

In the Name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit

New Testament Greek-1

نئے عہد نامہ کی یونانی زبان-1

Lecture No 5

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Greek is an Inflected Language

English distinguishes between “I say” and “you say” by the addition of the personal pronouns “I” or “you.” Greek does this by varying the endings of the words (i.e. by inflection), and one of the major differences between Greek and English is that Greek is an inflected language. English mostly indicates grammatical form by means other than inflection. So, person is indicated in English by the addition of the personal pronouns “I, you, he/she/it, we, you, they.” In Greek, on the other hand, the personal pronouns need not to be used with the verb, although they can be used when the writer wishes to stress the “I,” or “you,” or “we,” etc.

Example (when the writer wishes to stress):

εἰμί means “I am”

ἐγώ means “I”

For emphasis/stress: ἐγώ εἰμί which means “I am”

Example of Inflection

Present Indicative Active of γράφω. The simplest form of the verb is the present indicative active. The present tense of γράφω, “I write” is as follows:

Person	Form of λύω	English Meaning
1st person singular	γράφω	I write
2nd person singular	γράφεις	you write
3rd person singular	γράφει	He/she/it writes
1st person plural	γράφομεν	we write
2nd person plural	γράφετε	you write
3rd person plural	γράφουσι / γράφουσιν	they write

Tense, Mood, Voice

The part of the paradigm discussed up till now is the present indicative active. The word “present” refers to the tense, the word “indicative” refers to the mood, the word “active” refers to the voice.

In English, the tense system of a verb is primary a reference to time. Most verbs deal with actions. Actions can be considered to be happening in the present (the present tense of the verb), in the past, or in the future (the future tense of the verb). The Greek tense system is not quite the same as the English tense system, but it will make it easier if we leave discussion of the differences to a later lecture, and learn the closest equivalent English tense at first. The English present tense is the closest in meaning to the Greek present tense. We will discuss mood and voice later. For now, note that the indicative mood is used for making statements about real events, and that the active voice is used where the subject of the verb does the action.

Translate into English

λέγει = He/she/it speaks

ἀκούεις = You listen (s)

γράφουσιν = They write

θέλομεν = We want

ἔχω = I have

εὐρίσκετε = You find (p)

ἐσθίουσιν = They eat

λαμβάνει = He/she/it takes

ἔχει = He/she/it have

εὐρίσκεις = You find (s)

ἐσθίω = I eat

ἀκούουσιν = They listen/hear

γράφομεν = We write

θέλετε = You want (p)

λέγω = I speak

γράφεις = You write (s)

λαμβάνετε = You take (p)

θέλεις = You want (s)

Memory Verse

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος, καὶ ὁ
λόγος ἦν πρὸς τὸν θεόν, καὶ
θεὸς ἦν ὁ λόγος. οὗτος ἦν
ἐν ἀρχῇ πρὸς τὸν θεόν.

Any Question?