

Greek Grammar

Below you will find endings for the three **declensions**, excluding the vocative, which does not really count. To keep things simple, we have left out the variations, such as alpha-pure endings in the first declension, and the many slight oddities in the third declension. What you see here are the really crucial endings. And remember that the definite article starts **ὁ ἡ το** in the singular and **οἱ αἱ τα** in the plural but after that has regular first declension (feminine) and second declension (masculine and neuter) endings.

		1 st decl	2 nd decl	3 rd decl
singular	nom	-η	-ος or -ον	
	acc	-ην	-ον	-α (unless neuter)
	gen	-ης	-ου	-ος
	dat	-ῃ	-φ	-ι
plural	nom	-αι	-οι or -α	-εις or -α
	acc	-ας	-ους or -α	-ας or -α
	gen	-ων	-ων	-ων
	dat	-αις	-οις	-σι(ν)

The first and second declension endings are used for adjectives of the **σοφος σοφη σοφον** type. Admittedly there are some tricky adjective types, like **ἀληθης**, but a lot follow the **σοφος** pattern, and if you observe carefully which other words an adjective agrees with (noun and maybe article as well), then you should be able to deal with anything the examiners throw at you.

Remember that **comparatives** and **superlatives** come in two varieties, as illustrated by:

- **σοφος** **σοφω – τερος** **σοφω – τατος**
- **ἐχθρος** **ἐχθι – ων** **ἐχθι – στος**

The endings set out above are also the basis for **participles**. The following tables give you the essential information:

PRESENT / FUTURE/ STRONG AORIST

		active			middle or passive		
singular	nom	-ων	-ουσα	-ον	-μενος	-μενη	-μενον
	acc	-οντα	-ουσαν	-ον	-μενον	-μενην	-μενον
	gen	-οντος	-ουσης	-οντος	-μενου	-μενης	-μενου
	dat	-οντι	-ουση	-οντι	-μενω	-μενη	-μενω
plural	nom	-οντες	-ουσαι	-οντα	-μενοι	-μεναι	-μενα
	acc	-οντας	-ουσας	-οντα	-μενους	-μενας	-μενα
	gen	-οντων	-ουσων	-οντων	-μενων	-μενων	-μενων
	dat	-ουσι(ν)	-ουσαις	-ουσι(ν)	-μενοις	-μεναις	-μενοις

The trick is to look at the STEM. So: **διωκ-ων** is present active, **διωξ-ων** is future active, **διωχθησο-μενος** is future passive, and so on. Remember that the weak aorist participle has an easily spotted **-α-** and that the aorist passive participle has an equally easily spotted **-εντ-** or **-εισ-**. So:

	weak aorist active			weak aorist middle			aorist passive		
nom	-ας	-ασα	-αν	-αμενος	-αμενη	-αμενον	-εις	-εισα	-εν
acc	-αντα	-ασαν	-αν	-αμενον	-αμενην	-αμενον	-εντα	-εισαν	-εν

And remember that the participle of **to be** is simply the basic endings i.e. **ὄν οὔσα ὄν** and so on.

To deal with **verbs**, once again you need to know a set of basic endings:

ACTIVE

	present/future	imperfect/strong aorist	weak aorist
I	-ω	-ον	-α
you (s.)	-εις	-εις	-ας
he or she or it	-ει	-ε(ν)	-ε(ν)
we	-ομεν	-ομεν	-αμεν
you (pl.)	-ετε	-ετε	-ατε
they	-ουσι(ν)	-ον	-αν

MIDDLE			
	present/future	imperfect/strong aorist	weak aorist
I	– ομα	– ομην	– αμην
you (s.)	– η οτ – α	– ου	– ω
he or she or it	– εται	– ετο	– ατο
we	– ομεθα	– ομεθα	– αμεθα
you (pl.)	– εσθε	– εσθε	– ασθε
they	– οντα	– οντο	– αντο

PASSIVE			
	present/future	imperfect	aorist
I	– ομα	– ομην	– ην
you (s.)	– η οτ – α	– ου	– ης
he or she or it	– εται	– ετο	– η
we	– ομεθα	– ομεθα	– ημεν
you (pl.)	– εσθε	– εσθε	– ητε
they	– οντα	– οντο	– ησαν

As with participles, the stem is the key to working out the tense of a verb. So: **ἐλαμβάν-ε** is imperfect active, **ἐλαβ-ομεθα** is aorist middle and **ἐληφθ-ησαν** is aorist passive.

The **infinitives** look like this:

	active	middle	passive
present	– ειν	– εσθαι	– εσθαι
future	– ειν	– εσθαι	– εσθαι
aorist	– αι (strong – ειν)	– ασθαι (strong – εσθαι)	– ηναι

And the **imperatives** look like this:

	active	middle	passive
present	- ε / - ετε	- ου / - εσθε	- ου / - εσθε
aorist	- ου / - ατε (strong - ε / - ετε)	- αι / - ασθε (strong - ου / - εσθε)	- ητι / - ητε

As you know, Greek is blessed with a number of **nasty verbs**. Don't get too hung up on these. But do make sure you know the following present tenses (and notice the **accents** on **I shall go**):

	I am	I shall go	I say	I give	I place	I know
I	εἰμι	εἶμι	φημι	δίδωμι	τιθημι	οἶδα
you (s.)	εἶ	εἶ	φης	δίδως	τιθης	οἶσθα
he or she or it	ἐστί(ν)	εἶσι(ν)	φησι(ν)	δίδωσι(ν)	τιθησι(ν)	οἶδε(ν)
we	ἐσμεν	ἴμεν	φάμεν	δίδομεν	τιθεμεν	ἴσμεν
you (pl.)	ἐστε	ἴτε	φατε	διδότε	τιθετε	ἴστε
they	εἶσι(ν)	ἴασι(ν)	φάσι(ν)	δίδουσι(ν)	τιθεασι(ν)	ἴσασι(ν)

Other important bits and pieces of these verbs that you need to know are:

	I am	I shall go	I say	I give	I place	I know
past (3rd sing.)	ἦν		ἔφη	ἔδωκε(ν)	ἔθηκε(ν)	ἦδει
present infinitive	εἶναι	ἰεναί	φαναί	διδοναί	τιθεναι	εἶδεναι
aorist infinitive				δουναί	θειναι	

Other nasties:

- the **aorist** of **γινωσκω** is **ἔγνων ἔγνως ἔγνω** and so on.
- the **aorist** of **βαίνω** is **ἔβην ἔβης ἔβη** and so on.

The **subjunctive** and **optative** are used in certain constructions. As long as you recognise the verb, and can work out whether it is singular or plural, you should be OK. As a rule, the tense of a subjunctive or optative does not affect the way you translate it — at least not in GCSE Greek!