

WRITING GREEK

AN INTRODUCTION

TO WRITING

IN THE LANGUAGE OF

CLASSICAL ATHENS

STEPHEN ANDERSON

&

JOHN TAYLOR

BLOOMSBURY

Writing Greek

WRITING GREEK

*An introduction to writing
in the language of Classical Athens*

Stephen Anderson
&
John Taylor

Bloomsbury Academic
An imprint of Bloomsbury Publishing Plc

B L O O M S B U R Y
LONDON • OXFORD • NEW YORK • NEW DELHI • SYDNEY

Bloomsbury Academic

An imprint of Bloomsbury Publishing Plc

50 Bedford Square
London
WC1B 3DP
UK

1385 Broadway
New York
NY 10018
USA

www.bloomsbury.com

**BLOOMSBURY and the Diana logo are trademarks of
Bloomsbury Publishing Plc**

First published by Bristol Classical Press 2010
Reprinted by Bloomsbury Academic 2014, 2015
This electronic edition published 2016

© Stephen Anderson and John Taylor, 2010

Stephen Anderson and John Taylor have asserted their right under the Copyright,
Designs and Patents Act, 1988, to be identified as Authors of this work.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted
in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying,
recording, or any information storage or retrieval system, without prior permission in
writing from the publishers.

No responsibility for loss caused to any individual or organization acting on or
refraining from action as a result of the material in this publication can be
accepted by Bloomsbury or the author.

British Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

ISBN: PB: 978-1-8539-9717-4
ePDF: 978-1-4725-0285-8
ePUB: 978-1-4725-0286-5

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

A catalog record for this book is available from the Library of Congress.

Typeset by John Taylor

Contents

Introduction	vii
List of abbreviations	ix
Glossary of grammar terms	x

PART 1

Chapter 1	Basic use of cases	1
Chapter 2	Definite article	6
Chapter 3	Time, place and space	10
Chapter 4	Use of adjectives	15
Chapter 5	Verb tenses	19
Chapter 6	Participles I	22
Chapter 7	Pronouns I	25
Chapter 8	Pronouns II	30
Chapter 9	Relative clauses	35
Chapter 10	Connection	38

PART 2

Chapter 11	Indirect statement	41
Chapter 12	Questions	48
Chapter 13	Commands, exhortations and wishes	55
Chapter 14	Purpose clauses	61
Chapter 15	Result clauses	66
Chapter 16	Conditional sentences	71
Chapter 17	Participles II	79
Chapter 18	Verbs of fearing, precaution and preventing	85
Chapter 19	Indefinites	91
Chapter 20	Temporal clauses	94
Chapter 21	Impersonal verbs; Accusative absolute; Gerundives	100

Appendices		
1	Passages from North and Hillard	107
2	Uses of the subjunctive and optative	113
3	Negatives and their main uses	114
4	Prepositions	117
5	Accents	122
6	Principal parts of 100 important irregular verbs	128
Vocabulary		140
Index		174

Introduction

Fewer people nowadays than ever before learn how to write in Classical Greek. In no public or university degree examination is composition compulsory, and there is no shortage of scholars and teachers ready at the drop of a hat to pour scorn on the whole business.

Why, then, a new Greek composition textbook? Aren't the 'old faithfuls' of the last century, and the one before, perfectly adequate for those who wish to engage in this curious, antiquarian pursuit?

In writing this brand new book we wish to encourage as many Greek students as possible, in both schools and universities, to have a go at prose composition. A traditional exercise it may well be, but it is far from a valueless one: not only does it provide an excellent means of learning the language's grammatical 'nuts and bolts', but also, the very attempt to produce accurate and elegant prose helps students understand the challenges faced by the ancient writers themselves, and enables them to appreciate better their achievement in the texts which survive.

