

INTRODUCTION TO SOME BASIC GRAMMATICAL TERMS

GREEK 101: Introduction to Ancient Greek



Grammar is a wondrous thing. Without it, we'd be able to understand neither sentences, nor complex thoughts, nor literature. Instead we'd be reduced to grunting out solitary words while pointing and gesturing wildly.

Some important terms:

Intransitive Verb: capable to expressing an action without a direct object.

- The vampire *coughed!*
- We *huddled* under the portico.
- I *go* to the park.

Transitive Verb: need a direct object to complete their meaning.

- She *ignores me*.
- I *prefer summer*.

Most English verbs can be transitive or intransitive.

- The train *approached* (the station), I *love* (Greek)!

Linking (or copulative) Verb: links a subject to a complement; behaves intransitively.

- She *is* strong.

Subject: either does the main action of the sentence (active) or has that action done to it (passive):

- The *door* opened;
- The *man and woman* were caught.

Complement: provides additional information about a noun. A complement is usually an adjective or, with a linking verb, a noun.

Direct Object: a substantive that answers the question *what?* or *whom?* after the verb.

- I scratched my *knee*.

Practice: indicate if each word is a Subject (S), Complement (C), Direct Object (DO), Transitive Verb (TV), Intransitive Verb (IV), or Linking Verb (LV) by writing above the word.

Wise Daedalus and Icarus fled.

Young Icarus was foolish.

Daedalus mourned his sunburnt son.



Icarus, Pompeian Wall Painting (before 79 CE)