

LESSON 7

Verbal Adjectives Ending in -ΤΟΣ, -ΤΗ, -ΤΟΥ

7.1. Introduction

In addition to Participles, which are a standard component of the Greek verbal system, there are two other sets of verbal adjectives. These sets use the endings of the first and second declensions. The forms are listed separately in dictionaries. Lesson 7 deals with verbal adjectives ending in -ΤΟΣ, -ΤΗ, -ΤΟΥ. These forms appear already in Homer. Verbal adjectives ending in -ΤΕΟΣ, -Τέα, -Τέου will be treated in Lesson 8.

7.2. Formation of Verbal Adjectives Ending in -ΤΟΣ, -ΤΗ, -ΤΟΥ

The letter τ was often used as a suffix to form adjectives, for example, ἀ-γερασ-τος, ‘without a prize’ (Hom.*Il.* 1.119.). It was usually added to the shortest form of the root of a word. Thus, θε-τός (‘placed’) is cognate with the verb τι-θέ-ναι (‘to place’) and the noun θέ-σις (‘placing’), all incorporating the root θε. And verbal adjectives, which are related to verbs with reduplicated Imperfect stems, have the short form of the root. Thus, δο-τός is cognate with δι-δό-ναι. However, for contracted verbs, -τος is usually added after the lengthened form of the theme vowel. Thus, ἀγαπητός is cognate with the contracted α verb ἀγαπᾶν (‘to tolerate’, ‘to accept’, ‘to desire’), which has η in Tenses other than Present and Past Imperfect (ἀγαπήσω, ἠγάπησα, etc.). But some contracted verbs use the short form of the theme vowel in some Tenses. And this short theme vowel may appear in the related verbal adjective. Thus, αἰρετός is cognate with αἰρεῖν (‘to take’), which has η in some Tenses (e.g. Fut. Act. αἰρήσω) but ε in other Tenses (e.g. Past Aor. Pass. ἤρέθην).

But contracted *α* verbs, whose base ends in *ρ* or a short vowel *ε* or *ι* (and sometimes *ο*), often retain *α* in the Tenses other than Present and Past Imperfect. Examples are *περᾶν* ('to cross'; *περάσω*, *ἐπέρασα*, etc.), *θεᾶσθαι* ('to look at'; *θεάσομαι*, *ἔθεασάμην*, etc.) and *αἰτιᾶσθαι* ('to censure'; *αἰτιάσομαι*, *ἤτιασάμην*, etc.). Verbal adjectives cognate with these verbs also retain *α*: *περατός*, *θεατός*, *αἰτιατός*. (The *α* of the root is long in all the forms cited, both in the verbs and in the verbal adjectives. But there are some exceptions to this pattern; cf. Smyth, 1956, §488.)

Following the regular pattern, *φιλητός* ('likable') is cognate with the contracted *ε* verb *φιλεῖν* ('to like'), which has *η* in Tenses other than Present and Past Imperfect (*φιλήσω*, *ἐφίλησα*, etc.). And *δηλωτός* ('able to be shown') is cognate with the contracted *ο* verb *δηλοῦν* ('to show'), which has *ω* in tenses other than the Present and Past Imperfect (*δηλώσω*, *ἐδήλωσα*, etc.).

In practice, the stem of the verbal adjectives (both in *-τός* and in *-τέος*) is usually most easily recognisable from the Aorist Passive of the cognate verb. For example, *σπαρτός* ('sown') is cognate with the verb *σπεῖρειν* ('to sow'), whose (second) Aorist Passive is *σπαρήναι* ('to be sown'). The *θ* at the end of the base of first Aorist Passive verbs does not appear in the cognate verbal adjectives. But where a verb has *σ* before *θ* in first Aorist Passive verbs, this *σ* appears before *τ* in the verbal adjective: *παυσθῆναι*, 'to be stopped'; *ἄπαυστος*, 'unceasing' (Active, Intr.) or 'unstoppable' (Passive). The insertion or omission of *σ* may vary with different occurrences of the same verb or verbal adjective (e.g. *γνωτός* or *γνωστός*), and different manuscripts may vary in the spelling of the same term in the same context (e.g. *γνω(σ)τός* [A.Ch. 702; S.OT 396]). (In the 1st Aor. Pass. of *τιθέναι*, the root *θε* has been modified to *τε* before the following *θ*; thus, *τε-θῆναι* instead of *θε-θῆναι*.)

