

LESSON 34

Noun Clauses with Expressions of Emotion

34.1. Introduction

Noun clauses introduced by ὅτι or εἰ meaning ‘that’ are used as the Object of various verbs of emotion, or as the Subject of the verb ‘to be’ with an adjective of emotion as Complement. Typical emotions are surprise, shame, blame, anger, love, hate, pleasure and pain. Since already in Homer ὅτι may mean either ‘that’ or ‘because’, it is necessary to distinguish noun clauses from adverbial clauses of Cause. And likewise, it is necessary to distinguish noun clauses introduced by εἰ from the common adverbial clauses of Condition introduced by the same conjunction. Other noun clauses, which are introduced by εἰ, are reported questions (Lesson 18), clauses of effort and caution (Lesson 24) and clauses of fearing (Lesson 35).

In order to demonstrate the construction of verbs of emotion with a direct Object, the following sections will contain examples of such verbs with a noun as direct Object, then with a pronoun, and then with a pronoun anticipating a noun clause introduced by ὅτι or εἰ. After that, examples of verbs of emotion with a plain ὅτι or εἰ clause as direct Object will be given.

Further sections will provide examples of εἰ introducing a noun clause as Subject of the verb ‘to be’ with an adjective of emotion as Complement. Such noun clauses are also sometimes the Subject of certain other verbs.

Finally, the use of negatives in noun clauses introduced by ὅτι or εἰ will be considered.

34.2. Verbs of Emotion

34.2.1. Noun as Direct Object

Verbs of emotion may have as direct Object a noun which is abstract or concrete and which refers to a person or thing.

νῦν δ' εἰς τοῦτο τὰ πράγματα περιέστηκεν, ὥσθ' οἱ μὲν **μισοῦσι τὴν πόλιν**, οἱ δὲ καταφρονοῦσιν ἡμῶν. (Isoc. 7.81.)

*But now circumstances have come around to this <point>, that they [= Greeks] **hate the city** [= Athens], and they [= foreigners] **despise us**.*

The Object is concrete and personal (collective).

Κλεόμενες, **σπουδὴν μὲν τὴν ἐμὴν μὴ θαυμάσης** τῆς ἐνθαῦτα ἀπίξιός· (Hdt. 5.49.2.)

*Cleomenes, **do not be surprised at my eagerness** for coming here.*

The Object is abstract and denotes a thing.

34.2.2. Pronoun as Direct Object

The pronoun is regularly neuter singular or plural.

καὶ **τοῦθ' ἡδομαι**. (Ar.Ra. 748.)
*I enjoy **this** too.*

The pronoun is neuter singular.

καίτοι τὸν τῶν νόμων καὶ τῆς πολιτείας φάσκοντα φροντίζειν ... τοῦτο γ' ἔχειν δεῖ, **ταῦτὰ λυπεῖσθαι καὶ ταῦτὰ χαίρειν** τοῖς πολλοῖς ... (D. 18.292.)

*And yet the one who claims to be concerned for the laws and the constitution ... must be capable of this, **to feel grief at the same things and to rejoice at the same things** as the general public ...*

The pronouns are neuter plural.

34.2.3. Pronoun Anticipating a ὅτι Clause

In the following example, ταῦτα refers to the content of the ὅτι clause: ‘my father’ is annoyed at ‘this’, namely, ‘that I am proceeding’. ὅτι does not mean ‘because’: the ὅτι clause expresses *what* ‘my father’ is annoyed at, not *why* he is annoyed. Thus, the ὅτι clause is the direct Object of ἀγανακτεῖ and in apposition with ταῦτα. In other words, the ὅτι clause is an Objective predicate of the pronoun ταῦτα.

ταῦτα δὴ οὖν καὶ **ἀγανακτεῖ** ὃ τε πατήρ καὶ οἱ ἄλλοι οἰκεῖοι, **ὅτι** ἐγὼ ὑπὲρ τοῦ ἀνδροφόνου τῷ πατρὶ φόνου ἐπέρχομαι ... (Pl.*Euthphr.* 4 D.)

