

Part i. Examine the impersonal.

Examine the functions.

Since an impersonal has no subject, it can have many possible functions in the sentence. Sentences may use the impersonal as an action or as a thing.

Examine action functions.

A *command* functions as an order, for example, μηδὲ ἠλπικέναι ἐπὶ πλοῦτου ἀδηλότητι ‘do not hope in unreliable riches’ 1 Timothy 6:17.

A *purpose* is a motivating factor, for example, χριστὸς ἦλθεν ἀμαρτωλοὺς σῶσαι ‘the messiah, Jesus, came to save sinners’ 1 Timothy 1:9.

A *result* identifies the outcome of another action, for example, ἐλπίζων ἐλθεῖν πρὸς σὲ ‘I hope to visit you’ 1 Timothy 3:14.

A *time* specifies when some action occurs, for example, λέγοντες ἀνάστασιν ἤδη γεγονέναι ‘they say he already rose’ 2 Timothy 2:18.

A *reason* gives a cause for another action, for example, οὐδὲν γὰρ εἰσηνέγκαμεν εἰς τὸν κόσμον ὅτι οὐδὲ ἐξενεγκεῖν τι δυνάμεθα ‘we brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out’ 1 Timothy 6:7.

A *manner* qualifies how another action occurs, for example, τις τοῦ ἰδίου οἴκου προστῆναι οὐκ οἶδεν ‘someone does not know how to control his own house,’ 1 Timothy 3:5.

A *completion* finishes the thought of another helper action, for example, ἐπιποθῶν σε ἰδεῖν ‘I really want to see you’ 2 Timothy 1:4.

An *explanation* offers additional information, for example, οὐ μόνον δὲ ἀργαὶ ἀλλὰ καὶ φλύαροι καὶ περίεργοι—λαλοῦσαι τὰ μὴ δέοντα ‘not only are they lazy, they are gossiping meddlers—they talk about inappropriate matters’ 1 Timothy 5:13.

A *condition* connects a requirement with another result action, for example, ὁ λέγων ἐν τῷ φωτί εἶναι ... ἐν τῇ σκοτίᾳ ἐστίν ἕως ἄρτι ‘If anyone claims to be in the light, ... then he is still in the dark’ 1 John 2:9.

Indirect discourse reports a speech or thought following actions of perception or communication, for example, θεὸν ὁμολογοῦσιν εἰδέναι ‘they claim to know God’ Titus 1:16.

Examine thing functions.

An *absolute* stands independent of the rest of the sentence, for example, πάντες οἱ θέλοντες ζῆν εὐσεβῶς διωχθήσονται ‘everyone who wants to live a godly life will experience persecution’ 2 Timothy 3:12.

A *subject* effects a personal action, for example, μακάριόν ἐστιν μᾶλλον δίδοναι ἢ λαμβάνειν ‘giving is better than receiving’ Acts 20:35, or, ῥῆμά ἐστι λέξις ἄπτωτος ‘an action does not inflect case’ Dionysius Thrax, *The Art of Grammar*.

A *direct* object receives a personal action, for example, χαίρειν αὐτῷ μὴ λέγετε ‘do not give him a greeting’ 2 John 1:10.

An *appositive* qualifies another thing while appearing beside it, for example, τὸ ἀποθανεῖν κέρδος ‘death is gain’ Philippians 1:21.

Examine grammatical categories.

The impersonal is an independent action which does not inflect a subject. Some describe an impersonal as a verbal form of a thing. However, this definition is unsatisfactory, because an impersonal is highly flexible in its function in the sentence. It can function as an action, as a thing, or independently.

Like a personal action, an impersonal action has tense and agency. The impersonal only appears in the present, future, aorist, and perfect tenses. It does not appear in the imperfect or pluperfect tenses. Every agency is represented for each tense.

Unlike a personal action, an impersonal action never inflects mood, person, or number, for example, λύειν ‘release, to release’, or λείψεσθαι ‘will be left, to be left’.

Examine inflection.

The impersonal drops augment in all past tenses. The impersonal retains reduplication in perfect tense, and final consonants in future, aorist, and perfect tenses.

The impersonal joins the stem by principal group to an ending in *-ν* or *-αι*. There are other suffixes between the stem and ending depending on the principal group. Identify the impersonal by knowing the stem and model endings for each tense and agency.

