

# Even More Fun with Infinitives!<sup>1</sup>

## THE ACCIDENCE OF THE GREEK INFINITIVE:

	Active	Middle	Passive
Present :	λύειν	λύεσθαι	λύεσθαι
Future:	λύσειν	λύσεσθαι	λυθήσεσθαι
First Aorist:	λύσαι	λύσασθαι	λυθῆναι
Second Aorist:	λιπέϊν	λιπέσθαι	λιπῆναι
Perfect:	λελυκέναι	λελύσθαι	λελύσθαι

## THE SYNTAX OF THE GREEK INFINITIVE:

### 1. *COMPLEMENTARY INFINITIVE*

Verbs such as δύναμαι, ὀφείλω, μέλλω, and ἄρχομαι (and several others) need a verbal to complete their expression. δύναμαι γράφειν. = I am able to write.

### 2. *EPEXEGETICAL INFINITIVE*

Infinitives may also complete a non-verbal expression such as a noun, pronoun, or adjective. They function basically like a complementary infinitive for non-verbal expressions.

### 3. *INFINITIVE OF INDIRECT DISCOURSE*

When a conversation is being described by a third party, Greek will commonly employ an infinitive to communicate the content of the quote. ὁ λέγων ἐν αὐτῷ μένειν. = The one who says (that) he abides in Him.

### 4. *SUBSTANTIVE INFINITIVE*

An infinitive can substantive and function as a noun. τὸ ζῆν Χριστός. = To live is Christ.

### 5. *INFINITIVE OF TIME*

- A. πρὶν τοῦ or πρό τοῦ = “before”  
πρὸ τοῦ βλέπειν αὐτόν. = Before he sees.
- B. ἐν τῷ = “when/while”  
ἐν τῷ βλέπειν αὐτόν. = When he sees.
- C. μετὰ τό + accusative = “after”  
μετὰ τὸ βλέπειν αὐτόν. = After he sees.

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<sup>1</sup>This handout was constructed using Ray Summers, *Essentials of New Testament Greek*, appendix; William D. Mounce, *Basics of Biblical Greek* (297-298); and David Allen Black, *It's Still Greek to Me* (116-118).

D. ἕως τοῦ = “until”  
ἕως τοῦ βλέπειν αὐτόν. = Until he sees.

#### 6. *INFINITIVE OF PURPOSE/RESULT*

τοῦ, εἰς τό, πρὸς τό, ὥστε, ὡς = “in order that”  
τοῦ βλέπειν αὐτόν. = In order that he sees.

#### 7. *CAUSAL INFINITIVE*

διὰ + accusative = “because”  
διὰ τὸ βλέπειν αὐτόν. = Because he sees.

#### 8. *IMPERATIVAL INFINITIVE*

The infinitive can be used to express a command. This usage is rare in the New Testament. χαίρειν μετὰ χαιρόντων. = Rejoice with those who are rejoicing!