*So indeed my father and the rest of the family members **are annoyed at this, that** I, on behalf of the murderer, am proceeding against my father for murder ...*

34.2.4. Pronoun Anticipating an εἰ Clause

Similarly in this next example αὐτὸ τοῦτο refers to the content of the εἰ clause. This clause expresses *what* the Subject of the leading clause is surprised at, rather than *why* he is surprised. In function the εἰ clause is not an adverbial Conditional clause, but a noun clause as direct Object of θαυμάζω and in apposition with αὐτὸ τοῦτο. In other words, the εἰ clause is an Objective predicate of the pronominal phrase αὐτὸ τοῦτο.

ἐγὼ δὲ πρῶτον μὲν **αὐτὸ τοῦτο θαυμάζω**, **εἰ** στεφανοῦν ἐπὶ τοῖς ἡτυχημένοις ἡξίου τὴν βουλήν· (D. 22.17.)

*But I in the first place **am surprised at this very <point>**, **that** he thought it appropriate to reward the council for the unfortunate <events>.*

34.2.5. ὅτι Clause Alone as Direct Object

A ὅτι clause may be the direct Object of a verb of emotion even without an anticipatory pronoun. But again, the ὅτι clause is a noun clause, not an adverbial Causal clause.

θαυμάζω δ' **ὅτι** τοὺς αὐτοὺς ὁρῶ ὑπὲρ Αἰγυπτίων τάναντία πράττειν βασιλεῖ τὴν πόλιν πείθοντας, ὑπὲρ δὲ τοῦ Ῥοδίων δήμου φοβουμένους τὸν ἄνδρα τοῦτον. (D. 15.5.)

But I am surprised that I see the same <men> trying-to-persuade the city to act in opposition to the (Persian) king where the Egyptians are concerned, but being afraid of this man where the democracy of the Rhodians is concerned.

34.2.6. εἰ Clause Alone as Direct Object

Similarly, an εἰ clause may be the direct Object of a verb of emotion without an anticipatory pronoun. And the εἰ clause also is a noun clause, not an adverbial Conditional clause.

θυμοῦμαι μὲν τῇ ξυντυχίᾳ, καί μου τὰ σπλάγχν' **ἀγανακτεῖ**,
εἰ πρὸς τοῦτον δεῖ μ' ἀντιλέγειν. (Ar.Ra. 1006–1007.)

*I am angry at the turn of events, and my emotions are annoyed,
that it is necessary that I should speak against this <fellow>.*

34.2.7. εἰ Clause as Direct Object with an Adjective of Emotion

An εἰ clause may be a direct Object in apposition with an adjective of emotion. In the following example, it is appropriate to understand the adjective as an Objective predicate.

ἦ **θαυμαστόν** νομίζεις **εἰ** καὶ τῷ θεῷ δοκεῖ ἐμὲ βέλτιον εἶναι ἢδη τελευτᾶν; (X.Ap. 5.)

Do you think <it> surprising that even to (the) god it seems to be better that I should die now?

English idiom regularly uses the pronoun 'it' anticipating the 'that' clause; compare the Greek anticipatory pronouns in §§34.2.3 and 34.2.4 above.

34.3. εἰ Clause as Subject

34.3.1. εἰ Clause as Subject of εἶναι

When an εἰ clause is the Subject of a sentence, it is most commonly the Subject of the verb ‘to be’ εἶναι and has an adjectival Complement. Sometimes, the Complement is a full adjectival clause. And sometimes, the negative pronoun οὐδέν or the interrogative pronoun τί is combined with the adjectival Complement.

ἐμοὶ μὲν **θαυμαστὸν** δοκεῖ εἶναι, **εἴ** τις ἐλεύθερος ἄνθρωπος ἢ κτῆμά τι τούτου ἥδιον κέκτηται ἢ ἐπιμέλειαν ἡδίω τινὰ ταύτης εὕρηκεν ἢ ὠφελιωτέραν εἰς τὸν βίον. (X.Oec. 5.11.)