Examine the impersonal.

For the first principal group, the omega-class present active ends in *-ει·ν*. The athematic class present active ends in *-ν·αι*. The intensive and passive end in *-ε·σθ·αι*.

For the second principal group, the future active ends in *-σ·ει·ν*. The intensive ends in *-σ·ε·σθ·αι*.

For the third principal group, the first and second aorist follow different forms. The first active omega-class ends in *-σ·αι*. The first intensive ends in *-σ·ε·σθ·αι*. The second active omega-class ends in *-ει̃·ν*. The second intensive ends in *-α·σθ·αι*. The athematic class active ends in *-ν·αι*. The athematic intensive ends in *-σθ·αι*.

For the fourth principal group, the perfect active ends in *-κ·έν·αι*.

For the fifth principal group, the first intensive and passive end in *-σθ·αι*. The second intensive and passive end in *-θ·αι*.

For the sixth principal group, the future passive ends in *-θ·η·σ·ε·σθ·αι*. The aorist passive ends in *-θ·ῆ·ν·αι*.

Table 13. Examine impersonal examples.

Group.	Tense.	Agency.	Class.	Impersonal form.	Augment.	Reduplication.	Final consonant.	Stem-modification.
1	Present.	Active.	λύω	λύ·ει·ν	No.	No.	No.	No.
		Intensive/passive.	Omega.	λύ·ε·σθ·αι				
1	Present.	Active.	λείπω	λείπ·ει·ν	No.	No.	No.	No.
		Intensive/passive.	Omega.	λείπ·ε·σθ·αι				
1	Present.	Active.	ἀγαπάω	ἀγαπ·ᾶ·ν	No.	No.	No.	No.
		Intensive/passive.	α-contract.	ἀγαπ·ᾶ·σθ·αι				
1	Present.	Active.	λαλέω	λαλ·εῖ·ν	No.	No.	No.	No.
		Intensive/passive.	ε-contract.	λαλ·εῖ·σθ·αι				
1	Present.	Active.	πληρόω	πληρ·ου·ν	No.	No.	No.	No.
		Intensive/passive.	ο-contract.	πληρ·ου·σθ·αι				
1	Present.	Active.	δίδωμι	δίδο·ν·αι	No.	No.	No.	Yes..
		Intensive/passive.	Athematic.	δίδο·σθ·αι				
1	Present.	Active.	εἰμί	εἶ·ν·αι	No.	No.	No.	Yes..
			Athematic.					

Table 13. Examine impersonal examples.

Group.	Tense.	Agency.	Class.	Impersonal form.	Augment.	Redupli- cation.	Final consonant.	Stem- modification.
2	Future.	Active. Intensive.	λύω Omega.	λύ-σ-ει-ν λύ-σ-ε-σθ-αι	No.	No.	Yes.	No.
2	Future.	Active. Intensive.	λείπω Omega.	λεί-ψ-ει-ν λεί-ψ-ε-σθ-αι	No.	No.	Yes.	No.
2	Future.	Active. Intensive.	ἀγαπάω α-contract.	ἀγαπ-ή-σ-ει-ν ἀγαπ-ή-σ-ε-σθ-αι	No.	No.	Yes.	No.
2	Future.	Active. Intensive.	λαλέω ε-contract.	λαλ-ή-σ-ει-ν λαλ-ή-σ-ε-σθ-αι	No.	No.	Yes.	No.
2	Future.	Active. Intensive.	πληρόω ο-contract.	πληρ-ώ-σ-ει-ν πληρ-ώ-σ-ε-σθ-αι	No.	No.	Yes.	No.
2	Future.	Active. Intensive.	δίδωμι Athematic..	δώ-σ-ει-ν δώ-σ-ε-σθ-αι	No.	No.	Yes.	No.
2	Future.	Intensive.	εἰμί Athematic.	ἔ-σ-ε-σθ-αι	No.	No.	Yes.	No.
3	1 Aorist.	Active. Intensive.	λύω Omega.	λύ-σ-αι λύ-σ-α-σθ-αι	No.	No.	Yes.	No.
3	2 Aorist.	Active. Intensive.	λείπω Omega.	λιπ-εῖ-ν λιπ-έ-σθ-αι	No.	No.	No.	Yes.
3	1 Aorist.	Active. Intensive.	ἀγαπάω α-contract.	ἀγάπ-η-σ-αι ἀγαπ-ή-σ-α-σθ-αι	No.	No.	Yes.	No.
3	1 Aorist.	Active. Intensive.	λαλέω ε-contract.	λάλ-η-σ-αι λαλ-ή-σ-α-σθ-αι	No.	No.	No.	Yes.
3	1 Aorist.	Active. Intensive.	πληρόω ο-contract.	πλήρ-ω-σ-αι πληρ-ώ-σ-α-σθ-αι	No.	No.	Yes.	No.
3	1 Aorist.	Active. Intensive.	δίδωμι Athematic.	δοῦ-ν-αι δό-σθ-αι	No.	No.	No.	No.
4	1 Perfect.	Active.	λύω Omega.	λε-λυ-κ-έ-ν-αι	No.	Yes.	Yes.	No.
4	2 Perfect.	Active.	λείπω Omega.	λέ-λοιπ-εῖ-ν-αι	No.	Yes.	No.	Yes.
4	1 Perfect.	Active.	ἀγαπάω α-contract.	ἤ-γαπ-η-κ-έ-ν-αι	No.	Yes.	Yes.	No.
4	1 Perfect.	Active.	λαλέω ε-contract.	λε-λαλ-η-κ-έ-ν-αι	No.	Yes.	No.	Yes.
4	1 Perfect.	Active.	πληρόω ο-contract.	πε-πληρ-ω-κ-έ-ν-αι	No.	Yes.	Yes.	No.
4	1 Perfect.	Active.	δίδωμι Athematic.	δε-δω-κ-έ-ν-αι	No.	Yes.	Yes.	No.

