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**Grammatical Terms Relating to English and Greek**

**Terms Related to Sentences in General**

**Subject**   
The subject of a [sentence](http://ntgreek.org/learn_nt_greek/terms.htm#SENTENCE) is a word or a group of words about which something can be said or asserted. It must be a [noun](http://ntgreek.org/learn_nt_greek/terms.htm#NOUN) or a group of words functioning as a [substantive](http://ntgreek.org/learn_nt_greek/terms.htm#SUBSTANTIVE).

**Predicate**   
The predicate of a sentence is the part of the sentence that makes the assertion about the [subject](http://ntgreek.org/learn_nt_greek/terms.htm#SUBJECT). The main part of the predicate is a [finite verb](http://ntgreek.org/learn_nt_greek/terms.htm#FINITE) (which must be present). The predicate can be a [verb](http://ntgreek.org/learn_nt_greek/terms.htm#VERB) alone, or a verb and other words related to it. Any part of the sentence which is not a part of the subject is part of the predicate. The verb in a[sentence](http://ntgreek.org/learn_nt_greek/terms.htm#SENTENCE) may include an "unexpressed" subject. In this kind of sentence, a subject is not explicitly stated but is implied by the verb. For example: "Repent and be baptized for the kingdom of the heavens has drawn near." The subject of the compound verb "repent" and "be baptized" is obviously the ones to whom this sentenced is addressed. It implies, "You repent and be baptized".

**Sentence**   
A sentence is a group of words expressing a complete thought. A complete simple sentence must include both a [subject](http://ntgreek.org/learn_nt_greek/terms.htm#SUBJECT) and a [predicate](http://ntgreek.org/learn_nt_greek/terms.htm#PREDICATE) (which is comprised of or includes a[verb](http://ntgreek.org/learn_nt_greek/terms.htm#VERB)). For example: "Jesus wept." (John 11:35) 'Jesus', a name of a person, is a noun and is the subject of this short sentence. (He is obviously the one about which something is being said or asserted.) 'Wept' is the verb and, by itself, comprises the predicate of the sentence. Another example: "Those who worship Him must worship in spirit and reality." (John 4:24b) The subject (about which something is being said) is 'those who worship Him'. The predicate, comprising both the verb 'must worship' and its related words, is 'must worship in spirit and reality.'

**Terms Related to Verbs**

**Verb**   
A verb is a word expressing action, occurrence, existence, or state of being. It is used to tell or assert something about a [noun](http://ntgreek.org/learn_nt_greek/terms.htm#NOUN) (or [substantive](http://ntgreek.org/learn_nt_greek/terms.htm#SUBSTANTIVE)). In the broadest sense, a verb shows 'action'.

**Finite Verb**   
A finite verb is one whose form changes in order to match the form of the [subject](http://ntgreek.org/learn_nt_greek/terms.htm#SUBJECT). It can be the main [verb](http://ntgreek.org/learn_nt_greek/terms.htm#VERB) in the [predicate](http://ntgreek.org/learn_nt_greek/terms.htm#PREDICATE) part of a [sentence](http://ntgreek.org/learn_nt_greek/terms.htm#SENTENCE) (whose form is governed by the subject of the sentence).   
For example "The just *shall live* by faith".

**Non-Finite Verb**   
A [verb](http://ntgreek.org/learn_nt_greek/terms.htm#VERB) whose form does not change based upon any [noun](http://ntgreek.org/learn_nt_greek/terms.htm#NOUN) in the [sentence](http://ntgreek.org/learn_nt_greek/terms.htm#SENTENCE) and thus cannot function as the main verb in the [predicate](http://ntgreek.org/learn_nt_greek/terms.htm#PREDICATE) of a sentence.   
For example "A sower went forth *to sow*" or "...*looking* upon them, Jesus said to them...".

**Parsing a Verb**   
There are five basic parts that are clearly defined by every Greek [verb](http://ntgreek.org/learn_nt_greek/terms.htm#VERB) form. Parsing a verb means to identify or describe these five "parts" that make up that verb. ("Parse" is from the Latin word "pars" which means "part"). These five parts are: [Person](http://ntgreek.org/learn_nt_greek/verbs1.htm#PERSON), [Number](http://ntgreek.org/learn_nt_greek/verbs1.htm#NUMBER), [Tense](http://ntgreek.org/learn_nt_greek/verbs1.htm#TENSE), [Voice](http://ntgreek.org/learn_nt_greek/verbs1.htm#VOICE), and [Mood](http://ntgreek.org/learn_nt_greek/verbs1.htm#MOOD).

**There are two main categories of verbs:**

**1. Transitive Verbs**   
A transitive verb is a [verb](http://ntgreek.org/learn_nt_greek/terms.htm#VERB) that 'transfers' the action to and affects a [noun](http://ntgreek.org/learn_nt_greek/terms.htm#NOUN) (or [substantive](http://ntgreek.org/learn_nt_greek/terms.htm#SUBSTANTIVE)). This noun that it transfers motion to is called the '[direct object](http://ntgreek.org/learn_nt_greek/terms.htm#DO)'. Therefore by the very nature of a transitive verb, it is a verb that requires a direct object. Conversely, if there is a verb that has a direct object, it must be a transitive verb. Without a direct object, the transitive verb would cause the sentence to be left hanging and seem incomplete.  
    For example "*Do* not *quench* the spirit" (I Thess 5:19). The understood subject of the sentence is 'you' (required because of the imperative mood). (The verb, strictly speaking, is 'do quench'; however, there is a very important adverb 'not' inserted here). If the sentence ended with "Do not quench," the question could not help but be asked, "Do not quench what?" The verb 'quench' requires a direct object to complete the meaning of the sentence. Thus the noun 'spirit' is added as the direct object of the verb.

