

USES OF THE INFINITIVE IN GREEK

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Infinitives

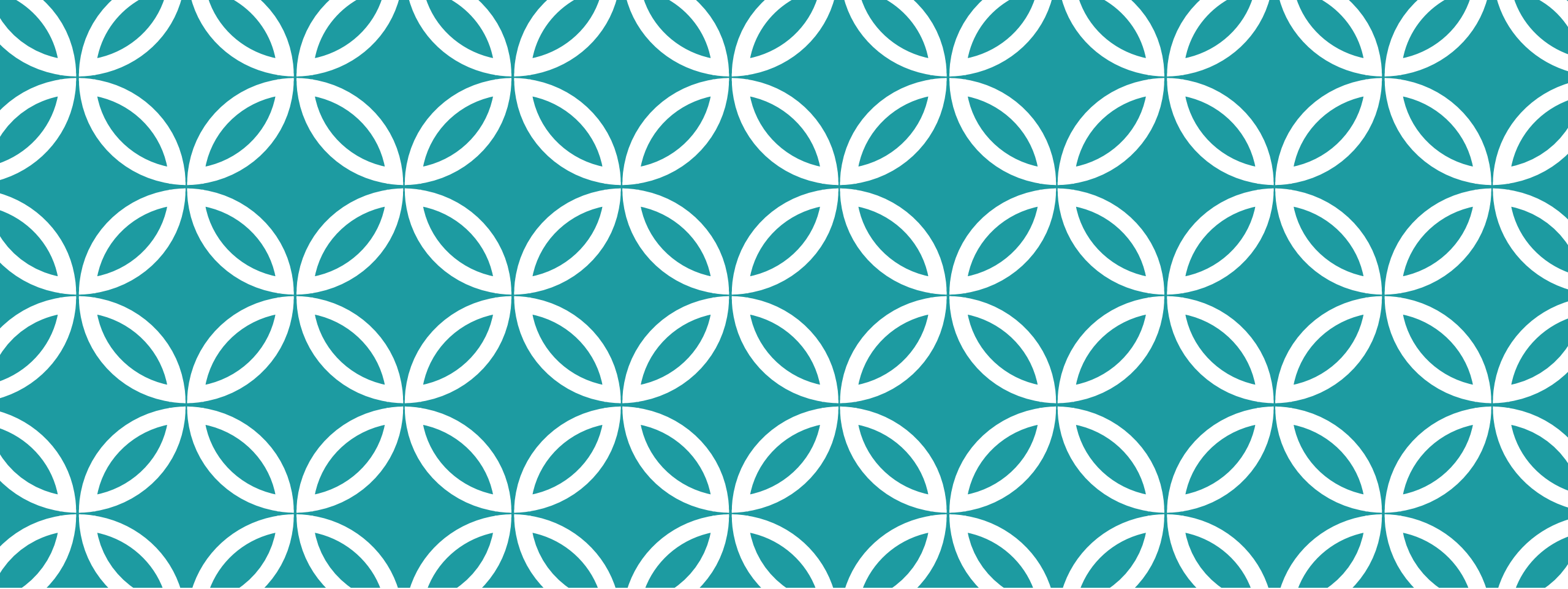
A type of verbal noun [*to see, to be seen, to have seen, to seem*]

As a verb:

- Derive from a verb form
- Tense and voice
- Necessary **arguments** and optional **adjuncts/satellites**
- The subject of an infinitive is expressed in the ACCUSATIVE

As a noun

- They fill any syntactic role that a noun could fill
- They may be modified by a neuter singular article
[ARTICULAR INFINITIVE]
- Negated by μή (except in indirect speech)
- Made potential by ᾶν



COMPLEMENTARY INFINITIVES



Complementary Infinitive [dynamic]

Necessary to complete the meaning of the verb

- Negated by μή

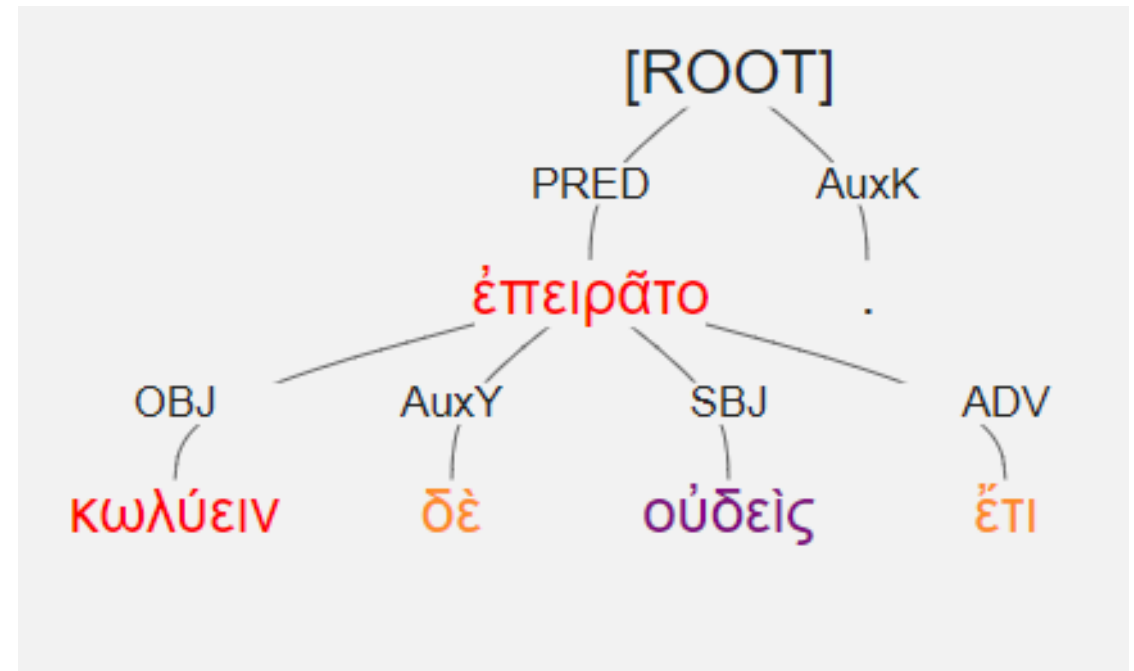
With modals, verbs of knowing, intending, wishing, ordering, being able, forcing, learning, etc. [κελεύω is very common]

Infinitive clause is the OBJ of the introductory verb

- It does not usually have its own subject

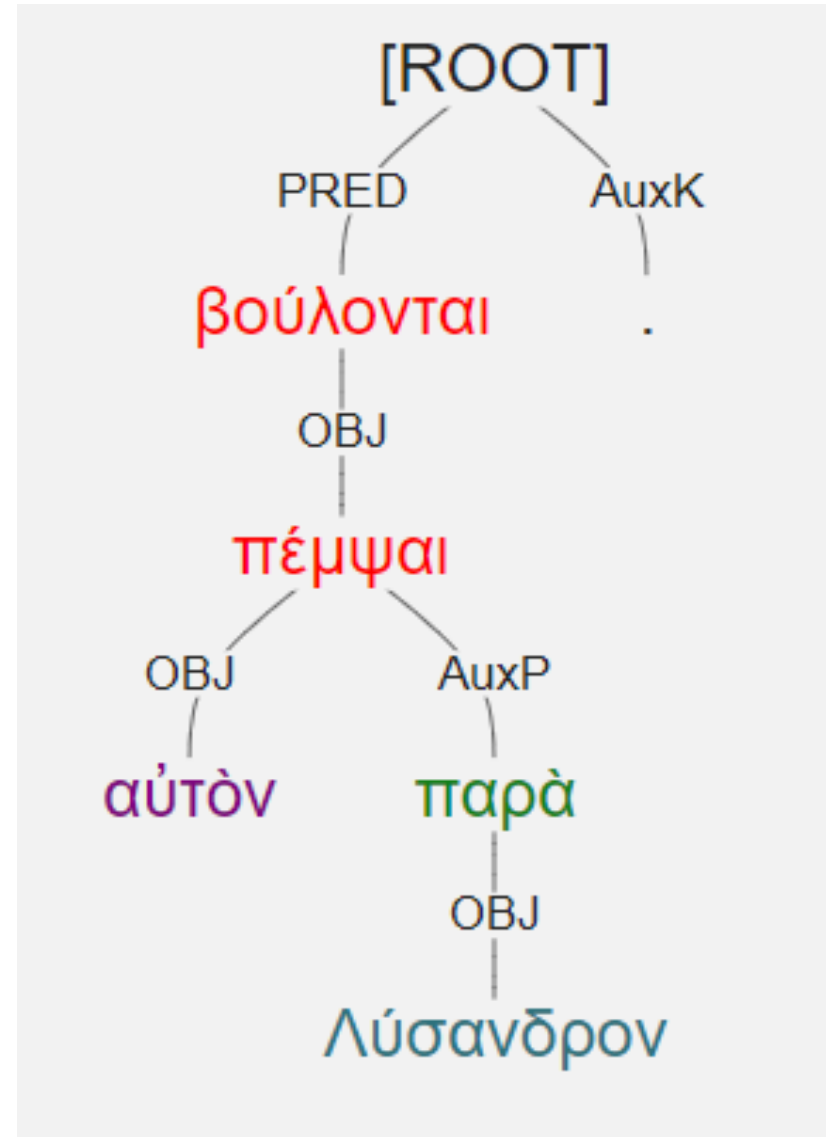
κωλύειν δὲ οὐδεὶς ἔτι ἐπειρᾶτο. [3.2.26]

And still no one tried to prevent it.



