

Infinitive Summary

Overview

- *Definition:* An infinitive is a *verbal noun* (similar to the participle which is a *verbal adjective*).
- It is not declined. However it is considered neuter singular and any accompanying article will be declined.
- Technically it does not have a subject. However, there is often a word in the *accusative* functioning as if it were the subject. E.g. ὥστε τούς πολλούς λέγειν ὅτι απεθανεν (so that many said that he was dead)
- Infinitives have no time significance, only one of aspect. Translate them as follows:
Present – to continue to ____ Aorist – to ____ Perfect – to have ____
- Forms:

<i>Pres Act</i>	<i>1st Aorist Act</i>		<i>2nd Aorist Act</i>		<i>Perf Act</i>
εἶν	σαι		εἶν		κεναι
<i>Mid/Pass</i>	<i>Middle</i>	<i>Passive</i>	<i>Middle</i>	<i>Passive</i>	<i>Mid/Pass</i>
εσθαι	σασθαι	θηναι	εσθαι	ηναι	σθαι

λω

<i>Present</i>	<i>1st Aorist</i>		<i>2nd Aorist</i>		<i>Perfect</i>
λύειν	λύσαι		λιπεῖν		λελυκέναι
<i>Mid/Pass</i>	<i>Middle</i>	<i>Passive</i>	<i>Middle</i>	<i>Passive</i>	<i>Mid/Pass</i>
λύεσθαι	λύσασθαι	λυθῆναι	λιπέσθαι	γραφῆναι	λελύσθαι

- The infinitive has no time significance, only aspect: present=continuous, aorist=undefined, perfect=perfected action (completed action with ongoing implications).

Five Main Uses

1. Substantive

τὸ ἐσθίειν ἐστὶν ἀγαθόν. *To eat is good.*

2. Complementary

The infinitive is used to complete the meaning of a finite verb: Here are five verbs that are always followed by a complementary infinitive.

δεῖ αὐτὴν ἐσθίειν It is necessary for her *to eat*.

ἔξεστιν ἐσθίειν αὐτῷ It is lawful for him *to eat*.

μελλω ἐσθίειν. I am about *to eat*.

δύναμαι ἐσθίειν. I am able *to eat*.

ἄρχομαι ἐσθίειν. I am beginning *to eat*.

3. Articular infinitive preceded by a preposition

διὰ + acc = *because* πρὸς + acc = *in order that* (indicating purpose)

εἰς + acc = *in order that* πρό + gen = *before* (indicating time)

ἐν + dat = *when/while* (indicating time) μετὰ + acc = *after* (indicating time)

Examples:

διά	διὰ τὸ βλέπειν αὐτόν	Because he sees
	ὁ Ἰησοῦς χαρήσεται διὰ τὸ βλέπειν αὐτόν ὅτι ἡμεῖς ἀγαπῶμεν.	Jesus will rejoice because he sees that we love him.
εἰς	εἰς τὸ βλέπειν αὐτόν	In order that he sees
	καθίζω ἐν ἐκκλησίᾳ εἰς τὸ ἀκούειν με τὸν λόγον τοῦ θεοῦ	I sit in church in order that I might hear the word of God.
ἐν	ἐν τῷ βλέπειν αὐτόν	When he sees
	ὁ κύριος κρινεῖ ἡμᾶς ἐν τῷ ἔρχεσθαι αὐτὸν πάλιν.	The Lord will judge us when he comes again.
μετά	μετὰ τὸ βλέπειν αὐτόν	After he sees
	μετὰ τὸ βλέψαι τὸν Ἰησοῦς τοὺς ἁμαρτωλοὺς, ἔκλαυσε.	After Jesus saw the sinners, he wept.
πρὸ	πρὸ τοῦ βλέπειν αὐτόν	Before he sees
	ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἠγάπησεν ἡμᾶς πρὸ τοῦ γνῶναι ἡμᾶς αὐτόν.	Jesus loved us before we know him.
πρὸς	πρὸς τὸ βλέπειν αὐτόν	In order that he sees
	κηρύσσομεν τὸν εὐαγγέλιον πρὸς τὸ βλέψαι ὑμᾶς τὴν ἀλήθειαν.	We proclaim the gospel so that you may see the truth.

4. *Purpose*

- Articular infinitive preceded by εἰς or πρὸς (see #3 above).
- Articular infinitive with the article in the genitive (no preposition):

ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἀπέθανον τοῦ εἶναι ἡμᾶς σὺν αὐτῷ εἰς τὸν αἰώνιον.

Jesus died *in order that we (may) be* with him forever.

- The infinitive all by itself (without a preposition or the article):

ἵπορεύομαι νικᾶν

I come *in order to conquer*.

5. *Result*

Expressed by ὥστε with the infinitive. Translate the infinitive as a finite verb. Note: there is no similar construction in English.

ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἀγαπᾷ με ὥστε με ἀγαπᾶν αὐτόν.

Jesus loves me *which results in the fact that I love* him.