



GREEK VERB: FORMATION OF INFINITIVES

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Infinitive

A type of verbal noun [*to see, to be seen, to have seen, to seem*]

As a verb:

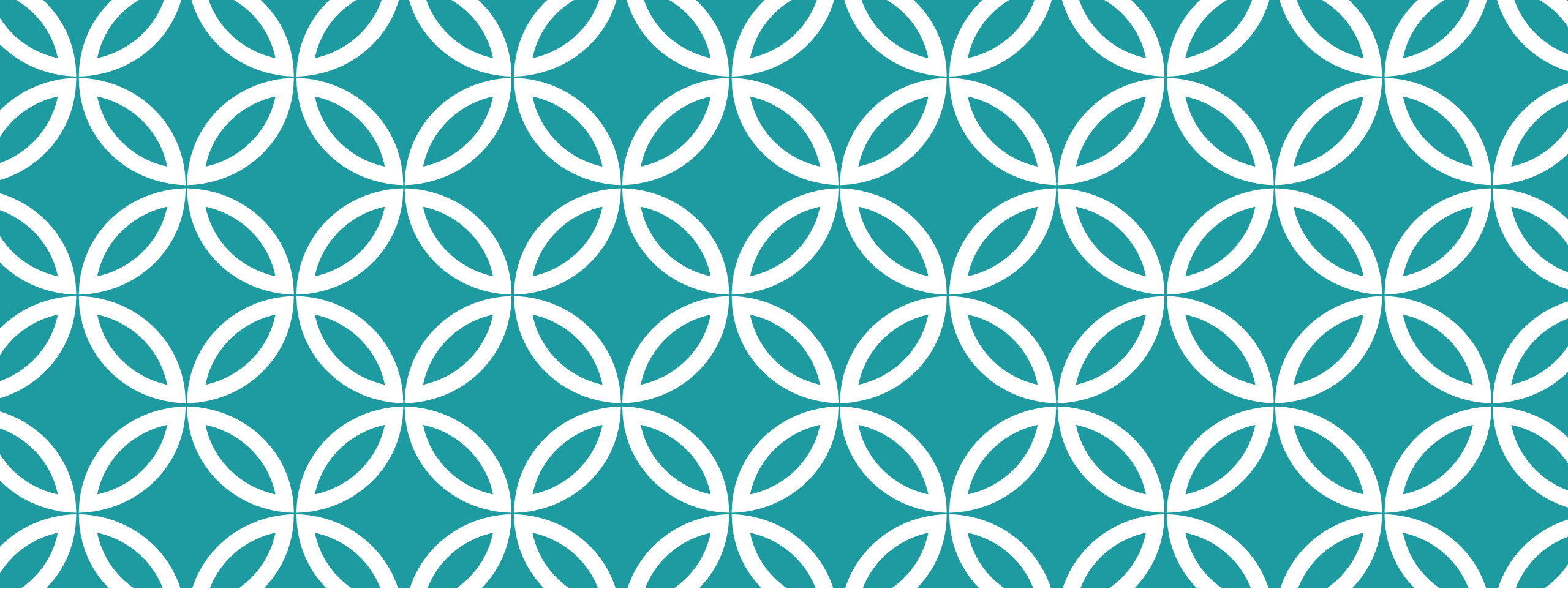
- Derives from a verb form
- Possesses tense and voice

Otherwise not conjugated

Infinitive Forms in Greek

[most common forms]

	Active	Middle [deponent]	Passive
Present	XX	XX	
Future	XX	XX	XX
Aorist	XX	XX	XX
Perfect	XX	XX	XX



Infinitives end in
–ειν, –ναι/–σαι, and –σθαι

The Short Version

The long version: Thematic and Athematic Verb Forms

Thematic forms include a thematic vowel between the stem and the ending

- Present stem forms of regular $-\omega$ verbs (including future)
- Strong aorists (the ones that take imperfect endings!)

Athematic forms do **not** include a vowel between the stem and the ending

- present of $-\mu\iota$ verbs; weak aorists (that take the sigma)

The same verb will have both types of forms

Formation of Active Infinitives (thematic)

-ειν = usual infinitive endings of present and future active verbs whose stems end in vowels (thematic)

- Present: λύω > λύειν; λέγω > λέγειν; κελεύω > κελεύειν
- Future: λύσειν; λέξειν; κελεύσειν
- Strong Aorist: λαμβάνω, ἔλαβον [3PP] > λαβεῖν
 - NO AUGMENTS!

