G

GRAPHICAL
GREEK

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE FOR BIBLICAL GREEK

TRENT HUNTER

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

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.

CASE ENDINGS

		2m	1f		2n	3mf	3n
Singular	n	ος	η	α	ον	ς/–	–
	g	ου	ης	ας	ου	ος	ος
	d	ῳ	ῃ	ᾳ	ῳ	ι	ι
	a	ον	ην	αν	ον	α/ν	–
Plural	n	οι		αι	α	ες	α
	g	ων	ων	ων	ων	ων	ων
	d	οις	αις	οις		σι(ν)	σι(ν)
	a	ους		ας	α	ας	α

DEFINITE ARTICLES

		2m	1f	2n	
Singular	n	ὁ	ἡ	τόν	"the"
	g	τοῦ	τῆς	τοῦ	
	d	τῷ	τῇ	τῷ	
	a	τόν	τήν	τόν	
Plural	n	οἱ	αἱ	τά	
	g	τῶν	τῶν	τῶν	
	d	τοῖς	ταῖς	τοῖς	
	a	τούς	τάς	τά	

Formation Notes

- Declensions:
  1. Stems ending in α, η = 1st declension.
  2. Stems ending in o = 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→ ξ
     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).

This is a modification of Bill Mounce's seven noun rules.

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.

NOUN SYSTEM

PREPOSITIONS
A connecting word that shows a relationship between two words

USAGE KEY

With the Genitive

ἐπί, ἐπ᾽, ἐφ᾽	"on, over, when"
κατά	"against"
ἀπό	"(away) from"
διά	"through"
ἐκ, ἐξ	"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"
σύν	"with"
παρά	"beside, in the presence"
ἐπί, ἐπ᾽, ἐφ᾽	"on the basis of, at"

With the Accusative

ὑπέρ	"above"
περί	"around"
πρός	"to, with, toward"
εἰς	"into, in, among"
ἐπί, ἐπ᾽, ἐφ᾽	"on, to, against"
ὑπό	"under, below"
παρά	"along side of"
μετά	"after"
*κατά	"according to"
*διά	"on account of"

*Not in visual

VISUAL DIAGRAM OF PREPOSITIONS
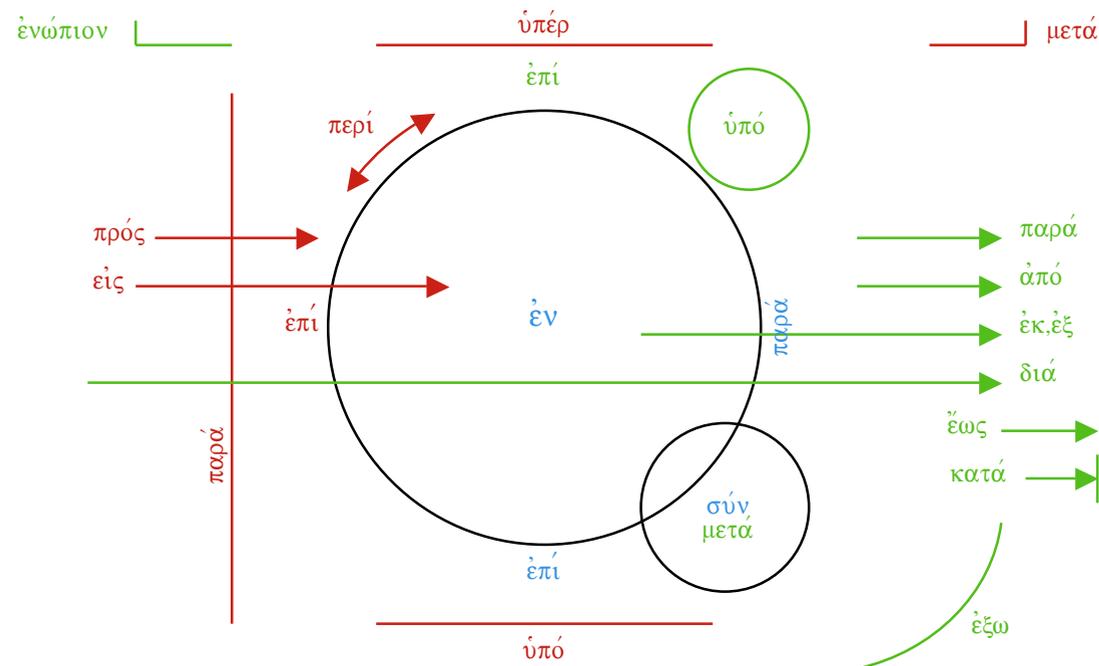
*This diagram is a memory aid, providing a visual representation of most prepositions and not just those prepositions whose meaning is spatial.

