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Graphical Greek
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Greek is tough.

It is tough to learn and tough to keep. After two years of biblical Greek in college, I was eager to use the New Testament’s original language in my teaching and preaching ministry. God’s people need God’s Word, and I had invested time and treasure in this tool in order to bring it to them with accuracy and clarity.

But that’s not what I did. I was a new husband. And I was a new youth pastor. There was much to learn. For the busyness of life and, no doubt, a lack of discipline, Greek became, once again, a foreign language. I found no encouragement in my 300-page Greek grammar or in two inches of class notes. Both stayed on the shelf. So did my Greek New Testament. And that’s the story of countless well-meaning former students of biblical Greek.

Thankfully, seminary provided another shot at learning the language. Determined to keep what I was having to relearn, I created a series of one-page study guides for personal reference. I worked through the grammar and weighed the relative importance of certain points. I considered how to arrange the critical material visually, simply, and memorably. As I developed these charts, I discovered that I was not alone in being helped by a resource like this. So, what began as a personal project is now this reference guide.

*Graphical Greek* does not replace a standard biblical Greek grammar, but neither is this just a several page list of word forms and rules in black and white. *Graphical Greek* really is something in between. By visually organizing the most important points of Greek grammar, *Graphical Greek* helps teachers teach, students learn, and pastors use the New Testament’s original language.

Greek is tough. But, of course, it is worth the effort. The church needs the Word. After all, “man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God” (Luke 4:4).

—Trent Hunter
FEATURES

Need-to-Know Content for each major division of grammar compiled into a single page.

Colors are used throughout to indicate case for the noun system and tense for the verb system.

Formation Notes and Function Notes summarize the need-to-know morphological and syntactical information.

Formation Funnels show how verbs are formed by progressively displaying grammatical information.

Formation Rule Bars are found at the top of verb funnels to indicate the various parts of a verb and the rules that govern each of those parts.

Meaning Keys visually represent the meaning indicated by a verbal ending given its tense.
Formation Notes

- Declensions:
  1. Stems ending in τοις, τοίς = 3rd declension.
  2. Stems ending in τοις, τοίς = 2nd declension.
  3. Stems ending in a consonant = 3rd declension.

- Similarities:
  1. All nominative and accusative neuters are identical.
  2. Almost all nominative and accusative neuter plurals end in α.
  3. All datives share an “ι” which subscripts in the singular if possible.
  4. All genitive and dative neuters are identical to their masculine counterparts.

- Changes:
  1. Vowels often change length (“ablaut”).
     - Contraction: when two vowels meet to form a diphthong.
     - Compensatory lengthening: when a vowel lengthens to compensate for the loss of a letter.
  2. Square of stops:
     - π β φ + σ → ψ
     - κ γ χ + σ → ζ
     - τ δ θ + σ → σ
  3. The τ drops off at the end of a word.
     - τ & ν drop off when followed by a sigma.
     - Consonants that can end a noun are ν, π, ς (ψ, ξ).

Function Notes

- Case functions: Endings, not word order, determine meaning.
  - Nominative: Subject, predicate nominative.
  - Genitive: Possession (“of”), object of preposition, direct object, separation (“from”).
  - Dative: Indirect object (“to/for”), object of preposition, direct object, instrumental (“by/with”), locative (“in/at”).
  - Accusative: Direct object of the verb, object of preposition, subject of infinitive.

- Articles: An article will always agree in case, number, and gender with the noun it modifies. If the definite article is absent, the indefinite article, “a,” may be inserted before a noun if it makes better sense. Articles before proper names (God, Paul) and abstract nouns (truth) may be omitted in translation.

*This is a modification of Bill Mounce’s seven noun rules.*
**Usage Key**

*With the Genitive*
- ἐπί, ἐπ., ἔφ  “on, over, when”
- κατά “against”
- ἀπό “(away) from”
- διά “through”
- ἐκ, ἔξ “from”
- ἐξω “outside”
- ἕως “as far as, until”
- ὑπό “by”
- μετά “with”
- ἐνώπιον “before”
- παρά “from”
- *περί “concerning, about”
- *ὑπέρ “in “behalf of”

*With the Dative*
- ἐν “in, on, among”
- σὺν “with”
- παρά “beside, in the presence”
- ἐπί, ἐπ., ἔφ  “on the basis of, at”

*With the Accusative*
- ὑπέρ “above”
- περί “around”
- πρός “to, with, toward”
- εἰς “into, in, among”
- ἐπί, ἐπ., ἔφ  “on, to, against”
- ὑπό “under, below”
- παρά “along side of”
- μετά “after”
- *κατά “according to”
- *διά “on account of”

*Not in visual*

**Formation Notes**
- The meaning of a preposition is determined by the case of its object.

**Function Notes**
- The word following a preposition is the “object of the preposition.”
- Preposition + word = Prepositional phrase. A prepositional phrase answers the question, Who? Which? When? Where?
- An article followed by a prepositional phrase should generally be translated as a relative clause: “who,” “which,” etc.
- Meanings: Prepositions with the genitive generally indicate motion away from. Prepositions with the dative generally indicate rest. Prepositions with the accusative generally indicate motion.