Contractions [**circumflex on the contraction**]

- α-contract verbs = -ᾶν; τιμάω > τιμᾶν
- ε-contract verbs = -εῖν; ποιέω > ποιεῖν
- ο-contract verbs = οῦν; δηλόω > δηλοῦν

Formation of Active Infinitives (athematic)

-vαι = usual infinitive endings of active verbs whose stems do not end in vowels (athematic)

- PRES -MI: δίδωμι > διδόναι; εἶμι > εἶναι; εἶμι (come) > ἶέναι

The sigmatic aorist becomes -σαι;

- ποιέω, ἐποίησα [3PP] > ποιῆσαι

Other aorists

- ἀποκτείνω, ἀπέκτεινα [3PP] > ἀποκτεῖναι
- παραδίδωμι, παρέδωκα [3PP] > παραδοῦναι

[[Aorist Passive is always -θηναι]]

- ποιηθῆναι, παραδοθῆναι

Formation of Middle, Passive, MP, and Deponent Infinitives

-σθαι

ποιέω > ποιείσθαι [present MP]

ἡγέομαι > ἡγεῖσθαι [present dep]

μάχομαι > μάχεσθαι [present dep]

εἶμι > ἔσεσθαι [future dep]

γίγνομαι > γενέσθαι [aor dep]

Infinitive Forms

λύω, λύσω, ἔλυσα, λέλυκα, λέλυμαι, ἐλύθην

	Active	Middle [deponent]	Passive
Present	λύειν	λύεσθαι	---
Future	λύσειν	λύσεσθαι	λυθήσεσθαι
Aorist	λύσαι	λύσασθαι	λυθῆναι
Perfect	λελυκέναι	λελύσθαι	λελύσεσθαι

Only six discrete forms occur more than 20x in *Hellenika*

	Form	Root	Meaning	Freq
εἶναι	pres act [MI]	εἶμί	be necessary	267 [286]
ποιεῖν	pres act	ποιέω	make	39 [89]
γενέσθαι	aor dep	γίγνομαι	become	38
ἔχειν	pres act	ἔχω	have, hold	34
βοηθεῖν	pres act	βοηθέω	help	29
λέγειν	pres act	λέγω	say	22

Only 29 discrete forms occur more than 10x in all of the *Hellenika*

Nine derive from just three verbs

	Form	Root	Meaning	Freq
εἶναι	pres act [MI]	εἶμί	be	267
ἔσσεσθαι	fut mid			19
ποιεῖν	pres act	ποιέω	make	39
ποιεῖσθαι	pres mp			17
ποιήσειν	fut act			10
ποιῆσαι	aor act			10
ποιήσασθαι	aor mid			13
χρῆναι	pres act [IRR]	χρή	be necessary	10
χρῆσθαι	pres mp			17

Nine forms are regular present active infinitives

	Form	Root	Meaning	Freq
ἀδικεῖν	pres act	ἀδικέω	do wrong	10
ἀκολουθεῖν	pres act	ἀκολουθέω	follow	13
βοηθεῖν	pres act	βοηθέω	help	29
ἔχειν	pres act	ἔχω	have, hold	34
λέγειν	pres act	λέγω	say	22
πέμπειν	pres act	πέμπω	send	10
πλεῖν	pres act	πλέω	sail	10
πολεμεῖν	pres act	πολεμέω	make war	16
φυλάττειν	pres act	φυλάττω	guard	10

	Form	Root	Meaning	Freq	NOTE
ἡγεῖσθαι	pres dep	ἡγέομαι	lead	16	
μάχεσθαι	pres dep	μάχομαι	fight	17	
ἀποκτεῖναι	aor act	ἀποκτείνω	kill	13	weak aorist
λαβεῖν	aor act	λαμβάνω	take	13	strong aorist
εἰπεῖν	aor act	εἶπον [IRR]	say	16	no present
γενέσθαι	aor dep	γίγνομαι	become	38	
ἀπιέναι	pres act [MI]	ἄπειμι or ἀφίημι	go or send	19	
διδόναι	pres act [MI]	δίδωμι	give	11	
ιέναι	pres act [MI]	εἶμι	come	17	
εἰδέναι	perf act	οἶδα [IRR]	know	11	Perf used as pres
παραδοῦναι	aor act [MI]	παραδίδωμι	hand over	10	