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 nswers 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*.

VERB SYSTEM

INDICATIVE MOOD

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

FORMATION FUNNEL

FORMATION RULE BAR

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

- Augment Rules: ἐ ← construct; η ← θ; An augment indicates past time.
- Reduplication Rules: construct + ε ← 1construct; ἐ ← 2construct; π, κ, τ + ε ← φ, χ, θ.
- Rules for both: Vowels lengthen; Diphthongs may lengthen and ι subscripts.
- Compound Rules: Aug/redup stem; ἐκ ← ἐξε; Vowels ending a prep usually drop.

- Indicated below in black.
- Stems ending in λ, μ, ν, ρ are "liquids."

- Stems ending with liquids receive new tense formative in future & aorist.

- o before μ and ν.
- ε everywhere else.
- n/a for sign ending in vowel.

- Ending forms are not verb functions.
- Functions are indicated in the Meaning Key.

SIX TENSE FORMS

Present A, M/P
Imperfect A, M/P

λυο/ε___

ελυο/ε___

"I was / am loosing"
"I was / am loosing (for) myself"
"I was / am being loosed"

Usually present time/past time

Future A, M

λυσο/ε___

(Liquid) μενεσο/ε___

"I will loose / (for) myself"

Always future time

Aorist A, M

(1) ελυσα___
(2) ελαβο/ε___

(Liquid) εμεινα___

"I loosed / (for) myself"

Usually past time

Perfect A

(1) λελυκα___
(2) γεγονα___

"I have loosed"

Perfect M/P

λελυ___

"I have loosed (for) myself"
"I have been loosed"

Usually past time

Aorist P / Future P

(1) ελυθη___
(2) εγραφη___

(1) λυθησο/ε___
(2) αποσταλησο/ε___

"I was loosed"
"I will be loosed"

MEANING KEY

	Primary			Secondary *past time/augmented*		
Active	P	F	Pf	Ip	A	**Act**
						Mid
				A		**Pass**
Verb Ending Mid/Pass					A	**Act**
	P	F	Pf	Ip		**Mid**
	P	F	Pf	Ip		**Pass**

Verb Meaning

PERSONAL ENDINGS

	Primary		**Secondary**		
	Sng	**Pl**	**Sng**	**Pl**	Person
Act	ω	ομεν	ν	μεν	1
	εις	ετε	ς	τε	2
	ει	ουσι(ν)	–(ν)	ν [σαν]	3
	*with connecting vowels		*ε(ν)	*[aor pass]	
Mid/Pass	μαι	μεθα	μην	μεθα	1
	σαι/η	σθε	σο/ου	σθε	2
	ται	νται	το	ντο	3

Voice

CHANGE RULES

Contracts (α,ε,o)

- Contract + Connecting Vowel → Contract:
  o + o, o + ε, ε + o → oῦ; ε + ε → εῖ; o/ω + ___ → ῶ ("o" sound wins);
  α + ε → ᾶ, ε + α → ῃ (first wins); oει → oῖ
- Contract (α, ε, o) + Sign/Ending → Lengthen:
  α + ___, ε + ___ → ή + ending; o → ώ + ending

Intervocalic σ: When a "σ" gets forced between two vowels, because of inflection, it drops out. Vowels then contract (σαι = η). This does not apply for tense signs starting with σ.

Square of Stops + σ:
π β φ + σ = ψ
κ γ χ + σ = ξ
τ δ θ + σ = σ

FINISHED FORMS
*1ST Person Singular

λύω

ἔλυον
*no circumflex in some contracts

λύσω
*some lengthening

μενῶ (Liq)
*circumflex after liquids
*some stem changes

ἔλυσα (1A)
*1SA has no ending

ἔλαβον (2A)

ἔμεινα (Liq)

λέλυκα (1Pf)
κα   καμεν
κας   κατε
κε(ν) κασι(ν)/καν

γέγονα (2Pf)

λύομαι

ἐλυόμην

λύσομαι

μενοῦμαι (Liq)

ἐλυσάμην (1A)
*2SM σ drops, α+o=ω

ἐγενόμην (2A)

λέλυμαι

ἐλύθην (1A)
*aspiration before θ

ἐγράφην (2A)
*θ drops off

λυθήσομαι (1F)
*aspiration before θ:
(π,β→φ; κ,γ→χ; τ,δ,θ→σ)

