Chapter 48

Infinitives

48.1 The Infinitive has the form "to do something". It is treated as one of the Moods of the Verb; it shows Voice (Active, Middle, Passive) and Tense, but does not take personal endings. Infinitives can be Active (to sing, to go), Middle (to seat oneself), or Passive (to be loved, to be called).

We met the Present Active forms of the Infinitive in Chapter 19. Before proceeding, please review Chapter 19, particularly the various idiomatic uses of the Infinitive. They are given again here for reference:

The Infinitive functions as a Neuter Verbal Noun.
1. As subject of a verb e.g. "To sing improves the voice."
2. As object of a verb e.g. "I gave him something to eat."
3. As a predicate complement e.g. "I have something to say."

Greek also uses the Infinitive with prepositions (where English might use a participle):
1. ἐν τῷ - time at which to do something
2. πρὸ το - before doing something
3. μετὰ τοῦ - after doing something
4. διὰ τοῦ - because (reason) to do something
5. εἰς τὸ, πρὸς τὸ - purpose (in order) to do something
6. τοῦ - purpose (in order) to do something

48.2 The Present Infinitives are built on the Present Stem, and imply continuous or repeated action (to be doing something), though this is often not easy to show in English.

For the Present Infinitive Active,
For verbs in -ω, the ending is -ειν. For contract verbs -ειν becomes -αν, -εῖν, or -ουν
For the -μι verbs, the ending is -αν

For the Present Infinitive Middle and Passive, for verbs in -ω and verbs in -μι, the ending is -σθαι, which is joined to the stem through a "euphonic vowel" if necessary.

The meaning of the Active Infinitive is "To do something", "To be doing something"
The meaning of the Passive Infinitive is "To be (something-ed)", "To be having something done to one"
The Middle implies "To be doing something to oneself"
Remember that the Deponent Verbs look passive - but they should be translated in an active sense.

Examples

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Active</th>
<th>Middle and Passive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>to loose</td>
<td>λυεῖν</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to do</td>
<td>ποιεῖν</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to love</td>
<td>ἀγαπᾶν</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to make clear</td>
<td>φανεροῦν</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to give</td>
<td>δίδωναι</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to cause to stand</td>
<td>ἵσταναι</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to place</td>
<td>τίθεναι</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to be</td>
<td>εἶναι</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Negation is with µη
e.g. µη ποιεῖν to not do, to not be doing
A. Practice, Active - until you can read and translate easily
1. λέγει αὐτοῖς, 'Ὑμεῖς δὲ τίνα με λέγετε εἶναι;
2. ἀπὸ τοτε ἢρξατο ὁ Ἰησοῦς κηρύσσειν καὶ λέγειν, Μετανοεῖτε . . .
3. προσέχετε δὲ την δίκαιοσύνην ὑμῶν μὴ ποιεῖτε ἐμπρόσθεν τῶν ἀνθρώπων.
4. μηδὲν μηδὲν ὑποθέτετε εἴ μη τὸ ἄλληλον ἁγιασθ. . . .
5. οὐ θέλομεν ἡς ὑμᾶς αγνοεῖν, . . .
6. περὶ δὲ τῆς φιλαδελφίας οὐ χρείαιν ἔχετε γραφεῖν ὑμῖν.
7. μελλόντος δὲ τοῦ Παύλου ἀνοίγειν τὸ στόμα As Paul was about to open (his) mouth (Acts 18:14)
8. ὁ Πέτρος ἢρξατο ἐπίτιμαιν αὐτῷ . . . Peter began to rebuke him . . . (Matt. 16:22)
9. ἔξωσιαν ἔχει ὁ ύιὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου ἐπὶ τῆς γης ἀφίεται ἀμαρτίας. The Son of Man has authority on the earth to forgive sins. (Matt. 9:6)
10. καὶ παλιν ἢρξατο δίδασκειν And he began to teach again beside the sea. (Mark 4:1)

