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Cover image: Athenian Fragmentary votive sculpture of Dionysus (?) Greek Ashmolean Museum. Photograph by Mary Harrsch, CC BY-SA. Cover design by Anna Gatti.

# **Prepositions and Prefixes**

# **Prepositions**

A Greek preposition ( $\pi\rho\delta\theta\epsilon\sigma\iota\varsigma$ ) has the same definition and the same function as does its English counterpart. Prepositions are typically one to two syllable words that take a noun or pronoun as an object. Consider these English examples:

in a great civil war;
on a great battle-field;
of that war;
above our poor power;
to the unfinished work;
for the great task;
from the earth;

and take note of the **preposition** and its <u>object</u>, which are referred to as a **prepositional phrase**. Prepositional phrases are a common building block for creating meaning both in Greek and in English.

Consider the following passage from Herman Melville's *Moby Dick* and note how frequently prepositions occur (**bold** marks a preposition and <u>underline</u> its object):

Call me Ishmael. Some years ago—never mind how long precisely—having little or no money **in** my <u>purse</u>, and nothing particular to interest me **on** <u>shore</u>, I thought I would sail about a little and see the watery part **of** the <u>world</u>. It is a way I have **of** <u>driving</u> **off** the <u>spleen</u> and <u>regulating</u> the circulation. Whenever I find myself growing grim **about** the <u>mouth</u>; whenever it is a damp, drizzly November in my <u>soul</u>; whenever I find myself involuntarily pausing **before** coffin <u>warehouses</u>, and bringing **up** the <u>rear</u> **of** every <u>funeral</u> I meet; and especially whenever my hypos get such an upper hand **of** <u>me</u>, that it requires a strong moral principle to prevent me **from** 

deliberately <u>stepping</u> **into** the <u>street</u>, and methodically <u>knocking</u> people's <u>hats</u> **off**—then, I account it high time to get **to** <u>sea</u> as soon as I can. This is my substitute **for** <u>pistol</u> and <u>ball</u>. **With** a philosophical <u>flourish</u> Cato throws himself **upon** his <u>sword</u>; I quietly take **to** the <u>ship</u>. There is nothing surprising <u>in</u> <u>this</u>. If they but knew it, almost all men <u>in</u> their <u>degree</u>, some time or other, cherish very nearly the same feelings **towards** the <u>ocean</u> **with** <u>me</u>.

In eight sentences there are twenty-three prepositional phrases. The preposition comes before its object almost every time. Leaving out the prepositional phrases, reread the passage, noting how much meaning is lost.

Call me Ishmael. Some years ago—never mind how long precisely—having little or no money, and nothing particular to interest me, I thought I would sail about a little and see the watery part. It is a way I have. Whenever I find myself growing grim; whenever it is a damp, drizzly November; whenever I find myself involuntarily pausing and bringing; and especially whenever my hypos get such an upper hand that it requires a strong moral principle to prevent me—then, I account it high time to get as soon as I can. This is my substitute. Cato throws himself; I quietly take. There is nothing surprising. If they but knew it, almost all men, some time or other, cherish very nearly the same feelings.

Consider the following Greek passage from Herodotos' Histories:

