between, within
αντι	for 15, because + ος 4, misc. 3	4: because 1: accordingly, cause, in place of, instead, instead of
απο (αφ απ)	from 393, of 129, out of 48, for 10, off 10, by 9, at 9, in 6, since + ος 5, on 5, not translated . 16, misc. 31	Most frequent: from 14: since 8: because of 4: against 2: ago, away, away from, from among 1: after, alike, belonged to, for a distance, off, once, some, way
δια, δι	by 241, through 88, with 16, for 58, for ... sake 47, therefore + ουτος 44, for this cause + ουτος 14, because 52, misc 86	219: through 74: because of 36: reason 28: why 27: because 25: sake 17: therefore 16: for the sake of 13: on account of 6: continually 5: sakes 3: by means of, cause 2: after, always, by way of, consequently, in : view of, that is why 1: afterward, between, briefly, charge, constantly, during, forever, in the presence of, on account, on your account, over, since, so, then, though, through the agency of, way
εις	into 573, to 281, unto 207, for 140, in 138, on 58, toward 29, against 26, misc 322	Most frequent: in, into 22: toward 18: against 14: so that 10: among, resulting in 8: never 6: so as to 5: become 4: forever, until, why 3: before, beyond, forward, in regard to, : result in 2: end, ever, in order that, : leading to, leading to, resulted, : with a view to, with reference to 1: bestowed upon, bring, bring about, consequently, continually, even, for the benefit of, in relation to, in respect to, in respect to, in view, in view, leads to, mine, next, onto, over, sake, throughout, with respect to
εκ (εξ)	of 366, from 181, out of 162, by 55, on 34, with 25, misc 98	Most frequent: from, out of 18: among 9: because of 5: based on 4: as a result of 3: some of 2: on the basis of 1: after, against, belonged, belonging, by means of, by reason of, by way of, depends on, depends upon, derived from, on account of, say, since, through, under, without
εν	in 1902, by 163, with 140, among 117, at 113, on 62, through 39, misc 264	Most frequent: in, with 128: among 21: while 20: when 18: through 15: within 7: child, during 5: under 4: before, by way of 3: about, because of, over, throughout 2: afterwards, here, in case, there, where 1: along, amid, besides, between, by means of, in a circumstance, in circumstances, outwardly, together with, under these circumstances, until

Preposition	King James Translations	New American Standard Translations
επι (εφ, επ)	on 196, in 120, upon 159, unto 41, to 41, misc 339	Most frequent: on, upon 54: over 41: against 25: before 7: together 4: about, concerning, on the basis of, toward 3: further 2: above, after, among, because, because of, : certainly, in the time of, to the extent, under 1: around, at the time of, at this point, besides, beyond, in charge, in connection with, in view of, inasmuch, onto, within
κατα (καθ)	according to 107, after 61, against 58, in 36, by 27, daily + ημερα 15, as 11, misc 165	140: according to 51: against 12: in accordance with 11: every 10: daily 7: after, privately 6: through out 5: about among, down, like, various 3: along, over 2: another, because of, by way of, coast, each, from the standpoint of, in terms of, just, off, standpoint, way, within 1: accordingly, after another, around, before, beyond, certain, conforming, contrary, how, in accord with, more, on the basis of, through, with reference to
μετα (μεθ)	with 345, after 88, among 5, hereafter + ουτος 4, afterward + ουτος 4, against 4, not translated 1, misc 32	Most frequent: with 82: after 12: later 5: among 4: against 3: accompanied by, afterward 2: together with, toward, without 1: accompany, amid, at the end of, before, behind, follow, now, off, together
παρα	of 51, with 42, from 24, by ... side 15, at 12, than 11, misc 45	12: than 6: beside 5: contrary to 4: among, before 2: above, beyond, in the sight of, rather than, reason 1: along by, riverside, sent, side, together with, under
περι	of 148, for 61, concerning 40, about 31, as touching 8, touching 3, whereof + ος 3, not translated 4, misc 33	92: about 48: concerning 12: around 4: regarding 3: against, on behalf 2: account, in regard to, over 1: all around, as regards, in behalf of, in connection, in connection with, neighborhood, on behalf of., refers to, the vicinity of
προ	before 44, above 2, above ... ago 1, or ever 1	33: before 4: ago 2: above, ahead, in front of 1: just outside, prior to, right at
προς	unto 340, to 203, with 43, for 25, against 24, among 20, at 11, not translated 6, misc 53	21: against 10: before 9: toward 5: among 4: near, pertaining to 2: around, because of, so as 1: about, according to, across, beside, in accord with, in order to, promote, so that, terms, together, with regard to
συν	with 123, beside 1, accompany + ερχομαι 1	Most frequent: with 10: along with 2: accompanied by, accompany, companions 1: besides, including, together with
υπερ	for 104, of 12, above 12, for (one's) sake 8, on (one's) behalf 3, more than 3, in (one's) stead 2, than 2, misc. 14	20: on behalf 9: for the sake of 5: about, more than 4: above, beyond 3: concerning, than 2: in behalf, over 1: exceed, for their sakes, more so, with regard to
υπο	of 116, by 42, under 48, with 14, in 1, misc 9	Most frequent: by 46: under 3: hands 1: about, power

