It’s Not the Size, It’s the Frequency:
The Value of Using a Core Vocabulary in Beginning and Intermediate Greek

Wilfred E. Major
Foreign Languages and Literatures Department
Louisiana State University

Teachers and students in the early stages of learning ancient Greek face a number of challenges: a different writing system, morphological changes with seemingly as many exceptions as rules, flexible and daunting syntax, complex and deep literature, a strikingly alien cultural context, and so on. Most often as teachers we simply have to argue or plead that these extra difficulties are worthwhile because the payoff of reading Greek is so great. Rarely, if ever, do we get to say that some aspect of Greek is actually easier than that of other languages. The core vocabulary of ancient Greek, however, is one such area.

This article presents various ways to make use of Greek’s relatively small core vocabulary in beginning and intermediate classroom. The key points are:

1. Ancient Greek has a high-frequency core vocabulary scarcely half the size of many other languages.
2. Using “50%” and “80%” core vocabulary lists enhances student learning in the beginning and intermediate stages of learning Greek. Examples of such lists are included in this article.
3. Awareness of the relative frequency of certain morphological categories encourages students and teachers to focus on paradigms which are most common and therefore most rewarding when reading.
4. Grouping subsets of the core vocabulary in different ways (e.g., by logical groups or morphological type) improves acquisition of vocabulary by making relevant patterns clear and by reinforcing vocabulary in different contexts.

Greek’s Smaller Core Vocabulary: The 50% and 80% Lists

The frequency and distribution of vocabulary can seem like an arcane topic, but especially for Greek, it is a helpful one for teachers and students in the early stages. Simply put, beginning students should learn vocabulary that they will encounter most often when they read. Reinforcing these high frequency items improves students’ comfort level, since they master the elements which they encounter most often. Linguists have studied and quantified key levels in the core vocabulary of a number of languages. Computers have aided this research in recent years, although ideally the basic results match the intuition of native speakers. An adult speaker of English, for example, typically carries a vocabulary between 10,000 and 15,000 items. In a given conversation or even if writing an entire book (say over 100,000 words) an adult is unlikely to use anything close to their entire vocabulary. Nor do speakers or writers distribute their vocabulary usage at all evenly. A text of 100,000 words, for example, consisting of 5,000 different lexical items, does not include each word twenty times. On the contrary, a small
number of words are repeated very often and some more specialized vocabulary will be used only once or rarely.

Core vocabulary tends to cluster at two levels, 50% and 80%. The percentage refers to the proportion of a text made up by a certain amount of vocabulary. Half of most English texts, for example, consist of the same one hundred or so lemmas\(^1\) repeated as the situation demands. Words like “the” “to” and “is,” for example, generate a fair amount of text by themselves. In these statistics, linguists count lemmas, so different forms of a word (“is” and “was”; “camel” and “camels”) count as a single lemma, not separate vocabulary items. Despite some irregular words (“go” and “went”) and vocabulary items of considerable flexibility (“do”), these are words absolutely fundamental to any communication and comprehension of English. The Perseus Project (http://www.perseus.tufts.edu) provides an invaluable database, and its vocabulary tool (http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/cgi-bin/vocab?lang=greek) has allowed scholars to generate similar analyses for Greek. Whereas an English 50% list consists of more than a hundred lemmas, which is normal enough for languages, a comparable Greek list contains about 65 (the exact number can vary depending on whether some items are grouped together as a single lemma or separated as distinct lemmas). The list itself, with further discussion, follows later in this article, but the key points now are that Greek has a much smaller list at this level and that these are unquestionably vocabulary items a student of Greek will need to be comfortable with.

The next significant plateau arrives at 80%, that is, the number of lemmas which typically generate 80% of a text. In English such a list consists of 2,200-2,300 words, and a list between 2,000 and 3,000 lemmas is typical of many languages (Latin, for example, is comparable to English in this regard). The 80% list for ancient Greek consists of fewer than 1,100 lemmas, less than half of that typical for other languages. Here is an area, then, where we can actually streamline the presentation of Greek. While some areas of morphology, semantics and syntax can prove more difficult for students of Greek than in the study of other languages, core vocabulary represents a topic where students can rightly feel Greek will be easier than other languages and so in some way offset the additional struggles in other areas of grammar.

My version of this 80% list is appended to the end of this article and I will present a number of ways I believe that taking advantage of this list is helpful in the classroom, but some general observations now. There is no single, simple explanation as to why Greek has a smaller core vocabulary. Certainly part of the reason consists of the sampling of Greek we have. A limited number of ancient Greek texts on a relatively limited number of topics survive. For a resident of Classical Athens, there were probably a number of words for plants, foods, tools, and the like which would have been core items for them but which appear only rarely in Greek texts as we have them. For good or ill, anyone today who learns Greek is constrained by the survival of the texts that we have, so the frequency in these texts, simply as a pragmatic matter, should focus our priorities in beginning classes. Indeed, the texts we have can contain very narrow core vocabularies. For example, the corpus of Plato is one of the larger compared to that of other authors, but an 80% core vocabulary consists of fewer than 500 words. The relatively narrow topics and focus of Plato’s writings mean he has a much more repetitive vocabulary.