άναχθέντες δὲ ἐκ τῆς Κρότωνος οἱ Πέρσαι ἐκπίπτουσι τῆσι νηυσὶ ἐς Τηπυγίην, καί σφεας δουλεύοντας ἐνθαῦτα Γίλλος ἀνὴρ Ταραντῖνος φυγὰς ὑυσάμενος ἀπήγαγε παρὰ βασιλέα Δαρεῖον. ὁ δὲ ἀντὶ τούτων ἔτοιμος ἦν διδόναι τοῦτο ὅ τι βούλοιτο αὐτός. [2] Γίλλος δὲ αἰρέεται κάτοδόν οἱ ἐς Τάραντα γενέσθαι, προαπηγησάμενος τὴν συμφορήντα δὲ μὴ συνταράξῃ τὴν Ἑλλάδα, ἢν δι' αὐτὸν στόλος μέγας πλέῃ ἐπὶ τὴν Ἰταλίην, Κνιδίους μούνους ἀποχρᾶν οἱ ἔφη τοὺς κατάγοντας γίνεσθαι, δοκέων ἀπὸ τούτων ἐόντων τοῖσι Ταραντίνοισι φίλων μάλιστα τὴν κάτοδόν οἱ ἔσεσθαι. [3] Δαρεῖος δὲ ὑποδεξάμενος ἐπετέλεε πέμψας γὰρ ἄγγελον ἐς Κνίδον, κατάγειν σφέας ἐκέλευε Γίλλον ἐς Τάραντα. πειθόμενοι δὲ Δαρείω, Κνίδιοι Ταραντίνους οὐκ ὧν ἔπειθον, βίην δὲ ἀδύνατοι ἦσαν προσφέρειν. [4] ταῦτα μέν νυν οὕτω ἐπρήχθη· οὖτοι δὲ πρῶτοι ἐκ τῆς Ἀσίης ἐς τὴν Ἑλλάδα ἀπίκοντο Πέρσαι, καὶ οὖτοι διὰ τοιόνδε πρῆγμα κατάσκοποι ἐγένοντο.

In this paragraph of similar length there are thirteen prepositions. Because much meaning is created in Greek through the use of case endings on nouns and

pronouns, Greek prepositions do not occur as frequently as they do in English. Nonetheless the point to take from the above is that the prepositional phrase is an important building block for creating meaning in Greek and in English. Learning to recognize prepositions and their objects and understanding how to translate them are key skills to acquire.

**Practice Picking out Prepositions.** From this excerpt of *Moby Dick*, practice picking out the prepositions and their objects. Check your answers with those in the Answer Key.

Circumambulate the city of a dreamy Sabbath afternoon. Go from Corlears Hook to Coenties Slip, and from thence, by Whitehall, northward. What do you see?—Posted like silent sentinels all around the town, stand thousands upon thousands of mortal men fixed in ocean reveries. Some leaning against the spiles; some seated upon the pier-heads; some looking over the bulwarks of ships from China; some high aloft in the rigging, as if striving to get a still better seaward peep. But these are all landsmen; of week days pent up in lath and plaster—tied to counters, nailed to benches, clinched to desks. How then is this? Are the green fields gone? What do they here?

In doing the above exercise, aim for mastery—understand what a preposition and its object are and be able to pick out prepositions and objects from any sentence written in English. Since the meaning and function of English and Greek prepositions are the same, you will be able to transfer your knowledge of the preposition in English to your understanding of it in Greek.

# **Greek Prepositions**

Remember that in Greek and in English prepositions must take an object. If there is no object, then the word is not a preposition. In Greek the object may be in the accusative (acc.), genitive (gen.), or dative (dat.) cases, whose endings you will learn shortly. Some prepositions take only one case as their object.  $\dot{\epsilon}\kappa$  only takes an object in the genitive case:

έκ out of + an object in the genitive case

Other prepositions take objects in all three cases, such as ἀμφί:

ἀμφί about + an object in the genitive case
 around + an object in the dative case
 around + an object in the accusative case

Below is a list of the most frequently occurring prepositions. Memorize them. You will encounter them frequently in the rest of this book and they are not glossed. Note that in some cases the definitions are simplified. See the glossary for more complete ones.

Preposition ἄμα	Additional Info.	English Equivalent at the same time as	+	Case of Object
•				
ἀνά		on, upon, onto	+	genitive or dative
		up to, throughout	+	accusative
ἀπό		from, away from	+	genitive
διά		through, throughout	+	genitive
		by	+	genitive
		on account of	+	accusative
<b>είς</b> or <b>ές</b>	(proclitic)	to, into, against	+	accusative
έκ	(proclitic)	from, out of, by	+	genitive
έν	(proclitic)	in, on, at, among	+	dative
<b>ἔνεκα</b> or		on account of	+	genitive
εἵνεκα				
		for the sake of	+	genitive
, ,				••
έπί		on, upon	+	genitive
		in the time of	+	genitive
		towards	+	genitive
		on, at, next to	+	dative
		on, to, against, for	+	accusative
κατά		down from	+	genitive
		down toward	+	genitive