βούλονται αὐτὸν πέμψαι παρὰ Λύσανδρον. [2.2.16]

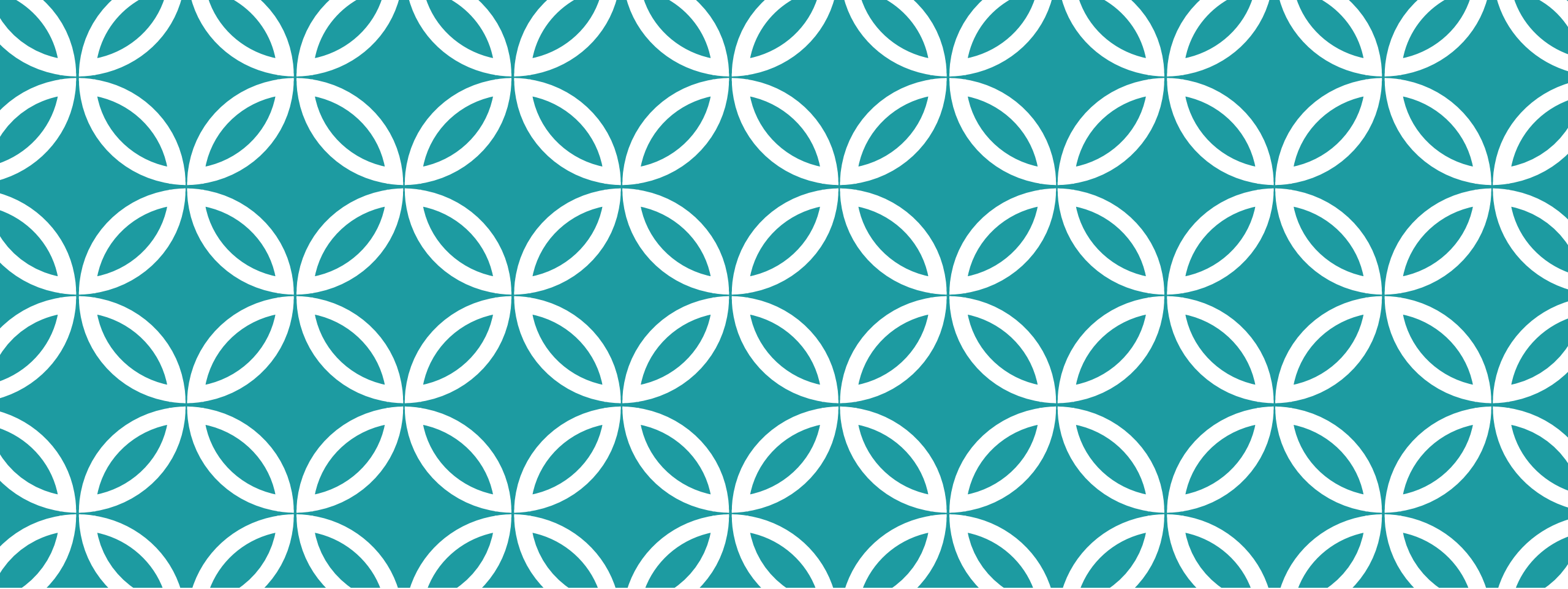
*They want to send him to
Lysander.*



Καλλίξενον ἔπεισαν ἐν τῇ βουλῇ κατηγορεῖν τῶν στρατηγῶν. [1.7.8]

They persuaded Kallixenos to lay charges against the generals in the Council.





IMPERSONAL CONSTRUCTIONS

The infinitive clause
acts as the SBJ

Impersonal Constructions

*It is necessary **to do** something; it is possible; it is clear; it is a care to me; it is shameful; it is difficult, etc.*

Common introductory verbs:

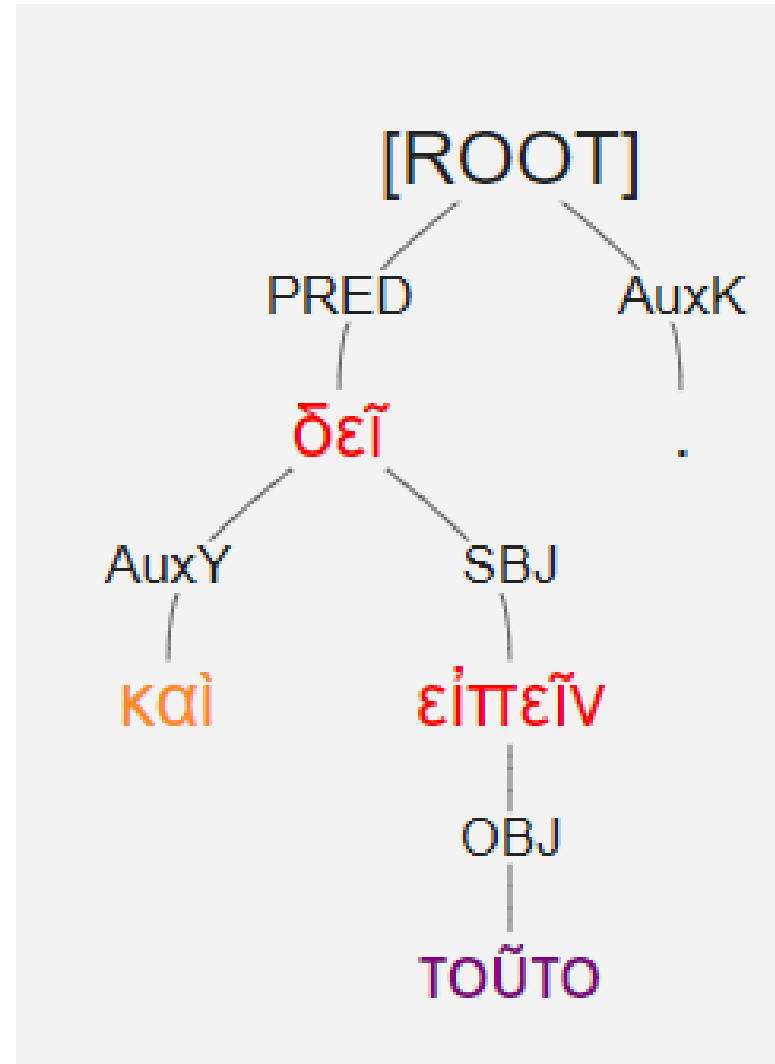
- δεῖ [*It is necessary*]
- χρεΐ [*It is necessary*]
- ἔξεστι [*It is possible*]
- ἔστιν + neuter nom sg [δῆλον; χαλεπόν; etc.]

Infinitive = SBJ

Often takes a dative OBJ [similar to a dative of reference]

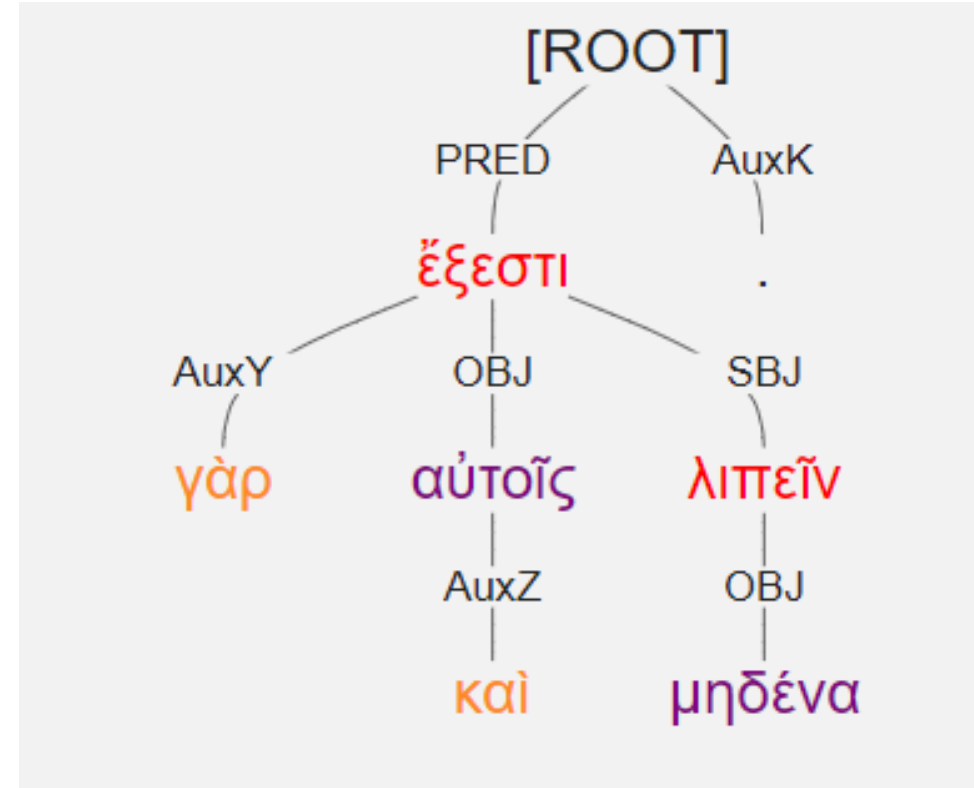
καὶ τοῦτο δεῖ εἰπεῖν. [2.4.27]

And it is necessary to say this.