The book is divided into two parts. Part 1 deals mainly with the component elements of the simple sentence, whilst in Part 2 all major constructions are covered. Each chapter contains a fuller grammatical explanation than will be found in older textbooks, followed by two or three exercises of practice sentences, and further supplemented, from Chapter 10 on, by passages for continuous composition. These passages are as a rule a little longer than in many composition books, sometimes even running to two paragraphs. Teachers can treat them as they choose, and may like to consider the possibility of doing some of a passage together in class, leaving the rest to be done by students on their own. There is, too, a series of helpful appendices, including one containing a selection from the best of North and Hillard's passages, and finishing with a list of 100 irregular verbs and a comprehensive vocabulary.

John Taylor wrote Part 1 of the book, and supplied Appendices 4, 5 and 6. He wishes to thank Stephen Anderson for many helpful comments and corrections.

Stephen Anderson wrote Part 2, Appendices 1, 2 and 3, and the vocabulary. He did most of the work whilst on sabbatical during the Michaelmas Term of 2009 and the Lent Term of 2010. He would like to thank the Headmaster of Winchester for granting the leave, and the Master and Fellows of St. John's College, Cambridge for taking him in and providing not only the ideal surroundings for such a project, but also students on whom to test the exercises.

Further and in particular, he would like to thank two old friends, James Morwood and Ian McAuslan, for reading all his work in draft, correcting his mistakes and making many helpful suggestions for improvement.

We should both like to thank Ray Davies, Deborah Blake and all at Duckworth for having such confidence in us and for seeing us through to publication.

Stephen Anderson
Winchester College

John Taylor
Tonbridge School

Abbreviations

<i>abl.</i>	ablative
<i>abs.</i>	absolute
<i>acc.</i>	accusative
<i>act.</i>	active
<i>adj.</i>	adjective
<i>adv.</i>	adverb
<i>aor.</i>	aorist
<i>conj.</i>	conjunction
<i>dat.</i>	dative
<i>f.</i>	feminine
<i>gen.</i>	genitive
<i>impers.</i>	impersonal
<i>impf.</i>	imperfect
<i>infin.</i>	infinitive
<i>intrans.</i>	intransitive
<i>lit.</i>	literally
<i>m.</i>	masculine
<i>n.</i>	neuter
<i>nom.</i>	nominative
<i>pass.</i>	passive
<i>pf.</i>	perfect
<i>pl.</i>	plural
<i>prep.</i>	preposition
<i>pres.</i>	present
<i>rel.</i>	relative
<i>sc.</i>	(Latin <i>scilicet</i>) understand, supply (word/s not actually given)
<i>sing.</i>	singular
<i>trans.</i>	transitive
<i>voc.</i>	vocative

Glossary of grammar terms

absolute	grammatically unconnected with the rest of the sentence (literally <i>separated off</i>), as in <i>genitive absolute</i> and <i>accusative absolute</i> .
accidence	the part of grammar that deals with word endings (as distinct from <i>syntax</i>).
accusative	case of direct object; used with some prepositions, usually expressing <i>motion towards</i> ; used to express <i>time how long</i> ; used for subject of infinitive or participle in indirect statement and other constructions, if different from subject of main verb; the (neuter) participle of an impersonal verb unconnected with the rest of its sentence is an <i>accusative absolute</i> .
active	form of verb where the grammatical subject is the doer of the action (one of three <i>voices</i> , as distinct from <i>middle</i> or <i>passive</i>).
adjective	word describing a noun (with which it <i>agrees</i> in number, gender and case).
adverb	word describing a verb (or an adjective, or another adverb).
agent	person by whom an action is done, usually expressed by ὑΠΌ with genitive after a passive verb (but dative alone always after verbal adjective/gerundive, and optionally after perfect/pluperfect passive).
agree	have the same number (agreement of subject and verb); have the same number, gender and case (agreement of noun and adjective).
ambiguous	can mean more than one thing.
antecedent	person or thing in main clause to which relative pronoun (or adverb) refers back.
aorist	tense of a verb referring to a single action in the past (as distinct from <i>imperfect</i> , <i>perfect</i> and <i>pluperfect</i>); in all uses of the aorist imperative and subjunctive, most uses of the aorist infinitive and optative, and some uses of the aorist participle, the aorist is used by <i>aspect</i> (rather than tense) to express simply a single action, not necessarily in the past.
apodosis	the main clause of a conditional sentence, expressing the

