Greek and Hebrew Help

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GREEK VERBS

TENSE: Indicates the time of the action (or state of being) from the perspective of the writer/speaker. Also indicates whether the action is being viewed as simple or continuous (e.g., "he ran" vs. "he was running").

Tense	Explanation	Greek Example	English Translation
poiew – "to make or do"			
Aorist	Describes whole or complete action.	*epoiesen* (Luke 17:9)	he did
Imperfect	Describes a past action as it was occurring.	*epoiei* (Luke 9:43)	He was doing
Perfect	Describes a past action with ongoing results.	*pepoieken* (Mark 7:37)	He has done
Present	Describes a current or ongoing action.	*poiei* (Matt. 8:9; John 5:20)	he does; He is doing
Future	Describes an action which has not yet occurred.	*poiesei* (John 14:12)	he will do

VOICE: Indicates the relationship of the subject to the verb.

Voice	Explanation	Greek Example	English Translation
luo – "to loose" (not all examples below occur in NT); *nipto / aponipto* – "to wash"; *katharizo* – "to cleanse"			
Active	The subject performs the action of the verb.	*elusen* (Acts 22:30) *enipsen tous podas auton* (John 13:12)	he released He had washed their feet
Middle	The subject performs the action of the verb and is also affected by the action.	*elusamen* (no reference) *apenipsato tas xeiras* (Matt. 27:24)	he untied [himself] he washed his hands
Passive	The subject receives the action of the verb.	*eluthe ho desmos tes glosses* (Mark 7:35) *ekatharisthe* (Mark 1:42)	the impediment of his tongue was removed he was cleansed

MOOD: Conveys the idea of certainty, uncertainty, probability, possibility, desire, or intention, from the perspective of the speaker.

Mood	Explanation	Greek Example	English Translation
hagiazo – "to sanctify"			
Indicative	Expresses the idea of reality.	*ho pater hegiasen* (John 10:36)	the Father sanctified

Subjunctive	Expresses possibility.	*auten hagiase* (Eph. 5:26)	He might sanctify her
Optative	Expresses desire.	*hagisai humas* (1 Thess. 5:23)	may He sanctify you
Imperative	Expresses a command.	*hagiason autous* (John 17:17)	Sanctify them!

FORM: Additional ways verbal ideas are communicated.

Form	Explanation	Greek Example	English Translation
zao – "to live"			
Participle	A descriptive word formed from a verb. Used in various ways: As an adjective, describing a noun. As a noun. Clarifying the action of the verb it modifies.	 *lithoi zontes* (1 Pet. 2:5) *hoi zontes* (2 Cor. 5:15) *zontes eblethesan* (Rev. 19:20)	 living stones they who live [the living] they were thrown alive [while living]
blepo – "to look"			
Infinitive	A verbal word that functions as a noun; in the English, usually combined with the word "to" (e.g., to eat, to sleep). The Greek infinitive has a wider use than the English and is often used in idioms, forming specialized meanings when used alongside other verbs or prepositions.		
		ethelesamen elthein (1 Thess. 2:18)	we wanted to come (object of the verb)

CONJUGATION: Each Greek verb is conjugated with endings that indicate the person and number of the subject of the verb. The example below reflects the conjugations for verbs in the present tense with active voice in the indicative mood.

Number	Person	Greek Example	English Translation
luo – "to loose"			
Singular	First	*luo*	I loose
	Second	*lueis*	you loose
	Third	*luei*	he/she/it looses
Plural	First	*luomen*	we loose
	Second	*luete*	you all loose
	Third	*luousin*	they loose

GREEK NOUNS

CASE: Indicates the function of a noun by modifying the ending of the word (e.g., *-os, -ou, -o, -on*).

Case	Explanation	Greek Example	English Translation
theos – "god; God"			
Nominative	Used for subjects of clauses or verbs.	*egapesen <u>ho theos</u> ton kosmon* (John 3:16)	<u>God</u> loved the world
Genitive	The case used for words which *qualify* other words. Often used for possession and preceded by "of."	*ho logos <u>tou theou</u>* (Heb. 4:12)	The Word <u>of God</u>
Dative	Used for indirect objects.	*paratithemai humas <u>to theo</u>* (Acts 20:32)	I commend you <u>to God</u>
Accusative	Used for direct objects.	*ginoskei <u>ton theon</u>* (1 John 4:8)	[he] knows <u>God</u>
Vocative	Used for directly addressing someone.	*<u>thee</u> mou <u>thee</u> mou* (Matt. 27:46)	My <u>God</u>, My <u>God</u>!