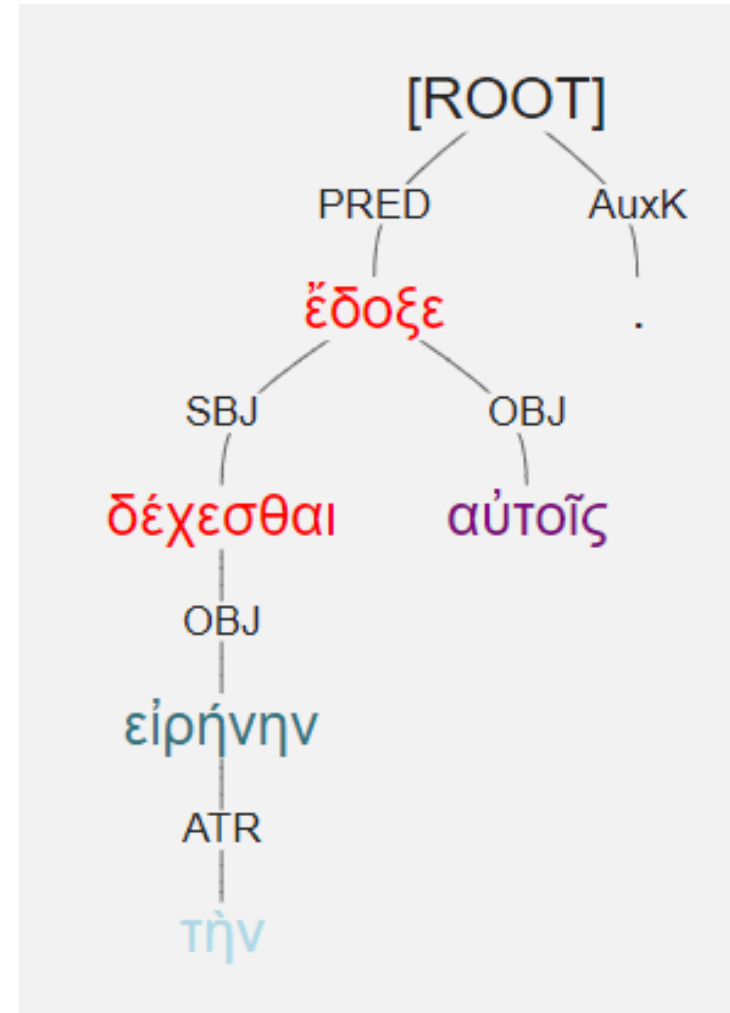
ἔξεστι γὰρ αὐτοῖς καὶ μηδένα λιπεῖν. [2.3.41]

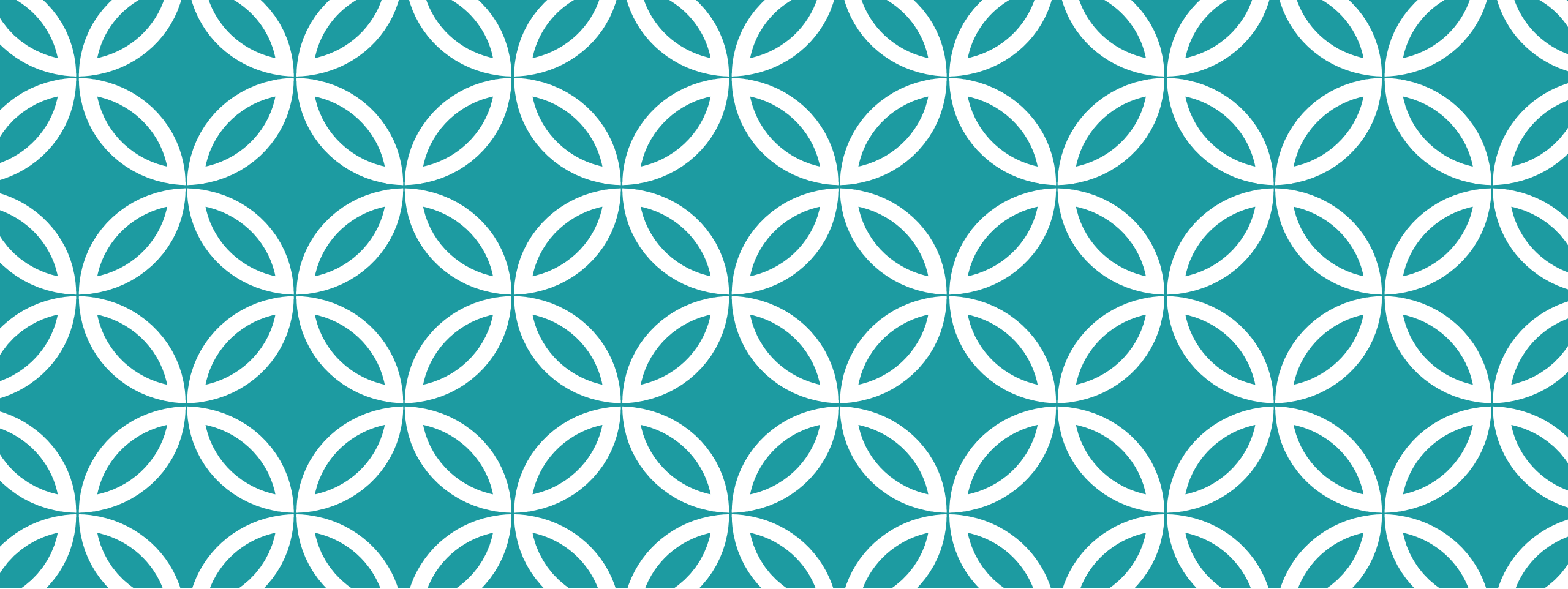
*For it was possible even for them
to leave no one.*



ἔδοξε δέχεσθαι αὐτοῖς τὴν εἰρήνην. [2.2.22]

*It seemed best to them to accept
the peace.*





INDIRECT STATEMENTS



Indirect Statements [declarative]

With verbs of saying, thinking, believing, opining

Infinitive acts as OBJ

- It often has a SBJ in the accusative
- If the subject is not expressed, it is usually the speaker.

Negated by οὐ

Commonly introduced by:

- φημί [say]
- λέγω [say]
- οἶδα [know] [irregular perf as pres: *I have seen, therefore I know*]
- εἶπον [said] [irregular; no present]
- φάσκω [*think, say*]

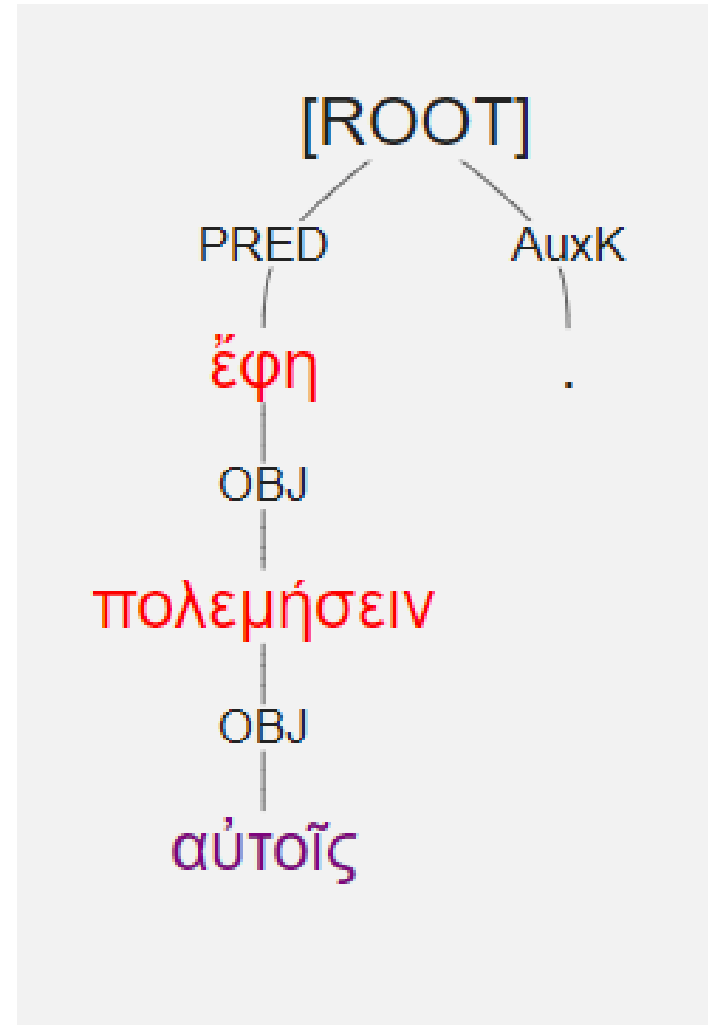
Most common forms that introduce indirect speech
in the *Hellenika*

	Form	Freq
ἔφη	3s aor ind act	121
ἔφασαν	3p impf ind act	53
ἔλεγον	3p impf ind act	29
ἔλεγεν	3s impf ind act	15
ἔλεξεν	3s aor ind act	12
λέγεται	3s pres ind MP	11
εἶπε(ν)	3s aor ind act	81

πολεμήσειν ἔφη αὐτοῖς. [1.3.3]

He said he would make war on them.

