

Here is a more complicated example – the infinitive has been declined, and there are two objects inside the clause:

- ἐπιθυμίαν ἔχομεν τοῦ ἐν τῇ μάχῃ ἐπὶ τοὺς πολεμίους νικᾶν WE HAVE THE DESIRE TO WIN IN THE BATTLE AGAINST THE ENEMIES.
- ✧ Observe the degree of separation between the article and the infinitive: *parenthetical structure*.

2/ When used after a preposition, the use of the article with the infinitive is compulsory, and can also be found in accusative:

- πρὸς τὸ νικᾶν τοὺς μαθητὰς παιδεύω I TEACH THE CHILDREN TOWARDS WINNING (TOWARDS VICTORY).
- οἱ Ἀθηναῖοι οὐκ ἐβοήθουν διὰ τὸ μὴ πυνθάνεσθαι ταῦτα THE ATHENIANS DID NOT HELP BECAUSE THEY WERE NOT AWARE OF THIS (Xenophon, *Hellenica*).

5. Infinitive after verbs of negative idea

[364]

a) Normal construction

1/ Some verbs may have a negative idea implicit in their meaning (*to deny, to hinder, to forbid, etc.*). When these verbs have an infinitive depending on them, the negative adverb **μὴ** (or the corresponding word compound with it) is usually added before the infinitive. It should not be translated, but it again reinforces the negative idea:

- εἴργω αὐτοὺς οἴκαδε μὴ ἐλθεῖν I HINDER THEM FROM GOING HOME.
- εἴργω σε μὴ τοῦτο ποιεῖν I PREVENT YOU FROM DOING THIS.
- ὁ γὰρ διδάσκαλος αὐτὸν εἴρξε μηκέτι μοι προσιέναι BECAUSE THE TEACHER HAS FORBIDDEN HIM TO APPROACH ME ANY MORE (Lucian, *Dialogi Meretricii*).
- ἄρνοῦμαι ταύτην τὴν πόλιν καλὴν μὴ εἶναι I DENY THAT THIS CITY IS BEAUTIFUL.
- τὰ δὲ ἐξαρνοῦμαι μὴ τοῦτον ἔχειν τὸν τρόπον WITH RESPECT TO OTHER POINTS I DENY THAT THEY HAVE THIS CHARACTER (Aeschines, *In Timarchum*).
- ἀμφισβητῶ μὴ τὸν Σωκράτη σοφὸν εἶναι I DISPUTE THAT SOCRATES IS WISE.
- ἀπαγορεύω σοι μὴ οἴκαδε ἰέναι I FORBID YOU TO GO HOME.
- ἀπηγόρευσε τοῖς στρατηγοῖς μὴ δέχεσθαι τὸν ἄνδρα HE FORBADE THE GENERALS TO RECEIVE THE MAN (Plutarchus, *Cimon*).
- καταρνοῦμαι μὴ τοῦτο ποιῆσαι I DENY THAT I HAVE DONE THIS.

2/ Following the verb **κωλύω**, the infinitive may or may not take the negative **μὴ**:

[365]

- ὁ χειμῶν διεκώλυσε μηδὲν πρᾶξι ὧν οἱ στρατηγοὶ παρεσκευάσαντο THE STORM PREVENTED THEM FROM DOING ANYTHING OF WHAT THE GENERALS HAD ARRANGED (Xenophon, *Hellenica*).

But be careful: sometimes the **μὴ** after **κωλύω** means really a negative sense that must be translated:

- στρατιώτας δ' οὐδὲν ἴσως κωλύει μὴ τοὺς τοιούτους κρατίστους εἶναι, ἀλλὰ τοὺς ἥττον μὲν ἀνδρείους NOTHING PREVENTS THEM FROM NOT BEING SUCH EXCELLENT SOLDIERS, BUT MEN WHO ARE LESS COURAGEOUS (Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*).
- ✧ In the sense of *IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THEY ARE NOT THE BEST SOLDIERS, BUT MEN WHO ARE LESS COURAGEOUS*.