GREEK CONDITIONAL CLAUSES

Class	Explanation	Example
First	Assumes reality, for the sake of the argument. "If (and let's assume it's true)…"	"If You are the Son of God…" (Matt. 4:2)
Second	Assumes unreality. "If (and let's assume it's *not* true)…"	"If You fall down and worship me…" (Matt. 4:9)
Third	Expresses probability. "If (maybe you will, maybe you won't)…"	"If we confess our sins…" (1 John 1:9)
Fourth	Expresses a less probable possibility. "If (and I *wish* it were true, but it's not)…"	"If you suffer for righteousness' sake…" (1 Pet. 3:14)

GREEK ALPHABET

Lower Case	α	β	γ	δ	ε	ζ	η	θ	ι	κ	λ	μ	ν	ξ	ο	π	ρ	σ/ς	τ	υ	φ	χ	ψ	ω
Upper Case	A	B	Γ	Δ	E	Z	H	Θ	I	K	Λ	M	N	Ξ	O	Π	P	Σ	T	Y	Φ	X	Ψ	Ω
Name	alpha	beta	gamma	delta	epsilon	zeta	eta	theta	iota	kappa	lambda	mu	ni.	xi.	omicron	pi.	rho	sigma	tau	upsilon	phi.	chi.	psi.	omega
Transliteration	a	b	g	d	e	z	ē	th	i	k	l	m	n	x	o	p	r	s	t	u/y	ph	ch	ps	ō

ADDITIONAL GREEK RESOURCES

Blass, F., and Debrunner, A., eds. 1961. *A Greek Grammar of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Dana, H.E. and Mantey, Julius R., eds. 1957. *A Manual Grammar of the Greek New Testament*. Toronto: Macmillan.

Mounce, William D. 2019. *Basics of Biblical Greek Grammar*. 4th ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Academic.

Wallace, Daniel B. 1996. *Greek Grammar - Beyond the Basics*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House.

HEBREW VERBS

STEM: A vowel pattern that modifies the three-consonant verbal root. Indicates voice (active, passive, or reflexive) and type of action (simple, intensive, or causative).

Stem	Explanation	Hebrew Example	English Translation
yld – basic meaning in the Qal stem is "to give birth, beget, bring forth"			
Qal	Simple active. The basic meaning of the verb.	*wa cush yalad et nimrod* (1 Chron. 1:10)	Now Cush became the father of Nimrod
Niphal	Simple passive or reflexive (middle) voice of the Qal.	*nolad rash* (Eccl. 4:14)	he was born poor
Piel	Intensive, active voice.	*hamyalledet* (Gen. 38:28; cf. Exo. 1:16)	the midwife [lit., the one helping to give birth]
Hithpael	Reflexive (middle) voice.	*vayyityaldo* (Num. 1:18)	then they registered themselves by ancestry
Pual	Intensive, passive voice of the Piel.	*yollad ben* (Gen. 4:26)	a son was born
Hiphil	Causative, active voice.	*abraham holid et yitzchaq* (Gen. 25:19)	Abraham became the father of Isaac
Hophal	Causative, passive voice of the Hiphil.	*yom holledet et paroh* (Gen. 40:20)	Pharaoh's birthday [lit., the day Pharaoh was caused to be born].

Bible Class "Hebrew stem" Example
Series 554, Joshua, Lesson 1.
Series 419, Hebrews, Lesson 141.

Stem	Explanation	Hebrew Example	English Translation
qtl – basic meaning in the Qal stem is "to kill"			
Qal	Simple active. The basic meaning of the verb.	*qatal*	he killed
Niphal	Simple passive or reflexive (middle) voice of the Qal.	*niqtal*	he was killed
Piel	Intensive, active voice.	*qittal*	he murdered
Hithpael	Reflexive (middle) voice.	*hitqattael*	he committed suicide
Pual	Intensive, passive voice of the Piel.	*qottal*	he was murdered
Hiphil	Causative, active voice.	*hiqtil*	he had (someone) killed
Hophal	Causative, passive voice of the Hiphil.	*hoqtal*	he was killed [someone had him killed]