Examine the impersonal.

Table 13. Examine impersonal examples.

Group.	Tense.	Agency.	Class.	Impersonal form.	Augment.	Redupli- cation.	Final consonant.	Stem- modification.
5	1 Perfect.	Intensive/passive.	λύω Omega.	λε-λύ-σθ-αι	No.	Yes.	No.	No.
5	2 Perfect.	Intensive/passive.	λείπω Omega.	λέ-λειφ-θ-αι	No.	Yes.	Yes.	Yes.
5	1 Perfect.	Intensive/passive.	ἀγαπάω α-contract.	ἡ-γαπ-ῆ-σθ-αι	No.	Yes.	No.	No.
5	1 Perfect.	Intensive/passive.	λαλέω ε-contract.	λε-λαλ-ῆ-σθ-αι	No.	Yes.	Yes.	Yes.
5	1 Perfect.	Intensive/passive.	πληρόω ο-contract.	πε-πληρ-ῶ-σθ-αι	No.	Yes.	No.	No.
5	1 Perfect.	Intensive/passive.	δίδωμι Athematic.	δε-δό-σθ-αι	No.	Yes.	No.	No.
6	1 Future. 1 Aorist.	Passive.	λύω Omega.	λυ-θ-ήσ-ε-σθ-αι λύ-θ-η-ν-αι	No.	No.	Yes.	No.
6	2 Future. 2 Aorist.	Passive.	λείπω Omega.	λειφ-θ-ήσ-ε-σθ-αι λειφ-θ-ῆ-ν-αι	No.	No.	Yes.	Yes.
6	1 Future. 1 Aorist.	Passive.	ἀγαπάω α-contract.	ἀγαπ-η-θ-ή-σ-ε-σθ-αι ἀγαπ-η-θ-ῆ-ν-αι	No.	No.	Yes.	No.
6	1 Future. 1 Aorist.	Passive.	λαλέω ε-contract.	λαλ-η-θ-ή-σ-ε-σθ-αι λαλ-η-θ-ῆ-ν-αι	No.	No.	Yes.	Yes.
6	1 Future. 1 Aorist.	Passive.	πληρόω ο-contract.	πληρ-ω-θ-ή-σ-ε-σθ-αι πληρ-ω-θ-ῆ-ν-αι	No.	No.	Yes.	No.
6	1 Future. 1 Aorist.	Passive.	δίδωμι Athematic.	δο-θ-ήσ-ε-σθ-αι δο-θ-ῆ-ν-αι	No.	No.	Yes.	No.

Examine related literature.

1. Votaw, Clyde Weber. "The Use of the Infinitive in Biblical Greek." Ph. D. dissertation, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, 1896.