Finally, a few words about the remaining 20% of Greek vocabulary. As in most languages, this vocabulary is more diverse and technical, and the sheer number of lemmas increases significantly. Many adults carry 10,000 lemmas or more which they use for this 20%.

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\(^1\) For the purposes of this article, a lemma is defined as a single vocabulary item encompassing the multiple word forms of that item.
A discussion of ships, for example, would likely contain the technical vocabulary for parts of ships, lemmas which may appear rarely if at all in other contexts. Other types of vocabulary can also swell the numbers. A proper name that appears once, for example, can count as an additional lemma, even though it is not part of learning the language in particular.

The 50% list follows immediately on the next page. An 80% list is appended to the end of this article. The 50% list below contains the 65 different words which make up 50% of the Greek database of 4.1+ million words in the Perseus Project, compiled March 31, 2006 and subsequently revised. It updates a similar list compiled by Prof. Helma Dik of the University of Chicago. The 80% was similarly compiled and revised in stages from 2004 to 2006.
GREEK VOCABULARY 50% LIST

VERBS
γίγνομαι become, happen
εἰμί be
εἶπον say
ἔχω have
λαμβάνω take
λέγω say
ποιέω make
φημί say

NOUNS
ἐκεῖνος –η –ον that
ὁ άνήρ, ἀνδρός, ὁ man
βασιλεύς –εως, ὁ king
λόγος -ον, ὁ word
πόλις –εως, ἡ city

ADJECTIVES
ἄλλος –η –ον another
ἐκεῖνος –η –ο that
μέγας, μεγάλη, μέγα big, great,
ὁ, ἡ, τό the
σάμα, σάμη, σάμος this
πᾶς πάσα πάν all, every, whole
πολύς πολλή πολύ many
πρώτερος –α –ον prior
τοιοῦτος –η –ον such as this

PRONOUNS
αὐτός -η -όν (s)he, it
ἐγώ, μου I
ος, η, ὁ who, which
όστις, ὁ τι anyone who, anything which
οὐδεὶς, οὐδεμία, οὐδέν no one
σύ, σου you
tις, τι someone, something
tίς, τί who? which?

ADVERBS
ἀν
γε especially
δή now
ἐτι still
μὴ not
νῦν now
οὐ not
οὔτε and not
οὔτως this way
ὡς as

PREPOSITIONS
ἀνά up
ἀπό from
dιά through
eἰς into
ἐκ out of
ἐν in
ἐπί on
κατά down
μετά with, after
παρά from beside
περί around
πρός to
ὑπό from under, by

CONJUNCTIONS
ἀλλά but
γάρ for, because
de and, but
ἐάν, ει, if
ἡ or
καί and
μέν on the one hand
ὅτι that, because
σὺν therefore
tε, and
ὡς so that
The Greek 50% List

This list contains no surprises for experienced readers of Greek. All the items here are very common and fundamental for reading nearly any extended passage of ancient Greek. Nonetheless, depending on textbooks or other pedagogical materials, students at the beginning level and even sometimes the intermediate level might find this list surprising. In many popular beginning Greek textbooks, some of these lemmas appear rather late, occasionally even not at all. The particular items within each part of speech deserve some comment.

The list contains no more than eight verbs, but even these might startle students only part way through a beginning textbook. In terms of raw frequency, γίγνομαι is perhaps the second most common verb in Greek, after εἰμί. This is not surprising, given that γίγνομαι often serves as little more than a substitute for εἰμί, but since it is deponent, students might encounter it late and receive little reinforcement. When students encounter it so frequently in an unadapted reading, then, they can still be unsure about it (and especially its principal parts) and thus feel unnecessarily unprepared and insecure about their reading skills in general.

The listing of λέγω, εἶπον and φημί points up another issue. While the vocabulary items on this list certainly generate half of the words in the Perseus database, how to group them into lemmas is not always a straightforward matter. Related is another issue, especially when trying to introduce high frequency items at an early stage: which forms are truly high frequency? Some Greek verbs can appear in literally hundreds of forms, but many of them are low frequency. This is yet another possible partial explanation for the smaller core vocabulary in ancient Greek. Native speakers may have needed to maintain multiple forms of some lemmas more than speakers of other languages, and this combination may have effectively brought their core to a level parallel with speakers of other languages. In any case, we have a tendency to teach a large vocabulary and a great many more forms than most speakers use routinely, so a more realistic level of material for beginning students is needed.

