

## Greek Sentence Structure

Always try to untangle sentences by looking at word-endings. If you can identify the subject and the object, then the battle is half won. Analysing nouns and adjectives is a lot easier if they have an article associated with them: so **make sure you know the article inside out and back to front!** For example:

- **πολεως** has an annoying ending, and it may not be obvious what case and number it is. On the other hand **της πολεως**, judging by the article, is clearly genitive singular.
- **ξιφους** looks accusative plural. In fact, it is clear from **του ξιφους** that is genitive singular. Again, **τα ξιφη** is nominative or accusative plural not nominative singular.

Remember also the special uses of the article:

- **genitive sandwich**: **τα της χωρας** δενδρα = the **of-the-country** trees i.e. the country's trees
- **article + participle**: **οι φυγοντες** = the having-run-away i.e. those who have run away

It is very important to understand the difference the article makes to a sentence with a participle. For example:

- **οι στρατιωται μαχομενοι** νικωσι = the soldiers, **fighting**, are victorious
- **οι στρατιωται οι μαχομενοι** νικωσι = the soldiers **who are fighting** are victorious

Here are some things to remember about the most important **constructions**. The list is not exhaustive, but it gives you the essentials. If you need more help, come and speak to us in the Classics Room, and we can give you some useful books.

- **ινα / οπως + subjunctive = in order that**. For example: **ακουομεν ινα** **μανθανομεν** = we are listening **in order that we may learn**
- **ως + future participle = in order that**. For example: **μαχομεθα ως** **νικησοντες** = we are fighting **in order that we may win** (literally 'as being about to win')
- **φοβουμαι μη + subjunctive/optative = I am afraid that**. For example: **φοβουμεθα μη** **ληθωμεν** = we are afraid **that we may be caught**

- εἰ ... ἂν = if ... **would have**. For example: εἰ ἤκουσατε, ἐμαθετε ἂν = **if you had listened, you would have learnt**
- ἔαν + subjunctive = if ... **will**. For example: ἔαν μαχεσώμεθα, οὐκ ἀποθανούμεθα = **if we fight, we will not be killed**
- noun + participle in genitive (i.e. genitive absolute) = **with**. For example: του στρατηγου ἀποθανοντος, ἐφυγομεν = **with the general having been killed, we fled** (i.e. when/since the general had been killed ...)

Finally, remember that Greek has three types of INDIRECT STATEMENT:

- ὅτι / ὡς + verb
- nom/acc + infinitive
- nom/acc + participle

Examples:

- εἶπεν ὅτι οἱ δούλοι φευγουσι = he said **that** the slaves were running away (literally 'are running away')
- ἐνόμισε τοὺς δούλους φυγεῖν = he believed that the slaves **had run away** (literally 'to have run away')
- ἐτυθετο δι' ὀλιγου ἀφιζόμενος = he found out that **he would arrive** soon (literally 'being about to arrive')