

## LESSON 28

# Clauses of Comparison

### 28.1. Introduction

Clauses of Comparison are introduced by relative adjectives and by relative adverbs of manner, quality, quantity or degree. The relative adjective or adverb is frequently balanced by the corresponding demonstrative adjective or adverb in the leading clause (on which the clause of Comparison depends). For example: ὡς ... οὕτω(ς) ... 'As ... so ...' Either or both of these adverbs may be reinforced by καί: ὡς καί ... οὕτω καί ...: 'Just as ..., even so ...' [OR: 'so too ...']. In Homer, ὡς (accented) frequently stands for οὕτως.

### 28.2. Definite Comparison

The simplest form of comparison presents the circumstances of the comparison as factual and uses the Indicative Mood in the clause of Comparison.

καὶ οἱ μὲν Δῆλιοι Ἀτραμύττειον Φαρνάκου δόντος αὐτοῖς ἐν τῇ Ἀσίᾳ ὤκησαν **οὕτως ὡς** ἕκαστος ὥρμητο. (Th. 5.1.)

*And the Delians settled Atramyttium in Asia, when Pharnaces had granted it to them, **in such a way as** each <man> had set out.*

(There was no organised colony, but settlement was individual and piecemeal.)

As adverbs, οὕτως modifies the verb ὤκησαν, and ὡς modifies the verb ὥρμητο.

## 28.3. Indefinite Comparison

An indefinite form of comparison uses the Subjunctive Mood with ἄν in Primary sequence. Compare the difference between Open Particular and Open General Conditions, Lesson 19.2.1 and Lesson 19.2.2. In the following sentence, the ὅπως clause refers to any occasion on which Nicocles influences the attitude of his citizens.

ὅπως γὰρ ἄν τοὺς ἄλλους πρὸς σαυτὸν διαθῆς, οὕτω καὶ σὺ πρὸς ἐκείνους ἔξεις. (Isoc. 2.23.)

*For as you dispose the rest <of the community> towards yourself, so too will you be inclined towards those <people>.*

The equivalent of this construction in Past sequence has the Optative without ἄν. (A Vivid construction, using Subj. with ἄν, may also occur in Past sequence.)

ἐπιπόνως δὲ ἠύρισκετο, διότι οἱ παρόντες τοῖς ἔργοις ἐκάστοις οὐ ταῦτὰ περὶ τῶν αὐτῶν ἔλεγον, ἀλλ' ὥς ἐκατέρων τις εὐνοίας ἢ μνήμης ἔχοι. (Th. 1.22.3.)

*And the discoveries were painstakingly made, because those who had been present at particular actions did not say the same things about the same <events>, but <spoke> as any one had some goodwill towards either side or some memory <of what had happened>.*

(The Partitive Genitives singular εὐνοίας and μνήμης function as direct Objects of ἔχοι. Cf. Lesson 37.3.4.)

## 28.4. Potential, Conditional and Temporal Constructions

Potential, Conditional and Temporal constructions may occur within a comparison.

### 28.4.1. Potential

... ἐγὼ δὲ οὐδὲν ἄρα τούτων ποιήσω, καὶ ταῦτα κινδυνεύων, ὥς ἄν δόξαιμι, τὸν ἔσχατον κίνδυνον. (Pl.Ap. 34 C.)

... *but I shall actually do none of these things—and this, when I am running, as I would seem* <to be>, the extreme risk.

ὥς with ἄν and potential Optative in Primary sequence.

### 28.4.2. Conditional

αὐτὰρ ἔπειτα  
λαοὶ ἔπονθ', ὥς εἴ τε μετὰ κτίλον ἔσπετο μῆλα  
πίομεν' ἐκ βοτάνης· (Hom. *Il.* 13.491–493.)

*And then  
the men were following, as if sheep <had> followed after a ram  
from pasture, going to drink.*

ὥς εἰ with Past Aorist Indicative in Past sequence.

οὗτος γὰρ ἐμοὶ φαίνεται τὰ ἐναντία λέγειν αὐτὸς ἑαυτῷ ἐν τῇ  
γραφῇ, ὥσπερ ἂν εἰ εἶποι· ἀδικεῖ Σωκράτης θεοὺς οὐ νομίζων,  
ἀλλὰ θεοὺς νομίζων. (Pl. *Ap.* 27 A.)

*For this <man> appears to me to say the opposite [himself] to himself in his  
indictment, as (he would) if he were to say: 'Socrates does wrong in not  
believing in gods but in believing in gods.'*

ὥσπερ ἂν εἰ with Optative in Primary sequence.

### 28.4.3. Temporal

ὥς ὅτε (or ὥς ὀπότε) is especially common in Homeric similes. The Mood is sometimes Indicative. But in Homer, an initial Subjunctive without ἄν is often continued by Indicatives. The construction with Subjunctive is indefinite.

αὐτὰρ ὁ θυμὸν ἄισθε καὶ ἤρυγεν, ὥς ὅτε ταῦρος  
ἤρυγεν ἐλκόμενος ... (Hom. *Il.* 20.403–404.)

*Then he was breathing out his spirit and bellowed, as when a bull  
bellows (lit. bellowed; Indic.) while being dragged along ...*

ὥς ὅτε with Past Aorist Indicative (definite).

