

LESSON 27

Purpose Constructions

27.1. Prepositions

Purpose may be expressed by the prepositions εἰς, ἐπί and πρὸς with the Accusative, ἐπί with the Dative, and ὑπέρ with the Genitive of the articular Infinitive.

τὸν οὖν παρόντα πέμψον **εἰς** κατασκοπήν ... (S.Ph. 45.)
*So send the man, who is present, **to** reconnoitre ...*

ἦλθον οἱ Ἴνδοι ἐκ τῶν πολεμίων, οὓς ἐπεπόμφει Κῦρος **ἐπὶ** κατασκοπήν ... (X.Cyr. 6.2.9.)

*the Indians, whom Cyrus had sent **to** reconnoitre, came from the enemy ...*

τὰ μὲν γὰρ ἐστίας μεσομφάλου
ἔστηκεν ἤδη μῆλα **πρὸς** σφαγὰς πάρος. (A.Ag. 1056–1057.)

*For now the animals
stand <ready> **for** slaughter before the central hearth.*

Ἀχιλλέως παῖ, δεῖ σ' **ἐφ'** οἷς ἐλήλυθας
γενναῖον εἶναι. (S.Ph. 50–51.)

*Son of Achilles, you must be noble <for the purposes>
for which you have come.*

πολίται γὰρ δορυφοροῦσι ... ἀλλήλους ἄνευ μισθοῦ ... ἐπὶ
τοὺς κακούργους **ὑπέρ τοῦ** μηδένα τῶν πολιτῶν βιαίῳ θανάτῳ
ἀποθνήσκειν. (X.Hier. 4.3.)

*For the citizens guard ... one another without pay ... against evil-doers,
so that no one of the citizens **may die** by a violent death.*

27.2. Infinitive

For the Infinitive expressing Purpose with certain verbs, see Lessons 3.4.3.1 and 3.5.3.

27.3. Participles

Participles may express Purpose, occasionally in the Imperfect Aspect, but mainly in the Intensive Aspect. ὥς is frequently used with the Intensive ('Fut.') Participle expressing Purpose. A Participle is used to express Purpose especially with such verbs as 'come', 'go', 'send' and 'summon'.

τούτους θανόντας ἦλθον **ἐξαιτῶν** πόλιν. (E.*Supp.* 120.)

*I went to the city **to request** these dead <men>.*

Imperf. Partc.

... καὶ ὥς **διαβαλῶν** δὴ ἔρχεται εἰς τὸ δικαστήριον ... (Pl.*Euthphr.* 3 B.)

*... and he is going to court precisely **to slander** <you> ...*

Intensive ('Fut.') Participle.

27.4. Adjectival Clauses of Purpose

Adjectival clauses with the Future Indicative may be used to express Purpose. (Goodwin [1889, §565], Smyth [1956, §§2554, 2705.f.] and other elementary and advanced grammars state that the negative for this construction is μή. However, they cite no negative examples. Negative examples can be cited for adverbial clauses of Place.)

ἀλλὰ νῦν οἱ μὲν πολιτευόμενοι ἐν ταῖς πατρίσι καὶ νόμους τίθενται, ἵνα μὴ ἀδικῶνται, ... καὶ ὄπλα κτῶνται, **οἷς ἀμυνοῦνται** τοὺς ἀδικοῦντας ... (X.*Mem.* 2.1.14.)

*But now those who participate in the government in their fatherlands not only frame laws, so that they may not be wronged, ... but also obtain weapons, **with which to ward off** wrongdoers ...*

In adjectival clauses of Purpose, Homer normally uses the Subjunctive, generally with $\kappa\epsilon(\nu)$, in Primary sequence, and Optative, without $\kappa\epsilon(\nu)$, in Past sequence. The Optative in Past sequence also occurs in Attic literature sometimes.

ἀλλ' ἄγετε, κλητοὺς ὀτρύνομεν, **οἷ κε** τάχιστα
ἔλθωσ' ἐς κλισίην Πηληϊάδεω Ἀχιλῆος. (Hom.*Il.* 9.165–166.)

*Well come on, let us urge on recruited men, **that they may** very quickly go to the hut of Peleus's son, Achilles.*

Subjunctive with $\kappa\epsilon$ in Primary sequence. ὀτρύνομεν is an Epic Aorist Subjunctive form with short vowel, equivalent to Attic ὀτρύνωμεν.

οὐδένα γὰρ εἶχον **ὄστις ἀγγείλαι** μολῶν
 ἐς Ἄργος αὐθις, τὰς <τ'> ἐμὰς ἐπιστολὰς
πέμψειε σωθεῖς τῶν ἐμῶν φίλων τινί. (E.*IT* 588–590.)

*For I had no one **to** go back to Argos and **report**, and, having been saved, **to convey** my letter to one of my dear ones.*

Optative ἀγγείλαι and πέμψειε in Past sequence.

27.5. Adverbial Clauses of Purpose

Adverbial clauses of Purpose are introduced by a variety of conjunctions, but mainly ἵνα and ὅπως. They regularly have Subjunctive in Primary sequence and Optative in Past sequence. In early Greek, negative Purpose clauses could be introduced by μή alone. But μή increasingly came to be used only as a negative within a Purpose clause introduced by one of the other (positive) conjunctions.

ἦῶθεν δ' ἀγορήνδε καθεζώμεσθα κιόντες
 πάντες, **ἵν'** ὑμῖν μῦθον ἀπηλεγέως **ἀποείπω**,
 ἔξιέναι μεγάρων. (Hom.*Od.* 1.372–374.)

