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 τὸ - before doing something
3. μετὰ τοῦ - after doing something
4. διὸ 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 -είν. For contract verbs -είν 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 euphonic vowel is added as an aid to pronunciation, rather than being part of the verb ending.

As you progress with the Passive Voice you will notice that many of its endings contain a theta.

"thee a theta - think pathive"

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</th>
<th>Passive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>to loose</td>
<td>λύειν</td>
<td>λύεσθαι</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to do</td>
<td>ποιεῖν</td>
<td>ποιεῖσθαι</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to love</td>
<td>ἁγαπῶν</td>
<td>ἁγαπᾶσθαι</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to make clear</td>
<td>φανεροῦν</td>
<td>φανερῶσθαι</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to give</td>
<td>δίδοιν</td>
<td>δίδοσθαι</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to cause to stand</td>
<td>ἵσταναι</td>
<td>ἰστᾶσθαι</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to place</td>
<td>τίθεναι</td>
<td>τίθεσθαι</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to be</td>
<td>εἶναι</td>
<td>έρχεσθαι</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Negation is with µὴ
e.g. µὴ 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 τότε ἦρξατο ὁ Ἰησοῦς κηρύσσειν καὶ λέγειν, Μετανοεῖτε . . .
3. προσέχετε δὲ τὴν δικαιοσύνην ὑµῶν µη ποιεῖν ἐξουσίαν τῶν άνθρώπων.
4. μηδενὶ µηδὲν οφείλετε εἰ µὴ τὸ ἀλλήλους ἀγαπᾶν.
5. οὐ θέλοµεν δὲ ὑµᾶς σγνοῖν, . . .
6. περὶ δὲ τῆς φιλαδέλφιας οὐ χρείαν ἔχετε γράφειν ὑµῖν.
7. µέλλοντος δὲ τοῦ Παῦλου ἀνοίγειν τὸ στόµα . . .
8. ὁ Πέτρος ἦρξατο ἐπιτιµᾶν αὐτῷ . . .
9. ἐξουσίαν ἔχει ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ άνθρώπου ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς ἀφιέναι ἁµαρτίας.
10. καὶ πάλιν ἦρξατο διδάσκειν παρὰ τὴν θάλασσαν.

He says to them, "But you - whom do you say I am (me to be)?" (Matt. 16:15)
From then (on) Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, . . . (Matt. 4:17)
Watch out not to do your righteousness (good deeds) in front of men. (Matt. 6:1)
Owe no-one anything (nothing) except to love one another. (Rom. 13:8)
We do not want you to be ignorant, . . . (1 Thess. 4:13)
You do not (have) need (for me) to write to you. (1 Thess. 4:9)
As Paul was about to open (his) mouth . . . (Acts 18:14)
Peter began to rebuke him . . . (Matt. 16:22)
The Son of Man has authority on the earth to forgive sins. (Matt. 9:6)
And he began to teach again beside the sea. (Mark 4:1)

B. Practice, Middle / Passive - until you can read and translate easily
1. βούλοµαι ἀσπάζεσθαι τοὺς ἁδέλφους. I plan to be greeting the brothers.
2. θέλω ἀγαπάσθαι ὑπὸ τῶν ἁδέλφων. I wish to be loved by the brothers.
3. θέλοµεν µὴ µισεῖσθαι ὑπὸ τοῦ προφήτου. We wish not to be hated by the prophet.
4. οἱ µαθηταὶ βούλονται προσεύχεσθαι ἐν τῷ ιερῷ. The disciples plan to be praying in the temple.
5. εἰσῆλθεν εἰς τὸ ιερὸν εἰς τὸ προσεύχεσθαι. He came into the temple in order to pray.
6. ἔρχεται πρὸς τὴν συναγώγην εἰς τὸ διαλέγεσθαι τὸν λόγον τοῦ θεοῦ µετὰ τῶν Φαρισαίων.
7. θέλετε ἱάσθαι τοὺς τυφλούς; Do you wish to heal the blind?
8. ὁ τελόνης βουλεῖται ψεύδεσθαι τῷ κριτῇ. The tax-collector plans to lie to the judge.
9. οφείλοµεν µὴ ψεύδεσθαι ταῖς ἁδέλφαις. We should not be lying to the sisters.
10. οφείλετε ἑρωτευόµενον τοὺς πτωχοὺς. You ought to be saving the poor.

