PERSON, NUMBER, MOOD, TENSE – OH MY!

GREEK 101: Introduction to Ancient Greek

Grammar is still a wondrous thing…. Behold some additional terms that will illuminate the darkness and give you a better understanding of language.

Number: If there is only one speaker, listener, or person spoken about, we say their number is **singular**; if there are more than one, **plural**. The Greeks did likewise, although they made special note of pairs, which in Greek are called **duals**. Duals are relatively rare and you should forget that I even mentioned them.

Person: all language involves an interaction (real or perceived) involving one, two, or three possible parties: the speaker, the listener, and those being spoken about.

Party	Grammatical Term	Singular Ex.	Plural Ex.
Speaker	**First Person**	"I"	"We"
Listener	**Second Person**	"You"	"You" or "Y'all"
Those Spoken About	**Third Person**	"He" "She" "It"	"They"

Mood: no, not something that can be decoded with a ring or created by dim lighting and soft music. A **mood** of a verb indicates the attitude of the speaker toward what he or she is saying.

Indicative Mood: used to express or *indicate* facts.

- Icarus flew too high.
- Daedalus mourned his son's foolishness.

Imperative Mood: used to express a command.

- Don't fly so high!
- Mind your father!

Infinitive Mood: a form of the verb that does not indicate person or number, but gives its basic meaning.

- to fly
- to soar

Tense: indicates when the action of the verb takes place, either at the present, in the past, or in the future.

Present Tense: indicates that the action is going on at the present time and can be used:

- when the speaker is speaking — I like the myth of Icarus
- a habitual action — Daedalus remembers his son.
- a general truth — Man is the measure of all things.