

## Writing Greek and Latin

### LT 06 Week 7

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#### TOP TEN (plus!) ERRORS IN GREEK PROSE COMPOSITION

*much of this information is available on this website*

1. failure to review with fresh eyes: try to read the piece as a real piece of Greek
2. word for word or part of speech for part of speech approach
3. failure to be clear on meaning of English, unwillingness or inability to retool the English, inability to match this with simple and natural Greek
4. overcondensation: inadequate use of definite article, pronouns, demonstratives
5. augments retained on obliques and infinitives and participles
6. preposition (ab)usage eg εν + the accusative!
7. καιπερ is not a conjunction: it appears only with participles
8. genitive absolute should normally be “absolute” from action of same clause
9. confusion re optatives: only 3 in Attic prose: 1) wish 2) potential + αν 3) oblique
10. general confusion re αν (and it can't stand first in clause); only 3 uses of αν in Attic prose: 1) w/ past indicative for hypotheticals 2) w/ subj. for indefinites 3) w/ opt. for potential
11. confusion re conditional sentences
12. confusion re αυτος: pronoun (ab)usage (it's 1) **is**, 2) **idem**, or 3) **ipse**)
13. confusion re word order with the definite article
14. δημοσ for indefinite “people”!
15. failure to connect sentences with conjunctions and particles (most common: και, αλλα, μεν, δε, γαρ, ουν, τοις, αρα)
16. failure to use other particles: γε, δη, τοι are fairly common
17. inaccuracy in voice usage, esp. for deponents
18. be sure to use ττ in Plato and Lysias
19. postpositives: particles and normally singular personal pronouns
20. abuse of τις: does not = Engl. indefinite article
21. interrogative particles: αρα = **ne**, ου = **nonne**, μη = **num**
22. confusion between indirect statement and indirect question