*To me <it> seems to be **amazing**, **that** any free man has obtained any possession more pleasant than this or has found any occupation more pleasant than this or more helpful for his livelihood.*

As in the previous example, English idiom uses the anticipatory pronoun ‘it’. More literally: ‘**That** any free man has obtained ... seems to me to be **amazing**’.

Indicative forms of εἶναι are regularly omitted, as in the following four examples.

καίτοι **δεινόν**, **εἰ** ἐπὶ μὲν τοῖς ὑμετέροις αὐτῶν πράγμασιν ἐμμένετε τοῖς ὄρκοις, ἐπὶ δὲ τῇ τούτου συκοφαντίᾳ παραβαίνειν ἐπιχειρήσετε ... (Isoc. 17.24.)

*And yet <it is> **terrible**, **that** in the matter of your own affairs you abide by your oaths, but in the case of the vexatious prosecution by this <man> you are going to attempt to transgress them ...*

More literally: ‘**That** in the matter of your own affairs you abide ... **<is> terrible**’.

ὁ δὲ πάντων **σχετλιώτατον**, **εἰ** φιλοποινώτατοι δοκοῦντες εἶναι τῶν Ἑλλήνων ῥαθυμότερον τῶν ἄλλων βουλευσόμεθα περὶ τούτων. (Isoc. 6.56.)

*And what <is> **most shocking** of all <is> **that** we, although seeming to be the most energetic of the Greeks, are going to deliberate more lightly than the rest about this.*

In this example, the Complement is a full adjectival clause, ὃ ... σχετλιώτατον, and the Indicative of the verb 'to be' is omitted both as the Main verb and as the verb of the ὃ clause. Both Greek and English allow a reversal of word order for the sake of emphasis. The order Subject, <verb>, Complement would run: 'And **that** we are going to deliberate more lightly than the rest about this <is> **what** <is> most shocking of all'.

τὸν μὲν οὖν πρόσθεν χρόνον ὑμεῖς τε τοξόται καὶ ἀκοντισταὶ ἦτε καὶ ἡμεῖς, καὶ **εἴ** τι χείρους ἡμῶν ταῦτα ποιεῖν ἦτε, **οὐδέν** θαυμαστόν· (X.Cyr. 2.1.16.)

*Well then, during the previous time you were archers and lancers and <so were> we, and **that** you were somewhat inferior to us at doing this, <is> **nothing surprising**.*

[OR: '⟨it is⟩ **nothing surprising that...**'] The negative pronoun οὐδέν is combined with the adjectival Complement θαυμαστόν.

... **τί** θαυμαστόν **εἰ** καὶ τὰ νῦν καθεστῶτα λήψεταιί τινα μετάστασιν; (Isoc. 6.40.)

... *what* <is> **surprising** <about the idea> **that** also our present circumstances are going to undergo [lit. 'receive'] some change?

The interrogative pronoun τί is combined with the adjectival Complement θαυμαστόν.

34.3.2. εἰ Clause as Subject of Other Verbs

An εἰ clause may also be the Subject of a limited number of other verbs of emotion. ἐξαρκεῖν and μεταμελεῖν belong to this group.

ἄρ' οὖν **ἂν ἐξαρκέσειεν** ἡμῖν, **εἰ** τήν τε πόλιν ἀσφαλῶς **οἰκοῦμεν** καὶ τὰ περὶ τὸν βίον εὐπορώτεροι **γιγνόμεθα** ... (Isoc. 8.19.)

Would <it> **satisfy** us, then, **that we should inhabit** the city in safety and **should become** well provided regarding what concerns our livelihood ...?

Grammatical structure: 'Would <the possibility>, that we should inhabit ... satisfy us?' The Optative οἰκοῦμεν in the εἰ clause corresponds to the potential Optative ἐξαρκέσειεν of the Main verb. The construction of the whole sentence is analogous to a Future Unfulfilled Conditional sentence. However, the εἰ clause is a noun clause, expressing *what* 'would satisfy us', not an adverbial Conditional clause.

Similarly, an adjective of emotion is sometimes used in apposition with the εἰ clause as Subject of a non-emotional verb.