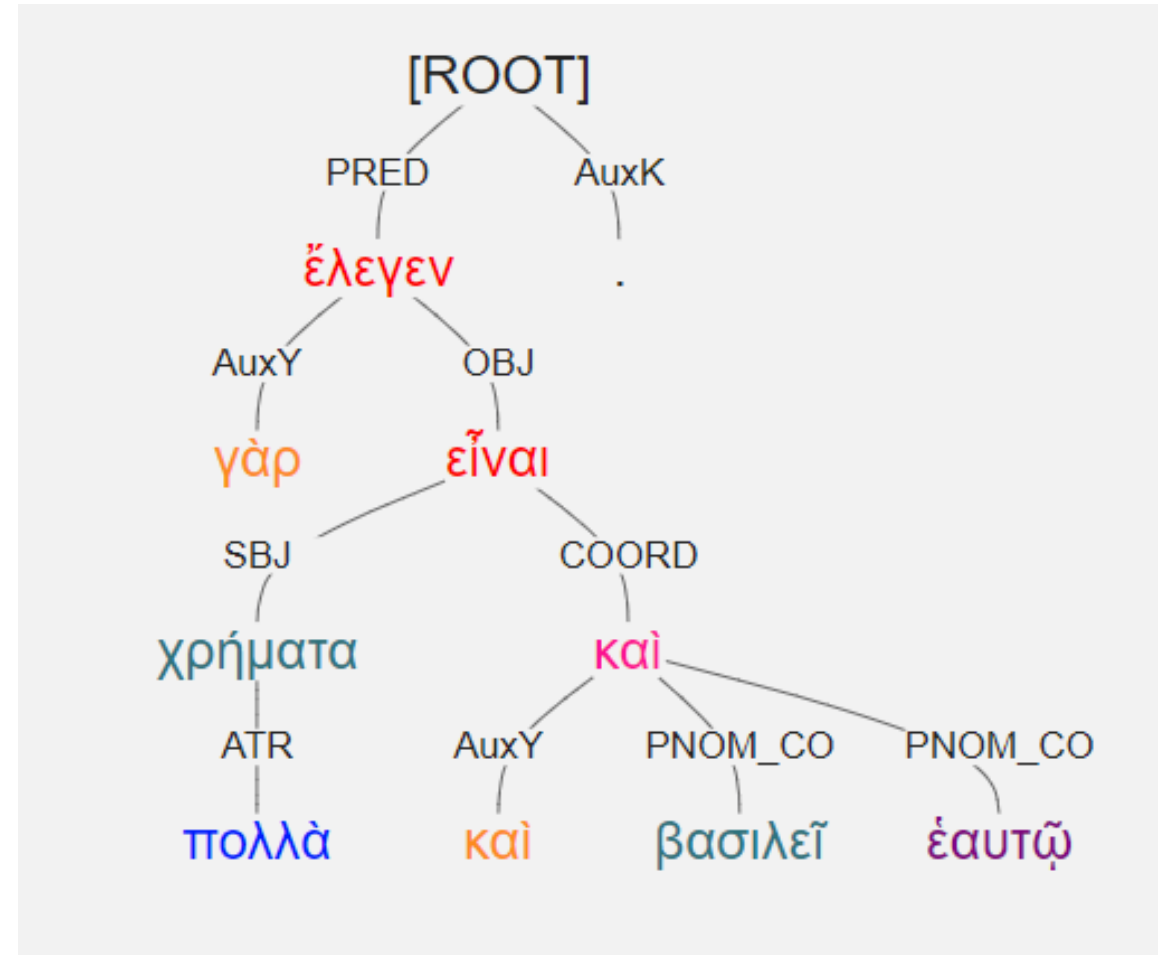
No subject, so it is probably the speaker



ἔλεγεν γὰρ εἶναι χρήματα πολλὰ καὶ βασιλεῖ καὶ
ἑαυτῷ. [2.1.14]

*For he was saying that both he
and the king had much money.*

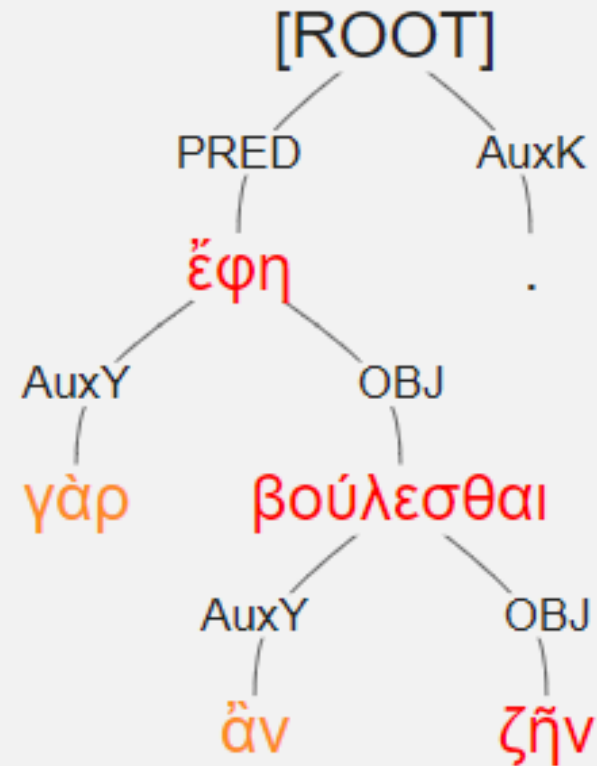
- Datives of Possession acting as
PNOMS



γὰρ ἂν ἔφη ζῆν βούλεσθαι. [3.1.15]

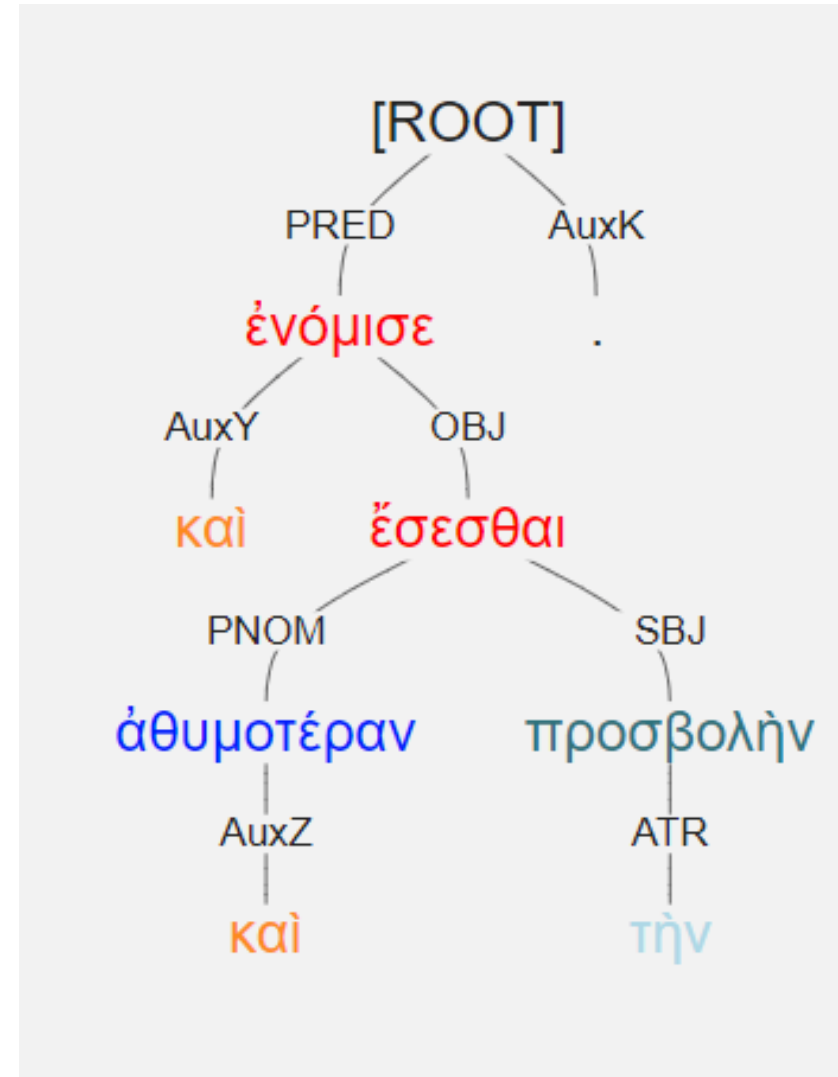
For he said that he wished to live.

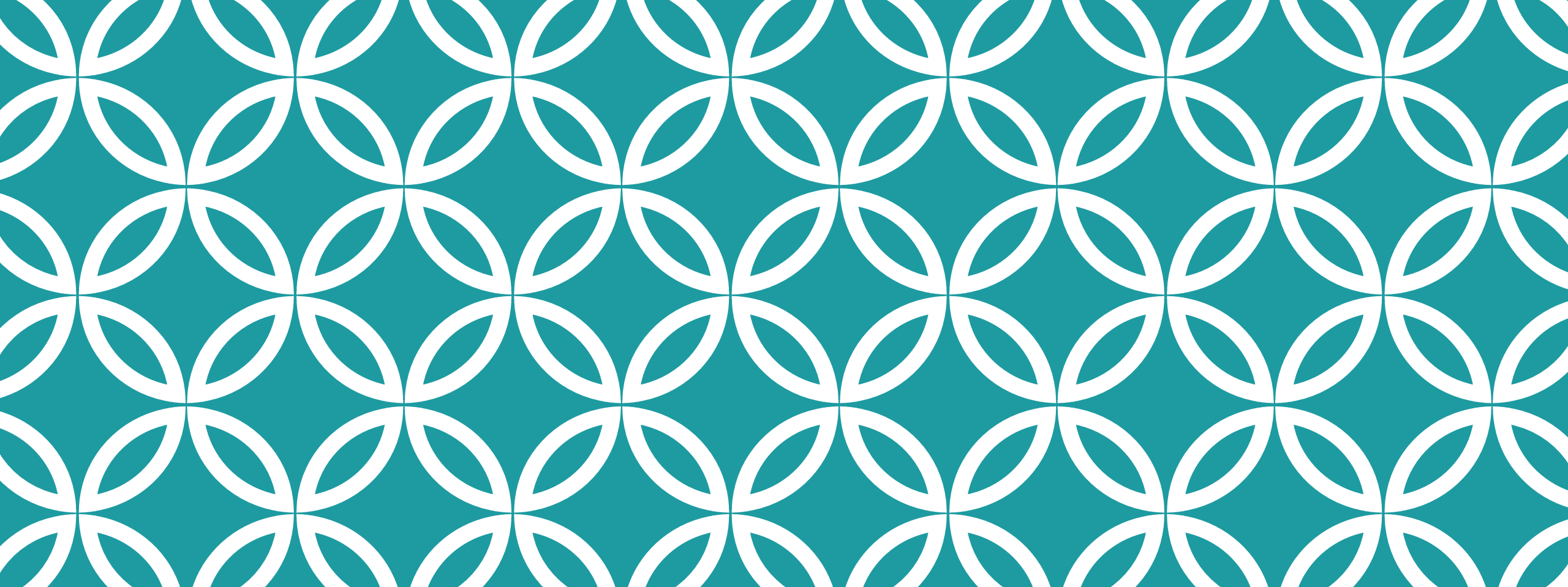
Indirect speech followed by a complementary infinitive



καὶ ἐνόμισε ἀθυμοτέραν καὶ τὴν προσβολὴν
ἔσεσθαι. [3.1.18]

*And he thought that the attack
would be even more faint-
hearted.*





RESULT CLAUSES

Introduced by ὥστε

Result clauses

ὥστε = *so that*

Verb of clause = ADV

Usually after some qualitative adverb in the main clause, upon which it hangs.

