Chapter 17

Prepositions - Part 1

17.1 Prepositions
Prepositions tell us the relation between two words - they generally tell us where something is or takes place.

e.g. "The dog is in the street.", "John came before Jesus.", "I went out.", "He looked at me."

Greek uses prepositions very frequently, either as stand-alone words, or as prefixes to other words, to show direction, etc.

e.g. ἄγω - I lead, συναγω - I gather together, εἰσαγω - I lead in(to), ὑπαγω - I go away

Greek prepositions are linked to particular grammatical cases.

For example,

Prepositions which imply "motion towards" something usually "take" (go with) the Accusative.
Prepositions which imply "motion away from" something usually take the Genitive.
Prepositions which imply "something at rest" usually take the Dative.

e.g. εἰς τον οἶκον - into the house, ἐκ τοῦ οἴκου - out of the house, ἐν τῷ οἴκῳ - in the house

The same general relations are found in Latin, German, and other inflected Indo-European languages.

Some prepositions can take more than one case, and their meaning may vary accordingly.

At first sight the dictionary and vocabulary lists can look intimidating and confusing. Don't worry about them, just keep on reading the Greek New Testament, and you will begin to see how the prepositions fit in the rest of the sentence.

17.2 "he/she/it went/came" - ἠλθεν "we went/came" - ἠλθοµεν

At this point it will be useful to learn how to say that someone came or went (a simple past tense).

In section 13.3 we met the simple past εἰπεν - "he said", and εἰποµεν - "we said".
Now we meet ἠλθεν - "he came/went", and ἠλθοµεν - "we came/went"

English uses two verbs, "I come" and "I go", where Greek only uses one. The English "I come" implies movement towards an observer; "I go" implies movement away from an observer. The movement is the same in both cases, the only thing that changes is the position of the observer, so Greek logically uses the same verb. The rest of the sentence will indicate whether one should translate it as "come" or "go".

Several of the prepositions combine with verbs to form verbs which show the direction of movement.

e.g. προσηλθεν προς τον οἶκον. She/he/it came/went towards the house.
        εἰσηλθεν εἰς τον οἶκον. She/he/it came into the house.
        ἐξηλθεν ἐκ τοῦ οἴκου. She/he/it came out of the house.
        ἀπηλθεν ἀπο τοῦ οἴκου. She/he/it came away from the house.

Note: Greek is not consistent in its use of compound verbs - you may find either a compound or the simpler ἠλθ- form in a sentence with a preposition.

Practice - until you can read and translate easily

1. ὁ Πέτρος προσηλθεν προς τον Ἰησουν. Peter came/went to(wards) Jesus.
2. αὕτη εἰσηλθεν εἰς την Ἱερουσαλήμ. She entered into Jerusalem.
3. ἀπηλθοµεν ἀπο των Φαρισσαων. We went away from the Pharisees.
4. αὕτος ἠλθεν και εἰπεν το Ιησου, Ῥαββ! He came and said to Jesus, "Rabbi!"
5. εἰσηλθοµεν εἰς τον ἄγρον. We came into the field.
6. εἰσηλθεν ὁ γεωργὸς εἰς τον ἄγρον; Did the farmer go into the field?
7. ὁ Λουκας εξηλθεν ἐκ του ἱερου. Luke went out of (left) the temple.
8. ὁ νυμφιος ἠλθεν προς τον οἶκον. The bridegroom went towards the house.
9. ὁ δεσµιος εἰσηλθεν εἰς την φυλακην. The prisoner went into the prison.
10. εξηλθοµεν ἐκ της κωµης. We went out of (left) the village.
17.3 Preposition which takes the Accusative: eις

Practice - until you can read and translate easily

1. το παιδίον ἠλθεν eις τον ἅγρον. The child went into the field.
2. ἠλθομεν eις την κωμην. We went into the village.
3. ὁ Στεφανος βλεπει eις τον οὐρανον. Stephen looks into heaven.
4. εἰσηλθεν ὁ Ιωαννης eις την συναγωγην; Did John enter into the synagogue?
5. οὐ. ἠλθεν eις την έρημον. No. He went into the desert.
6. το τεκνον βαλλει λίθους eις την θαλασσαν. The child is throwing stones into the sea.
7. ὁ Ιησους ἠλθεν eις την Γάληλαιαν. Jesus came (in)to Galilee.
8. ἠλθομεν eις την Ιουδαιαν; Did we go into Judea?
9. Ναι. ἠλθομεν eις την Ιερουσαληµ. Yes. We went into Jerusalem.
10. οὐκ ἠλθεν εις τους ἅγρους ἄλλης eις την οἰκιαν. He did not go into the fields but into the house.