*This diagram is a memory aid, providing a visual representation of most prepositions and not just those prepositions whose meaning is spatial.*
**VERB SYSTEM**

**INDICATIVE MOOD**
A word that describes an action or a state of being that is

**FORMATION Funnel**

### FORMATION RULE BAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tense Formative</th>
<th>Connecting Vowel</th>
<th>Personal Endings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Augment/Reduplication**: +
- **Tense Stem**: +
- **Tense Formative**: +
- **Connecting Vowel**: +
- **Personal Endings**: +

- **Augment Rules**: \( e \leftrightarrow \text{construct}; \eta \leftrightarrow \theta \); An augment indicates past time.
- **Reduplication Rules**: construct + e \( \leftrightarrow \) 1-construct; \( e \leftrightarrow \text{2construct}; \pi, \kappa, \tau + e \leftrightarrow \phi, \chi, \theta \).
- **Rules for both**: Vowels lengthen; Diphthongs may lengthen and 1 substitutions.
- **Compound Rules**: Aug/redup stem; \( \varepsilon \leftrightarrow \varepsilon \varepsilon \varepsilon \); Vowels ending a prep usually drop.

**VERB SYSTEM**

**Augment/Reduplication**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Present A, M/P</th>
<th>Imperfect A, M/P</th>
<th>Future A, M</th>
<th>Aorist A, M</th>
<th>Perfect A</th>
<th>Perfect M/P</th>
<th>Aorist P / Future P</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>( \lambda \nu \omega / \varepsilon )</td>
<td>( \lambda \nu \omega / \varepsilon )</td>
<td>(Liquid) ( \mu ) ( \varepsilon ) ( \nu ) ( \varepsilon ) ( \nu ) ( \varepsilon ) ( \nu ) ( \varepsilon ) ( \nu ) ( \varepsilon ) ( \nu ) ( \varepsilon ) ( \nu ) ( \varepsilon ) ( \nu ) ( \varepsilon ) ( \nu ) ( \varepsilon ) ( \nu ) ( \varepsilon ) ( \nu ) ( \varepsilon ) ( \nu )</td>
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<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**MEANING KEY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary</th>
<th>Secondary</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>P</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>P</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PERSONAL ENDINGS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary Sgn</th>
<th>Secondary Sgn</th>
<th>Person</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ω</td>
<td>ν</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ομεν</td>
<td>μεν</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>εις</td>
<td>ει</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>επι</td>
<td>ν [σαν]</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CHANGE RULES**

- **Contracts (\( \alpha, \varepsilon, \omicron \))**
  - Contract + Connecting Vowel \( \rightarrow \) Contract:
    - \( o + o, o + e, e + o \rightarrow \omicron; e + e \rightarrow \varepsilon; o + \omicron + + \rightarrow \omega \) (“o” sound wins);
    - \( \alpha + e \rightarrow \alpha; \varepsilon + \omicron \rightarrow \eta \) (first wins); \( \omicron + \rightarrow \varepsilon \).
  - Contract + Sign/Ending \( \rightarrow \) Lengthen:
    - \( \alpha + \varepsilon, \varepsilon + \omicron \rightarrow \eta \) + ending; \( o + \omega + \) ending

- **Intervocalic \( \sigma \)**: When a “a” gets forced between two vowels, because of inflection, it drops out. Vowels then contract (\( \sigma \alpha \) = \( \eta \)). This does not apply for tense signs starting with \( \sigma \).

- **Square of Stops + \( \sigma \)**:
  - \( \pi \beta \sigma + \sigma = \psi \)
  - \( \kappa \gamma \chi + \sigma = \zeta \)
  - \( \tau \delta \theta + \sigma = \sigma \)

**FINISHED FORMS**

- **Perfect A**
  - \( \lambda \varepsilon \lambda \alpha \kappa \alpha \nu \) (1Pf)
  - \( \lambda \varepsilon \lambda \alpha \kappa \alpha \nu \) (2Pf)

- **Present A**
  - \( \lambda \varepsilon \alpha \) (1A)
  - \( \lambda \varepsilon \alpha \) (2A)

- **Future A**
  - \( \lambda \varepsilon \alpha \) (1A)
  - \( \lambda \varepsilon \alpha \) (2A)

- **Aorist A**
  - \( \lambda \varepsilon \alpha \) (1A)
  - \( \lambda \varepsilon \alpha \) (2A)

- **Primary Tense**
  - \( \lambda \varepsilon \alpha \) (1A)
  - \( \lambda \varepsilon \alpha \) (2A)

- **Secondary Tense**
  - \( \lambda \varepsilon \alpha \) (1A)
  - \( \lambda \varepsilon \alpha \) (2A)

- **Perfect M/P**
  - \( \lambda \varepsilon \mu \lambda \varepsilon \) (1Pf)
  - \( \lambda \varepsilon \mu \lambda \varepsilon \) (2Pf)