(5) ADVERBS, CONJUNCTIONS, INTERJECTIONS, PARTICLES ETC

Adverbs

Note 501

(a) Adverbs usually modify verbs and go in the Verb slot of the rendering chart. (b) However, they sometime modify adjectives and other adverbs and would then appear in whatever slot the word being modified appears. (c) Occasionally they sound better in the vocative position. As always, context must guide your decisions.

Note 502

(a) Ου is usually used to negate verbs in the indicative mood while μη is used in other moods and with infinitives. (b) If two negatives are used together it is strong negation, which is the opposite of English usage. Generally μη is a stronger negation than ου.

Note 503

Questions with ου expect an affirmative answer and questions with μη expect a negative answer.

Idioms

Note 510

Sometimes a word or a group of words has a meaning in a particular context, that seems unrelated to its lexical or dictionary definition. They are called “idioms” or “idiomatic.” We take these in stride in English. For instance, “peeling rubber” means to take off in a car so quickly that the tires make a squealing noise and actually do leave marks on the street. Try to explain that to someone who has never seen a car. All languages have these and they can be very tricky to translate. I usually don’t find out about these until I can make no sense of something and have to skip ahead to comparing to the experts.

Conjunctions

Note 526

When conjunctions separate clauses they can be sorted into the vocative slot of the rendering chart.

Note 527

Some words are postpositive and appear second or third in the clause in Greek but actually function in English as if in first place. Δε is the most common one found in Greek. Others include “γαρ” and “οὐν”. Since we use a rendering chart to get everything in English order this is not usually a big issue.

Note 528

When the article is used with the postpositive conjunction δε it is usually translated with a personal pronoun. Ο δε – “but he”

Note 529

Conjunctions can be either coordinating or subordinating just as in English so you can usually translate them without being aware of which is which.

Note 530

The conjunction και appears more than any other conjunction. It can almost always be translated “and” and almost always joins two like things together, words, phrases, clauses or even serves to connect thoughts in different sentences.

Interjections

Note 551

Interjections are not a “part of speech” in Greek. They are grammatically lumped in with particles. They just mean what they mean and are simply placed where they appear.

Note 552

The most frequently appearing interjections are οὐα, ω, οὐαι, and ιδου.

Particles

Note 575

Particles are basically the words that don't have a main grammatical designation. The odds and ends of syntax – miscellaneous other.

Note 576

In order to translate Greek into sensible readable English it is sometimes necessary to insert English words that do not exist in the Greek. I used to think this was a failure of imagination, but have finally accepted that it is sometimes necessary. You should be careful to do this with great caution being sure not to violate the meaning of the sentence in its context. Particles are those words that often do not translate directly into English but do have an impact on the way the Greek is translated.

Note 577

Some particles are almost like conjunctions – $\mu\epsilon\nu$ and $\tau\epsilon$ for instance.

Note 578

Sometimes other parts of speech and phrases appear in an absolute form without syntactical connection to the rest of the sentence. These might be parentheticals, epithets, exclamations or sentence fragments. Obeying grammatical “rules” is not a moral law and sometimes the New Testament writers wrote as seemed sensible to them, just as you and I do outside of English 101 class.