B. Practice, Middle / Passive - until you can read and translate easily
1. βουλομαι ἀσπαζεσθαι τοὺς ἀδελφοὺς. I plan to be greeting the brothers.
2. θέλω ἀγαπασθαι ὑπὸ τῶν ἀδελφῶν. I wish to be loved by the brothers.
3. θέλομεν μὴ μισεσθαι ὑπὸ τοῦ προφητοῦ. We wish to not be hated by the prophet.
4. οἱ μαθηταὶ βουλονται προσευχεσθαι ἐν τῷ ἱερῷ. The disciples plan to be praying in the temple.
5. εἰσῆλθαν εἰς τὸ ἱερόν εἰς τὸ προσευχεσθαι. He came into the temple in order to pray.
6. ἔρχεται πρὸς τὴν συναγωγὴν εἴς τοῦ διαιγεσθαι τὸν λογον του τοῦ θεου μετὰ τῶν Φαρισαίων. He comes to the synagogue in order to discuss the word of God with the Pharisees.
7. θέλετε ἵασθαι τοὺς τυφλοὺς; Do you wish to be healing the blind?
8. ὁ τελωνης βουλεται πευδεσθαι τῷ κριτῇ. The tax-collector plans to lie to the judge.
9. ωφελομεν μὴ πευδεσθαι ταῖς ἀδελφαῖς. We should not be lying to the sisters.
10. όρθρομαι ῥυεσθαι τοὺς πτωχοὺς. You ought to be saving the poor.

48.3 The Future Infinitives are built on the Future Stem, they are rare in the New Testament.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Future Infinitive Active</th>
<th>Stem + σ + εἰν</th>
<th>&quot;to be about to doing something&quot;</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Future Infinitive Middle</td>
<td>Stem + σε + σθαι</td>
<td>&quot;to be about to do something to oneself&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Future Infinitive Passive</td>
<td>Stem + θῆσθε + σθαι</td>
<td>&quot;to be about have something done to one&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Examples:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Active</th>
<th>Middle</th>
<th>Passive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>λυω</td>
<td>λυσθαι</td>
<td>λυθησθαι</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>λυεῖν</td>
<td>λυσθαι</td>
<td>λυθησθαι</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to be about to loose</td>
<td>to be about to loose oneself</td>
<td>to be about to be loosed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Practice - until you can read and translate easily
1. ἄναστας δὲ εἰς εἶς ἀυτῶν ὅνομαν Ἀγαβος ἔσημαν διὰ του πνεύματος λίμου μεγάλης μελετεῖν ἔσσεθαι ἐφ᾽ όλῃ την ὅλους μνεύουσιν. (That there was about to be a great famine over . . . ) (σημαίνω = I signify, give a sign) (Acts 11:28)

One of them, by name Agabus, having stood up, signaled through the Spirit (that) a great famine (was) about to come over the whole inhabited earth.
2. ἐστιν δὲ καὶ ἄλλα πολλά ἢ ἐποίησεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἀτίνα ἐαν γραφηται καθ' ἐν. οὖν αὐτὸν οἴμαι τὸν κοσμὸν χωρησειν τα γραφομένα βιβλία. (I do not suppose the world to be about to have room for the being-written-books. οἴμαι = "I suppose")

(John 21:25)

(The text above is from the version of Westcot and Hort. Other versions have an Aorist Infinitive χωρησαι.)

3. ἡμολόγω δὲ τοῦτο σοι ἀτιμικ. ἰδικοὶ . . . . I confess this to you, that . . . .

λατρεύω τῷ πατρῷῳ θεῷ, . . . . I worship the God of our fathers . . .

ἐλπιδα ἐχων εἰς τον θεον, . . . . having a hope towards God,

ἣν και αὐτοι οὑτοι προσδεχονται, . . . . which they themselves also await,

ἀναστασιν µελλειν ἐσεσθαι δικαιων τε και ἁδικων. the (to-be-in-the)-future resurrection of the righteous and the unrighteous.

(Acts 24:14-15)

4. παρῇνει ὁ Παυλος λεγων αὐτοις, Ἄνδρε, θεωρω ὅτι µετα ὑβρεως και πολλης ζηµιας I know that the voyage is about to be with disaster and much damage, not only to the cargo and the ship, but to our lives.

µελλειν ἐσεσθαι τον πλουν. (Acts 27:9-10)

(παρῃνει = Aorist of παραινεω - I exhort, admonish

ἡ ζηµια = damage  ὁ φορτος = load, ship's cargo  ὁ πλόος = voyage)

5. τίσιν δε ύµοσεν µη εἰσέλευσεσθαι To whom, then, did he swear (that they were)

eἰς την καταπαυσιν αὐτου ει µη not about to enter into his rest, except
tοις ἀπειθησασιν ; to the unfaithful ? (Heb. 3:18)

( ύµοσεν - Aorist of ὄµνυω - I swear, take an oath

ἡ κατάπαυσις - rest, place of rest, a putting down to rest, from καταπαύω - I settle down )

My grateful thanks to Stirling Bartholomew, Randall Buth, and the B-Greek Group for help in locating these passages.

