

Chapter 5

The Verb εἰμι - "I am" (part 1)

5.1 In chapter 3 we met the basic pattern for the majority of Greek verbs. However, Greek, like most languages, has some irregular verbs which do not abide by the rules. The verb "to be" is irregular in nearly all Indo-European languages.

5.2 The pattern for the **Present Indicative of εἰμι** is

I am	εἰμι	ἐσμεν	we are
you are	εἶ	ἐστε	y'all are
he/she/it is	ἐστιν	εἰσιν	they are

NOTE that "you are" - εἶ - is written with a circumflex accent.
This is one of the few times in which it is important to write the accent.
εἶ with no accent is a different word, meaning " if "

REMEMBER :

εἶ̂ with a hat	=	"you are"
εἶ̄ without a hat	=	" if "

Depending on the font you use for viewing and printing, the circumflex may look either like a tilde, or like the (more conventional) arc above the vowel and the breathing.
When writing by hand, make the circumflex like an arc.

Practice until you can read aloud and translate easily

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| 1. εἰ υἱός εἶ του θεου | If you are the Son of God . . . | (Matt. 4:6) |
| 2. αὐτός ἐστιν ὁ Χριστός. | He is (the) Christ. | (Matt. 16:20) |
| 3. και αὐτοὶ ἐν τῷ κόσμῳ εἰσιν | And they are in the world. | (John 17:11) |
| 4. ἐγὼ οὐκ εἰμι ὁ Χριστός. | I am not the Christ. (stress on "I") | (John 1:20) |
| 5. θεου εἰμι υἱός . . . | I am the Son of God . (stress on "God") | (Matt. 27:43) |
| 6. ἐστε ἀποστολοὶ ; | Are you (plural) apostles? | |
| 7. ἐσμεν νυν υἱοὶ του θεου. | Now we are sons (children) of God. | |
| 8. ἐγὼ ἄνθρωπος εἰμι . . . | I am a man . . | (Matt. 8:9) |
| 9. ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἐστιν ὁ κυριος του κοσμου. | Jesus is the Lord of the world. | |
| 10. ἐγὼ εἰμι ὁ θεος του Ἀβρααμ
και ὁ θεος Ἰσαακ και ὁ θεος Ἰακωβ. | I am the God of Abraham, and the God (of) Isaac
and the God (of) Jacob. | (Matt. 22:32, Exodus 3:6) |

5.3 It will be useful here to learn how to express something that took place in the past.

For now, we will learn just the Third Person Imperfect Indicative of εἰμι

he/she/it was ἦν ἦσαν they were

Practice until you can read aloud and translate easily

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|--|---|
| 1. ὁ ἄνθρωπος ἦν ἐν τῷ οἴκῳ. | The man was in the house. |
| 2. οἱ ἄγγελοι ἦσαν ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς. | The angels were in the heavens. |
| 3. ὁ Πέτρος ἀποστολὸς ἦν. | Peter was an apostle. |
| 4. αὐτὸς ἦν διακονος, και νυν ἐστιν πρεσβυτερος. | He was a deacon and now he is an elder. |
| 5. αὐτοὶ ἦσαν δουλοὶ, ἀλλὰ νυν εἰσιν ἀδελφοὶ. | They were slaves but now they are brothers. |
| 6. ἐν τῷ κόσμῳ ἦν. | He was in the world. (John 1:10) |
| 7. Ἰωαννης και Ἰακωβος ἀδελφοὶ ἦσαν. | John and James were brothers. |
| 8. Ἀνδρεας ἦν ὁ ἀδελφος του Πέτρου. | Andrew was the brother of Peter. |
| 9. οἱ ἀποστολοὶ ἦσαν ἐν τῷ οἴκῳ του Πέτρου. | The apostles were in Peter's house. |

6. ὁ ἥλιος ἐν τῷ οὐρανῷ ἐστὶν ἀλλ' οἱ ὀφθαλμοὶ τῶν τυφλῶν οὐ βλέπουσιν αὐτόν.
7. ἐσμεν δούλοι τοῦ θεοῦ ἀλλ' οἱ Ἰουδαῖοι δούλοι τοῦ νομοῦ εἰσιν.
8. Φαρισαῖοι, ἐστε ἀδελφοὶ τῶν Σαδδουκαίων ;
9. οἱ ὀφθαλμοὶ τοῦ θεοῦ ἐπὶ τοῖς τυφλοῖς εἰσιν.
10. Στεφανὸς διακόνος ἦν, Πέτρος δὲ καὶ Ἰακώβος πρεσβύτεροι ἦσαν.

5.7 Writing Practice : Write the Greek several times, while saying aloud (Matt. 6:9-10)

πατερ ἡμῶν ὁ ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς,	Our Father, the (one) in the heavens,
ἀγιασθῆτω τὸ ὄνομα σου,	let your name be sanctified,
ἐλθῆτω ἡ βασιλεία σου,	let your kingdom come,

πατερ is the Vocative singular of πατήρ "father"

The -ητω and -ετω endings are third person imperatives - "Let someone do something" or "Let something happen" or "It must happen." with the sense of giving an order, rather than just permission.

5.8 New Testament Passages to read and translate: Matthew 4:5-6a, Revelation 1:8, John 1:1-2

In your Greek New Testament, read the passages aloud several times until you can read them without long pauses or stumbling. Then use the translation helps to translate them.

παραλαμβάνει	he/she/it takes along
εἰς τὴν ἁγίαν πόλιν	into the holy city
ἔστησεν	he stood (something), placed
τὸ περυγίον	the wing, corner
τοῦ ἱεροῦ	of the temple
βάλε	throw!
σεαυτὸν	yourself
κατῶ	downwards
το	the (used with a neuter noun)
ὁ ὢν	the (one) being, i.e. "he who is"
ὁ ἐρχόμενος	"he who is coming"
παντοκράτωρ	all-powerful, Almighty
ἐν ἀρχῇ	in (the) beginning
οὗτος	this (one) (<i>masculine</i>) - "he"

5.9 Vocabulary to learn

εἰμί	I am	ἦν	he/she/it was	ἦσαν	they were
ὁ ἀγρός	field		(hence agriculture)		
ὁ διάβολος	devil		(hence diabolic)		
ὁ ἥλιος	sun		(the element Helium was discovered in the sun)		
ὁ Ἰουδαῖος	Jew				
ὁ λεπρός	leper				
ὁ νόμος	law		(Deuteronomy recounts the second - δευτερός - giving of the Law)		
ὁ οἶκος	house		("Oeconomy" - now "economy" was how one ran a household)		
ὁ ὀφθαλμός	eye		(hence the English words beginning ophtha-)		
ὁ παραλυτικός	paralytic				
ὁ Σαδδουκαῖος	Sadducee				
ὁ τυφλός	blind (man)		(losing one's sight is a "tough loss")		
ὁ Φαρισαῖος	Pharisee				
εἰ	if				
νῦν	now				
τότε	then				