Note 579

Sometimes we have to understand implied words in order to translate correctly. In English, if I say, “Stop that!” it is understood that I mean “You stop that!” The “you” is implied. The same kind of thing happens in Greek. They would leave out words because the reader or listener would know by context that the word was implied. Context must rule your judgement.

Note 580

Those Pesky Little Words

All those pesky little words except personal pronouns, articles, prepositions, and forms of εἶμι (which have charts of their own) that appear at least 100 times in the New Testament (plus the words spelled like them except for different accent marks i.e. η)

ἀλλά	but, however	νυν	now, the present, as things stand now
ἄλλα	others (plur, neut, nominative)	ὅς, ἥ, ὅ	who, which, what, that
ἄλλη	other, another, different, more (fem)	ὅση	as or how - great, much, or far (fem)
ἄλληλων	each other, one another, mutually	ὅσον	as or how - great, much, or far (neut)
ἄλλο	other, another, different, more (neut)	ὅσος	as or how - great, much, or far (masc)
ἄλλος	other, another, different, more (masc)	ὅστις	whoever, everyone who, who (masc)
αν	conditional particle, contingency (untrans)	ὅταν	at the time that, whenever, when
γάρ	for, so, then, to wit	ὅτε	when, while, as long as
δε	but, now, yet, and, rather, then, so	ὅτι	that, so that, because, for
δει	it is necessary, one must, one should	ὅτι	whoever, everyone who, who (neut)
εαν	if, except, unless, when	οὐ (^ on upsilon)	where, in what place
ἑαυτης	herself, of herself	οὐ, ουκ, ουχ	no, not; never, nothing, none, without
ἑαυτου	himself, of himself, of itself	ουδε	and not, neither, nor, not even
εἰς	preposition - see chart	ουδεις	no, no one, none, nothing (masc)
εἰς (t has hat)	one, a single, someone, anyone (masc.)	ουδεμια	no, no one, none, nothing (fem)
εκει	there, in that place, to that place	ουδεν	no, no one, none, nothing (neut)
εκειν—	look on demonstrative pronoun chart	οὖν	so, therefore, consequently, then
ἐν	one, a single, someone, anyone (neut.)	οὕτως	in this manner, thus, so, as follows
ἐν	preposition -see chart	παν	every, each, any, all, everyone, everything (neut.)
εως	until, while, until, as far as	πας	every, each, any, all, everyone, everything (masc.)
ἢ	or, either, nor, what, than	πασα	every, each, any, all, everyone, everything (fem.)
ἦ	the (fem, sing, nominative)	πολλη	much, many, large, great, often (fem.)
ἦ (^ & t subs.)	3 rd p, sing. pres. subj. of εἶμι	πολυ	much, many, large, great, often (neut.)
ἦ (^ & t subs.)	dative, singular, feminine of ὅς	πολυς	much, many, large, great, often (masc.)
ἦ (with hat ^)	with μεν to introduce oath	πως	in any way, by any means
ἦτις	whoever, everyone who, who (fem)	πως (^ on ω)	how?, in what way? in what sense?
ἵνα	that, in order that, so that	ταυτ- τουτ-	look on demonstrative pronoun chart
καθως	as, just as, even as, since, so far as	τέ	and, and so, so (weak connection implied)
και	and, too, also, both ... and, even	τίς, τί	who?, which?, what?, why?
μεν	on the one hand, to be sure, indeed	τίς, τί	someone, anyone, something, anything
μη	not	τι-	see pronoun chart
μία	one, someone, anyone (fem. nom, sing)	τοτε	then, thereafter, from that time
μια	one, someone, anyone (fem. dat, sing)	ώς	as, like, as though, as if

(6) VERBS Tense

Aspect

Note 601

In English tense is mostly about time. Tense in Greek is most often more about aspect rather than time. An action might be linear or continuous like, “I am hitting the ball.” It might be punctiliar indicating it happened at a particular point in time, like, “I hit the ball.”

Note 602

Sometimes aspect is ambiguous and context must be the guide. This happens most often with the punctiliar. Consider the example above in a different context. Someone asks a baseball player what he does for a living and he answers, “I hit the ball.” The grammar of the sentence is punctiliar but clearly the meaning is continuous.

