

Athenaze 3a

Learning Objectives:

- learning vocabulary for 3a
- the 3rd-person plural of the present indicative active for regular (thematic, ο/ε) verbs, ε-contract verbs, and εἶμι — forms and translation
 - λύ-ο-νσι → λύουσι(ν) — they are releasing, release, do release
 - φιλέ-ο-νσι → φιλοῦσι(ν) — they are loving, love, do love
 - ἔσ-νσι → εἰσί(ν) — they are
- the 2nd-person plural of the present imperative active for regular (thematic, ο/ε) verbs, ε-contract verbs, and εἶμι — forms and translation
 - σπεύδ-ε-τε → σπεύδετε — hurry! [Literally: “be hurrying!” — progressive]
 - φιλέ-ε-τε → φιλεῖτε — love! [Literally: “be loving!” — progressive]
 - ἔσ-τε → ἔστε — be!
 - note once again that εἶμι, in the imperative, is not an enclitic
 - compare the forms ἔλθέ (sg.) and ἔλθετε (pl.) [These are actually special forms of the aorist imperative.]
- the present active infinitive for regular (thematic, ο/ε) verbs, ε-contract verbs, and εἶμι — form and translation
 - λύ-ε-εν → λύειν — to be loosening, to loosen
 - φιλέ-ε-εν → φιλεῖν — to be loving, to love
 - ἔσ-ναι → εἶναι — to be
 - the infinitive is actually an abstract verbal noun. It is neuter in gender and can serve, e.g., as the subject or object of a verb. Because it is a verbal noun, it can still take an object of its own, just as the finite form of the verb does: one can say, e.g., “To love one’s neighbor is the height of virtue.”

Grammatical Terms and Items of Particular Importance for You to Learn

- infinitive

Notes

- although we commonly use the term “present active infinitive” in reference to forms such as λύειν and φιλεῖν, this is a misnomer. Technically speaking, forms of the infinitive convey aspect, not tense.¹ λύειν and φιλεῖν represent the progressive forms of the active infinitive: “to be loosening,” “to be loving.” While it is often convenient to translate these as simply “to loosen” or “to love,” the proper way to convey those notions in Greek would be to employ the aorist infinitive. For the moment, all of this makes relatively little difference to our reading, but it is important to know that:
 - properly speaking, infinitives do not convey a notion of tense
 - the infinitives that you are now learning present the more vivid progressive view of the action (“to be loosening,” “to be loving”), rather than the colorless, “just the facts, ma’am” snapshot provided by the aorist infinitive (“to loosen,” “to love”).

¹ Review my discussion of tense and aspect in my overview of the Greek verb for Unit 1A. While the infinitive will often convey a temporal significance (there are, after all, various forms of the future infinitive), this is only when it is employed to report or otherwise imply some form of indicative.