17.4 Prepositions which take the Genitive: ἀπὸ, ἐκ, πρὸ

ἀπὸ becomes ἀπ’ when followed by a vowel with a smooth breathing, and ἀφ’ when followed by a vowel with a rough breathing.
In compound words, ἐκ- becomes ἐξ- if followed by a vowel.
πρὸ never drops its vowel.

Practice - until you can read and translate easily

1. ὁ κυριος ἀποστελλει ἡμας ἀπο του Ιερουσαληµ. The Lord sends us (away) from Jerusalem.
2. ὁ Ιησους ἀπηλθεν ἀπο της Ιουδαιας και εἰσηλθεν εις την Γαληλαιαν. Jesus went away from Judea and entered (into) Galilee.
3. ὁ μαθητης ἠλθεν εκ της Ιερουσαληµ. The disciple went out of the house.
4. εξηλθομεν εκ του ιερου και ἀπηλθομεν ἀπο του Ιερουσαληµ. We came out of the temple and went away from Jerusalem.
5. ἐγω ἀποστελλω τον ἄγγελον μου προ προσοπου σου. I am sending my messenger before your face. (Matt. 11:10)
6. ὁ Ιησους ἠλθεν εις Ιερουσαληµ προ του Πασχα. Jesus came to Jerusalem before the Passover.
7. ὁ Παυλος ἀποστολος ἦν προ του Παυλου. Peter was an apostle before Paul.
8. ἀπηλθεν ὁ Ιησους ἀπο της Ιουδαιας; Did Jesus go away from Judea?
9. Ναι. αυτος ἠλθεν ἀπο της Ιερουσαληµ και εἰσηλθεν εις την Γαληλαιαν. Yes. He went away from Jerusalem and entered into Galilee.
10. εξηλθεν ἥ χρη ἐκ του οἴκου και εἶπεν. The widow went out of the house and said “Woe is me (to me).”

17.5 Prepositions which take the Dative: ἐν, συν

When συν forms compounds, the ν may drop out or change to a μ, γ or λ depending on the following letter.

e.g.
ζητεω - I seek, συζητεω - I argue, discuss; καλεω - I call, συγκαλεω - I call together;
μαθητης - disciple, συμμαθητης - fellow-disciple εἰμι - I am, συνειμι - I am present with;
λαμβανω - I get, receive, συλλαμβανω - I seize, arrest; ἐστηθος - I eat, συνεσθης - I eat with

Practice - until you can read and translate easily

1. ὁ μαθητης ἐν ταις Ιερουσαληµοις ἦν; Was the disciple in Jerusalem?
2. Ναι. αυτος ἐν τω ιερω ἦν συν τοις συμμαθηταις αυτου. Yes. He was in the temple with his fellow-disciples.
3. ὁ δεσμιός ἐν τῇ φυλάκῃ ἔστιν.
4. τὸ τεκνὸν ἐν τῇ οίκῳ ἔστιν
   σὺν τῷ διδασκαλῷ αὐτοῦ.
5. ὁ προφήτης σὺν τοῖς μαθηταῖς αὐτοῦ
   ἐν τῇ έρημῳ ἔστιν.
6. ὁ Πέτρος συγκάλει τοὺς ἀδελφούς
   ἐίς τὸν οίκον καὶ ὅτε αὐτοῖς ἐν τῷ οίκῳ
   συνείσιν σὺν αὐτῷ,
   αὐτοῖς διδάσκει αὐτοὺς.
7. ὁ Μαρκός οὐ συνήλθεν σὺν τῷ Παύλῳ
   ἐίς τὸ ἔργον τοῦ εὐαγγελίου.
8. ἡ Μαρθα καὶ αἱ ἄδελφαι σὺν αὐτῇ
   λέγουσιν πρὸς τοὺς ἄποστολους.
9. ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἔξηλθεν ἐκ τοῦ έρευ
   σὺν τοῖς μαθηταῖς αὐτοῦ.
10. ὁ χλιάρχος πιστεύει τῷ θυρίῳ
    σὺν ὅλῳ τῷ οίκῳ αὐτοῦ.