Note 603

The perfect tenses usually have a combined aspect. Since the action has been completed it had to have happened at a particular point in time, although at the time it might have been continuous or linear. “I was hitting the ball.”

Note 604

Aspect (All moods of the verb)	Time (Only applies to indicative mood)		
	Past	Present	Future
Punctiliar or Ambiguous	Aorist		Future
Linear or Continuous	Imperfect	Present	
Combined	Pluperfect	Perfect	Future Perfect

The aspect of punctiliar means it happened at a specific point in time.

The aspect of linear or continuous means it happens over a period of time.

The aspect of combined means that it began at a specific point in time and continued.

The aspect of Ambiguous or Undefined means that the aspect is not clear, and is probably not important to the speaker.

Note 605

Sometimes the verb εἶμι is used with other verbs in a periphrastic construction. (that just means verbs strung together to form a single verb) Periphrastic constructions are common in English. You use them all the time whenever you add a “helper” word to a verb to clarify a tense, mood or voice – had, have, be, will, shall, etc. When this construction appears in Greek its purpose is probably to

emphasize the linear or continuous aspect. I was not able to find any aorist periphrastic constructions.

Note 606

This chart of the Greek tenses might help sort aspect, completion and time. Note this only applies to the indicative mood and has exceptions.

Aspect vs. Time	Past	Now	Future
Continuous or Linear	Imperfect	Present	Future
Complete or Perfected	Pluperfect	Perfect	Future Perfect
Punctiliar or Ambiguous	Aorist	Present (rarely)	Future

Note 607

This chart may help select the appropriate English translation for the Greek tenses as described above. This too only applies to indicative mood and has exceptions.

Linear or Continuous

Past I was building a house
 Now I am building a house
 Future I will be building a house

Perfected or Complete

Past I had built a house
 Now I have built a house
 Future I will have built a house

Punctiliar

Past I built a house
 Now I build a house
 Future I will build a house

Present Tense

Note 613

Present tense is happening now. Its aspect is linear or continuous.

Note 614

Sometimes Present tense was used to describe past events from the perspective of the people who were experiencing it in their present. This can only be decided by context. It is called the Historical Present and whether it is best translated with

English present or past tense is a judgement call. This is fairly frequent in the New Testament

Note 615

Sometimes Present tense was used to describe future events from the perspective of the people who will be experiencing it in their present. This can only be decided by context. It is called the Futuristic Present and whether it is best translated with English present or future tense is a judgement call. This is found rarely in the New Testament.

Perfect Tense

Note 625

Perfect tense indicates an action brought to completion in the present time, which implies it began in the past. “It has happened” rather than “It happened” which would be indicated by the Aorist probably.

Note 626

Perfect tense is usually translated by adding the helper verb “has” or “have.” However, if the context is emphasizing present time, it may be better to use English present tense.

Aorist Tense

Note 638

Aorist is past in time and punctiliar or ambiguous in aspect. When past time does not match the context it is simply trying to convey punctiliar aspect in the present.

Imperfect Tense

Note 650

Imperfect tense is for continuous or linear actions that have not been completed in the past time.

Pluperfect Tense

Note 663

The pluperfect tense is used less than 100 times in the New Testament. This is an action that was begun in the past and completed in the past.

Future Tense

Note 675

(a) Future tense in English is about things that have not happened yet. Usually in Greek that is the way the future tense is used. (b) However, sometimes this is not the case. This happens most often when it is quoting the Old Testament because Hebrew has no future tense. Basically this means you have license to translate Greek future tense as if it is in the imperative mood if the context supports it, but we should be aware it may be an exhortation or intention rather than a command.

Future Perfect Tense

Note 689

The Future Perfect tense appears less than 10 times in the New Testament. The experts disagree as to how it should be translated. It might be an action begun now and completed in the future, or it might be that it is begun and completed in the future. As with all translation issues, context is the deciding factor.

(7) VERBS Voice

Note 700

Greek has Active and Passive Voice like English but also has a Middle voice.

Active Voice

Note 701

Active voice means the subject is doing the action of the verb. "The boy rode the bicycle." "The bell rang." "The cattle stampeded."

Passive Voice

Note 726

Passive voice means the subject receives the action of the verb. "The apple was eaten by the man." "The plant was grown."