	under against	+	genitive
	against		
		+	genitive
	during	+	accusative
	throughout	+	accusative
	by, according to	+	accusative
μετά	with	+	genitive
	after	+	accusative
μέχρι	up to, until	+	genitive
	meanwhile	+	genitive
παρά	from	+	genitive
	at, beside	+	dative
	to, toward	+	accusative
	contrary to	+	accusative
περί	about, concerning	+	genitive
	around, concerning	+	dative
	around, concerning	+	accusative
πρό	before, in front of	+	genitive
	on behalf of	+	genitive
πρός	facing	+	genitive
	from	+	genitive
	in the eyes of	+	genitive
	by	+	genitive
	at, near	+	dative
	in addition	+	dative
	towards	+	accusative
	against	+	accusative
	in regard to	+	accusative

Preposition	Additional Info.	<b>English Equivalent</b>		Case of Object
σύν or ξύν		with, with help of	+	dative
ὑπέρ		above, over	+	genitive
		on behalf of	+	genitive
		over, above, beyond	+	accusative
ὑπό		by	+	genitive
		under	+	genitive
		under	+	dative
		subject to	+	dative
		under	+	accusative
		during	+	accusative
		toward	+	accusative

- 1. The preposition ἔνεκα or εἴνεκα usually has its object placed before it, though the object may also follow as it does for most prepositions: ἔνεκα ὑγιείας for the sake of health or ὑγιείας ἔνεκα for the sake of health. εἴνεκα instead of ἔνεκα is found in the epic and Ionic dialects and in poetry.
- 2. Both είς and ές are used by Homer and by the Ionic poets. Herodotos, writing in a mixed Ionic dialect, prefers ές. Attic inscriptions have είς, which Attic prose prefers. In Attic tragedy, είς is slightly more common than ές. Aeolic poets preferred είς before vowels and ές before consonants.
- 3. Proclitics are monosyllabic words, lacking an accent, and are pronounced closely with the word that follows them. Common proclitics are the adverb  $o\dot{v}$ ; the conjunctions  $\varepsilon \dot{\iota}$  and  $\dot{\omega} c$ ; the prepositions  $\varepsilon \dot{\iota} c$ ,  $\dot{\varepsilon} v$ ,  $\dot{\varepsilon} \kappa$ ; and these forms of the article:  $\dot{o}$ ,  $\dot{\eta}$ ,  $o\dot{\iota}$ ,  $\alpha\dot{\iota}$ .

## **Word Order**

As in English, in Greek the object of a preposition typically comes right after it,  $\dot{\epsilon}\nu$   $\tau\tilde{\eta}$   $\dot{o}\delta\tilde{\omega}$  in the road. The object,  $\tau\tilde{\eta}$   $\dot{o}\delta\tilde{\omega}$ , follows the preposition  $\dot{\epsilon}\nu$ . At times words intervene between the preposition and its object,  $\delta\iota\dot{\alpha}$   $\Delta\iota\dot{o}\varsigma$   $\pi\tilde{\upsilon}\rho$  through the fire of Zeus. The noun  $\Delta\iota\dot{o}\varsigma$ , of Zeus, possesses  $\pi\tilde{\upsilon}\rho$  fire and comes between the preposition  $\delta\iota\dot{\alpha}$  through and its object  $\pi\tilde{\upsilon}\rho$  fire. Note that for the preposition

εἴνεκα or ἔνεκα typical word order is object followed by εἴνεκα or ἕνεκα, as noted above.

# **Anastrophe of the Disyllabic Preposition**

In the majority of instances the object follows the preposition. In some instances the order is reversed and a preposition of two syllables follows the object, as in this example,  $\kappa\dot{\alpha}\lambda\lambda o\nu\varsigma$   $\pi\dot{\epsilon}\rho\iota$  concerning beauty. Note that when anastrophe occurs, the accent shifts from the ultima to the penult,  $\pi\epsilon\rho\dot{\iota}$  to  $\pi\dot{\epsilon}\rho\iota$ .

# **Prepositions and Motion**

For the genitive, dative, and accusative cases, a general rule of motion applies in many instances.

The **rules of motion** are three and they are only generally true. In each the preposition is bolded and its object is underlined.