48.4 First Aorist Infinitives are built on the First Aorist Stem and imply a single or completed action. The meaning of the Aorist Infinitive Active is "to do something"
The meaning of the Aorist Infinitive Middle is "to do something to oneself"
The meaning of the Aorist Infinitive Passive is "to be have something done to one"

First Aorist endings are used by verbs whose Aorist Stem is identical to the Present Stem.
The typical signal for a First Aorist is -σα- in the Active, and -θη- in the Passive.

First Aorist Infinitive Active Stem + σ + αι "to do something"
First Aorist Infinitive Middle Stem + σα + σθαι "to do something to oneself"
First Aorist Infinitive Passive Stem + θη + ναι "to be have something done to one"

Remember the interactions of -σ- with stems ending in gutturals, labials, dentals or liquids.

Examples

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Active</th>
<th>Middle</th>
<th>Passive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>λυω</td>
<td>λυσαι</td>
<td>λυθηναι</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>λυσασθαι</td>
<td>to loose, to have loosed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ποιεω</td>
<td>ποιησαι</td>
<td>ποιηθηναι</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ποιησασθαι</td>
<td>to make, do, act</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>γραφω</td>
<td>γραψαι</td>
<td>γραφηναι</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>γραψασθαι</td>
<td>to write</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Practice - until you can read and translate easily

1. βαπτισµα δε ἐχω βαπτισθηναι . . . I have a baptism to be baptized (in/with) (Luke 12:50)

2. µετα δε το σιγησαι αυτους . . . After they were silent . . . (Acts 15:13)
3. Ἰωσήφ δὲ ὁ ἄνηρ αὐτῆς, δίκαιος ὄν καὶ μὴ θέλων αὐτὴν δειγματίζει, ἐβουλήθη λαθραία ἀπολύσαι αὐτήν.
But Joseph her husband, being righteous and not wishing to expose her, was wishing to put her away secretly. (Matt. 1:19)
4. εἶδομεν γὰρ αὐτὸν τὸν ἀστέρα ἐν τῇ ἀνατολῇ καὶ ἠλέημεν προσκυνησά τοῦμ. For we saw his star in the East and we came to worship him. (Matt. 2:2)
5. μελλεῖ γὰρ Ἡρῴδης ζητεῖν τὸ παιδίον τοῦ ἀπολέσα τοῦ. For Herod is about to seek the child in order to kill him. (Matt. 2:13)
6. οὐ δύνασαι μιαν τρίχα λευκήν ποιῆσαι ἢ μελανάν. You are not able to make one hair white or black. (Matt. 5:36)
7. καὶ οὐδεὶς οὐκετὶ ἐτόλμη αὐτὸν ἐπερωτήσαι. And no-one dared any longer (no more) to question him. (Mark 12:34)
8. οἱ δὲ εἰσάνα, Ἐπετρεπὲν Μοῦσῆς βιβλίων ἀποστασίαν γράψαι καὶ ἀπολύσαι. They said, “Moses allowed (us) to write a book (bill) of divorce and to send (her) away. (Mark 10:4)
9. ἔγω δὲ λέγω ὅτι πας ὁ βλέπων γυναίκα πρὸς τὸ ἐπιθυμῆσαι αὐτὴν ἢ ἐμοιχεῦσεν αὐτὴν ἐν τῇ καρδίᾳ αὐτοῦ. But I say to you that everyone eyeing a woman to lust after her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. (Matt. 5:28)

48.5 Second Aorist Infinitives are built on the Second Aorist Stem. Second Aorist endings are used by verbs whose Aorist and Present Stems are different. This includes the "Weirdos", but remember that "I carry, bear, bring" φέρω, ὁσίω, ἰένεκον / ἰένεκα can be found with either First or Second Aorist endings. γινώσκω (I know) and the -βαίνω (come/go) verbs use First Aorist endings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Second Aorist Infinitive Active</th>
<th>Stem + ειν</th>
<th>&quot;to do something&quot;</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Second Aorist Infinitive Middle</td>
<td>Stem + euphonic vowel + σθαι</td>
<td>&quot;to do something to oneself&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Aorist Infinitive Passive</td>
<td>Stem + η + ναι</td>
<td>&quot;to be have something done to one&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Examples: Active | Middle | Passive
-bαίνω | -βηναι to come/go - | -
βαλλω | βαλεῖν to throw | βαλεσθαι to throw oneself βληθηναι to be thrown
γινομαι | γενεσθαι to become - | -
γινωσκω | γνωσθαι to know - | -