Glossary of grammar terms

apposition	consequence (i.e. not the <i>if</i> half, which is the <i>protasis</i>). use of a word or phrase parallel in grammar to another, to give more information (e.g. <i>Sophocles, the poet, ...</i> : two nouns <i>in apposition</i>).
article	(see <i>definite article</i>).
aspect	the expression of <i>type of time</i> (single or repeated/extended action), as distinct from actual time (past, present, future) which is <i>tense</i> .
attraction	in a relative clause, the process by which a genitive or dative antecedent makes a relative pronoun agree with it (overriding the normal rule that its case is determined by its job within the relative clause).
augment	epsilon put on the front of a verb to denote a past tense.
auxiliary	a verb (usually part of <i>to be</i>) used with a participle to form a tense of another verb.
breathing	symbol above a vowel or diphthong (or rho) beginning a word, indicating presence (<i>rough</i> breathing: $\acute{\alpha}$ - = <i>ha</i>) or absence (<i>smooth</i> breathing: $\grave{\alpha}$ - = <i>a</i>) of <i>h</i> sound or <i>aspiration</i> . Either breathing comes on the <i>second</i> vowel of a diphthong ($\alpha\acute{\upsilon}$ -, $\alpha\grave{\upsilon}$ -).
cardinal	ordinary numeral (1, 2, 3), as distinct from <i>ordinal</i> (first, second, third).
case	form of a noun, pronoun or adjective that shows the job it does in the sentence (e.g. accusative for direct object); cases are arranged in the order nominative, (vocative), accusative, genitive, dative.
clause	part of a sentence with its own subject and verb.
common	(referring to gender): can be either masculine or feminine according to context (e.g. $\acute{\omicron}/\acute{\eta}$ $\pi\acute{\alpha}\iota\varsigma$ <i>boy/girl</i>).
comparative	form of an adjective or adverb meaning <i>more</i> , <i>-er</i> .
complement	another nominative word or phrase describing the subject.
compound	verb with prefix (e.g. $\acute{\alpha}\pi\omicron\beta\acute{\alpha}\lambda\lambda\omega$ <i>I throw away</i>); adjective or negative made up of more than one element.
concessive	expressing the idea <i>although</i> or <i>despite</i> (expressed by $\kappa\acute{\alpha}\iota\pi\epsilon\rho$ with participle).
conditional	expressing <i>if</i> or <i>unless</i> (the clause beginning <i>if</i> or <i>unless</i> is the <i>protasis</i> , the other half - expressing the result - is the <i>apodosis</i>).
conjugate	go through in order the different parts of a verb: first,