In this particular case, I would suggest that we can profitably view this grouping of three semantically overlapping verbs as a single lemma with the meaning “say”: λέγω provides the present tense, φημί the imperfect and εἶπον the aorist. While these three verbs do exist in other tenses, the forms are not nearly as common. Moreover, the present, imperfect and aorist tenses make up 90% of the verb forms in Greek texts in general, and so serve as proper tenses to emphasize early on.²

Frequency of tenses leads to another strength of even this small list. These verbs include good examples of many standard and high frequency forms. Consider: εἶπον and λαμβάνω have a second aorist; ποιέω represents the most common type of contract verb and has a regular first aorist. γίγνομαι is regular, just deponent, in these three tenses, so it is a good model for middle endings. Thus this small group of the most common verbs in Greek also provides good paradigms for the most common indicative forms of verbs.

The nouns, pronouns, and adjectives are more complex but, because of their frequency, deserve attention. Some follow a common paradigm (λόγος, ἄλλος, ἐκείνος, πρότερος, τοιοῦτος), but others have irregularities of some sort. In most textbooks, the unusual paradigms of these words are not given particular emphasis as very common words, and indeed not distinguished from paradigms which are equally irregular but far less common. A beginning

Greek textbook might well include μέλας, μέλαινα, μέλαν “black,” for example, but not point out that only two adjectives in all of Greek share this paradigm (τάλας, τάλαινα, τάλαν is the other), and neither are nearly as high frequency as the items on this list. The frequency of the lemmas on the 50% list, however, means they deserve to be introduced early and reinforced often. They should not, of course, all be introduced at once, but a teacher should be aware that some of the difficult paradigms here (especially μέγας, οὗτος, πάς, πολύς, ἐγώ, οὐδείς, σύ, and τις) are simply crucial to developing a comfort level with Greek. Two of the nouns (ἀνήρ, βασιλεύς) are quite irregular but worth extra attention because of their frequency. All words on this list should be introduced as early as can be done comfortably and reinforced as often as possible.

Finally, note that nearly half of the list consists of adverbs, prepositions and conjunctions, which do not inflect, but I would recommend teaching alternate forms (e.g, ἀπό, ἀπ’, ἀφ’) of these items as early as possible. While these words are often given in the vocabularies, their importance as high frequency items rarely receives attention. Students are going to encounter these lemmas constantly and a little time spent practicing these words pays off richly. With conjunctions and some prepositions in particular, however, be aware that some textbooks inexplicably make little or delayed use of these very common words. Thus students at the intermediate stage can become very frustrated when a word like οὖν appears constantly, if they were exposed to it only briefly toward the end of their beginning sequence, when they were already overwhelmed by other material.

The Greek 80% List

A version of this list I have used in recent years in my classes is appended to the end of this article. Some analysis follows below, but first a few words about the creation of this list. It began with the raw list of lemmas generated by the Perseus vocabulary tool. The raw list consists of 1,193 lemmas, but I have modified it in three basic ways. First, the raw list included a considerable number of proper nouns and related words. I deleted words for Athens, Athenian, Odysseus and so on. Second, a certain number of anomalies appear in the list because of the way Perseus’ vocabulary tool works. When the tool meets a form which could be generated by more than one lemma, it has no means to distinguish the source, so it distributes all instances equally among the potential sources. In reality, of course, this can distort the true frequency. For example, listed 559th in frequency was the word ἔχις, a type of viper. Certainly Greek texts do not use this extremely rare word often enough that intermediate students should be learning it. As it happens, however, the dative singular of this word is ἔχει. In practice ἔχει is almost always the 3rd person singular present indicative active of ἔχω, but the tool automatically credits ἔχις with half of the occurrences. Note that this means half of the instances of ἔχει are sufficient to put it in the 80% list. This does not undermine the credibility of the list as a whole; it just can distort the relative frequency of the lemmas on the list. The verb ἔχω should in fact appear a little higher in terms of frequency, but it should still appear. A little common sense is needed, however, to remove statistical dust like ἔχις. Deletions of this type and of proper names removed 168 lemmas from the raw list.

I added 79 lemmas into this newly reduced list. The reasons varied. In some cases, I added a verb like ἀγγέλλω, which appeared on the list only in compound forms, as I felt it was pedagogically worthwhile to be able to learn the root verb along with the compounds. In some
cases I added words important culturally or valuable for their English derivatives and equivalents (e.g., δαίμων). The resulting list is approximately 1,100 words (allowing for some variation depending on how one counts the lemmas).

Generally I would recommend that this sort of list form the core vocabulary for beginning and intermediate students. Whatever the textbook, hold students accountable for vocabulary that also appears in the core vocabulary. This provides a rationale for prioritizing the vocabulary in a textbook and some security for the students that the vocabulary they learn will be that which they need as they continue to read Greek. After the beginning sequence (usually the first year in college or the second year in high school), when students have as their primary focus the navigation of readings, students can continue reviewing and working on the rest of the vocabulary list. And whatever readings they go on to, from Homeric to Biblical, they should have a valuable foundation on which to build.

