GREK 1110: PARSING GUIDE

Parsing
To parse a word is to describe it by stating its part of speech and grammatical properties. You may also be asked to indicate the grammatical function of the word within the sentence.

When parsing a word, you should always begin by identifying the part of speech. Once you have identified the part of speech, you will be able to analyse the word more fully.

1. **Nouns, pronouns and adjectives**
Identify the number, gender and case of the noun/pronoun/adjective.

Gender: Gender is a grammatical term and has nothing to do with males and females. Nouns come in three 'genders' in Greek: *masculine, feminine* and *neuter*.

Case: The grammatical term for the form of a noun, pronoun or adjective responding to its function in the sentence. There are five cases in Greek:

> *Nominative case*: the case of the subject.
> *Accusative case*: the case of the direct object.
> *Genitive case*: the case denoting possession (the 'of' case).
> *Dative case*: the case of the indirect object.
> *Vocative case*: the case of address.

Number: The number of a noun, pronoun or adjective can take two forms; *singular* or *plural*.

NB Definite articles parse similarly to nouns and adjectives

2. **Verbs**
Identify the person, number, tense, mood and voice of the verb.

Person: There are three persons:

> *First person*   'I' (singular); 'we' (plural)
> *Second person*   'you' (singular); 'you' (plural) [cf. 'y'all']
> *Third person*   'he/she/it' (singular); 'they' (plural)

Number: The number of a verb can take two forms; *singular* or *plural*.

Tense: indicates <u>when</u> the action of the verb takes place, in the past, present or future. There are seven tenses in Greek [you will only encounter four of these in GREK1110]:

> *present*
> *imperfect*
> *aorist*
> *future*
> [*perfect**]
> [*future perfect**]
> [*pluperfect**]

* You will not encounter these tenses in GREK1110.

Mood: indicates the function in which the verb is used; it indicates the verb's relation to reality (e.g. the difference between whether something *has* happened or *might* happen)

> *indicative*: tells you something is indicated as occurring (or not occurring)
> *imperative*: expresses command
> *infinitive*: expresses the English 'to' in certain contexts controlled by verbs
> [*subjunctive**]
> [*optative**]

* You will not encounter these moods in GREK1110.

Voice: indicates the relationship between the subject of the verb and the action.

> *active*
> *middle*
> *passive*

***Special note*: Participles**
Participles are verbal adjectives; you therefore need to identify properties which relate both to adjectives and to verbs.

Identify its *tense* (the verbal quality of the participle) and the *number, gender, case* (the adjectival qualities of the participle).

3. **Prepositions**
Prepositions govern nouns in particular cases; they introduce a prepositional phrase which consists of the preposition and its object.

4. **Adverbs**
An adverb is a word used to describe a verb, adjective or another adverb, e.g. 'deeply', 'clearly'.

5. **Conjunctions** (e.g. και, ἀλλά, τε, ἐπειδή, καίπερ, ἤ)
A conjunction is a connecting word, used to join words, phrases, clauses or sentences e.g. 'and'.

6. **Interjection**
An interjection is a word showing strong feeling or emotion, e.g. 'Oh!'

7. **Particles** (μέν, δὴ, ἄρα)
Particles serve no grammatical function; they give 'colour' to a clause, or signal that the next clause will be contrasted in some way.