

## LESSON 14

# Reported Statements with Infinitive

### 14.1. Aspect of the Infinitive

In classical Greek, some verbs of saying (especially φάναι) report a statement by means of an Infinitive phrase. In this construction, the Infinitive preserves the Aspect of the direct form of the statement. Thus, an Imperfect Infinitive generally represents either a Present Imperfect or a Past Imperfect Indicative of the original statement. A Future (or ‘Intentive’) Infinitive represents an original Future Indicative. An Aorist Infinitive generally represents a Past Aorist Indicative. And a Perfect Infinitive generally represents either a Present Perfect or a Past Perfect Indicative. Where an original potential statement with ἄν and the Indicative is reported, ἄν is retained in the Infinitive phrase. In addition, an original potential statement with ἄν and the Optative may be reported in an Infinitive phrase with ἄν; the Infinitive preserves the Aspect of the original Optative.

### 14.2. Accusative and Infinitive Phrases

Where the Subject of the direct statement is different to the Subject of the verb of saying, it appears in the Accusative Case as the Subject of the Infinitive. The whole Accusative and Infinitive phrase is the Object of the verb of saying. In the following examples, the Subject of the Infinitive is in the Accusative Case. These examples also illustrate the Aspect of the Infinitive (as noted in §14.1).

φησὶ γὰρ ὁ κατήγορος οὐ δικάως με λαμβάνειν τὸ παρὰ τῆς πόλεως ργύριον. (Lys. 24.4.)

*For my accuser says that I am unjustly receiving the money from the state.*

Direct form: οὐ δικάως λαμβάνει, ‘He is unjustly receiving’ (Pres. Imperf.). There is a change from third person (λαμβάνει, ‘he is receiving’) of the direct form to first person (με, ‘I’) of the reported form.

... καὶ τὸν πατέρα ἔφη τὸν ἐμὸν παρεῖναι μὲν, καθεύδειν δὲ ἐγκεκαλυμμένον. (And. 1.17.)

... *and he said that my father had been present, but had been asleep covered up.*

Direct form: ὁ πατήρ ὁ τούτου παρῆν μὲν, ἐκάθειδε δέ, 'The father of this <man> was present, but was sleeping' (Past Imperf.). There is a change from third person (τούτου, 'of this <man>') in the direct form to first person (ἐμὸν, 'my') in the reported form.

... ἔφη ... τὸν ... πατέρα τὸν ἐμὸν τυχεῖν ἐξιόντα ... (And. 1.41.)  
... *he said that my father had happened to be going out ...*

Direct form: ὁ πατήρ ὁ τούτου ἔτυχεν ἐξιών, 'His father happened to be going out' (Past Aor.). There is a change of person as in the previous example.

οἱ δ' Ἀθηναῖοι ... οὐκ πεδίδοσαν, ἰσχυρίζόμενοι ὅτι δὴ εἶρητο, ἐὰν ὅτιοῦν παραβῆθῃ, λελύσθαι τὰς σπονδάς. (Th. 4.23.1.)

*But the Athenians ... were not giving back <the ships>, affirming that it had indeed been stated, that, if any infringement at all had occurred, the treaty had been broken.*

Direct form: λέλυνται αἱ σπονδαί, 'the treaty has been broken' (Pres. Perf.).

### 14.3. Nominative and Infinitive Phrases

The Subject of an Infinitive phrase is normally omitted when it is the same as the Subject of the verb of saying. An attribute or Complement of the Subject of the Infinitive appears in the Nominative Case.

ἦκειν ἔφη τῇ ὑστεραία καὶ δὴ κόπτειν τὴν θύραν. (And. 1.41.)

*He said that he had come on the following day and actually had been knocking on the door.*

Direct form: ἦκον ... καὶ δὴ ἔκοπτον, 'I had come and was actually knocking' (Past Imperf.). The Subject of the two Infinitives in the reported form is omitted because it is the same as the Subject of ἔφη.

οἱ δὲ Θηβαῖοι ... παρελθόντες ἔφασαν καὶ αὐτοὶ βούλεσθαι εἰπεῖν ... (Th. 3.60.)