Middle Voice

Note 751

(a) Middle voice means the action of the verb has some impact on the subject or the subject in some way is participating in the action. It may be translated as the English Reflexive. "The woman sits herself down." "The cat washes herself." (b) Often it gets translated as passive or active depending on the context.

Note 752

English does not have a Middle voice. The idea is that instead of doing the action as with Active, or being the recipient of the action as in Passive, the subject "shares" in the action. Sometimes you can translate it with the active voice, like, "He rubbed his leg" indicating his own leg. Clearly the person is both the doer and recipient of the action. Sometimes you can add a reflexive pronoun, like, "He, himself, runs." Sometimes the only sensible English translation shows no shadow of the Middle voice and you just have to remember that is the way the Greek writer meant it when you interpret the meaning of the sentence.

Note 753

Sometimes to translate a Greek middle voice verb you may use an entirely different English word. For instance, ἀρχω in the lexicon shows the "commence" or "rule." It probably means to "rule" when it is Active voice, but "commence" or "begin" when in the Middle voice. "Ruling" is something done to others – active voice. "Beginning" is something you participate in – middle voice.

Deponent & Irregular Verbs

Note 776

Deponent Verbs are passive or middle in form, but active in meaning. They can not have a passive meaning. There are a lot of rules and some controversy about this, but basically all you need to know is that if you are having trouble translating a middle or passive voice verb in a sensible way you have license to make it active in English. However, in interpreting the verse, you should remain aware that the original Greek writer did not really have active voice in mind. This is a similar issue we have with translating Middle voice.

Note 777

Genitive may be the subject of a participle or the direct object of certain verbs.

Note 778

Verbs that take the dative for their direct object will take a dative subject when they are an infinitive.

(8) VERBS

VERBS Mood

Note 800

(a) The mood is how the speaker feels about what he is saying. i.e. It is true, it might be true, he hopes it is true, or he demands that it be true. The mood of the verb is usually taken from the form, but just as in English it is possible to form any mood with the indicative form and additional helper words. Like adding “if” to make an indicative form subjunctive mood.

Indicative Mood -

Note 801

Indicative mood is simple statements or questions. Most verbs are in this mood. The statement may in reality be true or false or be an opinion but it is stated as if it were true. "I am hungry." "Jewelry costs too much." "Why are you late?" "Black is white." "I am flying by flapping my arms."

Subjunctive Mood -

Note 825

(a) Subjunctive Mood - Statements that might be a fact. "If I were rich then..." "I may buy it." "I might go." (b) Statements of intention. "If I had time then ..." "When summer comes ..."

Note 826

Tense of Subjunctive mood verbs has only to do with aspect, not time. Present Subjunctive indicates continuous action. In the Aorist Subjunctive the aspect is punctiliar or ambiguous.

Note 827

When the Subjunctive appears in the first person it is probably an exhortation, especially if it is at the beginning of a sentence – “Let us ...”

Note 828

When the Subjunctive appears in a question it means the answer is uncertain. It is definitely not a rhetorical question.

Note 829

When the Subjunctive appears with $\iota\upsilon\alpha$ it usually indicates purpose or intention.

Note 830

When the Subjunctive appears with $\epsilon\alpha\nu$ it usually indicates a conditional statement. – “If this then that ...” This is not the only way to form a conditional statement in Greek.

Note 831

When the Subjunctive appears without $\iota\nu\alpha$ or $\epsilon\alpha\nu$ it might be talking about the future in the sense of “this might happen” or “if this does happen that will happen.” Or it might be a current probability. Context has to be the guide here because it might be future probability even if the verb is not in the future tense.

Note 832

When the Subjunctive appears in the second person it might be an exhortation. “You should ...”

Imperative Mood -

Note 850

Imperative Mood - Statements of command or request. “Please come.” “Do not smoke here.”

Note 851

(a) Imperative mood in English is a command in the second person present tense. The “you” is understood or implied, and seldom actually said. (b) It is tricky to translate when a Greek verb is imperative but in another person or tense, because there is no direct English equivalent.

Note 852

Third person imperative might need helper words like, “Let him ...” or “It must ...”