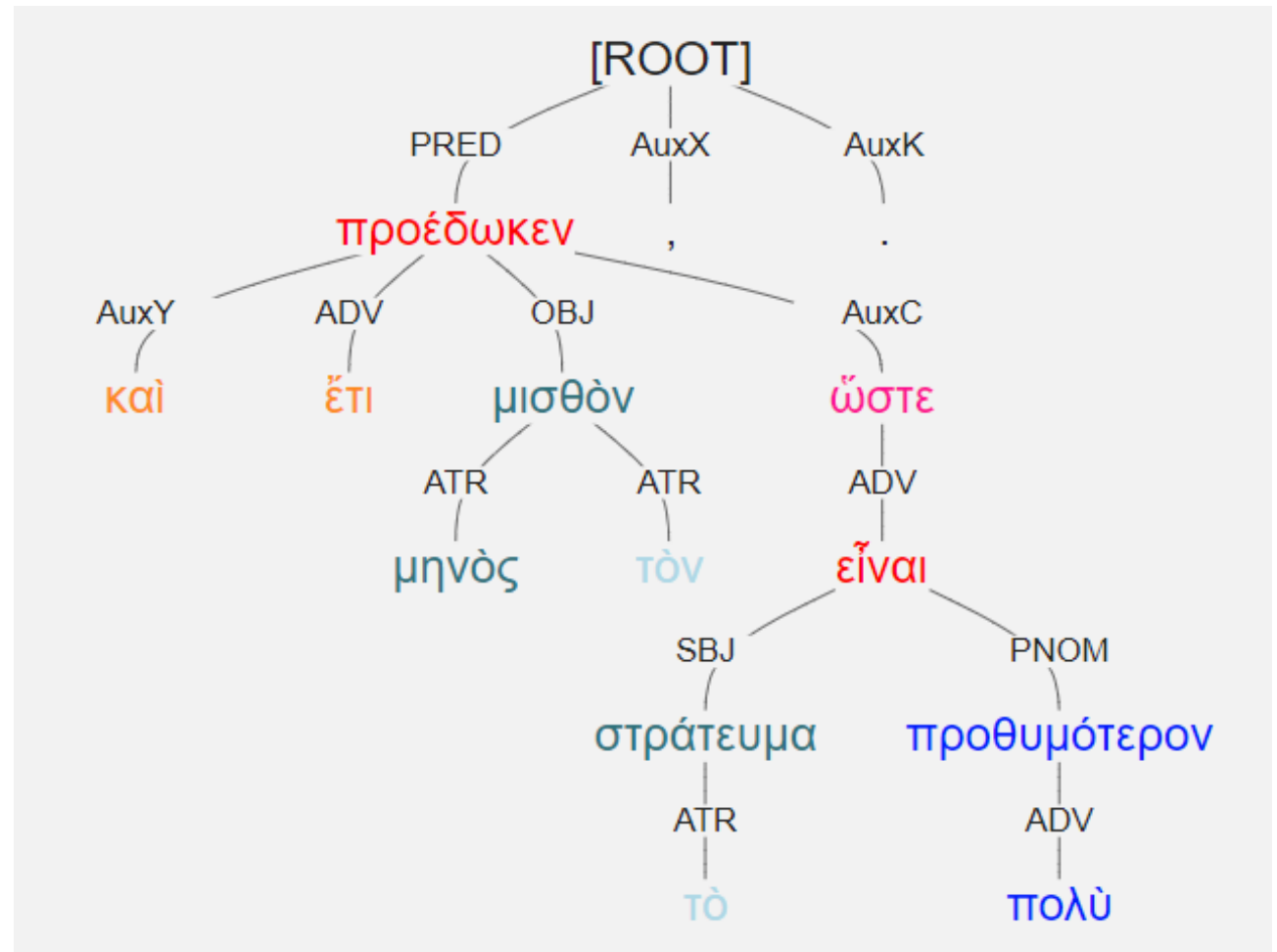
- οὕτω

Normally takes an infinitive

- A few result clauses take the indicative to emphasize a simple, factual result.

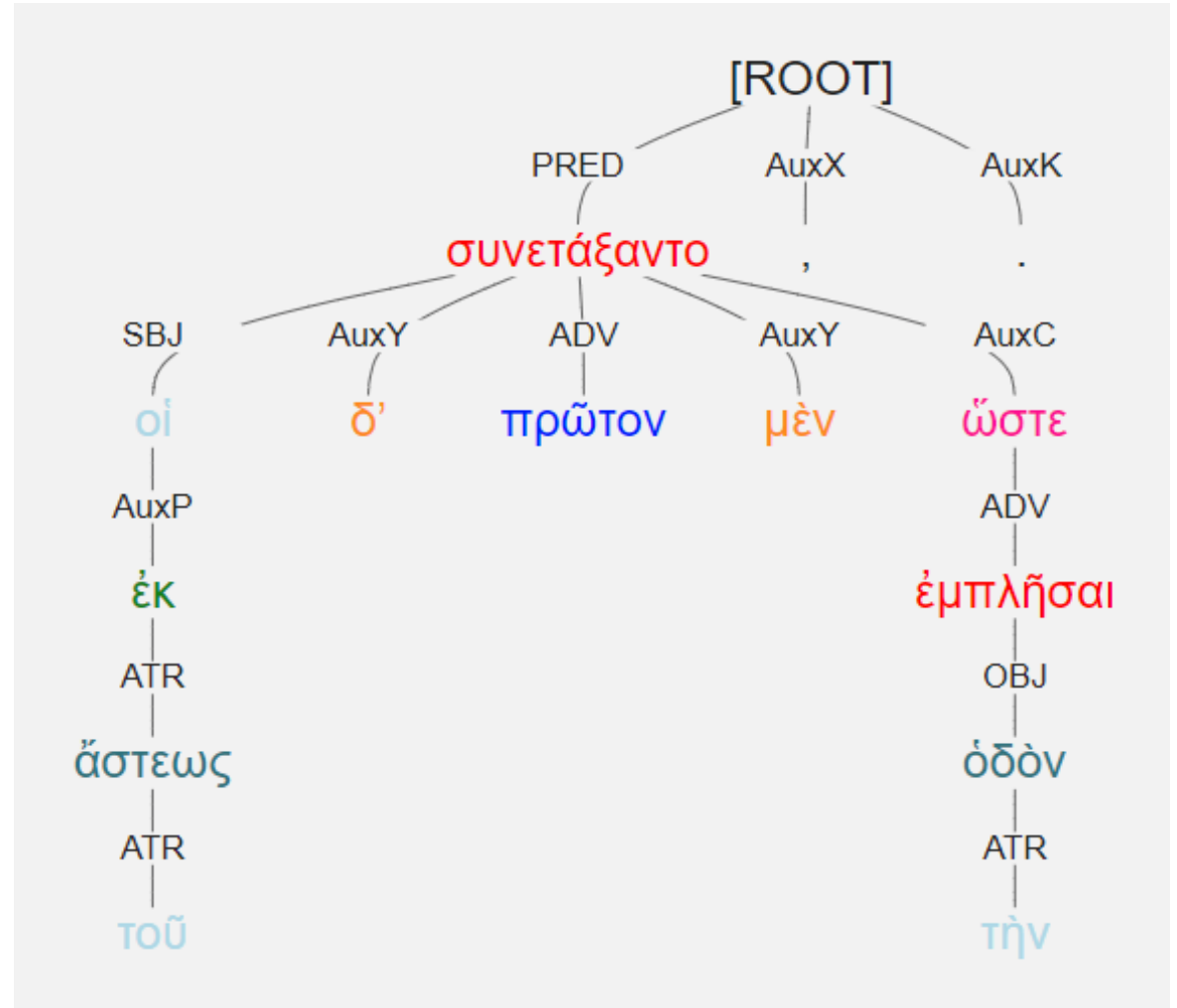
καὶ ἔτι μηνὸς τὸν μισθὸν προέδωκεν, ὥστε τὸ
στράτευμα πολὺ προθυμότερον εἶναι. [1.5.7]