*And the Thebans ... coming forward said that they themselves also wanted to speak ...*

Direct form: καὶ αὐτοὶ βουλόμεθα εἰπεῖν, 'we ourselves also want to speak' (Pres.). The attribute αὐτοί ('-selves') remains Nominative in the reported form, because it refers to the Subject of ἔφασαν. The change of person of the verb in the English reported form is not evident in Greek because of the change of construction from Indicative to Infinitive.

... ἔφασαν ... οὐδενὸς ὕστεροι γνώμη φανῆναι. (Th.1.91.5.)  
... *they said ... that they had appeared inferior to none in judgment.*

Direct form: οὐδενὸς ὕστεροι γνώμη ἐφάνημεν, 'we appeared inferior to none in judgment' (Past Aor.). The Complement ὕστεροι remains Nominative in the reported form, because it refers to the Subject of ἔφασαν.

#### 14.4. Exceptional Accusative and Infinitive Phrases

For emphasis, an Accusative and Infinitive phrase is sometimes used, even when the Subject of the Infinitive is the same as the Subject of the leading verb. This usually occurs where a contrast or comparison is expressed or implied. (The same phenomenon also appears with verbs of thinking and hoping, and with Acc. and Partc. after verbs of perception.)

τῶν δ' ἄλλων ἐμέ φημι πολὺ προφερέστερον εἶναι ... (Hom. *Od.* 8.221.)

*But I say that I am much more proficient than the rest ...*

φημι (1st pers. sg.) with ἐμέ (Acc. 1st pers. sg.) and Infin. εἶναι.

## 14.5. Negative

The negative for statements reported by Infinitive phrases is regularly οὐ and its compounds. The negative is usually placed before forms of φάναι, unless it negates a particular word within the reported statement as in the first example in §14.2 above.

καὶ γιγνομένων λόγων Εὐφάμιδας ὁ Κορίνθιος οὐκ ἔφη τοὺς λόγους τοῖς ἔργοις ὁμολογεῖν. (Th. 5.55.1.)

*And while discussions were taking place, Euphamidas the Corinthian said that their discussions did not correspond with their actions.*

The sentence does not mean: ‘he did not say that their discussions corresponded with their actions’.

## 14.6. Usage

Among the verbs which introduce reported statements, whereas λέγειν and εἶπεῖν are usually followed by ὅτι or ὡς, φάναι is usually followed by an Infinitive phrase (see Lesson 13.1). When λέγειν and verbs of saying other than φάναι are followed by an Infinitive, the meaning is usually ‘to command’, ‘to tell someone to do something’. And in keeping with the reported command, the negative is μή.

τά τε ἔξω ἔλεγον αὐτοῖς μὴ δικεῖν. (Th. 2.5.5.)  
*and they told them not to maltreat those outside.*

## 14.7. Passive of λέγειν

A statement may be reported by the Passive of λέγειν used either personally or impersonally with an Infinitive phrase. The personal construction is the more usual.

καί τις καὶ ἄνεμος λέγεται αὐτοὺς κωλύσαι. (Th. 2.93.4.)  
*And a certain wind also is said to have hindered them.*

Personal: Nominative and Infinitive.

γνώμη δὲ τοιᾶδε λέγεται τὸν Ἀρχίδαμον περὶ τε τὰς Ἀχαρνὰς ὡς ἔς μάχην ταξάμενον μεῖναι καὶ ἔς τὸ πεδῖον ἐκείνη τῇ ἐσβολῇ οὐ καταβῆναι. (Th. 2.20.1.)

*And it is said that with such an intention Archidamus formed his army as for battle and remained around Acharnae, and did not descend to the plain at the time of that invasion.*

Impersonal: Accusative and Infinitive. Structurally, the whole Accusative and Infinitive phrase is Subject of λέγεται (cf. Lessons 3.4.1 and 6.2).

## References

Goodwin (1889), *Syntax of the moods and tenses of the Greek verb*, §§683–685, 753–754.

Smyth (1956), *Greek grammar*, §§1866–1867, 1982, 2016–2017, 2616, 2722–2723.

## EXERCISE 14

Translate the following passages.