Note 853

Tense in the imperative mood is about aspect, not time. Present imperative has continuous aspect, while aorist imperative has ambiguous or punctiliar aspect. Most translators translate present in the sense of “stop” and aorist in the sense of “don’t start,” but, as always, context is the best guide.

Note 854

Imperative mood can also be an exhortation, encouragement or request, rather than a command. For example, in Matthew 6:11 “Give us this day our daily bread,” the

verb “give” is in the imperative mood, but I don’t think Jesus meant for us to be giving commands to God.

Note 855

Imperative mood might also be a response to a request, granting permission.

Optative Mood

Note 870

(a) Optative Mood - Statements of desire. "I hope so." "God forbid!" English grammars do not describe this mood but Greek has a special form of the verb just for it. It appears less than 100 times in the New Testament

(b) Greek Optative Mood has no English grammar equivalent. It is closest to Subjunctive in that the speaker knows it may or may not be true. It expresses a wish or desire. Paul and Luke are the only two New Testament writers to use it, which is why it appears less than 100 times.

(c) For example: Paul uses the phrase μη γενοιτο fifteen times. Γενοιτο is the optative mood of γινομαι which means mean “happen” or “do.” Μη is a strong Greek negative. Literally it would be “not do” or “not happen” but because that is awkward translators usually take license to express it.

The second clause of Galatians 3:21 is μη γενοιτο

KJV “Is the law then against the promises of God? **God forbid:**”

NKJV “Is the law then against the promises of God? **Certainly not!** ...”

NIV “Is the law, therefore, opposed to the promises of God? **Absolutely not!** ...”

NASB “Is the Law then contrary to the promises of God? **May it never be!** ...”

YLT “the law, then, is against the promises of God? -- **let it not be!** ...”

VERBS Kind

Note 880

(a) Transitive verbs have direct objects. Intransitive verbs have no direct objects.

(b) Transitive verb - "The man ate the apple." The action of the verb describes what the subject did to the object. Action in some sense is transferred from the subject to the object by the verb. (c) Intransitive verb - "The plant grows." The action of the verb is completed by the subject without the necessity for there to be some object to receive the action.

Note 881

The copulative or linking verb in Greek is εἰμί. It connects or links the subject to a predicate nominative. "A lion is just a big cat." No action takes place. The subject is simply classified or described by the predicate nominative - a noun phrase. (Or with a predicate adjective "The horse is black.")

Note 882

On rare occasions, a few other verbs will be copulative.

Γινομαι, υπαρξω, καθιστημι, φαινω and μενω can on a few occasions act as a copulative verb.

Note 883

Sometimes it may be necessary to supply an "understood" εἰμι for the translation to make sense in English, or at least be less awkward. If you have multiple nouns all in the nominative case, but fewer verbs than nouns, some of them may be a predicate nominatives and an "understood" εἰμι can be added.

Note 884

Sometimes it may be necessary to supply an "understood" εἰμι for the translation to make sense in English, or at least be less awkward. If you have a nominative noun followed by a verb that does not seem to be using it for a subject, it may be necessary to add the phrase "there is" to render the Greek sensible in English.

Note 885

Sometimes it may be necessary to supply an "understood" εἰμι for the translation to make sense in English, or at least be less awkward. If you have a nominative noun followed by a modifier, the modifier may be a predicate adjective and an "understood" εἰμι can be added.

(9) VERBS Participles & Infinitives and other verb information

Participles

Note 901

(a) Because there are so many more complex grammatical forms in the passages used in Greek II, one new method has been added and one has been left out. It is assumed the student now knows how to divide the Greek into clauses for analysis, so the parsing charts no longer provide this. Verb phrases will now be translated as if they are clauses and only a note will show where they will be included in the rendering charts.

For example, first year form:

Vocative or Conjunction for Clause			Verb	Accusative or Predicate Nominative
Conjunction for Participial Phrase	Participle (In the Nominative Case)	Objects and/or modifiers of Participle		Dative or Predicate Adjective
Subject of Participle if any				

Will now be:

Conjunction for Participial Phrase	Participle (Phrase is Subject of Next Clause)	Objects and/or modifiers of Participle
Subject of Participle if any		

Vocative or Conjunction for Clause	Verb	Accusative or Predicate Nominative
(Participial Phrase Above)		Dative or Predicate Adjective

We believe this is easier and less confusing, but until you work through a couple of examples you might not agree. (b) However, sometimes when a participial phrase is only a word or two, it will be easier jus to go ahead and put it in the clause where it goes.