ὥστε πάντων ἄν μοι **συμβαίη δεινότατον, εἰ** τοιαύτην πολιτείαν εἰσηγούμενος νεωτέρων δόξαιμι πραγμάτων ἐπιθυμεῖν. (Isoc. 7.59.)

*And so **the strangest** of all things **would happen** to me, **that** in introducing such a form of government I should seem to desire revolution.*

Here, συμβαίνειν corresponds to εἶναι as used in §34.3.1 above, but δεινότατον is part of the Subject not the Complement.

34.4. Negatives with ὅτι and εἰ Clauses

ὅτι clauses regularly use οὐ and its compounds. εἰ clauses sometimes use οὐ, but often use μή and its compounds. οὐ and μή may even occur in the same εἰ clause, when it is divided by μέν and δέ.

καὶ σέ γε ἐζήτουν κατ' ἀγορὰν καὶ **ἐθαύμαζον ὅτι οὐχ** οἶός τ' ἦ εὐρεῖν. (Pl. *Tht.* 142 A.)

*And I was looking for you (all) over the market-place and I was surprised **that** I was **not** able to find <you>.*

ὅτι with negative οὐ and Indicative.

... ἔφη τοὺς ξυμπρέσβεις ἀναμένειν ... καὶ **θαυμάζειν ὡς οὐπω** πάρεισιν. (Th. 1.90.5.)

*... he said that he was waiting for his fellow-ambassadors ... and that **he was surprised that** they were **not yet** present.*

ὡς with negative οὐπω and Indicative. (ὡς is an unusual alternative for ὅτι. Here it is sometimes regarded as meaning 'how' not 'that'.)

δεινὸν δέ μοι δοκεῖ εἶναι, **εἰ**, ὅταν εἰσφορὰν εἰσενεγκεῖν δέη, ἦν πάντες εἶσθαι μέλλουσιν, **οὐκ** ἐθέλουσιν ... (Lys. 30.32.)

*And it seems to me to be **terrible, that**, when it is necessary to pay a contribution, which all are going to know about, they are **not** willing ...*

εἰ with οὐ and Indicative, which would not normally occur in a genuine Condition (cf. Lesson 19.5).

θαυμάζω δ' εἰ μὴ δύνασθε συνιδεῖν ὅτι γένος οὐδέν ἐστι κακονούστερον τῷ πλήθει πονηρῶν ῥητόρων καὶ δημαγωγῶν· (Isoc. 8.129.)

But I am surprised that you are not able to see that no group is more ill-disposed to the general public than incompetent orators and politicians.

εἰ with μή and Indicative.

σχέτλιον δ' ἂν εἴη, εἰ οὗτος μὲν ἅπαντας τοὺς πολίτας περὶ οὐδενὸς ἠγγήσατο, ὑμεῖς δὲ τοῦτον ἕνα ὄντα μὴ ἀποδοκιμάσατε. (Lys. 31.31.)

It would be shocking, that this <man> considered all the citizens worth nothing, but <that> you should not disqualify this <man> when he is <just> one <person>.

εἰ with οὐδενός and Indicative denoting a past fact, then with μή and Optative denoting an imminent possibility from which the speaker is dissuading his audience. The εἰ clause is divided by μὲν and δέ.

34.5. General Comments

34.5.1. ἔάν

Sometimes, ἔάν with Subjunctive is mentioned as having the same function as εἰ or ὅτι with expressions of emotion. However, there are few examples. And, it may be that ἔάν should be regarded as introducing a genuine Conditional clause, even with an expression of emotion. Moreover, the classical prose author Isocrates frequently uses εἰ to introduce noun clauses with expressions of emotion; but all (18) ἔάν clauses are genuine Conditional clauses, and are not used with expressions of emotion.