Verbal adjectives ending in *-τός*, which are uncompounded (as *φιλητός*) or are prepositional compounds (as *δια-βατός*, 'fordable'), are generally accented on the final syllable and often (but not always) have all three gender endings: *-ός*, *-ή*, *-όν*. Other compound verbal adjectives regularly have recessive accent and use the ending *-ος* for both masculine and feminine genders. Thus, *νυκτί-πλαγκτος*, *-ον* ('causing to wander at night') is formed from the root of *πλάζειν* ('to cause to wander'; 1st Aor. Pass. *πλαγχθῆναι*). Negative *α* is common in these compounds. Simple *α*- precedes a consonant (*ἄ-φυκτος*, 'unable to escape' [Act.]; 'inescapable'

[Pass.]), ἀν- precedes a vowel (ἀν-έγκλητος, 'blameless') and when ἀ- precedes ρ, the ρ is doubled (ἄρ-ρηκτος, 'not broken', 'not to be broken'; cf. Smyth, 1956, §80).

7.3. Meaning of Verbal Adjectives Ending in -ΤΟΣ, -ΤΗ, -ΤΟΥ

It is likely that originally these verbal adjectives were not specifically Active or Passive but merely indicated relevance to the sphere of meaning of the verb. Thus, μεμπτός (cognate with μέμψεσθαι, 'to blame') would have indicated relevance to blaming. In the classical period, this word may have either Active or Passive force. (Cf. ἄπαστος in §7.2 above.)

ὥστ' εἶ τι τῶμῶ τ' ἀνδρὶ τῆδε τῆ νόσῳ
ληφθέντι **μεμπτός** εἶμι, κάρτα μαίνομαι, ... (S.Tr. 445–446.)

*And so, if I am **blaming** my husband at all for getting caught by this disease, I am surely mad, ...*

Active meaning. τῶμῶ = τῶ ἐμῶ. τ(ε) anticipates ἦ in the following clause.

τί δὴ τὸ Νείλου **μεμπτόν** ἐστὶ σοι γάνος; (E.Hel. 462.)
*Just why is the bright-water of the Nile **blamed** by you?*

Passive meaning.

The Passive force of these verbal adjectives is more common. But verbal adjectives with Passive force can be used to indicate either what is (already) done or what may or must be done. Some verbal adjectives are used in only one of these ways in extant Greek literature, but others are used in both ways. Thus, ῥητός, -ή, -όν may indicate either what has been stated or what may be stated.

τέλος δὲ παντὸς τοῦ λόγου ψηφίζονται ἥκειν τοὺς ἱερομνήμονας πρὸ τῆς ἐπιούσης πυλαίας ἐν **ῥητῶ** χρόνῳ εἰς Πύλας ... (Aeschin. 3.124.)

*And as the conclusion of all the discussion they voted [Hist. Pres.] that the representatives should come to Thermopylae at a **stated** time before the next amphictyonic-meeting ...*

The verbal adjective indicates what has been done.

Πρ.	γαμεῖ γάμον τοιοῦτον ᾧ ποτ' ἀσχαλᾷ.
Ιω	θέορτον ἢ βρότεινον; εἰ ῥητόν, φράσον. (A.Pr. 764–765.)
Πρ.	<i>He will make such a marriage, by which one day he will be distressed.</i>
Ιο	<i>Divine or mortal? If it may be stated, tell me.</i>

The verbal adjective indicates what may be done.

When an Infinitive phrase is the Subject of the verb 'to be' (expressed or understood), a neuter verbal adjective may be Complement, mostly singular as in the preceding examples (E.Hel. 462; A.Pr. 765), but sometimes plural. (Cf. Lesson 3.4.1.)

συγγνωστὰ μέντ' ἤν σε λυπεῖσθαι, γύναι. (E.Med. 703.)
It was understandable, therefore, that you should be upset, lady.

Lit. 'That you should be upset, therefore, was understandable, lady'. Here, an Accusative and Infinitive phrase is the Subject of ἤν. Within the Accusative and Infinitive phrase, σε is Subject of the Passive Infinitive λυπεῖσθαι. And the neuter plural συγγνωστά is the Complement of the Infinitive phrase. (The crasis of μέντοι ἄρα accounts for the apparent double accent.)

A Dative of Interest, implying Agency, may be used with verbal adjectives in their Passive sense.

... οἱ δὲ τοὺς μύθους εἰς ἀγῶνας καὶ πράξεις κατέστησαν, ὥστε μὴ μόνον ἀκουστοὺς ἡμῖν ἀλλὰ καὶ θεατοὺς γενέσθαι. (Isoc. 2.49.)