Note 902

Participles can take a subject in the genitive case or accusative case. The case has more to do with the usage of the participle in the main clause. If the participle has no subject sometimes an article was used to clarify its usage.

Note 903

Participial phrases may be used in an adjectival, adverbial or substantival way. That is; they may be used as an adjective, adverb, or noun in the previous or following clause.

Note 904

To translate any participial phrase, especially those used in a substantival way, you may need to add a relative pronoun to help it make sense in English and/or change its English form to a finite verb. Sometimes a phrase is required like “One who is ...” or “that which” or “to those who”, etc.

Note 905

To translate a participial phrase used adverbially, i.e. to modify a verb, you may need to add the words “while”, “after,” “before”, “by,” “though” or “because.”

Note 906

If a participial phrase is used adverbially, but the usual helper words seem awkward or do not make sense, you may need to simply form a two verb phrase with the verb in the main clause. “But he answered saying ...” where either “answer” or “saying” is a participle.

Note 907

A participial modifying a noun or substantive phrase will agree with it in case, number and gender. It is often unnecessary to add any helper words in these situations, but if you do don't try to use the helper words associated with the adverbial participle phrases like “while”, “after” or “because.” “Which” often works.

Note 908

A participial in the genitive case might be translated as a clause in and of itself. This is called a genitive absolute. Context, as always, is the deciding factor. Most of the genitive absolutes in the New Testament are adding time information to the sentence. It happened while this was happening or before that happened. If the participial has a “subject” you are justified in translating as a stand alone clause with a finite verb.

Note 909

A present participial does not mean present time, it means at the same time as the time of the verb in the main clause. This is called relative time. Make your participles agree in time with the main clause.

Note 910

Technically a participle does not have a subject, but it is not unusual to have to provide one in English when translating. This is usually a relative pronoun but not always.

Note 911

Unlike aorist verbs which are about aspect, aorist participles are usually aorist to show past time without respect to aspect. Using an “-ing” form of the verb in English does not usually work for aorist participles. Generally the idea is that the participle’s action preceded the action of the main clause, but there are many exceptions. Context must be the final arbiter. Usually “after” or “before” is the most useful helper word here.

Note 912

Future participles are rare in the New Testament. They occur less than 20 times. They indicate purpose, intent or expectation.

Note 913

(a) Participles in English are never used as independent clauses or separate sentences. In Greek they often were. (b) When this happens, you may need to change the participle to a finite verb form in English. This is found most often in the writings of Paul.

Note 914

Like all verbs, participles might take a direct object. It is usually in the accusative case but in rare instances can be in other cases. (See notes 201d & 206a above)

Note 915

Sometimes participles are combined together to form a verb of a regular clause, just as they are in English.

Infinitives

Note 951

In English infinitives are indicated by the preposition “to” before them. “To run”, “to talk” etc. They have neither gender nor number but generally behave as if they are singular neuter.

Note 952

Infinitives are verbs that usually behave as nouns in the sentence.

Note 953

Infinitives may also complete the meaning of another verb, acting almost as part of the verb or as an adverb. For example: “I like *to run*.” They can also indicate the purpose of the verb. For example: “I came *to teach*.”

Note 954

The case of an infinitive can be determined by the article preceding it, if there is one.

Note 955

When the infinitive has an article and is the object of a preposition translating it can be tricky. Context, as always, rules everything, but there are a few rules that might help related to the preposition used. *Usually:*

Διὰ with accusative article can be translated “because” (reason)

Εἰς with accusative article can be translated “in order that” (purpose)

Ἐν with dative article can be translated “when” or “while” (time)

Μετὰ with accusative article can be translated “after” (following in time)

Πρὸ with genitive article can be translated “before” (previous in time)

Πρὸς with accusative article can be translated “in order that”(purpose)

Note 956

When an infinitive is used with ὥστε it often indicates the purpose or result of an action in such a way that English translation requires changing the infinitive to an indicative form.

Note 957

The tense of an infinitive is about aspect, not time. Present indicates continuous action. Perfect indicates completed action. Aorist is ambiguous or punctiliar.