17.6 Prepositions which take several cases

ἄνα, διά, ἐπί, κατά, μέτα, παρά, περί, πρό, πρός, ύπέρ, ύπό

For a start, learn just one meaning for each preposition, and increase the range of meanings as you read more and gain more experience by reading them in context.

ἄνα (upwards) and κατά (downwards) form a pair. The way to remember which is which is

- ἄνα and "up" both begin with a vowel. κατά and "down" both begin with a consonant.
- ἄνα and "up" are shorter than κατά and "down".

ὑπό (under) and ὑπέρ (above) form a pair. The way to remember which is which is

- a hypodermic needle goes "under" the skin.
- a hyperactive child is swinging from the light fixtures.

διά, ἐπί, κατά, μέτα, παρά and ύπο drop their terminal vowel if followed by a vowel.
If followed by a vowel with a rough breathing, κατά and μέτα become καθ' and μεθ' respectively,
ἐπί and ὑπό become ἐφ' and ὑφ' respectively.

περί and πρό always keep their vowels.

Practice - until you can read and translate easily.

The phrases in bold type are common phrases or idioms which you should learn.

1. ὁ Ἰησοῦς λέγει τὴν ἀλήθειαν, διά τοῦτο
   οἱ Φαρισαῖοι οὐκ ἁγιάσασιν αὐτόν.
   Jesus speaks the truth, because of this,
   the Pharisees do not love him.
2. διηλθοῦσιν διὰ τοῦ ἱεροῦ.
   We went through the temple.
3. ὁ ἄγγελος βαλεῖ τὸν διαβόλον ἐπὶ τὴν γῆν.
   The angel throws the devil onto the earth.
4. ὁ Ἰωάννης βλέπει τὸν Κυρίον
   ἐπὶ τῷ θρόνῳ.
   John sees the Lord upon the throne.
5. ἥλθεν ἐπὶ τοῦ Χριστοῦ τοῦ θερησίου.
   He came at the time of the harvest.
6. ἀναγινώσκει τὸ εὐαγγέλιον
   κατὰ τοὺς Μαρκον.
   He is reading the Gospel according to Mark.
7. οἱ Φαρισαῖοι λαμβάνουσιν συμβουλὴν
   κατὰ τοῦ Ἰησοῦ.
   The Pharisees get (make) a plan/plot against Jesus.
8. ὁ Ἰησοῦς παραλαμβάνει τοὺς μαθητὰς αὐτοῦ
   ἦλθεν ἐις Καφαρναοῦμ.
   Jesus takes his disciples along with him
   privately to Capernaum.
9. ὁ Φαρισαιος ἠλθεν καθ' ἡμεραν εἰς τὸ ἱερον.
10. μετὰ ταυτα ὁ Ἰησους ἠλθεν εἰς τὴν Γαλαλαίαν.
11. το παῦδον ἠλθεν μετ' αὐτοῦ.
12. ὁ Ἰησους περιπατει παρὰ την θαλασσαν.
13. ὁ Ἱωαννης ἦν ἄνθρωπος παρὰ τοῦ θεοῦ.
14. αὐτοὶ ἦσαν παρὰ τῷ Πέτρῳ.
15. ὁ νυμφιος ἠλθεν περὶ τὴν τριτην ὥραν.
16. ὁ Ἰησους λεγει τοις ὀχλοις περὶ Ἰωαννου.
17. ὁ Ἱωαννης βλεπει τους ἄγγελους περὶ τον θρόνον του θεοῦ.
18. ὁ ἁµαρτολος ἠλθεν προς τὸν Ἰησουν.
19. ἡ Μαρια εἰπεν πρὸς αὐτὸν, Ῥαββι.
20. ὁ λόγος ἦν πρὸς τον θεον.
21. οὐκ έστιν µαθητης ὑπερ τον διδασκαλον.
22. ὁ Ἰησους βαπτιζεται ὑπο του Ιωανου.

The main use of ὑπὸ is with passive verbs, to show the agent who acts upon the subject.
We will meet the Passive later. For now, we will use "he is being baptized" = βαπτιζεται.

24. ὁ Ἰησους βαπτιζεται ὑπὸ του Ιωαννου. Jesus is being baptized by John.

There are no Sentences for reading and translation, because you need to spend extra time learning the prepositions and their idioms.

17.7 Writing Practice
A. Review
Type with a word-processor and print out Matthew 6:9b-13 in a large font size (16-24 pt).
You may use SPIonic or a Polytonic Greek Unicode font.
Keep the print-out to read aloud at the start of each lesson or study session.