*And from dawn let us all go to the place of assembly and sit down, **so that I may declare** to you my word unrestrainedly, to go out from the halls.*

ἵνα with Subjunctive in Primary sequence.

... ἐγὼ δ' ἄπειμι, **μὴ κατοπτειθῶ** παρών ... (S.Ph. 124.)
 ... *but I shall go away, so that I may not be observed being present ...*

μή alone with Subjunctive in Primary sequence.

ἐπὶ δ' αὐτῷ εἴκοσι ἔταξαν τὰς ἄριστα πλεούσας, **ὅπως ... μὴ διαφύγοιεν** πλέοντα τὸν ἐπίπλουν σφῶν οἱ Ἀθηναῖοι ... (Th. 2.90.2.)

And on it [= the right wing] they stationed the twenty <ships> which sailed best, in order that ... the Athenians might not escape through their line-of-attack as it sailed ...

ὅπως μή with Optative in Past sequence.

ἵνα is the main Purpose conjunction in Herodotus, Aristophanes, Plato and the orators. ὅπως is the main conjunction in Thucydides. ὅπως is slightly more common than ἵνα in Xenophon. ὅπως with Subjunctive sometimes has ἄν in positive clauses.

ὥς with κε(ν) or ἄν and the Subjunctive occurs in Homer, Attic poetry and Herodotus (Ionic). ὄφρα is the most common Purpose conjunction in Homer; occasionally κε(ν) or ἄν is used with ὄφρα and the Subjunctive.

The Vivid construction, with Subjunctive instead of Optative in Past sequence, is used more often than not by the historians Herodotus and Thucydides.

The Future Indicative may be used instead of the Subjunctive especially in poetry, mainly with ὅπως, rarely with ὄφρα, ὥς and μή, but never with ἵνα.

ἐπειδὴ δὲ ἦλθομεν ὥς αὐτὸν ἡμεῖς οἱ πρέσβεις, ἐμισθώσατο μὲν τοῦτον εὐθέως, **ὅπως συνερεῖ καὶ συναγωνιέεται** τῷ μιαρῷ Φιλοκράτει καὶ τῶν τὰ δίκαια βουλομένων ἡμῶν πράττειν **περιέσται** ... (D. 19.316.)

But when we, the ambassadors, had come to him, he immediately hired this <fellow>, so that he might speak with and assist the abominable Philocrates and overtake us who wanted to do the right thing ...

ὅπως with Future Indicative.

References

Goodwin (1889), *Syntax of the moods and tenses of the Greek verb*, §§302–338; 802; 840.

Smyth (1956), *Greek grammar*, §§1686.1.d, 1689.2.c, 3.d, 1695.3.c, 1697.1.b (Prepositions); 2065, 2086 (Participles); 2554 (adjectival clauses); 2193–2206 (adverbial clauses).

EXERCISE 27

Translate the following passages.

- ὅταν τι δρᾶς ἐς κέρδος, οὐκ ὀκνεῖν πρέπει.
- ὥς ἄρα οἱ φρονέοντι δοάσσατο κέρδιον εἶναι, λίσσεσθαι ἐπέεσσιν ἀποσταδὰ μειλίχιοσι, μή οἱ γούνα λαβόντι χολώσαιτο φρένα κούρη.

οἱ	Dat. masc. sg.
δοάσσατο	<i>it seemed</i>
ἀποσταδὰ (adv.)	<i>standing apart</i>
μειλίχιος, -α, -ον	<i>gentle, soothing</i>
γόνυ, γόνατος, τό	<i>knee</i> (here Acc. pl. with alternative spelling)

- προεῖπε δὲ καὶ τοῦτο τοῖς στρατιώταις, ὡς εὐθὺς ἠγήσοιτο τὴν συντομωτάτην ἐπὶ τὰ κράτιστα τῆς χώρας, ὅπως αὐτόθεν αὐτῷ τὰ σώματα καὶ τὴν γνώμην παρασκευάζουσι ὡς ἀγωνιούμενοι.

προεῖπεῖν (Aor.)	<i>to say in advance</i>
σύντομος, -ον	<i>short</i> (Here understand ὁδόν, Acc. of Extent.)
αὐτόθεν	<i>at once</i>
ἀγωνίζεσθαι (Mid.)	<i>to take part in the struggle</i>

4. φίλος ἐβούλετο εἶναι τοῖς μέγιστα δυναμένοις, ἵνα ἀδικῶν μὴ διδοίη δίκην.

φίλος	Complement of εἶναι
διδόναι δίκην	<i>to pay the penalty</i>

5. μὴ πρόσλευσσε, γενναίως περ ὧν, ἡμῶν ὅπως μὴ τὴν τύχην διαφθερεῖς.

προσλεύσσειν	<i>to look at</i> (Understand αὐτόν as Object.)
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6. For not in order that I may criticise the city of the Spartans in the presence of the rest have I spoken in this way about them, but in order that I may stop those [men] themselves ... [from] having such an attitude.

<i>in order that</i>	ἵνα (both instances)
<i>to criticise</i>	διαβάλλειν
<i>Spartan</i>	Λακεδαιμόνιος, -α, -ον
<i>in the presence of</i>	πρός (+ Acc.)
<i>attitude</i>	γνώμη, -ης, ἡ

7. ... and he was no longer willing to accept payment from me, pushing [me] aside, so that that [man], but not I, might seem to be burying my grandfather.

<i>to accept payment</i>	ἀπολαμβάνειν (no Object necessary)
<i>to push aside</i>	ὑποπαρωθεῖν
<i>so that</i>	ὅπως
<i>grandfather</i>	πάππος, -ου, ὁ

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