**Infinitive**

A. Historical Significance of the Articular Infinitive.
1. Nothing distinguishes the noun force of the infinitive more than its use with the article.
2. The article substantivizes the infinitive.
3. The articular infinitive was a distinctly Attic idiom, though not exclusively so, for it occurs a few times in other Greek dialects.
4. It appears with relative frequency in the NT, and is there true to Attic usage.
5. The articular infinitive was used quite extensively by Thucydides, Demosthenes and Polybius.
6. The articular infinitive was mainly a literary use, starting in Pindar, Herodotus and the tragedians, and matured by Attic rhetoric and passing from the literary Attic into the daily speech of the least cultured people in the later Hellenistic world.
7. The presence of the article with the infinitive has no fixed effect upon its varieties in use meaning a particular use may occur with or without the article, at the option of the writer, in accordance with his desire to make the expression specific or general.
8. The article did serve to restore the balance between the substantive and verbal aspects of the infinitive.
9. The increase in the use of the article with the infinitive kept pace with the growth of the article.
10. The association of the infinitive with the article helped to sustain the substantive force of the infinitive.

B. Grammatical Significance of the Articular Infinitive.
1. Essentially the function of an article with an infinitive is the same as with a noun since the infinitive is in origin a noun except that with the infinitive the article often appears for no reason except to supply the case-ending which is lacking.
2. The case of the infinitive is often determined by the case of the definite article.
3. The article when employed with the infinitive makes the infinitive more adaptable to use with prepositions.
4. Without the preposition we commonly find the articular infinitive in the appropriate case.
5. The infinitive with *to* is generally in harmony with the case significance of the article, occurring in nominative and accusative constructions.
6. The infinitive with *tou* is frequently found modifying a noun in the normal way, or as object of a verb which regularly takes the genitive, or ablative.
7. It is also employed widely in expressions of purpose, occasionally result, and for various other constructions and is quite a frequent construction.
8. We find to used with the infinitive without the preposition but once in the entire NT, and there it is the instrumental of cause (2 Co. 2:13).
9. The infinitive with *το* is almost invariably accompanied by the preposition *en*.
10. The conformity of the case of the article with the case relation of the infinitive is not a fixed rule.
11. We may find, for instance, a subject infinitive accompanied by *tou* (Ac. 27:1).

C. Uses of the Infinitive.
1. There is no other part of speech more widely used in the NT than the infinitive.
2. Its dual nature enables it to perform a large number and variety of functions.
3. Many grammarians categorize these various functions in a number of ways.

D. We will classify the variety of uses under 2 general categories:
1. Verbal
2. Substantive

E. Verbal Uses of the Infinitive
1. Purpose: Expressing the aim of the action of the main verb.
2. Result: Signifying result (actual, conceived and intended).
3. Time: Equivalent to a temporal clause expressing either antecedent, contemporaneous or subsequent time.
4. Cause: The accusative infinitive with the preposition dia.
5. Command: Imperative infinitive (Frequently found in Homer).

F. Substantival Uses of the Infinitive
1. Subject: The infinitive may function in exactly the same way that a noun would as the subject of a finite verb.
2. Object: Serving as object of a finite verb.
3. Indirect Object: Functioning as the secondary object of a verb as would a noun in the dative case and expressing that for which or with reference to which the action or state of the governing verb is performed or exists.
4. Instrument: Functioning as a noun in the instrumental case to define more closely the content of the action denoted by a previous verb or noun.
5. Apposition: The infinitive found in apposition with a substantive.
6. Modifier: Modifying a substantive whether a noun or adjective.
7. Epexegetical: Explaining either a noun, verb or an entire clause (Note: some grammarians classify the Epexegetical use with the appositional).

G. Object Infinitive
1. The substantive character of the infinitive enables it quite readily to serve as the object of a finite verb.
2. The object-infinitive in the accusative case is quite common both with and, particularly, without the article.
3. In the NT more than half of the instances of the infinitive come in here, the object-infinitive with verbs of various sorts.
4. In the LXX, however, it is rare in proportion to the other uses.
5. The accusative case is to us more manifest when the article occurs.