Practice - until you can read and translate easily

1. Ἰωσήφ, υἱὸς Δαυίδ, μὴ φοβηθής παραλαβεῖν Μαρίαν τὴν γυναῖκα σου. Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take
Mary your wife. (Matt. 1:20)
2. Γεννηματα ἐχόνων, τίς ὑπεδείξεν ὅμιν φυεῖν ἀπὸ τῆς μελλουσῆς ὁργῆς; Generation of vipers, who warned you to flee from the approaching wrath? (Matt. 3:7)
3. Ῥαχήλ... οὐκ ἠθελεν παρακληθῆναι. Rachel... did not wish to be comforted (Matt. 2:18)
4. Ἀξιος εἰ, ὁ κυριος καὶ ὁ θεος ἡμῶν, λαβεῖν τὴν δοξαν καὶ τὴν τιμὴν καὶ τὴν δυναμιν, ὅτι συ ἐκτίσας τὰ παντα, καὶ διὰ τὸ θελήμα σου ἔσαν καὶ ἐκτίσθησαν. You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power because you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created. (Rev. 4:11)
(ἐκτίσθησαν - Third Person Plural, Aorist Passive of κτιζω - I create)
5. ἀπὸ τοτε ἤρεξατο ὁ Ἰησοῦς δεικνύειν τοῖς μαθηταῖς αὐτοῦ ὅτι δει αὐτῶν εἰς Ἱεροσόλυμα ἀπελθεῖν καὶ πολλὰ πάθειν. From then, Jesus began to show his disciples that it was necessary for him to go to Jerusalem and suffer many things. (Matt. 16:21)
6. ἔλπιζο γενεσθαι πρὸς ύμας καὶ στομα πρὸς στομα λαλῆσαι. I hope to be with you and to talk “mouth to mouth” (face to face) with you. (2 John 12)
7. Ποῦ ἡλθον βαλειν ἐπὶ την γην... I came to throw fire on the earth. (Luke 12:49)
8. εἰς οὐδεν ἱσχυε ἐπὶ εἰ μὴ βληθηναι ἐξο και καταπατεισθαι ὑπο των ἀνθρωπων... It is fit for nothing except to be thrown out and trodden underfoot by men. (Matt. 5:13)
9. τουτο μονον θελω μαθειν ἀφ ύμων... I want to learn this one thing from you. (Gal. 3:2)
10. και ἐπηρωτησαν αὐτὸν οἱ µαθηται λεγοντες, And the disciples asked him, saying, "Why, then, do the scribes say that... (Matt. 17:10)

48.6 Aorist Infinitives of the Dinosaur verbs

Although the -μι verbs have different Present and the Aorist stems, they use a -ναι ending for the Aorist

Infinitive Active. Note the interaction of -ναι with stems ending in gutturals, labials, dentals or liquids.

αἰµι εἶναι to be -
διδωµι δοῦναι to give δοςθαι to give oneself δοθηναι to be given
τιθηµι θειναι to put in place θεσθαι to place oneself τεθηναι to be placed
ιστηµι στηναι to cause to stand στησθαι to stand oneself στηθηναι to be stood
δεικνυµι δειξαι to show δειξασθαι to show oneself δειξηναι to be shown

Practice - until you can read and translate easily

1. οἷς µεθ’ ὥρκου ὑμολογησαν αὐτὴ δουναι ὅ εάν αἰτησεται.
2. ὁ βασιλεὺς δια τοὺς ὥρκους καὶ τοὺς συνανακειµένους ἐκελευσεν δοθῆναι.
3. καὶ οἱ ἀνδρες φεροντες ἐπὶ κλίνης ἀνθρωπον... καὶ ἔξητουν αὐτὸν εἰσενέγκειν καὶ θειναι αὐτὸν ἐνωπιον αὐτοῦ.
4. οἱ δὲ ἀκουσαντες ἔχαρησαν καὶ ἔπηγειλαντο αὐτῷ ἄργυριον δοῦναι.
5. καὶ ἐπεστρεψαν τὸ πνεῦμα αὐτῆς, καὶ ἀνέστη παραχρήμα, καὶ διεταξεν αὐτῇ δοθῆναι φαγεῖν.
6. τοῦτον ὁ θεὸς ἀρχηγῶν καὶ σωτῆρα ύποσεν τῇ δεξιᾷ αὐτοῦ, δουναι μετανοιαν τῷ Ἰσραηλ καὶ ἁµαρτιων ἀµαρτιων.
7. καὶ ἔξητεν εὐκαιρίαν τοῦ παραδοναι αὐτών.
8. καὶ ἐκαµµατισθησαν οἱ ἀνθρωποι καµια µεγα... καὶ οὐ µετενοισαν δοῦναι αὐτῷ δοθζην.
9. καὶ ἐδοθῆ αὐτῷ δουναι πνεῦμα τῇ εἰκονὶ τοῦ θηρίου...
10. ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἐλαλησεν ταῖς γυναικαῖς λεγον τον υἱὸν τοῦ ἀνθρωπου ὅτι δει δοθηναι εἰς χειρας ἀµαρτιων καὶ σταυρωθηναι καὶ τῇ τρίτῃ ἡµέρᾳ ἀναστηναι.