	second, third person singular, then plural (as distinct from <i>decline</i> , used for a noun, pronoun, adjective or participle).
conjunction	word joining clauses, phrases or words together (e.g. <i>and</i> , <i>but</i> , <i>therefore</i>).
consonant	letter representing a sound that can only be used together with a vowel.
construction	pattern according to which a particular type of sentence or clause (e.g. indirect statement) is formed.
correlatives	set of linked interrogative/indefinite/relative/demonstrative adverbs or pronouns (e.g. <i>where?/somewhere/[the place]where/there</i>).
contraction	process by which two adjacent vowels (or vowel plus diphthong) coalesce into a single vowel or diphthong.
crasis	process by which a vowel or diphthong at the end of a word coalesces with another at the start of the next word, the result written as a single word instead of two separate ones (e.g. ὠνδρες for ὦ ἄνδρες).
dative	case of indirect object, often translated <i>to</i> or <i>for</i> ; used with prepositions, often to express <i>position</i> or <i>rest</i> (as distinct from motion); used to express <i>time when</i> .
declension	one of the patterns (three main ones, also used for pronouns, adjectives and participles) by which nouns change their endings.
decline	go through a noun, pronoun, adjective or participle in case order, singular then plural (as distinct from <i>conjugate</i> , used of tenses of a verb).
definite article	ὁ ἡ τό (equivalent to English <i>the</i> , but used more widely).
deliberative	use of the subjunctive to express a thought process (e.g. <i>should I do X?</i>).
demonstrative	pronoun, adjective or adverb pointing out some feature of a situation (e.g. <i>this, that, there, then</i>).
deponent	verb which has only middle (or sometimes passive) forms, but is active in meaning.
diphthong	two consecutive vowels pronounced as one syllable (e.g. αυ, ει, ευ).
direct object	noun or pronoun on receiving end of the action of verb.
direct speech	actual words of a speaker, usually signalled by initial capital letter or enclosed by inverted commas.
dual	special set of endings expressing two items, or two

	subjects of a verb (relic of an earlier stage of the language when plural implied three or more).
elision	dropping of a (usually short) vowel at the end of a word before another beginning with a vowel, indicated by an apostrophe (e.g. τ' for τε).
enclitic	literally <i>leaning on</i> : a (usually short and unaccented) word which cannot stand alone but must follow another word (e.g. the indefinite τις).
ending	last bit of a word, added to the stem to give more detail and show its job.
feminine	one of the three genders, for females or things imagined as female.
finite	form of a verb with tense and person ending (as distinct from infinitive or participle).
future	tense of verb referring to something that will happen in the future.
gender	one of three categories (masculine, feminine, neuter) into which nouns and pronouns are put according to their actual or imagined sex or lack of it.
genitive	case expressing possession or definition, often translated <i>of</i> ; used in expressions indicating e.g. <i>part of</i> , <i>some of</i> ; used with some prepositions, usually expressing <i>motion away from</i> ; used after a comparative to mean <i>than</i> ; used to express <i>time within which</i> ; noun and participle phrase grammatically unconnected with the rest of its sentence is a <i>genitive absolute</i> ; follows some verbs expressing ideas such as <i>take hold of</i> .
gerund	a verb made into a noun (<i>the act of doing X</i>), expressed by τó with infinitive.
gerundive	adjective formed from verb, expressing the idea <i>needing to be done</i> .
historic	set of tenses (imperfect, aorist, pluperfect) referring to the past (as distinct from <i>primary</i> ones referring to the present or future), and determining the <i>sequence</i> according to which subordinate clauses are constructed (e.g. use of optative rather than subjunctive); <i>historic present</i> is the use of the present tense for a story set in the past (to achieve vividness).
homonym	word coincidentally spelled in the same way as another unconnected word.

Glossary of grammar terms

idiom	distinctive form of expression within a language, established by common use but going beyond what can be worked out from the individual words.
imperative	form of verb used for direct command.
imperfect	tense of verb referring to incomplete, extended or repeated action in the past.
impersonal	third person singular verb whose subject is <i>it</i> .
indeclinable	does not change its endings.
indefinite	(1) <i>indefinite article</i> : the English <i>a(n)</i> , which has no direct equivalent in Greek, though the indefinite ΤΙΣ (<i>someone/a certain</i>) can be used. (2) <i>indefinite adverb</i> or <i>pronoun</i> (in a set of correlatives): often the same in form as the equivalent indirect interrogative word, but with no accent or different accent; the indefinite relative is ὅστις (<i>anyone who</i>). (3) <i>indefinite construction</i> : clause expressing an unspecific <i>whoever, whenever</i> etc, expressed in Greek by ἄν with subjunctive in primary sequence, and by optative alone in historic sequence.
indicative	form of verb expressing a fact (as distinct from other <i>moods</i> expressing e.g. possibilities).
indirect	indirect statement, command or question is the reported form of it (as distinct from quotation of the speaker's actual words); indirect object is person or thing in the dative indirectly affected by object of verb, e.g. <i>I gave the money</i> (direct object) <i>to the old man</i> (indirect object).
infinitive	form of verb introduced by <i>to</i> , expressing the basic meaning (e.g. παύειν <i>to stop</i>). Greek verbs have several infinitives to express differences of tense and voice (e.g. future passive infinitive παυσθήσεσθαι <i>to be going to be stopped</i>).
inflection	technical term for <i>ending</i> : as an inflected language, Greek depends heavily on word endings to express meaning.
intransitive	verb that does not have a direct object (e.g. βαίνω <i>I go</i>).
irregular	word that does not follow one of the standard patterns of declension or conjugation.
main clause	clause which can stand alone, and expresses the main point of a sentence (as distinct from <i>subordinate</i> clause).