**2. Intransitive Verbs**   
An intransitive verb is a [verb](http://ntgreek.org/learn_nt_greek/terms.htm#VERB) that does not transfer action to a [noun](http://ntgreek.org/learn_nt_greek/terms.htm#NOUN) (a [direct object](http://ntgreek.org/learn_nt_greek/terms.htm#DO)). Therefore it is a verb that, by nature, does not have a direct object. In essence, the action begins and ends with the [subject](http://ntgreek.org/learn_nt_greek/terms.htm#SUBJECT) of the [sentence](http://ntgreek.org/learn_nt_greek/terms.htm#SENTENCE). For example "Unceasingly *pray*" (I Thess 5:17). Again the understood subject of the sentence is 'you'. There is no transfer of motion to a direct object. There are no further words necessary to make the sentence complete.

**Linking (Copulative) Verb**   
A linking verb (sometimes referred to as a copulative verb by grammarians) is a special class of [intransitive](http://ntgreek.org/learn_nt_greek/terms.htm#INTRANSITIVE) verbs. It is a [verb](http://ntgreek.org/learn_nt_greek/terms.htm#VERB) used to equate, identify, or join together one interchangeable [substantive](http://ntgreek.org/learn_nt_greek/terms.htm#SUBSTANTIVE) with another. It connects the [subject](http://ntgreek.org/learn_nt_greek/terms.htm#SUBJECT) of the [sentence](http://ntgreek.org/learn_nt_greek/terms.htm#SENTENCE) with a coordinating (or complementary) [predicate](http://ntgreek.org/learn_nt_greek/terms.htm#PREDICATE). As with other intransitive verbs, there is no[direct object](http://ntgreek.org/learn_nt_greek/terms.htm#DO) since there is no action transferred. An example of linking verbs would be any form of the words 'is' or 'become'.   
    For example "The words which I have spoken unto you *are* spirit and *are* life." (John 6:63b). Notice here that the noun 'words' is equated with the nouns 'spirit' and 'life' by the linking verb 'are'. It could be said that 'words' are equal to 'spirit' and to 'life'. 

**Terms Related to Nouns**

**Noun**   
A noun is a word that denotes a person, place, thing, or idea. A noun is also referred to as a [substantive](http://ntgreek.org/learn_nt_greek/terms.htm#SUBSTANTIVE). Besides all the common nouns, such as "man", "son", "truth", "word", etc., there are also proper nouns, which are names of particular people (e.g. Jesus Christ, Paul), of particular places (e.g. Ephesus, Rome), or of particular things (e.g. Passover, Jews). Proper nouns are usually capitalized.

**Substantive**   
A substantive is a [noun](http://ntgreek.org/learn_nt_greek/terms.htm#NOUN), [pronoun](http://ntgreek.org/learn_nt_greek/grkmisc.htm#PRONOUN), or any word functioning like a noun. This could include such items like an [adjective](http://ntgreek.org/learn_nt_greek/grkmisc.htm#ADJECTIVE), [participle](http://ntgreek.org/learn_nt_greek/verbs1.htm#PARTICIPLE), or [infinitive](http://ntgreek.org/learn_nt_greek/verbs1.htm#INFINITIVE) used as the [subject](http://ntgreek.org/learn_nt_greek/terms.htm#SUBJECT) or a [direct object](http://ntgreek.org/learn_nt_greek/terms.htm#DO) of the sentence. A substantive may be one word or a group of words.

**Direct Object**   
The direct object in a [sentence](http://ntgreek.org/learn_nt_greek/terms.htm#SENTENCE) is the [substantive](http://ntgreek.org/learn_nt_greek/terms.htm#SUBSTANTIVE) that receives the action of a [transitive verb](http://ntgreek.org/learn_nt_greek/terms.htm#TRANSITIVE).   
    For example: "... receive with meekness the engrafted *word*..." (James 1:21). The word which is directly receiving the action of the finite verb "receive", (answering the question "Receive what?") is the word "word", and therefore it is the direct object of this sentence.

**Indirect Object**   
An indirect object is the person or thing that is indirectly affected by the action of the [verb](http://ntgreek.org/learn_nt_greek/terms.htm#VERB). It is often translated in English by the phrase "to somebody" or "for somebody (or something)".   
    For example: "I will give *to you* the keys of the kingdom of the heavens" (Matt 16:19). The word "keys" is the [direct object](http://ntgreek.org/learn_nt_greek/terms.htm#DO) of the [transitive verb](http://ntgreek.org/learn_nt_greek/terms.htm#TRANSITIVE) "give", and thus receives the action of the verb. But the action of the verb is also indirectly affecting "you" and therefore "to you" is said to be the indirect object of this sentence. "To you" is answering the question, "give to whom?" or "for whom?"