A preposition with its object in the genitive case can express **motion away** from:

```
ἔρχονται ἀπὸ τῆς γῆς they go from the land.
```

A preposition with its object in the dative case can express **place where**:

```
ἵστημι ἐν <u>τῆ ὁδῷ</u>
I stand in the road.
```

A preposition with its object in the accusative case can express **motion towards** or **against**:

```
έρχόμεθα είς <u>τὴν γῆν</u> we go to the land.
```

In poetry the preposition may be omitted altogether. When you encounter prepositional phrases in the wild, keep in mind the general **rule of motion**.

**Practice Identifying Prepositions.** From this excerpt of Herodotos' *Histories* (I.215) practice picking out the prepositions  $\dot{\epsilon}\nu$ ,  $\dot{\epsilon}\varsigma$ , and  $\pi\epsilon\rho\dot{\iota}$ . Check your answers with those in the Answer Key.

Μασσαγέται δὲ ἐσθῆτά τε ὁμοίην τῆ Σκυθικῆ φορέουσι καὶ δίαιταν ἔχουσι, ἰππόται δὲ εἰσὶ καὶ ἄνιπποι—ἀμφοτέρων γὰρ μετέχουσι—καὶ τοξόται τε καὶ αἰχμοφόροι, σαγάρις νομίζοντες ἔχειν. χρυσῷ δὲ καὶ χαλκῷ τὰ πάντα χρέωνται. ὅσα μὲν γὰρ ἐς αἰχμὰς καὶ ἄρδις καὶ σαγάρις, χαλκῷ τὰ πάντα χρέωνται. ὅσα δὲ περὶ κεφαλὴν καὶ ζωστῆρας καὶ μασχαλιστῆρας, χρυσῷ κοσμέονται. [2] ὡς δ᾽ αὕτως

τῶν ἵππων τὰ μὲν περὶ τὰ στέρνα χαλκέους θώρηκας περιβάλλουσι, τὰ δὲ περὶ τοὺς χαλινοὺς καὶ στόμια καὶ φάλαρα χρυσῷ. σιδήρῳ δὲ οὐδ΄ ἀργύρῳ χρέωνται οὐδέν· οὐδὲ γὰρ οὐδέ σφι ἐστὶ ἐν τῇ χωρῇ. ὁ δὲ χρυσὸς καὶ ὁ χαλκὸς ἄπλετος.

#### **Translation**

The Massagetai dress similarly to the Skythians and have a similar way of life. They fight from horses and on foot, for they make use of both. They shoot bows and throw spears and customarily carry the battle-ax. They make abundant use of gold and bronze. They use bronze for the tips of arrows and spears and for their ax-heads. For adorning their heads and belts and straps, they use gold. For their tack, they take the same approach. They surround their horses' chests with breastplates made of bronze. They adorn with gold the reins, bits, and cheek-plates. They do not use iron or silver because their land has none, though gold and bronze are plentiful.

**Practice Choosing the Preposition.** In this translation of an excerpt of Herodotos' *Histories*, for the bolded words choose the Greek preposition that best translates them. Check your answers with those in the Answer Key.

Concerning customs all people think this way and it is possible to prove it is so by many examples and also in the following way. During his rule Dareios called some Greeks who were present and asked them at what price they would be willing to eat their dead fathers. They replied that they would do this at no price. After this Dareios called the Kallatians from India who eat their dead and while the Greeks watched and understood what was said through an interpreter, asked at what price they would agree to burn with fire their dead fathers. They yelled loudly and bid him to watch his tongue. So it is with customs and I think Pindar's poem correctly says that custom is the king of everything.

**Practice Translating Prepositions, Conjunctions, and Adverbs.** Translate the paragraph below, paying attention to how the conjunctions, adverbs, and prepositions function. Often there is not an authentic connection between how ancient Greek expresses the meaning of a sentence and how English does. The main takeaway from exercises like these is a greater understanding of how each part of speech functions, not a greater understanding of ancient Greek idiom. Check your answers with those in the Answer Key.

