

Introduction to the Workbook and Study Guide

The exercises, answer keys, and other material in this workbook and study guide are, in my opinion, the crown jewel of the whole project. I originally began making up additional exercises for my students because I could not find a book with enough exercises to give them sufficient practice on the new material. In time the project has grown to include what I call “explanatory answer keys.” That is, many of the answer keys supply not only the answers for the various exercises, but explanations for these answers. This will enable you to use the answer keys to truly gain an understanding of how Greek works. The additional material will provide help at specific points in the course and also serve as a review when necessary.

As you begin to do the exercises, a few words of explanation are in order. In order to get the most benefit from the answer keys, you should not simply keep them beside you as you work and “copy” from them. The correct approach is to do a few of the exercises and then check your work with the answer key. If you are doing well, then continue on and repeat the process periodically. If, on the other hand, you find that you have been making a number of mistakes, then use the answer key to help you figure out what you are doing wrong. Then return to the exercises, do several more, and check again. Hopefully, by the time you are finished, you will have figured out what you need to do and will have learned the new material and be ready to take the quiz or exam which follows the chapter.

Some of the later form exercises (e.g., third declension nouns, the perfect and pluperfect tenses, etc.) have a lot of words in them. My suggestion is that you go over the chapter quickly and then see how much of the work you can do without memorizing every last detail. At this point you should be utilizing what you have already learned to help you recognize new material. Then you can use the answer key to determine the areas where additional work and memorization will be beneficial.

Sometimes you may be tempted to just learn the new forms and not do all of the translation passages. Do not give in to this temptation. It is in working on the passages that all the things you have learned come together. Greek is not a bunch of isolated little pieces, but a language used to convey meaning. The sentences and later on the New Testament passages are chosen to allow you to bring together all the things which you know.

When you reach the more advanced sections of the material, you will find very detailed answer keys for the translation passages. These will often include not only the new material, but also notes on material from preceding chapters. This is intended to help you integrate all that you have learned into a cohesive whole. The goal here is to prepare you for further work in Greek, including exegesis.

There is one thing about the exercises for which I believe I should offer an explanation. I have chosen not to use passages from the Greek New Testament until such time as you have the tools to work on them. They will be gradually introduced, beginning around Chapter 10. By the time you reach Chapter 27, all of the translation passages will be from the Greek New Testament. It is always an exciting moment when

you realize that you know enough to translate an actual New Testament passage. And even though the process is a slow one, the gradual acquisition of this ability is what should inspire you to keep going when the going gets tough.

It has taken a long time and a lot of effort to compile these exercises, answer keys, and other materials, but I believe it has all been worthwhile. Students often comment on how beneficial they have found the exercises (and sometimes even ask for more!). My hope is that you will make good use of them and even, perhaps, enjoy them along the way. Here, to get you started, are a few study suggestions:

(1) Try not to develop any preconceived ideas about how long it should take you to do your Greek homework. It will take as long as it takes to learn the material. Each person brings a different language background and study skills to the learning process. And everyone will need more time as the material adds up and increases in difficulty.

(2) Learn each bit of material *thoroughly* when it is first presented – this applies to vocabulary, forms, and grammar.

(3) If there is anything at all that you do not understand, get help from a teacher or other source *immediately*. The teacher's manual often has extra information about the material in the chapter which will enable the teacher to help with your questions. If you are using the material to study on your own, you will have access to the teacher's manual.

(4) Do *all* of the homework. This is your practice for the quizzes in the same way that quizzes are practice for the exams.

(5) *Review* old material frequently. Everything is cumulative. This means that you cannot forget the material from one chapter when we go on to the next.

(6) Many people find it useful to write out some of the material as part of their learning process. It is especially helpful to write out the paradigms to be learned and to make your own vocabulary cards and form charts.

(7) You will find a lot of material available, both in written form and on computer programs, to help you learn Greek. You may use these if you find them helpful, but remember that they are not a substitute for acquiring your own mastery of the material and too many people treat them as a perpetual crutch rather than as a means to an end.

(8) Most people find that it works better to apportion their study time into several shorter periods rather than one long one. It also helps to alternate the different learning tasks. Since the different tasks make the brain work in different ways, this approach will give you a balanced Greek workout.

May God bless your study of the language of the New Testament!