ὥς δ' ὄτ' ἀνήρ ἀπάλαμνος, ἰὼν πόλεος πεδίοιο,  
**στήη** ἐπ' ὠκυρόω ποταμῷ ἄλαδε προρέοντι,  
 ἀφρῷ μορμύροντα ἰδῶν, ἀνά τ' **ἔδραμ'** ὀπίσσω,  
**ὥς** τότε Τυδεΐδης ἀνεχάζετο ... (Hom.*Il.* 5.597–600.)

*And as when a helpless man, going over a large plain,  
 stops (Subj.) at a swift-flowing river flowing on to the sea,  
 seeing it seething with foam, and runs (lit. ran; Indic.) backwards,  
 so at that time the son of Tydeus was recoiling ...*

ὥς ὅτε with Aorist Subjunctive (indefinite) continued by Past Aorist Indicative (definite).

## 28.5. Other Correlative Adjectives and Adverbs

Other correlative adjectives and adverbs also express comparison.

Λοκρῶν δ' ἠγεμόνευεν Ὀϊλῆος ταχὺς Αἴας,  
 μείων, οὐ τι **τόσος** γε ὅσος Τελαμώνιος Αἴας,  
 ἀλλὰ πολὺ μείων. (Hom.*Il.* 2.527–529.)

*And of the Locrians the leader was Oeleus's <son>, swift Ajax,  
 smaller, not at all so big as Telamon's son Ajax,  
 but much smaller.*

## References

Goodwin (1889), *Syntax of the moods and tenses of the Greek verb*, §§484–485, 543–549.

Smyth (1956), *Greek grammar*, §§2462–2487.

**EXERCISE 28**

Translate the following passages.

1. ... καὶ τὸ τελευταῖον, ὅπως ἐβούλοντο, οὕτω τὸν πόλεμον κατέθεντο.

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τὸ τελευταῖον	adverbial
κατατίθεσθαι (Mid.)	to put an end to (+ Acc.)

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2. ἦν μὲν γὰρ σελήνη λαμπρά, ἐώρων δὲ οὕτως ἀλλήλους ὡς ἐν σελήνῃ εἰκὸς τὴν μὲν ὄψιν τοῦ σώματος προορᾶν, τὴν δὲ γνῶσιν τοῦ οἰκείου ἀπιστεῖσθαι.

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σελήνη, -ης, ἡ	moonlight
τὴν ... γνῶσιν	Subject of ἀπιστεῖσθαι (Pass.)
τοῦ οἰκείου	acquaintance (either masc. or collective neut.)

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3. ὅμοιον γὰρ ὥσπερ ἂν εἰ φαίη εἰδέναι, καὶ μὴ παραγενόμενος, ὅσα ὑμεῖς πάντες πράττετε.

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ὅμοιον (neut.)	Understand ἐστί.
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4. ὡς δ' ἀπὸ σώματος οὐ τι λέοντ' αἴθωνα δύνανται ποιμένες ἄγραυλοι μέγα πεινάοντα δῖεσθαι, ὡς ῥα τὸν οὐκ ἐδύναντο δύω Αἴαντε κορυστὰ Ἔκτορα Πριαμίδαην ἀπὸ νεκροῦ δειδίξασθαι.

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αἴθων, -ωνος, ὁ, ἡ	tawny
ἄγραυλος, -ον	(living) in the field(s)
πεινᾶν	to be hungry
δῖεσθαι (Mid.)	to put to flight, to drive away
ῥα (enclitic adv.)	just (modifying ὡς)
κορυστῆς, -οῦ, ὁ	(a) helmeted (man) (here dual)
δειδίσσεσθαι (Mid.)	to frighten, to alarm, to scare away

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5. ὡς δ' ὅτ' ἂν ἐκ νεφέων πτῆται υἱφὰς ἢ χάλαζα  
 ψυχρὴ ὑπὸ ῥιπῆς αἰθρηγενέος Βορέας,  
 ὡς κραιπνῶς μεμαυῖα διέπτατο ὠκέα Ἴρις,  
 ἀγχοῦ δ' ἴσταμένη προσέφη κλυτὸν ἐννοσίγαιον·

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πέτεσθαι	<i>to fly</i>
χάλαζα, -ης, ἦ	<i>hail</i>
αἰθρηγενής, -ές	<i>born in the (bright) sky</i>
κραιπνῶς	<i>quickly</i>
μεμονέναι	<i>to be eager</i> (Perf. with Imperf. meaning)
μεμαῶς, -υῖα, -ός	short form of Partc. of μεμονέναι
ὠκύς, -εῖα, -ύ	<i>swift</i> (Epic fem. ὠκέα)
ἀγχοῦ (adv.)	<i>near</i>

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6. And concerning the mutilation of the statues and the laying of information, just as I promised you (pl.), so too I shall do.

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<i>mutilation</i>	περικοπή, -ῆς, ἦ
<i>statue</i>	ἀνάθημα, -ατος, τό
<i>laying of information</i>	μήνυσις, -εως, ἦ
<i>to promise (to someone)</i>	ὑπισχνεῖσθαι (+ Dat.)

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