1. φήσει τις δημοκρατίαν οὔτε ξυνετὸν οὔτ' ἴσον εἶναι, τοὺς δ' ἔχοντας τὰ χρήματα καὶ ἄρχειν ἄριστα βελτίστους.

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ξυνετός, -ή, -όν	<i>intelligent, wise</i>
εἶναι	<i>Understand again with</i> τοὺς δ' ἔχοντας ... βελτίστους.
καὶ	<i>also</i>
ἄρχειν	Depends on βελτίστους; see Lesson 3.4.3.3.

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2. Σωκράτη φησὶν ἀδικεῖν τοὺς τε νέους διαφθείροντα καὶ θεοὺς οὓς ἡ πόλις νομίζει οὐ νομίζοντα ...

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Σωκράτης, -ους, ὁ	<i>Socrates</i> (here Acc.; see Smyth, 1956, §264.)
διαφθείρειν	<i>to corrupt</i>
νομίζειν	<i>to believe in</i> (+ Acc.)

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3. ἔφασαν δὲ πολλοὺς προσχωρήσεσθαι μίσει τῶν Λακεδαιμονίων.

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προσχωρεῖν	<i>to come over</i> (to another side) (Mid. in Fut.)
μῖσος, -ους, τό	<i>hatred</i> (felt by πολλοῦς)
τῶν Λακεδαιμονίων	Objective Gen.

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4. Λακεδαιμόνιοι δὲ τὰ μὲν δυνατὰ ἔφασαν πεποικέναι· τοὺς γὰρ παρὰ σφίσι δεσμώτας ὄντας Ἀθηναίων ἀποδοῦναι καὶ τοὺς ἐπὶ Θράκης στρατιώτας ἀπαγαγεῖν ...

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δυνατός, -ή, -όν	<i>possible</i>
δεσμώτης, -ου, ὁ	<i>prisoner</i>
ἀποδιδόναι	<i>to give over</i>
στρατιώτης, -ου, ὁ	<i>soldier</i>

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5. προσελθόντες οὖν τοῖς Λακεδαιμονίοις ἔφασαν βούλεσθαι καὶ αὐτοὶ ἐς τὸ πλῆθος αὐτῶν εἰπεῖν ...

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ἐς	<i>to, before</i> (persons, with verbs of speaking)
πλῆθος, -ους, τό	<i>assembly</i>

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6. οὗ φησ' ἔάσειν τόνδε τὸν νεκρὸν ταφῆς ἄμοιρον, ἀλλὰ πρὸς βίαν θάψειν ἐμοῦ.

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φησ(ί)	The Subject is masc.
ταφή, -ῆς, ἡ	<i>burial</i>
ἄμοιρος, -ον	<i>without a share (in)</i> (+ Gen.)
πρὸς βίαν	<i>in spite (of), in defiance (of)</i> (+ Gen.)

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7. ... λέγομεν ὑμῖν, ἕως ἔτι αὐθαίρετος ἀμφοτέροις ἢ εὐβουλία, σπονδάς μὴ λύειν μηδέ παραβαίνειν τοὺς ὄρκους ...

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αὐθαίρετος, -ον	<i>available</i>
εὐβουλία, -ας, ἡ	<i>prudence</i>

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8. ... he said that he desired to impose punishment on him ...

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<i>... he... he ...</i>	Refer to same person.
<i>to desire</i>	χρῆζειν
<i>to impose (Acc.) on (Dat.)</i>	ἐπιτιθέναι
<i>punishment</i>	δίκη, -ης, ἡ

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9. And the Locrians are said to have established only this law in more than two hundred years.

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<i>Locrians</i>	Λοκροί, -ῶν, οἱ
<i>are said</i>	Use personal construction.
<i>to establish</i>	τίθεσθαι (Mid.; use Aor. Infin.)
<i>law</i>	νόμος, -ου, ὁ
<i>in</i>	ἐν (+ Dat.)
<i>more (adv. Acc.)</i>	πλεῖν (for πλεῖον)
<i>two hundred</i>	διακόσιοι, -αι, -α
<i>year</i>	ἔτος, -ους, τό

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