34.5.2. Scholarly Views

Standard treatments of Ancient Greek grammar in English, French and German differ somewhat in their view of expressions of emotion with clauses introduced by ὅτι and εἰ. In German, Kühner (1890–1904) regards such clauses as noun clauses (*Substantivsätze*). Schwyzer (1950) appears to agree for ὅτι and ὡς clauses; for εἰ (ἔάν), he merely refers

to Kühner. In French, Humbert (1954) first discusses Causal clauses introduced by ὅτι or ὡς, then adds Object (*completive*) clauses with verbs of emotion. ‘The content of these emotions *is expressed* by the Causal clause, introduced by εἰ, “if it is true that, since...”’ (§337). This formulation seems deliberately to blur the distinction between adverbial Conditional and Causal clauses on the one hand and noun clauses on the other hand.

In English, Goodwin (1889) treats clauses with expressions of emotion in a separate section in the midst of Conditional clauses. He acknowledges that, with many expressions of emotion, ‘a protasis with εἰ may be used to express the object of the emotion’, although ‘a causal sentence would generally seem more natural’ (§494). And he maintains, ‘These expressions may also be followed by ὅτι and a causal sentence’ (§496). After treating the usual Causal constructions including ὅτι and ὡς clauses, Smyth (1956, §2247) continues by writing that, ‘Many verbs of emotion state the cause more delicately with εἰ (ἐάν) *if* as a mere supposition than by ὅτι’. He acknowledges that ὅτι clauses are also used with these verbs (§2248). But he ends with the comment, ‘ὅτι after verbs of emotion really means *that*, not *because*’ (§2248.a.).

This Lesson follows the view that, with expressions of emotion, clauses introduced by ὅτι, ὡς and εἰ are noun clauses, and that the subordinating conjunctions are appropriately translated as ‘that’, not ‘because’ nor ‘if’.

References

- Goodwin (1889), *Syntax of the moods and tenses of the Greek verb*, §§494–496.
- Humbert (1954), *Syntaxe Grecque*, §337.
- Kühner (1904), *Ausführliche Grammatik der Griechischen Sprache* (Vol. 2.2), pp. 369–370.
- Liddell & Scott (1996), *A Greek–English lexicon*, εἰ B. V.
- Schwyzler (1950), *Syntax und Syntaktische Stilistik* (Griechische Grammatik, vol. 2), pp. 645–646, 688.
- Smyth (1956), *Greek grammar*, §§2247–2248.

EXERCISE 34A

Translate the following passages. Both ὅτι and εἰ, when introducing noun clauses of the type treated in Lesson 34, should consistently be translated as 'that'.

1. ... τίς οὐκ οἶδε τῶν πρεσβυτέρων τοὺς μὲν δημοτικούς καλουμένους ... δεινὸν ἠγουμένους, εἴ τις ὄψεται τὴν πόλιν τὴν τῶν Ἑλλήνων ἄρξασαν αὐτὴν ὑφ' ἑτέροις οὖσαν ...;

πρεσβύτερος, -α, -ον	<i>older</i>
ἠγουμένους	Reflects Past Imperf. of direct knowledge: ἠγοῦντο.

2. θαυμαστὸν δ', εἰ τοὺς μὲν ἐπὶ τῆς ὀλιγαρχίας ὑβρίσαντας ἀξίους θανάτου νομίζετε, τοὺς δ' ἐν δημοκρατίᾳ ταῦτ' ἐκείνοις ἐπιτηδεύοντας ἀζημίους ἀφήσετε.

ὑβρίζειν	<i>to act violently</i>
ἐπιτηδεύειν	<i>to commit</i>
ἀζήμιος, -ον	<i>unpunished</i>

3. ὥστ' οὐδὲν θαυμαστὸν, εἰ πάνυ ἐν τάχει πάλιν ἡμῖν πράγματα παρέχειν δυνήσονται.

πράγματα παρέχειν	<i>to cause trouble</i>
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4. ἦν τε γὰρ αὐτὸν μετρίως θωμάζης, ἄχθεται, ὅτι οὐ κάρτα θεραπεύεται, ἦν τε θεραπεύη τις κάρτα, ἄχθεται ἅτε θωπί.