B. : Write the Greek text several times, while saying aloud (John 1:1)
Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος,
In (the) beginning was the Word

17.8 New Testament Passages for reading and translation
Matt. 3:13, 2 Corinth. 1:1-2, Gal. 1:1-5, Philemon 1-3
In your Greek New Testament, read the passages aloud several times until you can read them without long pauses or stumbling. Then use the translation helps to translate them.

παραγινεται (he) came (from παραγινοµαι - I come, arrive, appear, come beside)
(του) βαπτιζεται (in order) to be baptized

θεληµατος will (Genitive singular of το θεληµα - will)
tη ουση to the one being (a feminine present participle of εἰµι, describing τη ἐκκλησια)
pασιν to everyone (Dative plural of πας, πασα, παν - each, every)
ουσιν being (Dative plural participle of εἰµι)
χαρις grace (Nominative singular of ἡ χαρις - grace)
pατρος father (Genitive singular of ὁ πατηρ - father)
ἐγειραντος the one having raised = the one who raised (a Gen. participle of ἐγειρω - I raise)
pαντες all, everyone (Nom. Masc. plural of πας, πασα, παν - each, every)

The Pharisee went (in)to the temple daily.
After these things, Jesus went into Galilee.
The child went with him.
Jesus is walking beside the sea.
John was a man from God.
They were with Peter.
The bridegroom came at about the third hour.
Jesus speaks about John to the crowds.
John sees the angels around the throne of God.
The sinner went to(wards) Jesus.
Mary said to him, “Rabbi!”
The Word was with God. (John 1:1b)
A disciple is not above (his) teacher, nor a slave above his master. (Matt. 10:24)
Jesus does these works on our behalf.
You are not under the Law. (Gal. 5:18)
δοντος having given (a Genitive participle of διδωµ I give)
ὅπως so that, in order that
eξεληται he might choose, select (a Subjunctive of ἐκλεγοµαι - I choose, select)
αιωνος age, eternity (Genitive of ὁ αἰων - age)
ἐνεστωτος present, imminent (Gen. participle of ἐνιστηµι - to be impending, present)
συνεργο fellow-worker (Dative of ὁ συνεργος)
συστρατιωτη fellow-soldier (Dative of ὁ συστρατιωτης)

17.9 Vocabulary to learn

Two nouns to learn

ὁ θερισµός harvest
tο συµβυλίουν plan, plot (ἡ βουλη - council, plan)

Prepositions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Accusative</th>
<th>Genitive</th>
<th>Dative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ἀνά</td>
<td>each, each one</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ἀπό</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>away from</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>διά</td>
<td>because of, on account of</td>
<td>through, by means of</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>εἰς</td>
<td>into</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ἐκ</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>out of, out from</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ἐν</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>in, on</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ἐπί</td>
<td>on, upon, against, concerning</td>
<td>in the time of, on, upon, over</td>
<td>on, upon, at, in, concerning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>κατά</td>
<td>according to, just as</td>
<td>down, against</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>μετὰ</td>
<td>after, behind</td>
<td>with, in company with</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>παρά</td>
<td>beside, alongside</td>
<td>from, from beside</td>
<td>with, beside</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>περί</td>
<td>around, about</td>
<td>about, concerning</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>πρὸ</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>before (time or place)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>πρὸς</td>
<td>toward, to, so that, with</td>
<td>for, for the sake of</td>
<td>at, on, near</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>σύν</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>with, along with,</td>
<td>in company with</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ύπερ</td>
<td>above, beyond,</td>
<td>for, on behalf of</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ύπό</td>
<td>under, below,</td>
<td>by, by means of</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. ἀνά as a prefix has the sense of "up" or "again"
2. an apostate is someone who has fallen away from the faith.
3. one can see through diaphanous material
4. ἐπὶ τοῦ χρονοῦ τοῦ . . . = "at the time of" often omits "χρονοῦ" and writes "ἐπί τοῦ . . . "
5. κατά as a prefix has the sense of "down"
6. parallel lines run alongside one another
7. περί - hence the "perimeter" of a circle
8. the most common use of πρός in the New Testament is πρός + Acc.
   πρός + Gen. is used once in the New Testament, Acts 27:34
   πρός + Dat. is used 5 times in the New Testament
9. ύπερ may be used as an adverb = even more
10. a hypodermic needle goes under the skin