*And he gave them pay for
a month still so that the
army was much more
eager.*



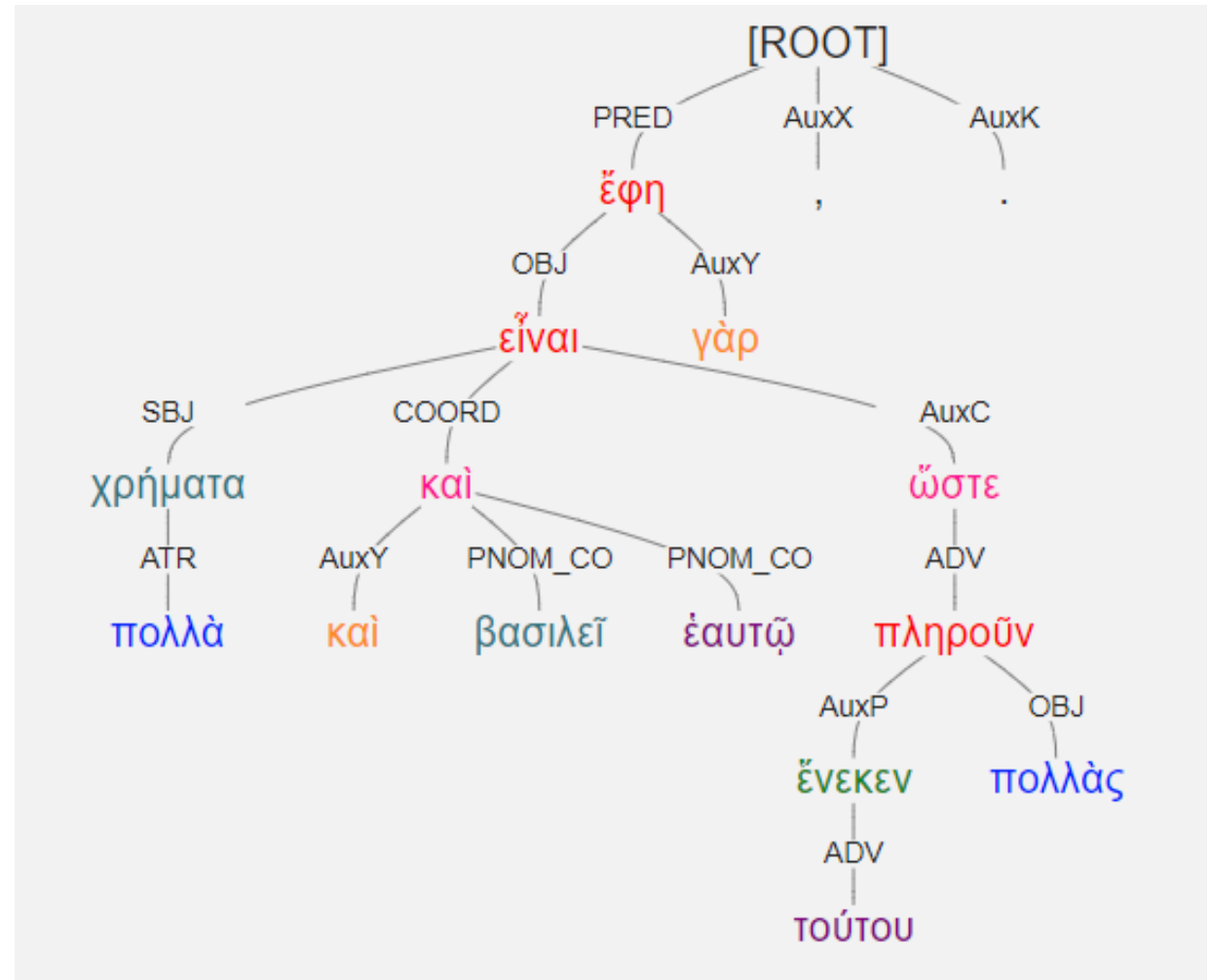
οἱ δ' ἐκ τοῦ ἄστεως πρῶτον μὲν συνετάξαντο,
ὥστε ἐμπλήσαι τὴν ὁδόν. [2.4.11]

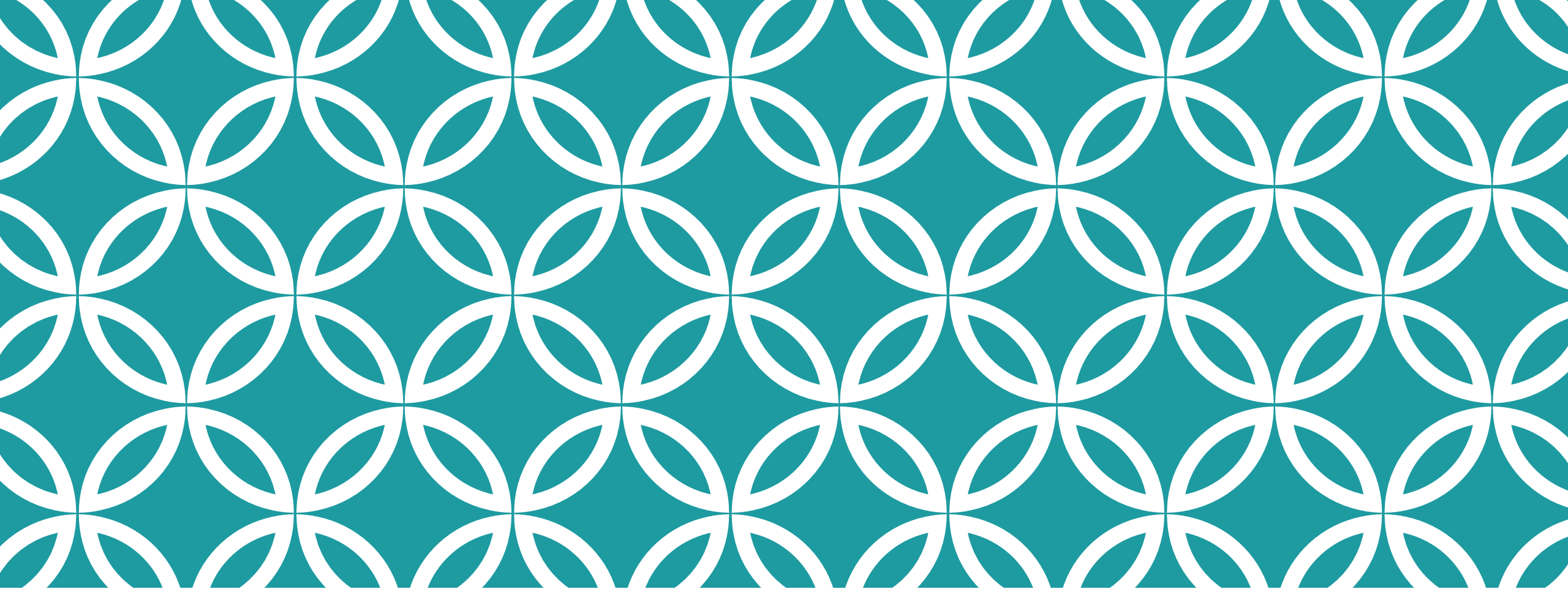
*The ones from the town first
deployed so that they filled
the road.*



εἶναι γὰρ χρήματα πολλὰ καὶ βασιλεῖ καὶ ἑαυτῷ
ἔφη, ὥστε τούτου ἔνεκεν πολλὰς πληροῦν.
[2.1.14]

*For he said that he and the
king had a great deal of
money so that because of this
they could fill many [ships].*





SUBSTANTIVE AND ARTICULAR INFINITIVES



Substantive/articular infinitives

Treat the entire infinitive clause as a noun/substantive

- [Article is not necessary to make an infinitive substantive]

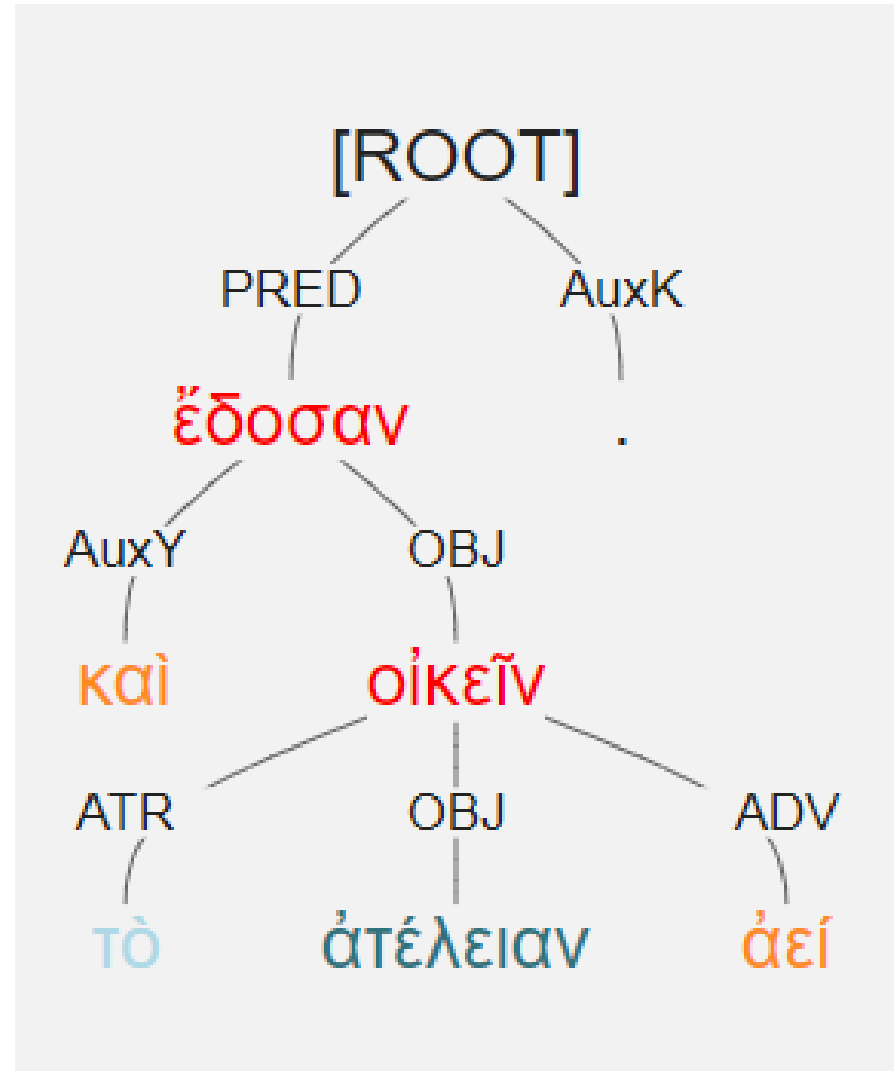
Use neuter singular article: τό, τοῦ, τῷ, τό