Glossary of grammar terms

masculine	one of the three genders, for males or things imagined as male.
middle	form of a verb expressing a relation of subject to action which is thought of as midway between active and passive, but is often actually both (e.g. reflexive <i>I wash myself</i> or causative <i>I get something washed</i>); <i>deponent</i> verbs have middle/passive forms, but often with simply active meaning.
mood	set of forms of a verb showing whether it is indicative, imperative, subjunctive or optative.
negative	expressing that something is not the case or should not happen.
neuter	one of the three genders, for things imagined as neither male nor female.
nominative	case used for subject of sentence, or of any finite verb, or of infinitive or participle (in indirect statement and other constructions) if the same as the subject of the main verb.
noun	word naming a person or thing (e.g. πόλις <i>city</i>); a <i>proper</i> noun with a capital letter gives its actual name (e.g. Ἀθῆναι <i>Athens</i>).
number	being either singular or plural (or sometimes dual).
numerals	numbers, either <i>cardinal</i> (one, two, three) or <i>ordinal</i> (first, second, third).
object	noun or pronoun acted upon by a verb.
optative	form of verb (often expressed in English by <i>might</i>) expressing a wish or a not very likely possibility (as distinct from the indicative for a fact, and the subjunctive for a more likely possibility); in many constructions the subjunctive is used in <i>primary sequence</i> , the optative in <i>historic sequence</i> .
ordinal	type of numeral expressing order (first, second, third), as an adjective, as distinct from <i>cardinal</i> (1, 2, 3).
part of speech	category of word (noun, adjective, pronoun, verb, adverb, preposition, conjunction).
particle	short indeclinable word (often conjunction or adverb) connecting things together, or giving emphasis or colour (e.g. οὖν <i>therefore</i> ; δῆ <i>indeed</i>).
participle	adjective formed from a verb (e.g. παύων <i>stopping</i>).
partitive	use of the genitive to express <i>part of</i> , <i>some of</i> etc.
passive	form of verb where the subject does not do the action but

Glossary of grammar terms

perfect	is on the receiving end of it (e.g. <i>παύομαι I am stopped</i>). tense of verb referring to a completed action in the past, whose effects still continue (e.g. <i>our friends have arrived</i>); in Greek a <i>primary</i> tense, often virtually equivalent to present. (A single action in the past is expressed by the much more common <i>aeorist</i> .)
person	term for the subject of verb: first person <i>I, we</i> ; second person <i>you</i> (singular or plural); third person <i>he, she, it, they</i> (or a noun replacing one of these).
phrase	group of words not containing a finite verb (as distinct from <i>clause</i>).
pluperfect	tense of verb referring to something that had already happened by a particular point in the past, and whose effects were continuing when something else happened.
plural	more than one (as distinct from singular, or sometimes from dual).
positive	not negative; (of adjectives) the ordinary form, indicating simply that the person or thing has the quality described (as distinct from <i>comparative</i> and <i>superlative</i> , expressing the degree to which they have it).
possessive	adjective or pronoun expressing who or what something belongs to; <i>possessive dative</i> is the idiom e.g. <i>there is to me a dog</i> for <i>I have a dog</i> .
potential	something that <i>might</i> happen (often expressed by <i>ἄν</i> and the optative).
prefix	word or syllable added to the beginning of another word.
preposition	word used with a noun or pronoun in the accusative, genitive or dative to focus more closely the meaning of the case (e.g. <i>into, away from, on</i>).
present	tense of a verb referring to something that is happening now, or of a participle referring to something happening at the same time as the main verb.
primary	set of tenses (present, future, perfect) referring to the present or future (as distinct from <i>historic</i> ones referring to the past), and determining the <i>sequence</i> according to which subordinate clauses are constructed (e.g. use of subjunctive rather than optative).
principal parts	first person singulars of important tenses of a verb, from which other forms and necessary information about it can be worked out.