Note 958

An infinitive can take an object in the accusative, but sometimes this object must be translated as if it is the subject of the infinitive. This is determined from context. If there are two associated nouns in the accusative the first is the subject and the second the direct object, usually.

Note 959

In rare cases an infinitive can form an independent clause or sentence in Greek.

Note 960

(a) Sometimes using “to” for the infinitive makes the English sound awkward. (b) You have license to use and English gerund instead, (i.e. instead of adding “to” on the front, and “-ing” to the end.

VERBS Miscellaneous

Note 975

NUMBER OF THE VERB -

Just as in English finite verbs are singular or plural. He *says*, they *say*, etc. The subject of the verb must agree with it in number. That means that if the verb is plural the subject must also be plural.

Note 976

PERSON OF THE VERB -

A verb has person - 1st, 2nd, and 3rd. The subject of the verb must agree with it in person. That means that since nouns are all third person that 1st and 2nd person verbs can only have pronouns for subjects.

Note 977

IMPLIED SUBJECTS OF THE VERB

Sometimes in English finite verbs imply the subject as in the short sentence, "Go" which implies "You go." In Greek all finite verbs have an implied subject. If the sentence does not have a explicit subject the implied subject of the verb is used in translation and takes the form of a nominative personal pronoun in the person and number of the verb -- "I, you, he, she, it, we, you," or, "they" as follows:

If the verb is 1st Person, Singular the implied subject is "I."

If the verb is 2nd Person, Singular the implied subject is "you."

If the verb is 3rd Person, Singular the implied subject is "he", "she," or "it."

If the verb is 1st Person, Plural the implied subject is "we."

If the verb is 2nd Person, Plural the implied subject is "you."

If the verb is 3rd Person, Plural the implied subject is "they."

Note 999

Abbreviated Conjugation of the Verb εἰμι "to be"

(No apology for the Southernism's)

εἶναι **infinitive** **to be****Present Tense, Indicative Mood, Active Voice**

Singular

εἰμι	1 st Person	I am, I exist, I live, I am present
εἶ	2 nd Person	(thou art) you are, you exist, you live, you are present
ἐστί(ν)	3 rd Person	he/she/it is, he/she/it exists, he/she/it lives, he/she/it is present

Plural

ἐσμεν	1 st Person	we are, we exist, we live, we are present
εἶστε	2 nd Person	(ya'll) you are, you exist, you live, you are present
εἰσι(ν)	3 rd Person	they are, they exist, they live, they are present

Imperfect Tense, Indicative Mood, Active Voice

Singular

1 st	ἤμην	I was	ἤμεν, ἤμεθα	Plural	we were
2 nd	ἦς	you were (thou wert)	ἦτε		(ya'll) you were
3 rd	ἦν	he/she/it was	ἦσαν		they were

Future Tense, Indicative Mood, Active Voice

Singular

1 st	ἔσομαι	I will be	ἔσομεθα	Plural	we will be
2 nd	ἔσῃ	you shall be (thou shalt be)	ἔστεσθε		(ya'll) you shall be
3 rd	ἔσται	he/she/it shall be	ἔσονται		they shall be

Present Tense, Subjunctive Mood, Active Voice

Singular

1 st	ὦ	I might be, if I was	ὦμεν	Plural	we might be, if we were
2 nd	ἦς	you might be (if thou wert)	ἦτε		(ya'll) you might be
3 rd	ἦ	he/she/it might be	ὦσι(ν)		they might be, if they were

Present Tense, Imperative Mood, Active Voice (Command)

Singular

2 nd	ἴσθι	(thou wilt) you will	ἔστε	Plural	(ya'll) you will
3 rd	ἔστω	he/she/it will	ἔστωσαν		they will

Participle **being**

---- Singular ----

--- Plural ---

Case	Masc	Fem	Neut	Masc	Fem	Neut
Nom	ὄν	ούσα	όν	όντες	ούσαι	όντα
Gen	όντος	ούσης	όντος	όντων	ούσων	όντων
Dat	όντι	ούση	όντι	ούσι(ν)	ούσαις	ούσι(ν)
Acc	όντα	ούσαν	όν	όντας	ούσας	όντα