### Paragraph I (from Moby Dick)

It was a humorously perilous business for both of us. πρὶν γὰρ we proceed further, it must be said ὅτι the monkey-rope was fast ἐπὶ both ends; fast to Queequeg's broad canvas belt, and fast to my narrow leather one. ὥστε for better or for worse, we two, εἰς νῦν, were wedded; and should poor Queequeg sink to rise no more, ἔπειτα καὶ usage καὶ honor demanded, ὅτι instead of cutting the cord, it should drag me down in his wake. οὕτως, ἔπειτα, an elongated Siamese ligature united us. Queequeg was my own inseparable twin brother; nor could I any way get rid of the dangerous liabilities which the hempen bond entailed.

οὕτως strongly and metaphysically did I conceive of my situation τότε, ὅτι μέχρι earnestly watching his motions, I seemed distinctly to perceive ὅτι my own individuality was νῦν merged in a joint stock company of two; ὅτι my free will had received a mortal wound; καὶ ὅτι another's mistake ἢ misfortune might plunge innocent me εἰς unmerited disaster and death.

### Paragraph II (translation from Lucian's A True Story)

Athletes  $\kappa\alpha$ i those seeking physical fitness pay attention to health  $\kappa\alpha$ i exercise. They  $\kappa\alpha$ i contend  $\delta\tau$ i well-timed relaxation is a vital part of training. Students  $\kappa\alpha$ i I think profit  $\dot{\epsilon}\kappa$  rest  $\mu\epsilon\tau\dot{\alpha}$  reading serious works and  $\sigma\dot{\delta}\nu$  return  $\epsilon$ ic their studies invigorated. This rest works best  $\epsilon$ i they spend time  $\sigma\dot{\nu}\nu$  books which provide contemplation  $\kappa\alpha$ i inspiration  $\dot{\alpha}\lambda\lambda\dot{\alpha}$   $\kappa\alpha$ i wit, charm,  $\kappa\alpha$ i attraction, just the sort of restful thought I think this work provides. I note  $\sigma\dot{\nu}$  only the novelty of the content and the charm of a compelling story  $\dot{\alpha}\lambda\lambda\dot{\alpha}$   $\kappa\alpha$ i the witty allusions  $\pi\rho\dot{\nu}$ 0 the ancient classics, filled with legends and monsters, written  $\dot{\nu}\pi\dot{\nu}$ 0 poets, historians, and philosophers.

## **Prefixes**

Many verbs have prefixes added to them. The prefix typically changes the verb's meaning, doing so sometimes in slight, and other times in significant, ways. Note the following verbs and their meanings:

\*δίδωμι give; δίκην δίδωμι I pay the penalty; δίδωμι χάριν I give thanks ἐκδίδωμι give up, surrender, give out (of one's house), give (in marriage) προδίδωμι betray, abandon, give up (to an enemy)

```
*ɛiµí be, be possible
```

άνίστημι make stand up, wake, break up (an assembly)

\*καθίστημι appoint, establish, put into a state; (intrans.) be established, be appointed

```
*τίθημι put, place
προτίθημι place before, propose, prefer
```

```
*φερω bring, bear, carry προσφέρω bring to, apply to
```

- 1. Some meanings differ more from the meaning of the root verb than others do.
- 2. The asterisk indicates the top 250 most frequently occurring vocabulary, which you are to memorize.

# **Object of Prefix**

A preposition always has an object. The prefix does not always but may at times also take an object as in these examples:

```
βίαν προσφέρω <u>αὐτῷ</u>,
I apply force <u>to him;</u>
```

βίαν is the object of φέρω and  $αὐτ\~φ$  is the object of the prefix προς-;

and

```
τῆς δὲ γῆς ἀπέρχονται, they depart the land.
```

 $y\tilde{\eta}\varsigma$  is the object of the prefix  $\dot{\alpha}\pi o$ -.

In each example above, the noun serves as the object of the prefix. In this next example, note that Herodotos uses the same prefix and preposition, one reinforcing the meaning of the other. The prefix and preposition are in bold. The preposition's object is underlined.

```
περὶ τὰ στέρνα χαλκέους θώρηκας περιβάλλουσι They surround their chests with breastplates made of bronze.
```

The preposition  $\pi \epsilon \rho i$  and its meaning <u>around</u> are reinforced by the prefix  $\pi \epsilon \rho i$ . In this next example there is a similar repetition of the preposition and prefix.