So he swore with an oath to give to her whatever she might ask. (Matt. 14:7)
Because of the oaths and the dinner-guests the king commanded (it) to be given (to her). (Matt. 14:9)
Behold, men carrying a man on a mattress and they were seeking to bring him in and to lay him in front of him. (Luke 5:18)
Those who heard (the ones having heard) rejoiced and promised to give money to him. (Mark 14:11)
And her spirit returned, and she rose up immediately, and he ordered (something) to be given to her to eat. (Luke 8:55)
God exalted this (man) (as) a ruler and savior to his right hand, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. (Acts 5:31)
And he sought a good time to betray him (Luke 22:6)
And the men were burned by a great heat and they did not repent to (and) give glory to him. (Rev. 16:9)
And he was granted (power) to give a spirit to the image of the beast... (Rev. 13:15)
Jesus spoke to the women, saying (about) the Son of Man, that it was (is) necessary for him to be betrayed into the hands of sinners, and to be crucified, and on the third day to rise again. (see Luke 24:7)
48.7 Sentences for reading and translation

1. πολλα ειχον γραψαι σοι, άλλ ου θελω δια μελανος και καλαμου σοι γραφειν. (3 John 13)

2. Δει τον υιον του άνθρωπου πολλα παθειν και άποδοκιμασθηναι απο των πρεσβυτερων και άρχιερων και γραμματεων και άποκατανθηναι και τη τριτη ήμερα έγερθηναι. (Luke 9:22)

3. εξανεστησαν δε τινες των . . . Φαρισαιων . . . λεγοντες οτι δει περιτεµνειν αυτους παραγγελειν τε τηρειν τον νοµον Μωϋσεως. (Acts 15:5)

4. και έγενετο έν τω ομελειν αυτους και συζητειν και αυτους ίησους έγγισας συνεπορευετο αυτους. (Luke 24:15)

5. και αυτος είπεν προς αυτους ά ό ρητοι και βραδεις τη καρδια του πιστευειν έπι πασιν οις έλαλησεν οι προφηται. (Luke 24:25)

6. ουχι ταυτα έδει παθειν τον Χριστον και εισελθειν εις την δοξαν αυτου; (Luke 24:26)

7. και έγενετο έν τω κατακλιθηναι αυτου µετ´ αυτων . . . (Luke 24:30)

8. έμφοβοι γενοµενοι έδοκουν πνευµα θεωρειν. (Luke 24:37)

9. λεγει αυτος Σιµων Πετρος, Ήπαγω άλιευειν. (John 21:3)

10. Έκαθισεν ο ο ξαος φαγειν και πειν, και άνεστησαν παιζειν. (1 Cor. 10:7)

48.8 Writing Practice: Write the Greek text several times, while saying aloud (Rev. 15:3)
Μεγαλα και θαυµαστα τα έργα σου, Great and wonderful (are) thy works

In your Greek New Testament, read the passage aloud several times until you can read it without long pauses or stumbling. Then use the helps to translate it.

48.10 Vocabulary to learn
- ἁλιεύω I fish, go fishing
- ἀποδοκιμάζω I reject
- δειγµατίζω I expose, exhibit
- κατακλίνω I make (something/someone) lie down (Passive - I lie down, recline)
- καταπατέω I trample down, tread underfoot
- κτίζω I create
- λατρεύω I worship
- το καῦµα heat
- ή οἰκουµένη the inhabited earth, humanity
- ή ήβρις, -εως hubris, insolence, impudence, disaster (insolence to the gods brings disaster)
- εµφοβος terrified - pushed into fear
- λάθρᾳ secretly