

Syntax Summary through Matthew 5:12

CLAUSES

General Clause Types (§§5.208-09)

- **Independent clauses** can stand on their own as complete sentences with their own subject and verb and no signals like a conjunction subordinating them to other clauses.
- **Subordinate clauses** usually begin with a conjunction that connects them to another clause, providing information about the other clause such as who, what, when, where, how, or why. Since the subordinate clause gives us more information about something in the main clause it is dependent on the main clause and thus subordinate.

The Core Elements in a Clause (§§2.2-3)

- The core of a clause is the verb which refers to an action, a state, or makes an assertion, that something “is” or “becomes.”
- In addition the core also includes the subject, and may include a direct object and an indirect object.

Specific Clause Types

- A **temporal clause** says when something happens, while an **indefinite temporal clause** is used when the time of the event is uncertain, “whenever” (§§5.229, 231a-b). Indefinite temporal clauses often use the subjunctive.
- **Causal clauses** indicate the cause or reason something takes place and are often introduced by ὅτι, *because* (§5.233).

Predicate Position (§5.5)

- In the predicate position the noun or other substantive has an article and the adjective does not. In this position something is being predicated of the subject, that is, it is said to be true of the subject. The subject *is* _____. The verb “to be” is left out in Greek.

~ adj. – [art. – subst.] A [TS] – ἄγαθός ὁ λόγος. *The word is good.*
~ [art. – subst.] – adj. [TS] A – ὁ λόγος ἀγαθός. *The word is good.*

NOMINAL ITEMS AND CLUSTERS WITHIN CLAUSES

Agreement (§2.30)

- When an adjective modifies a noun it agrees with it by having an ending in the same gender, case, and number as the noun.

Attributive Position (§5.4)

- When an adjective has an article the adjective usually modifies the substantive, identifying an attribute of the substantive.

~ [art. – adj.] – subst. [TA] S – ὁ ἀγαθὸς λόγος *the good word*
~ [art. – subst.] – [art. – adj.] [TS] [TA] – ὁ λόγος ὁ ἀγαθός *the good word*

The Most Common Uses of the Five Cases

- Nominative – subject (§§2.27; 5.26)
subject complement (with the verb “to be” or “to become”) (§§2.27; 5.27)
- Genitive – description (“of”) (§§2.27; 5.34)
- Dative – indirect object (“to/for”) (§§2.27; 5.59)
- Accusative – direct object (§§2.27; 5.75)
- Vocative – direct address (§2.27)

Nominatives

- Instead of the usual nominative, the subject complement with an equative verb may be a genitive or a prepositional phrase (§5.27b).

Genitives

- A genitive modifier may simply **describe** (§§2.27; 5.34), or more specifically signal **possession** (§5.35), or **relationship** (§5.39), among many other possibilities. Notice that all of these uses can usually be translated with “of”—a very flexible pronoun in English!
- Some verbs take a genitive for their **complement**, rather than an accusative direct object (§5.36). These genitives are not translated with “of.”

Datives

- In addition to signaling an **indirect object** (“to/for,” §§2.27; 5.59), datives may signal **location** (“in/at/on,” §§2.27c; 5.64), or **means/instrument/agency** (“by/with,” §§2.27c; 5.67).
- Some verbs take a dative for their **complement** instead of an accusative direct object (§5.72).

Accusatives

- In addition to the accusative for **direct object** (§§2.27; 5.75), we have also met the **double accusative of person and thing** (§5.76) and the **double accusative of object and complement** (§5.77). These constructions also occur in English so they are not difficult to translate, as you can see from the examples in §§5.76-77.

Definite Articles

- An article can substantize virtually any word, that is, cause it to function as a noun (§5.15).
- In particular, we have seen the article used with prepositional phrases (§5.4b) and with participles (§§5.183-85) to signal they are functioning as nouns or adjectives.

VERBAL DETAILS

Tense, Aspect, and *Aktionsart*

- **Aspect** refers to the author's viewpoint (§§2.11; 5.87).
- ***Aktionsart*** refers to the kind of action depicted, that is, what the author is saying about the actual nature of the action, event, or situation (§5.88).
- The three aspects include (§§2.11; 5.87, 114):
 - Durative:** viewing the action from within, as in progress
 - Aoristic:** viewing the action from outside, as a whole
 - Resultative:** viewing a completed action from within the situation that has come about as a result of the action.
- *Aktionsart* is signaled by a verb's aspect, meaning, and clues in the context (§5.88):
- Aspect and *Aktionsart* occur in all forms of a tense-form, not just the indicative (§5.87g).
- The aspect and *Aktionsarten* of some verbs have little if any exegetical significance (§5.89f).

Present

- The aspect of the present is durative (imperfective) viewing the action from within as it is in progress (§§2.11a; 5.87a, 97).
- The present indicative is usually translated either as a simple present, *I study*, or present progressive, *I am studying* (§2.12).
- The most common *Aktionsart* for the present is the progressive (§5.98), for action that is on-going.