<sup>\*</sup>πάρειμι be near, be present; (imper.) be possible

<sup>\*</sup>εἶμι come, go

<sup>\*</sup>πάρειμι go in, enter, pass by

<sup>\*</sup>ἴστημι stand

έν τῆ ὁδῷ τέλματι βαθεῖ έντυγχάνω. I stumble upon a deep puddle in the road.

In this sentence the preposition  $\dot{\epsilon}\nu$  and the prefix  $\dot{\epsilon}\nu$ - do not work together, reinforcing each other as  $\pi\epsilon\rho\dot{\iota}$  and  $\pi\epsilon\rho\iota$ - do above. Rather the noun  $\tau\dot{\epsilon}\lambda\mu\alpha\tau\iota$  is the object of the prefix  $\dot{\epsilon}\nu$ - and the prepositional phrase  $\dot{\epsilon}\nu$   $\tau\tilde{\eta}$   $\dot{\delta}\delta\tilde{\omega}$  locates  $\tau\dot{\epsilon}\lambda\mu\alpha\tau\iota$   $\beta\alpha\theta\epsilon\tilde{\iota}$  the deep puddle.

### **Elision**

A final short vowel at the end of a word or a prefix may be elided (eliminated) when the word or verb that follows starts with a vowel or diphthong. When elision occurs between two words, the missing short vowel is marked by an apostrophe. When elision occurs between a prefix and its verb, the short vowel of the prefix is eliminated. Note these instances of elision:

άλλὰ ἔχω becomes ἀλλ' ἔχω.

ἄμφὶ ἡμῶν becomes ἀμφ' ἡμων.

ἀπο έρχομαι becomes ἀπέρχομαι.

ἀπο ἰκνέομαι becomes ἀφικνέομαι.

ἀπο ὅλλυμι becomes ἀπόλλυμι.

ὅδε εἶπεν becomes ὄδ' εἶπεν.

παρὰ ὑμῶν becomes παρέχω.

παρὰ ἔχω becomes παρέχω.

τοῦτο οὐ becomes τοῦτ' οὐ.

ὑπὸ ἄρχω becomes ὑπάρχω.

When the consonant directly before the elided vowel is kappa, pi, or tau— $\kappa$ ,  $\pi$ , or  $\tau$ —and is followed by a word with a rough breathing, the consonant changes to the corresponding aspirate:  $\kappa$  becomes  $\chi$ ;  $\pi$  becomes  $\phi$ ; and  $\tau$  becomes  $\theta$ .

έπὶ ῷ becomes ἐφ᾽ ῷ. κατα ἴστημι becomes καθίστημι.

In addition to the elision of short vowels, final -  $\alpha\iota$  and -  $o\iota$  are occasionally elided:

εἶναι έν τῆ ὁδῷ becomes εἶν' έν τῆ ὁδῷ. οἴμοι ὡς ἀθυμέω becomes οἴμ' ὡς ἀθυμέω.

Consider contractions that occur in English, such as **can't** or **watcha gonna do**, noting the different ways that words combine.

**Module 8 Practice Reading Aloud.** Practice reading this excerpt from Euripides' *Alkestis*. Read the excerpt a few times, paying attention to the sound each syllable makes and trying to hear the rhythm of the words.

### Άλκηστις

260

ἄγει μ' ἄγει τις· ἄγει μέ τις (οὐχ ὁρᾶς;) νεκύων ἐς αὐλάν,

ὑπ' ὀφρύσι κυαναυγέσι βλέπων, πτερωτὸς Ἅιδας. τί ῥέξεις; ἄφες. οἵαν ὁδὸν ὰ δειλαιοτάτα προβαίνω.

### Άδμητος

οίκτρὰν φίλοισιν, ἐκ δὲ τῶν μάλιστ' ἐμοὶ

265 καὶ παισίν, οἶς δὴ πένθος ἐν κοινῷ τόδε.

### Άλκηστις

μέθετε, μέθετέ μ' ἤδη·
κλίνατ', οὐ σθένω ποσίν.
πλησίον Ἅιδας, σκοτία
δ' ἐπ' ὄσσοισι νὺξ ἐφέρπει.