You do not have need (for me) to write to you. (1 Thess. 4:9)
As Paul was about to open (his) mouth . . . (Acts 18:14)
Peter began to rebuke him . . . (Matt. 16:22)
The Son of Man has authority on the earth to forgive sins. (Matt. 9:6)
And he began to teach again beside the sea. (Mark 4:1)

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

Future Infinitive Active Stem + σ + ειν "to be about to doing something"
Future Infinitive Middle Stem + σε + σθαι "to be about to do something to oneself"
Future Infinitive Passive Stem + θησε + σθαι "to be about have something done to one"

Examples: Active Middle Passive
λύω λυσειν λύσεσθαι λυθήσεσθαι to be about to loose to be about to loose oneself to be about to be loosed
εἰµι ἔσθεσθαι - to be about to be εἴρχομαι ἐλευσέσθαι - to be about to come/go

Practice - until you can read and translate easily
1. ἁνασάτσας δὲ εἰς εξ αὐτῶν ὄνοµατι Ἀγαβὸς One of them, by name Agabus, having stood up, signaled through the Spirit (that)
ἔσχον παις διὰ τοῦ πνεύµατος a great famine (was) about to be
λιµὸν µεγάλην µέλλειν ἔσθεσθαι over the whole inhabited earth.
(That there was about to be a great famine over . . .) (σηµαίνω = I signify, give a sign) (Acts 11:28)

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2. ἔστιν δὲ καὶ ἄλλα πολλὰ ἃ ἐποίησεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἀτινα ἐὰν γραφήται καθ’ ἐν. οὐδ’ αὐτὸν οἶμαι τὸν κόσμον χωρῆσειν τα γραφόμενα βιβλία. (I do not suppose the world to be about to have room for the being-written-books. οἶµαί = "I suppose")

3. ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἅτινα ἐὰν γράφηται καθ’ ἑν, οὐδ’ αὐτὸν οἶµαι τὸν κόσμον χωρῆσειν. I suppose the world would not have room for the books which would be written.

4. Paul exhorted (them), saying, "Guys, 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."

5. To whom, then, did he swear (that they were) not about to enter into his rest, except to the unfaithful?

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

Remember the interactions of -σα/σα/θη/ναι with stems ending in gutturals, labials, dentals or liquids.

Examples:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stem</th>
<th>Active</th>
<th>Middle</th>
<th>Passive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>λύω</td>
<td>λύσαι</td>
<td>λύσασθαι</td>
<td>λυθῆναι</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ποιέω</td>
<td>ποιῆσαι</td>
<td>ποιήσασθαι</td>
<td>ποιηθῆναι</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>γράφω</td>
<td>γράφαι</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>γραφῆναι</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Practice - until you can read and translate easily

1. βάπτισµα δὲ ἔχω βαπτισθῆναι . . . I have a baptism to be baptized (in/with) (Luke 12:50)
2. μετὰ δὲ τὸ σιγῆσαι αὐτοῦς . . . After they were silent . . . (Acts 15:13)
3. Ἰωσήφ δὲ ὁ ἄνηρ αὐτῆς, δίκαιος ὁν καὶ μὴ θέλων αὐτὴν δειγματίσαι, ἐβουλήθη λάθρᾳ ἀπολύσαι αὐτὴν.

But Joseph her husband, being righteous and not wishing to expose her, was wishing to put her away secretly. (Matt. 1:19)

4. εἴδομεν γὰρ αὐτοῦ τὸν ἀστέρα ἐν τῇ ἀνατολῇ καὶ ἠλέγχων προσκολλήσαι αὐτῆς.

For we saw his star in the East and we came to worship him. (Matt. 2:2)

5. μέλλει γὰρ Ἡρῴδης ζητεῖν τὸ παιδίον τοῦ ἀπολέσαι αὐτοῦ.

For Herod is about to seek the child in order to kill him. (Matt. 2:13)

6. οὐ δύνασαι μιᾶν τρίχα λευκῆν ποιῆσαι ἢ μέλαιναν.

You are not able to make one hair white or black. (Matt. 5:36)

7. καὶ οὐδεὶς οὐκέτι ἐτόλμησαι. And no-one dared any longer (no more) to question him. (Mark 12:34)

8. οἱ δὲ ἔπαιν, Ἐπέτρεψεν Μωυσῆς βιβλίον ἁπαστασίου γράψαι καὶ ἀπολύσαι.

They said, "Moses allowed (us) to write a book (bill) of divorce and to send (her) away. (Mark 10:4)

9. ἐγὼ δὲ λέγω ὑμῖν ὅτι πᾶς ὁ βλέπων γυναίκα πρὸς τὸ ἐπιθύμησαι αὐτὴν ἢ ἐμοίχευσεν 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, οἴσω, ἰνεγκαν / ἰνεγκα can be found with either First or Second Aorist endings. γινώσκω (I know) and the -βαίνω (come/go) verbs use First Aorist endings.