... *but they put the stories into conflicts and actions, so as to become not only heard by us but also seen.*

(The passage refers to early tragedians, by contrast with Homer who put into stories the conflicts and wars of the demigods.)

References

Palmer (1980), *The Greek language*, pp. 256–257, 314.

Smyth (1956), *Greek grammar*, §§80, 358, 425.c, 471–472, 488, 1003.a, 1052, 1488.

EXERCISE 7

1. Translate the following passages.
2. For each passage:
 - a. write down the Nominative masculine singular of any verbal adjectives whose Nominative ends in -ΤΟΣ, -ΤΗ, -ΤΟΥ
 - b. indicate any negative ἀ(ν)- prefixes by inserting a hyphen
 - c. write the Imperfect Infinitive of the verb to which the verbal adjective is etymologically related
 - d. mark accents and breathings correctly.
3. Montanari (2015), *The Brill dictionary of Ancient Greek*, or the full edition of Liddell and Scott (1996), *A Greek–English lexicon*, should be used.

Example

Ἀριστόδημος ἦν τις, Κυδαθηναίεϋς, σμικρός, ἀνυπόδητος ἀεί.
(Pl.Smp. 173 B.)

It was a certain Aristodemus of Kydathenaeum, a small <man>, always unshod [i.e. barefoot].

ἀν-υπόδητος related to ὑποδεῖν.

1. δοκῶ μοι περὶ ᾧ πυνθάνεσθε οὐκ ἀμελέτητος εἶναι.

δοκῶ μοι	lit. <i>I seem to me</i> (i.e. <i>it seems to me that I</i>)
περὶ ᾧ (neut.)	Condensed for περὶ ἐκείνων περὶ ᾧ.

2. ἀλλ' ἄτερ γνώμης τὸ πᾶν
ἔπρασον, ἔστε δὴ σφιν ἀντολὰς ἐγὼ
ἄστρον ἔδειξα τάς τε δυσκρίτους δύσεις.

ἄτερ (+ Gen.)	<i>without</i>
ἔστε	<i>until</i>
ἀν(α)τολή, -ῆς, ἡ	<i>rising</i>
δύσις, -εως, ἡ	<i>setting</i>

3. τοῦτο γὰρ δὴ ἐγὼ παντάπασιν οὐ διδακτὸν ᾧμην εἶναι ...

παντάπασιν (adv.)	<i>altogether</i>
οἴεσθαι	<i>to think</i> (Mid. with Aor. Pass.;
	ᾧμην = ᾧόμην, Past Imperf.)

4. καταψηφιεῖσθε τοῦ τὰ ἐλεεινὰ ταῦτα δράματα εἰσάγοντος καὶ καταγέλαστον τὴν πόλιν ποιούντος ...

καταψηφίζεσθαι (Mid.)	<i>to vote in condemnation of</i> (+ Gen.)
ἐλεεινός, -ή, -όν	<i>pitiful, pitiable</i>

5. ἃ δὴ λόγῳ μὲν καὶ διανοίᾳ ληπτά, ὄψει δ' οὐ·

ἃ	<i>And these</i> (coordinating relative pronoun)
λόγος, -ου, ὁ	<i>reason</i>
διάνοια, -ας, ἡ	<i>thought</i>
ὄψις, -εως, ἡ	<i>sight</i>

6. σφρηγίδα δὲ ἕκαστος ἔχει καὶ σκῆπτρον χειροποίητον·

σφρηγίς, -ίδος, ἡ (Ionic)	<i>seal</i> (Attic σφραγίς)
σκῆπτρον, -ου, τό	<i>staff</i>

7. τούτων δ' Ἀθηναίους φημὶ δεῖν εἶναι πεντακοσίου, ἐξ ἧς τις ὡμῶν ἡλικίας καλῶς ἔχειν δοκῆ, χρόνον τακτὸν στρατευομένους ...

τούτων	masc.
ἐξ ἧς τις ... ἡλικίας	<i>from any age(-group) which</i>

8. ταῦτα, ὧ Ἀθηναῖοι, καὶ ἀληθῆ ἐστιν καὶ εὐλέγκτα.

9. οἱ δὲ Πέρσαι καταρρήξαντες τὴν κρυπτὴν γέφυραν ἔθρον ἔσω
 ἔς τὸ τεῖχος.

καταρρηγνύναι	<i>to break down</i>
γέφυρα, -ας, ἡ	<i>bridge</i>
θέειν (Ionic)	<i>to run (Attic θεῖν)</i>

10. ... ὁ δὲ ἀνεξέταστος βίος οὐ βιωτὸς ἀνθρώπῳ ...

Understand ἐστί.

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