270 τέκνα τέκν', οὐκέτι δὴ οὐκέτι μάτηρ σφῷν ἔστιν.

χαίροντες, ὧ τέκνα, τόδε φάος ὁρῷτον.

### Άδμητος

οἴμοι· τόδ' ἔπος λυπρὸν ἀκούειν καὶ παντὸς ἐμοὶ θανάτου μεῖζον.

275 μὴ πρός <σε> θεῶν τλῆς με προδοῦναι,

μὴ πρὸς παίδων οὓς ὀρφανιεῖς,

άλλ' ἄνα, τόλμα.

σοῦ γὰρ φθιμένης οὐκέτ' ἂν εἴην· ἐν σοὶ δ' ἐσμὲν καὶ ζῆν καὶ μή· σὴν γὰρ φιλίαν σεβόμεσθα.

#### **Verse Translation**

#### **Alkestis**

Someone pulls and pulls me—don't you see?—Pulls me nigh where dwell the dead, and Stares with darkened brow, winged Hades.

What will you do? Let me go. What journey I'm to make, a soul most sorrowful.

#### Admetos

One sad to friends but most of all to me And our poor progeny who share this grief.

#### Alkestis

Let me down, down, now.

On my back, I cannot stand.

Here is Hades. Black of night creeps

Up against mine eyes.

Children, children, mother dies,

Yours no longer, mother dies.

Children, look, enjoy the rays of day.

#### Admetos

Alas your words pain my ear,

Are worse than any death to me.

By gods, do not forsake me, dear,

By ours, those whom you leave now orphaned.

But up, arise.

Without you here I live no more.

In you there rests my life and death.

I honor you, my love.

To hear me read, followed by Stefan Hagel's expert reading with a pitch accent, follow the link below:

Alkestis 259-279.1

<sup>1</sup> https://loom.com/share/80cb5fca014942a990485c0764381a1a.

# **Etymology Corner VIII by Dr. E. Del Chrol**

### **Technical Terms 4**

**Accents, Modules 3, 5, 11.** A syllable is the smallest spoken chunk of a word, and comes from the Greek prefix συν- together, with and verb  $\lambda$ αμβάνειν to take, (just like in **synchronize**, to make two times (χρόνοι) the same, or in **sympathy**, to feel (πάθος experience, suffering, emotion) with someone.

When accenting, there are three syllables we care about. There is the final one, the **ultima**, from the Latin **ultimus** *last*, *final* (anything that is **the ultimate** had best be the final one!). There's the one that is almost or nearly the final, the **penultimate**, from the Latin **paene** *almost* and **ultimus** *last*, *final* (a **peninsula** is *nearly* an *island*, from the Latin **insula**, *island* because a peninsula has water on three sides). The third from the last is the **ante-** *before* the **pen-** *almost* **ult** *final syllable*, the **antepenult**, (just as the Antebellum South, from Latin **ante-** *before* and **bellum** *war*, was the South *before* the *war* and just as in poker the **ante** comes *before* the bets).

The last datum we need to add is whether the **accent** is **persistent**, meaning it tries to stay over the same syllable, (**per**, *thoroughly*, **sistere**, *to stand firm*, like in insist) or **recessive**, meaning it tries to fall back towards the antepenult (**re**, *again*, like redo, and **cess** from Latin **cedere**, meaning to *yield* or *move back*, like in cede or recession).

What to Study and Do 8. Before moving on to the next module make sure that you have learned the definition and the function of prepositions, prepositional phrases, and prefixes. Remember that the English and Greek prepositions have the same function. If you understand the English preposition, you understand the Greek. As you work through this text, if you find yourself uncertain about the definition and function of the preposition, redo the exercises in this module and check your answers with the Answer Key.

**Learning Tip 8: Work through Difficulties.** Break seemingly intractable problems into tractable sub-problems. Break down each problem into its knowable and unknowable parts. Figure out what you do and do not know. Expose and examine your assumptions. Make guesses without being afraid of being wrong, recognizing that mistakes are necessary for growth and learning. Discover your errors quickly. Ask for assistance.