Second Aorist Infinitive Active  Stem + ειν  "to do something"

Second Aorist Infinitive Middle  Stem + euphonic vowel + σθαι  "to do something to oneself"

Second Aorist Infinitive Passive  Stem + η + ναι  "to be have something done to one"

Examples:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Active</th>
<th>Middle</th>
<th>Passive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-βαίνω</td>
<td>-βήναι</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>βάλλω</td>
<td>βάλειν</td>
<td>βληθήσαται</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>γίνομαι</td>
<td>-γενέσθαι</td>
<td>βληθήσαται</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>γινώσκω</td>
<td>γνώναι</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Practice - until you can read and translate easily

1. Ἰωσήφ, υἱὸς Δαυίδ, μὴ φοβηθής παραλαβεῖν Μαρίαν τὴν γυναικά σου. Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take

Mary your wife. (Matt. 1:20)

2. Γεννήματα ἐγινόντο, τίς ὑπεδείξεν ὑμῖν φυγεῖν ἀπὸ τῆς μελλούσης ὀργῆς; Generation of vipers, who warned you to flee from the approaching wrath?

(Matt. 3:7)

3. Ραχὴλ . . . οὐκ ἤθελεν παρακληθῆναι. Rachel . . . did not wish to be comforted (Matt. 2:18)

4. Ἁξίος εἰ, ὁ κύριος καὶ θεὸς ἡμῶν, λαβεῖν τὴν δόξαν καὶ τὴν τιμὴν καὶ τὴν δύναμιν, ὃτι σὺ ἐκτίσας τὰ πάντα, καὶ διὰ τὸ θελήμα σου ᾧναν 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)

(ἐκτίσθήσαν - Third Person Plural, Aorist Passive of κτίζω - I create)

5. ἀπὸ τότε ἤρετο ὁ Ἰησοῦς δεικνύειν τις μαθηταῖς αὐτοῦ ὃτι δεῖ αὐτὸν εἶν Ἀνατολῆσαι ἄπελθεν καὶ πολλὰ παθεῖν. 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. ἐλπίζω γενέσθαι πρὸς ύμᾶς καὶ στόμα πρὸς στόμα λαλῆσαι. I hope to be with you and to talk "mouth to mouth" (face to face) with you. (2 John 12)
7. Πῦρ ἡλθον βαλεὶν ἐπὶ τὴν γῆν... I came to throw fire on the earth. (Luke 12:49)
8. εἰς οὐδὲν ἵσχει ἐτι εἰ μὴ βληθῆναι ἔξω It is fit for nothing except to be thrown out and trodden underfoot by men. (Matt. 5:13) καὶ καταπατεῖσθαι ὑπὸ τῶν ἀνθρώπων... I want to learn this one thing from you. (Gal. 3:2)
9. τοῦτο μόνον θέλω μαθεῖν ἀφ’ ὑμῶν... 10. καὶ ἐπηρώτησαν αὐτὸν οἱ μαθηταὶ λέγοντες, And the disciples asked him, saying.
Τί οὖν οἱ γραμματεῖς λέγουσιν ὅτι "Why, then, do the scribes say that Ἡλίαν δεῖ ἐλθθεῖν πρῶτον; Elijah must come first?" (Matt. 17:10)

48.6 Aorist Infinitives of the Dinosaur verbs

Although the -μί verbs have different Present and the Aorist stems, they use a -ναι ending for the Aorist Infinitive Active. Note the interaction of -σ- with stems ending in gutturals, labials, dentals or liquids.

eἰμί eἰναι to be - δείκνυµι to show
dίδωµι δοῦναι to give δόσθαι to give oneself δοθῆναι to be given
tῒθῆµι θέθαι to put in place θέσθαι to place oneself τεθῆναι to be placed
ἰστήµι στῆθαι to cause to stand στῆσθαι to stand oneself στηθῆναι to be stood
δείκνυµι δείξαι to show δείξασθαι to show oneself δείχθηναι to be shown

