

1. Introductory comments about Greek infinitives

1.1 Infinitives are “verbal nouns”! You can frequently translate a Greek infinitive like an English one: “to _____” (like *to eat*). Sometimes, however, you can use the English *gerund*, which is an -ing form of the verb that functions as a verbal noun (*eating* as in *I love eating*).

To eat/Eating is fun.

I love *to eat/eating*.

1.2 Infinitives are *indeclinable, neuter singular* verbal nouns. That is, the infinitive (INF) itself does not decline for case, and it never is conceived of as anything but neuter and singular in gender/number. If the INF is articular, then the article will be neuter sing and will decline based on its function.

τὸ βάλλειν ἐστὶν ἀγαθόν.

ἐν τῷ βάλλειν...

1.3 Because the INF is a verbal noun, not only can it perform the functions of a noun (S, DO, Obj of the Prep), it can also take DO and other verbal modifiers (like adverbs and PPs).

To eat cookies and cream slowly and deliberately in bed is fun.

2. How to FORM the Greek INF

2.1 The following chart indicates what you are to add to the *tense stem* for the various types of Infinitives:

Present Active/Middle/Passive Inf:	built off <u>Present</u> stem.
Aor Active/Middle Inf:	built off <u>Aorist Act</u> stem, <i>without augment</i> .
Aor Passive Inf:	built off <u>Aorist Pass</u> stem, <i>without augment</i> .
Perfect Active Inf:	built off <u>Perfect Act</u> stem, <i>with reduplication</i> .
Perfect Middle/Passive Inf:	built off <u>Perfect Mid/Pass</u> stem, <i>with reduplication</i> .

	Present	1st Aor	2nd Aor	Perfect
Active	CV ε + εV (~εΙV)	TF σα + ι (~σαι)	CV ε + εV (~εΙV)	TF κε + ναι
Middle	CV ε + σθαι	TF σα + σθαι	CV ε + σθαι	NO TF/CV + σθαι
Passive	CV ε + σθαι	TF θη + ναι	TF η + ναι	NO TF/CV + σθαι

2.2 Abbreviations in the chart:

CV = connecting vowel. Note: the CV choice is o/ε, but since none of the endings begins with μ/ν, the CV is *always* ε.

TF = tense formative (which renders a CV unnecessary)

2.3 Here is the same chart, now with the *resultant endings* after any contractions with CVs have occurred. **Memorize this chart**; it will be on your Ch. 32 Quiz on the Infinitive.

	Present	1st Aor	2nd Aor	Perfect
Active	εΙV	σαι	εΙV	κεναι
Middle	εσθαι	σασθαι	εσθαι	σθαι
Passive	εσθαι	θηναι	ηναι	σθαι

Did you notice that *all forms of the infinitive* end with -αι (-σαι, -σθαι, -ναι) except for the Pres and 2Aor Act?

2.4 Below I provide a complete chart, plugging in the tense stems of λύω (and λαμβάνω for 2Aor Act/Mid, γράφω for 2Aor Pass) plus the resultant endings (CV + INF morpheme):

	Present	1st Aor	2nd Aor	Perfect
Active	λυ + ε + εV → λύειν	λυ + σα + ι → λύσαι	λαβ + ε + εV → λαβεῖν	λελυ + κε + ναι → λελυκέναι
Middle	λυ + ε + σθαι → λύεσθαι	λυ + σα + σθαι → λύσασθαι	λαβ + ε + σθαι → λαβέσθαι	λελυ + σθαι → λελύσθαι
Passive	λυ + ε + σθαι → λύεσθαι	λυ + θη + ναι → λυθῆναι	γραφ + η + ναι → γραφῆναι	λελυ + σθαι → λελύσθαι

3. Semantics and the Subjects of the INF

3.1 Since the INF is not an indicative mood form, the choice of Present-, Aorist-, and Perfect-stem for the INF is not a matter of tense/timing. The semantics of ASPECT is what matters here!

3.2 Since the INF is not technically a finite verb, it doesn't have a S(ubject). The conceptual S of an INF, if it is overt, is going to be in the ACC case (not the NOM case!). Beware—if the INF has both a S and a DO, you will have to determine which ACC noun is the S and which the DO (this isn't usually too difficult if you have context to consider).

Luke 2:27 (NA28)

καὶ ἐν τῷ εἰσαγαγεῖν τοὺς γονεῖς τὸ παιδίον Ἰησοῦν ...

and when the parents brought in the child Jesus...

3.3 Negation of INFs: Remember, we use οὐ to negate indicative-mood verbs; outside the indicative mood, we normally simply use μή to negate verb forms (this goes for other moods like the subjunctive/imperative, and also for the non-finite forms of PTCs/INFs).

Romans 7:3 (NA28)

... ἐὰν δὲ ἀποθάνῃ ὁ ἀνὴρ, ἐλευθέρα ἐστὶν ἀπὸ τοῦ νόμου, τοῦ μὴ εἶναι αὐτὴν μοιχαλίδα γενομένην ἀνδρὶ ἑτέρῳ.

...but if her husband dies, she is free from the law, so that she is not an adulteress though she is joined to another man.

4. The functions and grammatical constructions of Greek INFs (see Mounce 302–305).