- Subject of the infinitive is in the accusative
- Negation is μή

καὶ τὸ ἀτέλειαν αἰεὶ οἰκεῖν ἔδοσαν. [1.2.10]

*And they gave them the privilege
of living without taxes in
perpetuity.*

*Literally: And they gave [them] the
always living in exemption from
taxes.*

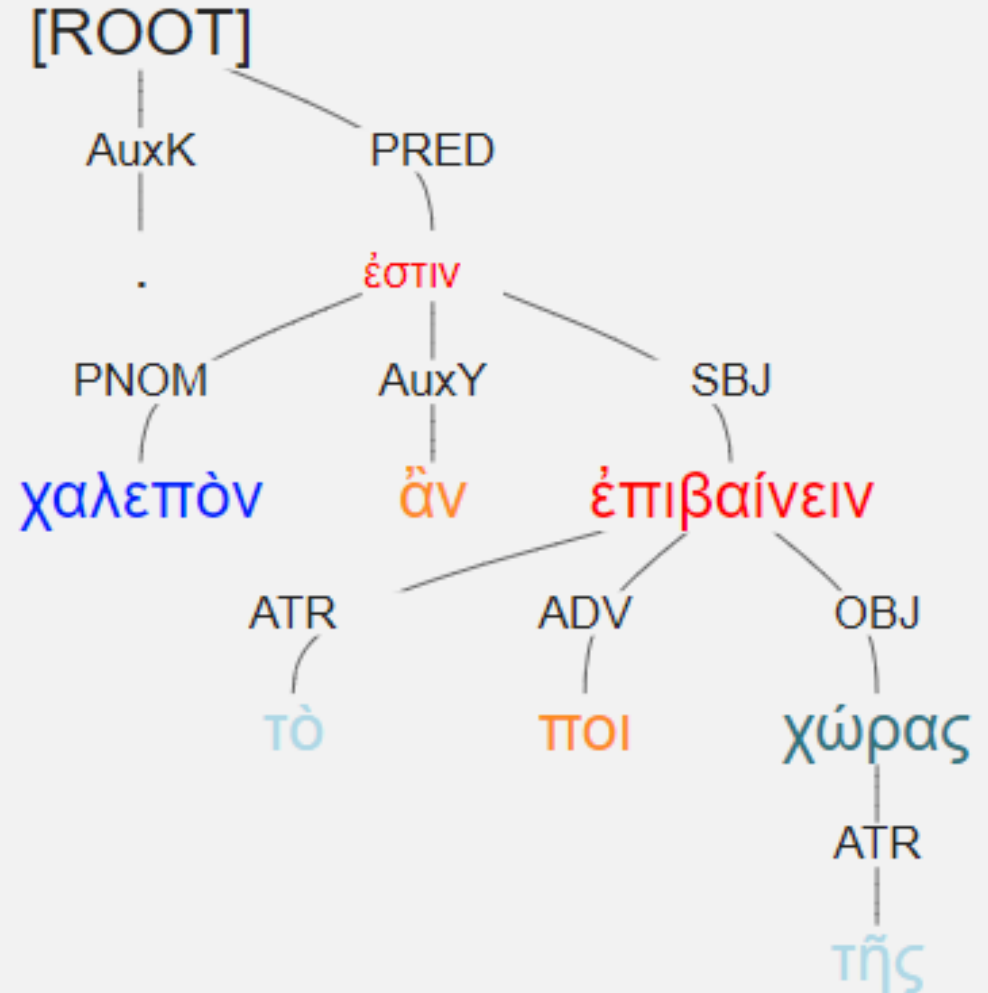


χαλεπὸν ἂν τὸ ἐπιβαίνειν ποι τῆς χώρας. [2.3.44]

*Even setting foot on the land
would be a difficult thing.*

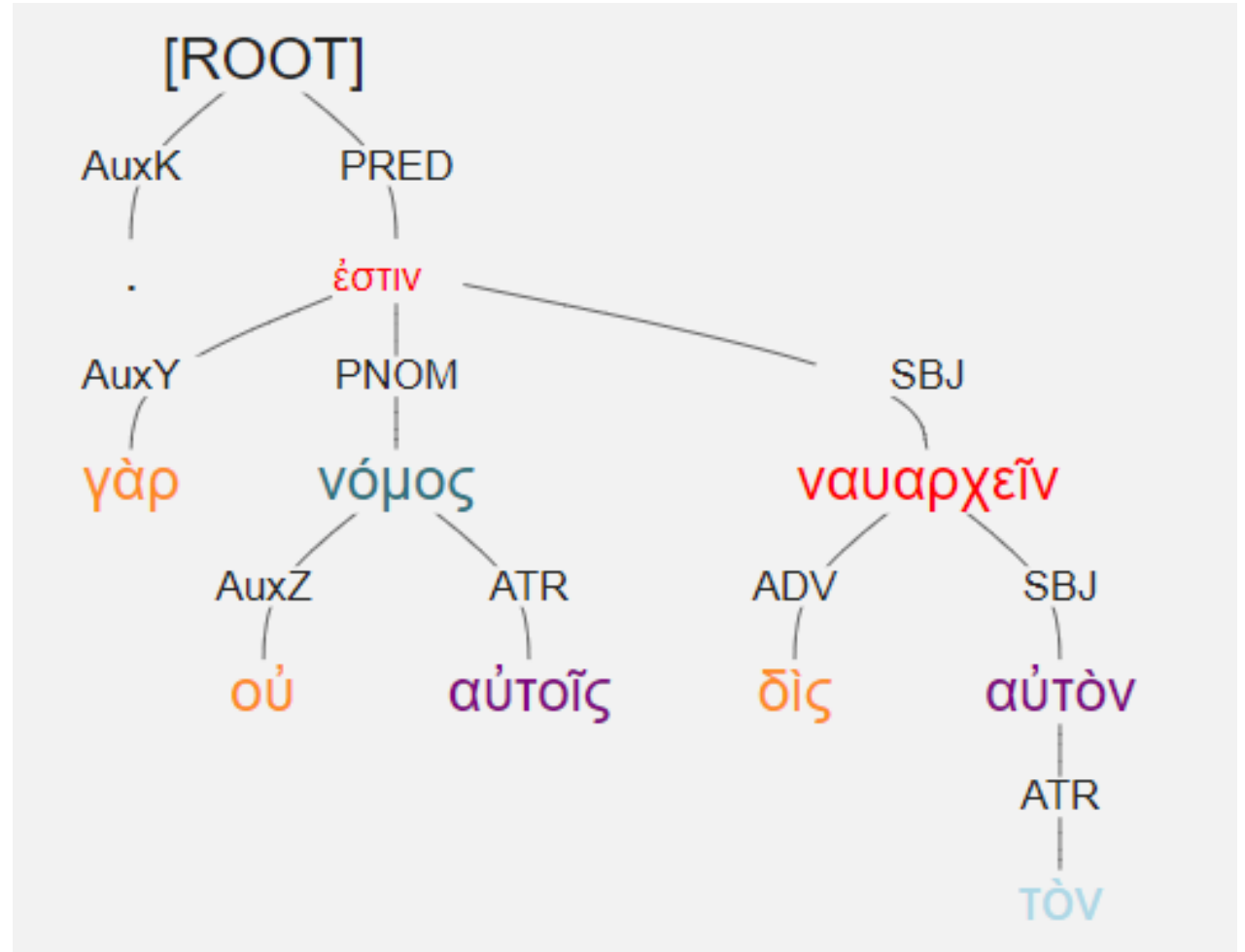
Supply the verb “to be” with a
neuter nominative that is commonly
used impersonally.