ἀποσταλήσομαι (2F)
*θ drops off

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

|	
ἵνα	"in order that, that…"
ἵνα μή	"lest…"
ὅπως μή	"lest…"
ωμεν, ωμεθα	"let us…"
ἐάν	"if…"
ὃς ἄν	"whoever…"
ὅπου ἄν	"wherever…"
ὅταν	"whenever…"
ἕως	"until…"
ἕως ἄν	"until…"
οὐ μή	"emphatic negation…"

- No time, so no augment (aorist).
- Only present and aorist.
- Vowels lengthen: o → ω, ε → η.
- Below, Connecting Vowels are attached to Personal Endings
- All primary endings due to do no augment.
- Aorist passive takes active endings.
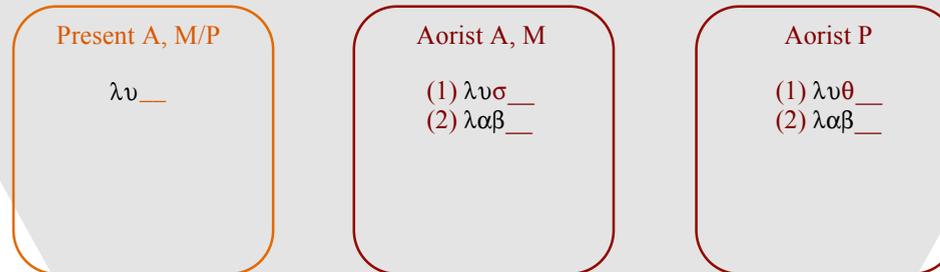
*Look out for ἵνα, ἐάν, and ἄν, ἕως
*If no key word is present, translate with "may" or "might."
*If/then=protasis/apodosis

TENSE FORMS

Present A, M/P

λυ__

Aorist A, M

(1) λυσ__
(2) λαβ__

Aorist P

(1) λυθ__
(2) λαβ__

MEANING KEY

P	A
	A

P	A
P	

PERSONAL ENDINGS

ω	ωμεν
ῃς	ητε
ῃ	ωσι(ν)

ωμαι	ωμεθα
ῃ	ησθε
ηται	ωνται

FINISHED FORMS

λύω	λύωμεν
λύῃς	λύητε
λύῃ	λύωσι(ν)

λύωμαι	λυώμεθα
λύῃ	λύῃ
λύηται	λύηται

λύσω	λύσωμεν
λύσῃς	λύσητε
λύσῃ	λύσωσι(ν)

λύσωμαι	λυσώμεθα
λύσῃ	λύσησθε
λύσηται	λύσωνται

λυθῶ	λυθῶμεν
λυθῇς	λυθῆτε
λυθῇ	λυτῶσι(ν)

VERB SYSTEM INFINITIVES
A verbal noun

FORMATION FUNNEL

FORMATION RULE BAR

Key Preceding Word/Article + Unaugment/Reduplication + Tense Stem + Tense Formative/Connecting Vowel + Morpheme

- No augments, since no past time (aorist).
- Perfects have reduplication.

- Only present, aorist, and perfect

- ειν, αι, ναι, σθαι.

Anarthrous

Complementary Infinitive
- Never articular

δεῖ	"It is necessary to…"
ἔξεστιν	"It is lawful to…"
μέλλω	"I am about to…"
δύναμαι	"I am able to…"
ἄρχομαι	"I am beginning to…"
θέλω	"I wish to…"
κελεύω	"I command to…"
ὀφείλω	"I ought to…"

Result
ὥστε	"so that/with the result that…"

Purpose (in order that/to)
εἰς τό, πρός τό (art inf & prep)
τοῦ εἶναι (gen art & inf)
εἶναι (anarthrous inf) "in order that/to…"

Substantive Infinitive
- Usually articular, "to __ is good"
  no key words

Articular

Articular Infinitive and Preposition
- Purpose/Result:

διά τό	"because"
εἰς τό, πρός τό	"in order that/to"

- Temporal:

πρό τοῦ	"before"
ἐν τῷ	"when/while"
μετά τό	"after"

MORPHEMES

	Pres	Aor	2Aor	Perf
Act	ειν	σαι	ειν	ναι
Mid		σθαι	σθαι	
Pass	σθαι	ναι	ναι	σθαι

FINISHED FORMS

	Pres	Aor	2Aor	Perf
Act	λύειν	λῦσαι	λαβεῖν	λελυκέναι
Mid		λύσασθαι	λαβέσθαι	
Pass	λύεσθαι	λυθῆναι	λαβῆναι	λελύσθαι

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 αν instead of ᾷν. Omicron contracts form οῦν instead of οῖν.

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 μή for negation (as with all non-indicative verbs).
- 5 ways to translate: see key word/article.

G

GRAPHICAL
GREEK

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE
FOR BIBLICAL GREEK

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.