Glossary of grammar terms

prohibition	negative command (<i>don't do X!</i>), expressed by μή with present imperative for a general prohibition, or μή with aorist subjunctive for one occasion.
pronoun	word that stands instead of a noun, avoiding the need to repeat it.
protasis	the <i>if ...</i> half of a conditional sentence (in negative form <i>if ... not</i> or <i>unless ...</i>).
reduplication	process by which the initial consonant of a verb is added again on the front followed by epsilon, to make the perfect tense (e.g. παύω, perfect πέπαυκα).
reflexive	word referring back to the subject of the verb.
regular	a word which forms its endings according to a standard pattern.
relative	subordinate clause (or pronoun/adverb introducing it) relating to person or thing just mentioned in the main clause (who or which is the <i>antecedent</i>).
root	basic stem of verb, or element from which a group of related words are derived.
sentence	group of words with subject and verb (and often other elements), which can stand on its own (as distinct from <i>phrase</i> or <i>subordinate clause</i>).
sequence	process by which the tense of the main clause determines the construction of a subordinate clause (e.g. whether its verb is subjunctive or optative).
singular	just one (as distinct from dual or plural).
stem	the part of a word which stays the same: different endings are added to show the job it does in the sentence.
subject	noun or pronoun in the nominative case, expressing who or what does the action (with active verb) or is on the receiving end of it (with passive verb).
subjunctive	form of verb (often expressed in English by <i>may</i>) referring to an idea or possibility (as distinct from <i>indicative</i> for a fact, or <i>optative</i> for a more remote possibility); in some constructions the subjunctive is used in <i>primary sequence</i> , the optative in <i>historic sequence</i> .
subordinate	of secondary importance to something else; a subordinate clause cannot stand alone but only makes sense in relation to the main clause.
suffix	word or syllable added to the end of another word.
superlative	form of adjective/adverb meaning <i>very</i> , (<i>the</i>) <i>most</i> , <i>-est</i> .

Glossary of grammar terms

syllable	part of a word forming a spoken unit, usually consisting of vowel with consonants before or after or both.
syntax	the part of grammar that deals with sentences and constructions (as distinct from <i>accidence</i>).
tense	form of a verb showing when the action takes place (in the past, present or future).
transitive	verb that has a direct object.
understand	provide in translation a word which is not separately represented in Greek but must be worked out from the grammar and context (e.g. <i>men</i> or <i>things</i> from the gender of an adjective or part of the definite article).
verb	word expressing an action.
vividness	principle by which past events, words or thoughts are envisaged as present (to give a sense of immediacy), so that a primary construction is used rather than the historic one strictly required (e.g. indicative in indirect statement/question, or subjunctive in purpose clause, rather than optative).
vocative	case used for addressing someone or something.
voice	one of three sets of verb forms (active, middle, passive) showing how the subject relates to the action.
vowel	letter representing a sound that can be spoken by itself: $\alpha, \epsilon, \eta, \iota, \omicron, \upsilon, \omega$.