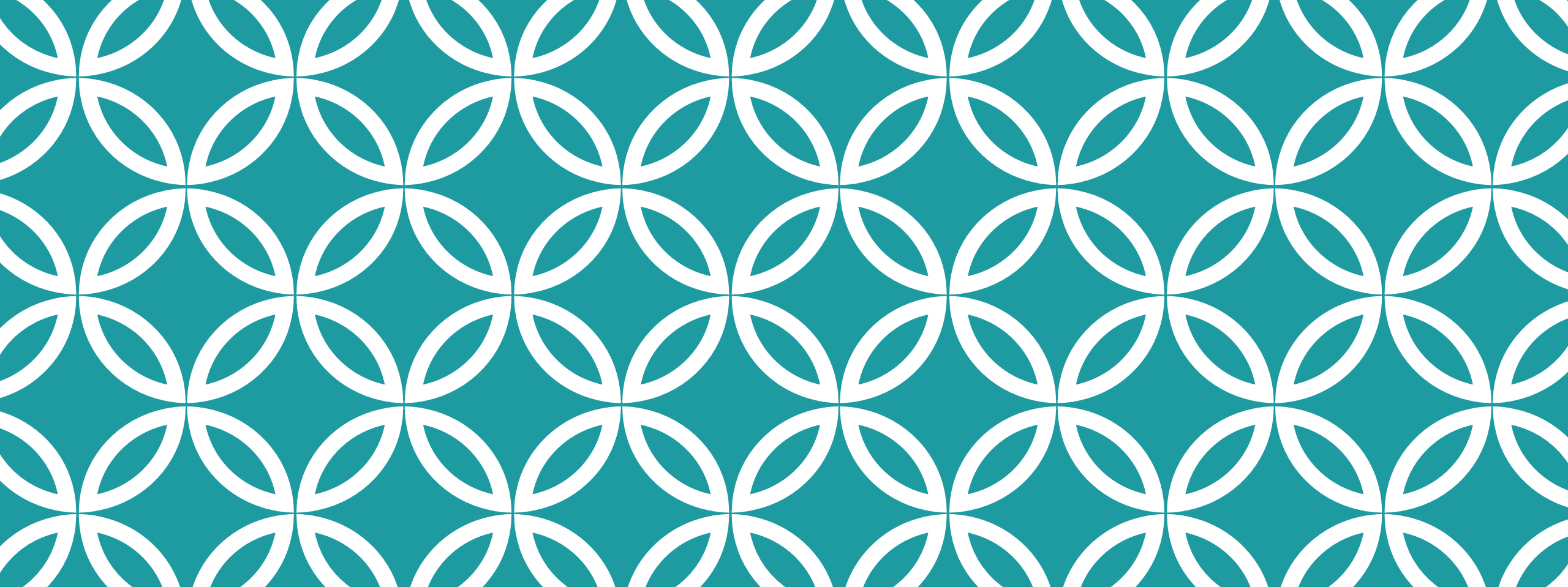
The ἂν makes it potential (“would”).



οὐ γὰρ νόμος αὐτοῖς δις τὸν αὐτὸν ναυαρχεῖν.
[2.1.7]

*For they had a law that the
same man could not be
naurarch twice.*





EPEXEGETICAL INFINITIVES

Explain things

Epexegetical Infinitives [explanatory]

May modify verbs to express purpose

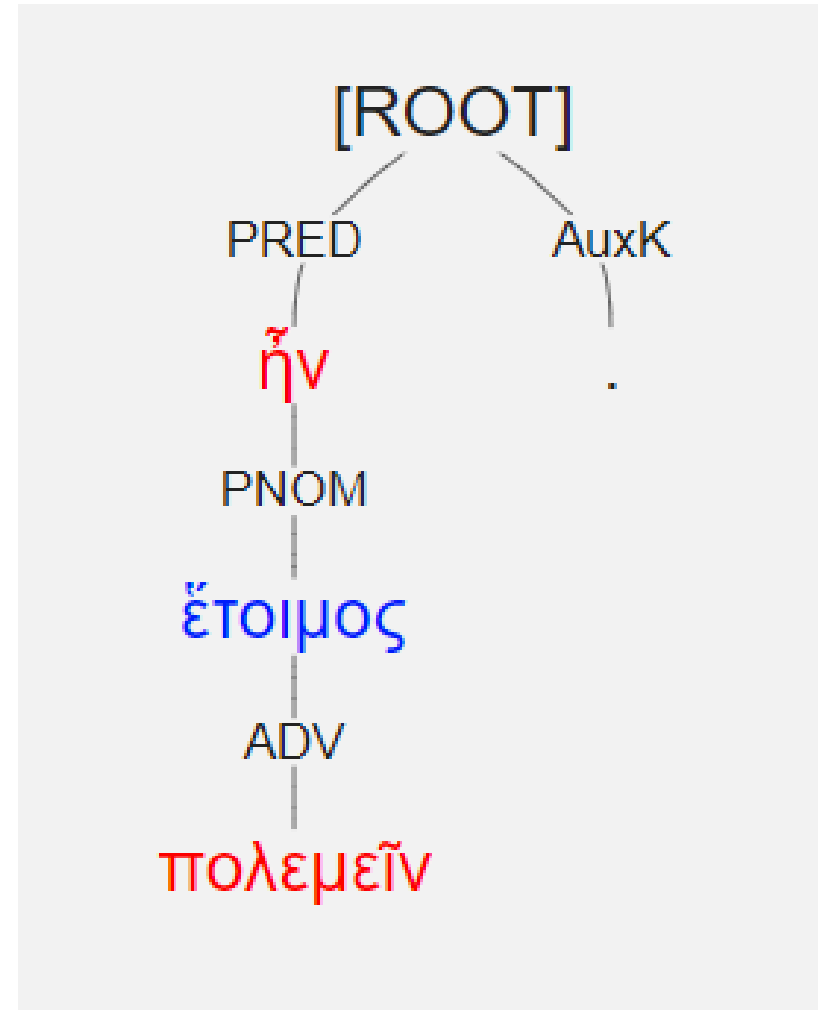
May modify adjectives or nouns

- Like the accusative of respect
- *Wondrous to behold; delightful to hear*

Usually labelled ADV on an adjective or as ATR on a noun

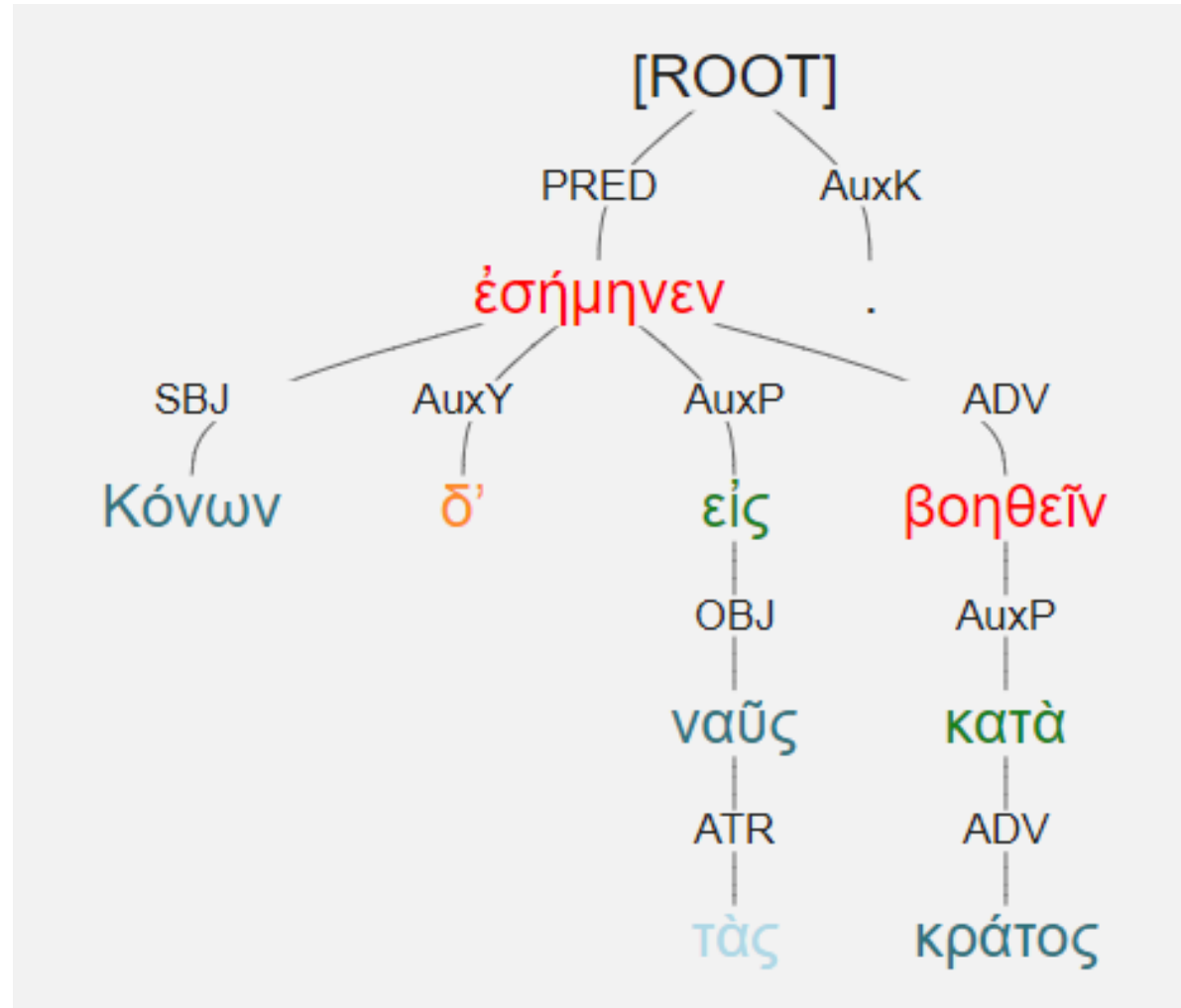
ἔτοιμος ἦν πολεμεῖν. [3.2.13]

He was prepared to go to war.



Κόνων δ' ἐσήμηνεν εἰς τὰς ναῦς βοηθεῖν κατὰ κράτος. [2.1.28]

Konon was signaling to the ships to come help him with strength.



Summary of the main uses of an infinitive

Complementary [dynamic]

Impersonal Verbs

Indirect statements [declarative]

Result clauses

Articular/Substantive

Epexegetical [explanatory]