**Additional Notes**

- *some lengthening
- *some stem changes
- *circumflex after liquids
- *[circumflex in some contracts
- *same stem changes
- *\( \Sigma \)A has no ending
- *\( \Sigma \)a drops, \( \varepsilon + \varepsilon \)
VERB SYSTEM

SUBJUNCTIVE MOOD
A word that describes an action or state of being that is potential

FORMATION FUNNEL

FORMATION RULE BAR

Key Preceding Words + Unaugment + Tense Stem + Tense Formative + Connecting Vowel + PERSONAL ENDINGS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Preceding Words</th>
<th>Unaugment</th>
<th>Tense Stem</th>
<th>Tense Formative</th>
<th>Connecting Vowel</th>
<th>Personal Endings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&quot;in order that, that...&quot;</td>
<td>• No time, so no augment (aorist).</td>
<td>Only present and aorist.</td>
<td>• Vowels lengthen: o → ω, e → η.</td>
<td>• All primary endings due to do no augment.</td>
<td>• Aorist passive takes active endings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;lest...&quot;</td>
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<td>&quot;lest...&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>γεμεν, γεμεθα</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot;let us...&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>ως αν</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot;whoever...&quot;</td>
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<td>οπου αν</td>
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<td>&quot;wherever...&quot;</td>
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<td>οταν</td>
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<td>&quot;whenever...&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>εως</td>
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<td>&quot;until...&quot;</td>
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<td>εως αν</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot;until...&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>ου μη</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;emphatic negation...&quot;</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Look out for iνα, εαν, and αν, ες
*"If no key word is present, translate with "may" or "might."
*If/then=protasis/apodosis

MEANING KEY

PERSONAL ENDINGS

FINISHED FORMS

P A A

A

λω λωμεν

λης ληπτε

λη λωστη

λωμεναι λωμεθα

λη ληπη

ληπα ληπαται

λω λωμεν

λης ληπτε

λη λωστη

λωμεναι λωμεθα

λη ληπη

ληπα ληπαται

λω ομεν

πς ππε

η ωσιν

ουμαι ομεθα

η ππεθε

ηται ονται

λωθω λωθωμεν

ληθς ληθητε

ληθη ληθησθε

ληθηται ληθησθαι

λωθω λωθωμεν

ληθς ληθητε

ληθη ληθησθε

ληθηται ληθησθαι

λωθω λωθωμεν

ληθς ληθητε

ληθη ληθησθε

ληθηται ληθησθαι
Anarthrous

• Never articular
  δει “It is necessary to…”
  ἔχεστιν “It is lawful to…”
  μελλω “I am about to…”
  δύναμαι “I am able to…”
  ἀρχομαι “I am beginning to…”
  θέλω “I wish to…”
  κελεύω “I command to…”
  ὧφειλω “I ought to…”

Result

ώστε “so that/with the result that…”

Purpose (in order that/to)

εἰς τό, πρός τό (art inf & prep)
τού ἔθειν (gen art & inf)
ἕναι (anarthrous inf) “in order that/to…”

Substantive Infinitive

• Usually articular, “to ___ is good” no key words

Articular Infinitive and Preposition

• Purpose/Result:
  διό τό “because”
  εἰς τό, πρός τό “in order that/to”
• Temporal:
  πρό τοῦ “before”
  ἐν τῷ “when/while”
  μετά τό “after”

Formation Notes

• Parse: tense, voice, “infinitive.”
• Always indeclinable (no case endings), but is viewed as neuter singular.
• When preceded by a definite article, the articles are always neuter singular with case being determined by function.
• All forms end in αι, except present and 2aor active.
• Irregular contracts in present active: alpha contracts form αυ instead of αυ. Omicron contracts form ου instead of ου.

Function Notes

• No time significance, only aspect: 
  Present=Continuous; Aorist=Undefined
  Perfect=Completed action with ongoing implications.
• Since nuances are near impossible to translate into English, the present (“to ___”) will work for both present and aorist.
• As a non-finite verbal form (not limited by a subject) it cannot have a subject. There is often a noun in the accusative acting like a subject. Context distinguishes subject from direct object.
• Use μὴ for negation (as with all non-indicative verbs).
• 5 ways to translate: see key word/article.
Graphical Greek is a quick reference guide for biblical Greek that consolidates and visually organizes the crucial data found in a standard introductory Greek grammar. Students and teachers will find this reference guide helpful in the acquisition and use of the New Testament’s original language.

“Trent Hunter has written a helpful tool for those studying Greek. We know that learning a new language is no easy task, and this work provides wonderful practical assistance to those who desire to study the New Testament in the original language.”

THOMAS R. SCHREINER
Professor of New Testament Interpretation
The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

“This is certainly something I wished I had had when studying Greek. This is an excellent resource!”

JUSTIN TAYLOR
Vice President of Editorial, Crossway
Blogger, Between Two Worlds

TRENT HUNTER earned his B.A. from Moody Bible Institute and his M.Div. from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He currently serves as an Executive Assistant at Desert Springs Church in Albuquerque, New Mexico.