H. Infinitive Modifier
1. This use of the infinitive is generally with verbs the meaning of which adapts itself naturally to an infinitive complement.
2. This is in line with the fundamental relationship of the object to its verb, for a substantive object is essentially the complement of the verbal idea.
3. We would, therefore, include under this category of the object infinitive most of the cases of the so-called complementary infinitive.
4. The complimentary infinitive used with nouns or adjectives is really an infinitive modifier, and close scrutiny will always disclose the case relation.

I. Substantival Epexegetical Infinitive
1. A substantival epexegetical infinitive, which clarifies, explains, or qualifies a noun or adjective.
2. This use of the infinitive is usually bound by certain lexical features of the noun or adjective.
3. That is, they normally are words indicating ability, authority, desire, freedom, hope, need, obligation, or readiness.
4. This usage is fairly common.
5. This use of the infinitive is easy to confuse with the appositional infinitive.
6. The difference is that the epexegetical infinitive explains the noun or adjective to which it is related, while apposition defines it.
7. That is to say, apposition differs from epexegesis in that an appositional infinitive is more substantival than adjectival.

J. The great majority of infinitives in the NT are anarthrous (almost 2000 of the 2291 infinitives).
K. The simple infinitive is the most versatile of all structural categories, displaying eleven of the fifteen semantic uses.
1. Purpose
2. Result
3. Complementary
4. Means (rare)
5. Subject
6. Direct Object (rare)
7. Indirect Discourse
8. Apposition
9. Epexegetical
10. Imperatival (rare)
11. Absolute (rare)

L. Πρόν (η) + Infinitive: Subsequent Time only
M. ὁς + Infinitive
1. Purpose
2. Result
N. ὁς + Infinitive
1. Purpose (rare)
2. Result
O. Articular Infinitive without a Governing Preposition
1. Of the 314 articular infinitives in the NT, about two-thirds are governed by a preposition.
2. Conversely, all infinitives governed by a preposition are articular.
3. Without Governing Preposition
   a. Nominative Articular Infinitive
      (1) Subject
      (2) Apposition (rare)
      (3) Accusative Articular Infinitive
      (4) Direct Object
      (5) Apposition
   b. Genitive Articular Infinitive
      (1) Purpose
      (2) Result
      (3) Contemporaneous Time (rare)
      (4) Cause (rare)
      (5) Direct Object (disputed)
      (6) Apposition
      (7) Epexegetical
   c. Dative Articular Infinitive: There is but one example of this in the NT (2 Cor 2:13). It is either causal or contemporaneous time.
4. Independent Imperative Infinitive
   1. There are several alternatives in the Koine for the imperative:
      a. Future indicative
      b. Subjunctive
      c. Optative
      d. Participle
      e. Infinitive
   2. The imperative infinitive is of ancient origin, being especially frequent in Homer.
   3. The Attic inscriptions frequently have the infinitive as imperative.
   4. The imperative infinitive flourished in the Greek prose writers and was common in laws and maxims and recurs in the papyri.
   5. Though this idiom is rare in the NT, it is a current Koine usage, for the papyri contain many occurrences of it.
   6. Only if an infinitive is obviously not dependent on any other verb can it be treated as an imperative infinitive.
   7. But the following 4 instances (in two verses) are apparently the only examples of this in the NT (Rom. 12:15; Phil. 3:16; 2 Th. 3:14).
   8. Deissman notes that, as in German, it is common in edicts and notices (Light from the Ancient East, page 75).
   9. He quotes from the Limestone Block from the Temple of Herod at Jerusalem during the early imperial period: methena allophone eisporheusthai entos tou peri to hieron truphaktou kai peribolou, “Let no foreigner enter within.”
Q. Dan Wallace lists the following semantic categories of the infinitive in the New Testament (Greek Grammar Beyond the Basics-An Exegetical Syntax of the New Testament (pages 591-609):
   1. Adverbial
      a. Purpose
      b. Result
      c. Time
      d. Cause
      e. Means
      f. Complementary
   2. Substantival
      a. Subject
      b. Direct object
      c. Indirect discourse
      d. Appositional
      e. Epexegetical
3. Independent
   a. Imperatival
   b. Absolute