

b) Main part: exercises (μελετήματα) for more advanced vocabulary

1/ Structure for each μελέτημα

On the left-hand page you will be given a text to read, with a short introduction to give you the context. You will see that ten of the words in the text are in italics. The texts have been taken from classical authors, and only in some cases has a line been ellided or has some Greek word been added to make the text a little easier for the student. These scarce additions always appear between square brackets [like this].

After the text we deal with those ten words in italics, words that may be new for you. Regarding what words may be new for a student that has covered the usual introductory course and what words are not, it will depend on the book that the student has used. The ten words chosen in each text will never be very basic ones like *ἄνθρωπος* or *μικρός*, while others like *περιπτύσσω* have a higher probability of being unknown to most students at the stage for which this book is intended. Concerning middle-level words like *ἔκπλους*, they may be known to some and new to others.

By means of synonyms or opposites or a very short explanation we try to offer the meaning for each word, but not an English translation. The purpose of glossing the words in Greek itself rather than just giving an English translation is not only to try to make you go through the text without the need of an exact translation into English but also to make more Greek vocabulary go through your mind and increase your knowledge of synonyms and opposites. In fact it is in the exercises where you will find an English equivalent for each word.

On the right-hand page you are asked to do some exercises in which you are requested to use the ten glossed words, just once each, and here you will find an English equivalent for each. The exercises will be a combination of incomplete Greek sentences to be filled as indicated and whole English sentences to be translated into Greek. The sentences are rather simple, because the purpose is not to practise grammar or high-level prose composition but just to make you practise the vocabulary, something fast that makes the language run fluidly through your mind. For the English sentences to be translated into Greek the terms for which you must use one of the ten glossed words are indicated in italics.

Finally, after these exercises that deal with the ten glossed words you will find a final short exercise in which you are requested to produce the Greek translation for six English words. You will observe that the requested words are really easy words, much more frequent than the ten glossed ones (and most probably included into the 520 elementary words of the preliminary part of the book), and they are related to specific words in the text other than the ten glossed ones. The purpose is just to reinforce the knowledge of basic vocabulary, as it is a proved fact that, especially for Prose Composition, lack of knowledge of even very basic terms is really a hindrance for fluency.

Note: Some of the English sentences in the exercises may appear in a not very natural English. English sentences have been “forced” in some cases to make the needed Greek word more evident.

2/ How to proceed?

There are several possibilities, what follows is just a suggestion.

a/ After reading the introductory heading just to know what the text is about, read the text trying to get a general idea about it. **b/** Study the glossed words. **c/** Read the text again, now knowing what the ten words mean. You should now get a wider understanding of the content. **d/** Do the exercises, through which you will get an English translation for those ten words. **e/** Read the text for the third and final time.

Or possibly you will prefer to start studying the meaning of the ten selected words, doing the exercises and reading the text just as the final step. Do as you feel more comfortable.