Practice - until you can read and translate easily

1. δὲν μεθ’ ὀρκου ὡμολόγησεν αὐτῇ δοῦναι ὦ εἰν οὖν αἰτήσεται.
2. ὁ βασιλεὺς διὰ τοὺς ὀρκους καὶ τῶν συνανακεκοινος ἐκέλευσεν δοθῆναι.
3. καὶ ἰδοὺ ἄνδρες φέροντες ἐπὶ κλίνης ἀνθρωπον καὶ ἐξήτουν αὐτὸν εἰσενεγκεῖν καὶ θεῖναι αὐτὸν ἐνώπιον αὐτοῦ.
4. οἱ δὲ ἀκούσαντες ἐχάρησαν καὶ ἐπηγγείλαντο αὐτῷ ἀργυρίον δοῦναι.
5. καὶ ἐπέστρεψαν τὸ πνεῦμα αὐτῆς καὶ ἐνώπιον αὐτῆς ἀνεστήσεται καὶ διέταξεν αὐτήν ἀνεστῆσαι καὶ κλίνης ὑπὸ αὐτῆς τὸν Ἰσραὴλ καὶ ἀφεῖσθαι ἁµαρτιῶν.
6. τοῦτον ὁ θεὸς ἀρχηγὸν καὶ φαγεῖν ἀρχηγὸν ἕξων θεῖναι καὶ καὶ διέταξεν αὐτῷ δοθῆναι ἤλθον δοθῆναι ἀυτῷ μὴ παραδοῦσαι ἡµὲς ἢ καὶ νεκροὺς ἐπὶ καὶ παραδοῦσαι αὐτῷ.
7. καὶ ἐξῆτε εὐκαιρίαν τῆς ἐνώπιον τοῦ θεωρίου...
8. καὶ κατέθησαν οἱ ἄνθρωποι καὶ μέγα... καὶ οὐ μετανόησαν δοῦναι αὐτῷ δοθῆναι.
9. καὶ δοθῆναι τὸ πνεῦμα τῇ εἰκόνι τοῦ θεοῦ...
10. οἱ Ἰησοῦς ἔλαλησεν ταῖς γυναικάς λέγων τὸν ὑόν τοῦ ἀνθρώπου ὅτι δεῖ δοθῆναι εἰς χεῖρας ἁµάρτωλον καὶ σταυρωθῆναι καὶ τῇ ὑμέρα ἀναστῆναι.
48.7 Sentences for reading and translation

1. πολλὰ εἶχον γράψαι σοι, ἀλλ’ οὐ θέλω διὰ μέλανος καὶ καλάμου σοι γράφειν. (3 John 13)

2. Καὶ ἐπεί αὐτῶν τῶν ἀνθρώπων πολλὰ παθεῖν καὶ ἀποδοκιµάζοντας αὐτούς ἢ ἀποκτανθῆναι· (Luke 24:26)

3. ἐξανέστησαν δὲ τινες τῶν... Φαρισαίων... λέγοντες ὅτι δεῖ περιτέµνειν αὐτοὺς παραγγέλλειν τε τηρεῖν τὸν νόµον Μωϋσέως... (Acts 15:5)

4. καὶ ἐγένετο ἐν τῷ κατακλίθηναι µετ’ αὐτῶν... (Luke 24:30)

5. ἐλέει ταῦτα ἔδει παθεῖν τὸν Χριστὸν καὶ εἰσελθεῖν εἰς τὴν δόξαν αὐτοῦ; (Luke 24:26)

6. οὐχὶ ταῦτα ἠκούσαν τοὺς προφῆται εἰς τὴν δόξαν αὐτοῦ; (Luke 24:25)

7. καὶ ἐγένετο ἐν τῷ κατακλιθῆναι αὐτοῦ... (Luke 24:30)

8. ἔµφοβοι γενόµενοι ἀνόητοι καὶ βραδεῖς τῇ καρδίᾳ τοῦ πιστεύειν ἐπι πάσιν οἷς ἠκούσαν οἱ προφῆται. (Luke 24:15)

9. λέγει αὐτοῖς Σίµων Πέτρος, Ὁ ἤνοικός καὶ κατακλιθῆναι... (Luke 24:37)

10. Ἐκάθισεν ὁ λαὸς φαγεῖν καὶ πεῖν, καὶ ἠκούσαν αὐτούς. (1 Cor. 10:7)

48.8 Writing Practice: Write the Greek text several times, while saying aloud (Rev. 15:3)

Μεγάλα καὶ θαυμαστά τὰ 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.

ἀποκριθεὶς having answered (Aorist Middle Participle of ἀποκρίνοµαι - I answer)
οἴδατε you know (see chapter 59)
αἰτεῖσθε you ask, request (Present Middle Indicative of αἰτέω)
ἀγανακτέω I am angry, indignant at
τὸ λύτρον ransom, price of redemption (literally, a "loosener")

48.10 Vocabulary to learn

ἀλιεύω 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
καυµατίζω I burn
κτίζω I create
λατρεύω I worship
τὸ καῦµα, -ατος heat
ἡ οἰκουµένη the inhabited earth, humanity
ἡ ὑβρις, -εως hubris, insolence, impudence, disaster (insolence to the gods brings disaster)
ἔµφοβος terrified - pushed into fear
λάθρᾳ secret