FORM: Each Hebrew verbal root takes its specific grammatical form by the presence or absence of vowels.			
Form	**Explanation**	**Hebrew Example**	**English Translation**
hlk – "to walk, go"; *alh* – "to go up, ascend"			
Perfect	Denotes completed action.	*halak dawid* (1 Kgs. 3:14)	David walked
Imperfect	Denotes incomplete action.	*wed yaleh min haaretz* (Gen. 2:6)	a mist used to rise from the earth
Cohortative	Denotes a wish in the 1st person.	*elka na hassadeh* (Ruth 2:2)	Please, let me go to the field
Imperative	Denotes a command in the 2nd person.	*lek bshalom* (2 Sam. 15:9)	Go in peace
Jussive	Denotes a command or wish, usually in the 3rd person.	*wehanna'ar ya'al im echayw* (Gen. 44:33)	and let the lad go up with his brothers
Participle	A verbal adjective.	*im hayashar holek* (Mic. 2:7)	to the one walking uprightly
Infinitive Absolute & Infinitive Construct	A word formed from a verb and functioning in several ways: As a noun (e.g., "to walk").	*wlo abo bidrachayo halok* (Isa. 42:24)	and they were not willing to walk in his ways
	As a finite verb (e.g., "he walked").	*whalok bashsheqer* (Jer. 23:14)	walking in falsehood
	As a command (e.g., "Walk!").	*halok wrachatzta* (2 Kgs. 5:10)	Go and wash
	As an adverbial participle, denoting purpose, result, manner, obligation, or time (e.g., "Walking, he stumbled…").	*halok wayqallel* (2 Sam. 16:13)	as he went he cursed
	As an intensifier. (e.g., "He will surely walk.")	*halok elek immak* (Jdg.. 4:9)	I will surely go with you [lit., going, I will go]
CONJUGATION: Each Hebrew verb is conjugated with prefixes or suffixes that indicate the person, number, and gender of the subject of the verb. Conjugations between the seven stems are similar but distinguishable. Hebrew verbs have only two "tenses," which describe completion more than time: perfect (describing completed action) and imperfect (describing incomplete action).			

Number	**Person**	**Gender**	**Hebrew Example**	**English Translation**
qtl – "to kill"				
Singular	First	Common/Unmarked	*eqtol*	I kill
	Second	Masculine	*tiqtol*	you kill

	Second	Feminine	*tiqtli*	you kill
	Third	Masculine	*yiqtol*	he kills
	Third	Feminine	*tiqtol*	she kills
Plural	First	Common/Unmarked	*niqtol*	we kill
	Second	Masculine	*tiqtlo*	you all kill
	Second	Feminine	*tiqtolnah*	you all kill
	Third	Masculine	*yiqtlo*	they kill
	Third	Feminine	*tiqtolnah*	they kill

HEBREW NOUNS

Hebrew nouns are distinguished by grammatical gender (masculine/feminine), number (singular/dual/plural), and state (absolute/construct). The <u>absolute state</u> of a noun shows its basic meaning, while the <u>construct state</u> shows that it is related to the following word.

Gender	Number	State	Hebrew Example	English Translation
dabar – (masculine noun) "word, matter, thing"; *spht* – (feminine noun) "lip, edge"				
Masculine	Singular	Absolute	*dabar*	word
		Construct	*dbar*	word of
	Dual	Absolute	*dibrayim*	[two] words
		Construct	*dibray*	[two] words of
	Plural	Absolute	*dbarim*	words
		Construct	*dibrey*	words of
Feminine	Singular	Absolute	*saphah*	lip
		Construct	*sphat*	lip of
	Dual	Absolute	*sphatayim*	[pair of] lips
		Construct	*siphtey*	[pair of] lips of
	Plural	Absolute	*sphatot*	lips
		Construct	*siphtot*	lips of

HEBREW ALPHABET

Consonants

ל	ך כ כּ	י	ט	ח	ז	ו	ה	ד דּ	ג ג	ב בּ	א
lamedh	kaph	yodh	teth	heth	zayin	waw	he	daleth	gimel	beth	aleph
l	k	y / j	t	ch	z	w	h	dh / d	g	bh / b	'

ת	שׁ	שׂ	ר	ק	ץ צ	ף פ פּ	ע	ס	ן נ	ם מ
taw	shin	sin	resh	qoph	tsade	pe	ayin / ajin	samekh	nun	mem
t / th	sh	s	r	q	ts / tz	ph / p	'	s	n	m

Vowels

בֱ	בֶ	בֵ	בֵי	בָה	בֲ	בַ	בָ
hataph segol	segol	sere	sere yodh	qamets he	hataph patach	patach	qamets
half-e	short-e	long-e	long-e	long-ah ending	half-a	short-a	long-a

בְ	בֻ	ו	בֳ	בָ	בֹ	ו	בִ	בִי
shewa	qibbuts	shureq	hataph qamets	qamets hatuph	holem	holem waw	hireq	hireq yodh
vocal stop	short or long-u	long-u	half-o	short-o	long-o	long-o	short-i	long-i

Note: Originally, written Hebrew was consonantal (consonants only). Vowel *sounds* (not formed letters) were used in order to pronounce the consonant-only root words. The specific vowel sounds used with a word gave specific meaning to that word. Centuries after the consonantal text was recorded, in an effort to preserve the originally understood meanings, Hebrew scholars developed written vowels.

ADDITIONAL HEBREW RESOURCES

Waltke, Bruce K. and O'Connor, M. 1990. *An Introduction to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*. Winona Lake, Indiana: Eisenbrauns.

Weingreen, Jacob. 1975. *A Practical Grammar for Classical Hebrew*. Oxford, England: Clarendon Press.

Williams, Ronald J. 1982. *Hebrew Syntax, An Outline*. 2nd Ed. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.