Imperfect

- The aspect of the imperfect is durative (imperfective) viewing a past action from within as it is in progress (§§2.11a; 5.87a, 118).
- The imperfect is only used in the indicative. It is usually translated as a past progressive, *I was studying*, but in some contexts the simple past fits English idiom better (§2.12).
- The most common *Aktionsart* for the imperfect is the progressive (§5.119), for action that is on-going.

Future

- The future does not have aspect; it is usually simply temporal (§§2.11d; 5.107).

Aorist

- The aspect of the aorist is aoristic (perfective). The author views the action/event/state as though standing apart from it and seeing it as a whole (§§2.11b; 5.87b, 124).
- The aorist indicative is usually translated as a simple past, *I studied*, or at times with an English perfect, "have/has," *I have studied* (§§2.12; 5.125b).
- *Outside the indicative* an aorist is often translated with a present or a perfect.
- The most common *Aktionsart* of the aorist is global (constative, §5.125), that is, the action or state is viewed as one whole, no matter how complex the actual event may have been. This *Aktionsart* closely matches the aoristic aspect.

Perfect

- The perfect has the resultative (stative) aspect, viewing the action as a completed state that has come about as the result of prior action (§§2.11c; 5.114).
- The perfect indicative is often translated with “have/has,” but may also be translated as a present tense in English, especially when there is an intensive emphasis on being in a present state. *I have believed, I believe* (§2.12).

Voice

- As in English, the **active** voice indicates the subject is doing the action or is experiencing the state indicated by the verb (§2.6a-b).
- Unlike English, Greek has a **middle** voice that indicates the subject is the agent of the action but is also itself somehow affected by the action, often as the one experiencing or benefitting from it. Since English does not have a middle voice, a Greek middle will often be translated as an active (§2.6).
- At times the subject is not the agent, but rather is acted on by someone or something else. In these cases the middle has the sense of an English **passive** and is translated that way (§2.6c).
- **Middle-only verbs** do not have an active form (§§2.6f).
 - ~ These verbs often have lexical forms that end in -μαι.
 - ~ For example, κάθημαι, *sit*, is middle-only, and this form is translated as an active, *I sit*. Middle-only makes sense here since sitting is obviously subject-affected.
 - ~ Some verbs are middle-only in one tense but not in another. For example ὀράω has an active form in the present, but is middle-only in the future: ὄψομαι.

Subjunctives

- The subjunctive is usually used with ὅταν to form an indefinite temporal clause (§5.231a-b).

Imperatives

- The imperative is used to express a command, request, permission, or suggestion.
- There are two main types of commands: (1) a general command or principle, and (2) a specific command for a particular situation (§§5.154-55).
- The present imperative is often used for general commands and the aorist imperative for specific commands, but there are many exceptions (§§5.154-55).

Participles

- When a participle has an article it will function as a **noun or adjective**, and is often translated with a relative clause in English (§§5.183-185).
 - ~ Noun: ὁ πιστεύων, *the one who believes, the one believing, or the believer*.
 - ~ Adjective: ὁ πιστεύων ἀπόστολος or ὁ ἀπόστολος ὁ πιστεύων, *the believing apostle, or the apostle who believes*.
- The **circumstantial** (adverbial) use of the participle functions something like a dependent clause, telling more about the circumstances of the main clause (§2.10b). It can usually be translated with “-ing,” πιστεύων, *believing*. We will study this use in more detail later.

OTHER ITEMS

Postpositive conjunctions such as γάρ and δέ do not come first in their clause (§5.246b).

αὐτός, αὐτή, αὐτό (§5.7)

Sign	Use	
article	<i>same</i>	ὁ αὐτὸς λόγος, <i>the same word</i> τοῦ αὐτοῦ λόγου, <i>of the same word</i> οἱ αὐτοὶ λόγοι, <i>the same words</i> τοῖς αὐτοῖς λόγοις, <i>to/for the same words</i>
nom. or in agreement	<i>-self</i>	αὐτῷ τῷ λόγῳ, <i>to/for the word itself</i> ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἔρχεται ἡμῖν. αὐτὸς διδάξει ἡμᾶς. <i>Jesus comes to us. He Himself will teach us.</i>
none of the above	3rd person pron.	ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἔρχεται αὐτῷ. ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἔρχεται αὐτῇ. <i>Jesus comes to him. Jesus comes to her.</i>

πᾶς, πᾶσα, πᾶν (§5.8)

When πᾶς, πᾶσα, πᾶν (*each, every, any, all, (the) whole*) is in predicate position (anarthrous) it may be in the singular with a focus on the individual members of a whole group (*each, every, any, all*) or in the plural, viewing a group collectively (*all*). In the attributive position (arthrous), on the other hand, in both the singular and plural a group is being viewed as a whole (*all, (the) whole*).

with an article:	<i>(the) whole, all</i>
without an article: singular:	<i>each, every, any, all</i>
plural:	<i>all</i>

The same number of people/items are involved either way, but the focus is different.