θωμάζειν (Ionic)	<i>to admire</i>
ἄχθεσθαι	<i>to be annoyed</i>
θεραπεύειν	<i>to pay attention to</i> (1st instance Pass.)
θώψ, θωπός, ὁ	<i>flatterer</i>

5. ... προειλόμην πορρωτέρωθεν ποιήσασθαι τὴν ἀρχήν, ... αἰσχυρόμενος, εἰ ... περὶ τῶν προγόνων τῶν τὴν πόλιν κάλλιστα διοικησάντων μηδὲ μικρὰν ποιήσομαι μνεῖαν ...

The speaker is referring to the composition of his speech.

διοικεῖν	<i>to administer</i>
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6. And let no one of you be surprised, that we know [this] accurately.

<i>accurately</i>	ἀκριβῶς
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7. For we are able to make also this criticism against them, that for their own city they compel their neighbours to be serfs ...

<i>to make a criticism against</i>	ἐπιτιμᾶν (+ Acc. 'this' and Dat. 'them')
<i>neighbour</i>	ὄμορος, -ου, ὄ
<i>to be a serf</i>	εἰλωτεύειν

EXERCISE 34B

Translate the following passages. Both ὅτι and εἰ, when introducing noun clauses of the type treated in Lesson 34, should consistently be translated as 'that'.

1. αἰσχύνομαι γάρ, εἴ τισι δόξω δεδιῶς ὑπὲρ γήρωσ καὶ μικροῦ βίου προδιδόναι τὴν ἀληθείαν.

αἰσχύνεσθαι	<i>to be ashamed</i>
γῆρας, -ως (-αος), τό	<i>old age</i>
μικροῦ	Refers to speaker's remaining, not total, life.

2. πάντων δ' ἂν εἴη δεινότατον, εἰ ... ἐγὼ διὰ τὴν ἐκείνου φυγὴν ζημιωθείην.

φυγὴ, -ῆς, ἡ	<i>exile</i>
ζημιοῦν	<i>to punish</i>

3. ὁ δὲ πάντων δεινότατον, εἰ τοῖς μὲν συνεχῶς μετὰ Λακεδαιμονίων γεγενημένοις δεδογμένοι ὑμῖν ἐστὶ βοηθεῖν ...

4. ... τί θαυμαστόν, εἰ περὶ τῆς ἀρχῆς τῆς κατὰ θάλατταν ἀγνοοῦσι ...;
5. ὥστε πάντων ἂν συμβαίῃ δεινότατον, εἰ τοὺς βουλομένους τοῖς αὐτοῖς τούτοις διενεγκεῖν τῶν ἡλικιωτῶν ... διαφθείρεσθαι ψηφίσαισθε ...

τοῖς αὐτοῖς τούτοις	neut.
διαφέρειν	to outclass (+ Gen. of Comparison)
ἡλικιώτης, -ου, ὁ	comrade
διαφθείρειν	to corrupt

6. δεινὸν δέ μοι δοκεῖ εἶναι, ὧ ἄνδρες δικασταί, εἰ τούτου ... οὐκ ἐπεχείρησαν δεῖσθαι, ὡς χρή, παύσασθαι εἰς ὑμᾶς ἐξαμαρτάνοντα ...

δεῖσθαι	to request (of) (+ Gen.)
ἐξαμαρτάνοντα	Acc. masc. sg.; refers to τούτου despite change of Case.

7. For I am ashamed, that, having said so much in advance about the excellence of Agamemnon, I am going to mention nothing of what has been achieved by that [man]...

to have said in advance	προειρηκέναι (Perf.)
Agamemnon	Ἄγαμέμνων, -ονος, ὁ
to mention	μιμνήσκεσθαι

8. But it seems to me that I would reasonably be annoyed, ... that they were willing to make the matter equal to the most serious grounds of complaint.

to make equal with	ἐξισοῦν (+ Acc. 'matter' and Dat. 'ground')
ground of complaint	ἔγκλημα, -ατος, τό

This text is taken from *Intermediate Ancient Greek Language*,
by Darryl Palmer, published 2021 by ANU Press, The Australian
National University, Canberra, Australia.