Subsets of the Greek 80% List

The complete 80% list can serve as, among other things, a goal of vocabulary acquisition for students in beginning and intermediate classes. Subsets of this vocabulary can prove at least as useful. On the one hand, subsets can form useful groups of vocabulary for students to study (simply proceeding through the whole list alphabetically is perhaps the least efficient method of learning it, although it can be a worthwhile review) but subsets can further serve to establish priorities for other material in the early stages of learning Greek. Most of the subsets discussed in what follows can be downloaded from http://www.dramata.com (the lists are in pdf format, and users may need to be sure they have a sufficiently recent version of the free Adobe Acrobat reader so the Greek appears properly).

Verbs:

The 80% list of 1,100 lemmas includes 404 verbs. Verbs make up only a small part of the 50% list but more than a third of this list. Thus verbs will make up a substantial part of students’ growth from one list to the other. At least in part, students will also be learning an increasing number of verb forms even as they are learning the verb vocabulary on this list. As students learn some of the eccentricities of Greek verbs, subsets of the core vocabulary can provide for students a context for the features they are learning and for teachers a means to prioritize vocabulary and grammatical features.

Characteristics of the Core Verbs: Sixty of the verbs generate 157 compound forms on the list. Effectively, then, there are 247 basic verbs plus compound forms. Among the ways to group vocabulary profitably is to gather together all the compound forms of a verb and to group verbs together by prefix (compound forms are indented in the main list). Some smaller subsets have grammatical features students are likely to be learning in beginning courses: there are 28 deponent verbs, 33 verbs with deponent futures, and 36 with a 2nd (aka “strong”) aorist.

The vocabulary meaning is only part of the challenge of mastering verbs. Learning principal parts is often one of the most daunting areas of beginning Greek. Having a controlled core vocabulary makes it possible to present, study and test principal parts in ways that highlight the patterns of principal parts. Rather than it seeming like there are no regular verbs in Greek, verbs can fall into recognizable patterns and categories. I find five groupings particularly helpful for highlighting the main patterns of principal parts.
1. **Vowel stems:** The most stable subset of Greek verbs contains those whose stems end in -υω (which is why λυω makes such a good paradigm). Explaining the rule for each part and an example of the pattern of each subset makes Greek verbs seem predictable and straightforward to recognize. For example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Present</th>
<th>Future</th>
<th>Aorist</th>
<th>Perfect Active</th>
<th>Perfect Middle</th>
<th>Aorist Passive</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>stem + ω</td>
<td>stem + σω</td>
<td>+ stem + κα</td>
<td>+ stem + μαι</td>
<td>+ stem + θην</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>λύω</td>
<td>λύσω</td>
<td>ἔλυσα</td>
<td>λέλυκα</td>
<td>λέλυμαι</td>
<td>ἔλυθην</td>
<td>loosen</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There are twenty such verbs in the core vocabulary, plus six which have some irregularity in one or more of their principal parts.

Verbs with other vowels ending their stems also tend to be stable, except that these vowels contract with the endings in the present and imperfect tenses. The largest group by far consists of verbs in -έω. Recall also that ποιέω is on the 50% list:

There are 50 regular verbs in this group plus 20 others with some irregularity in their parts.

*ε* lengthens to η in the future, aorist and perfect stems:

pattern: stem + -έω, -ήσω, -ήσα, -ήκα, -ήμαι, -ήθην

example: ποιέω, ποιήσω, ἐποίησα, πεποίηκα, πεποίημαι, ἐποιήθην make, do

The next largest group are -άω verbs, with 17 regular examples and 9 with irregularities:

*α* lengthens to η in the future, aorist and perfect stems:

pattern: stem + -άω, -ήσω, -ήσα, -ήκα, -ήμαι, -ήθην

example: νικάω, νικήσω, ἐνίκησα, νενίκηκα, νενίκημαι, ἐνικήθην conquer

Finally, there are -όω verbs, with ten regular specimens and five with irregularities:

*ο* lengthens to ω in the future, aorist and perfect stems:

pattern: stem + -όω, -ώσω, -ώσα, -ώκα, -ώμαι, -ώθην

example: δηλόω, δηλώσω, ἐδήλωσα, δεδήλωκα, δεδήλωμαι, ἐδηλώθην show

In addition there are 35 verbs with contract futures (mainly with liquid stems; see category #5 below).

2. **Labial stems:** Verbs with consonant stem endings are also easier to learn when grouped into subsets of the core vocabulary, even when several individual verbs have irregularities. These irregularities tend to be minor and to occur only in one or two parts. There are 18 verbs with labial stems, of which five are entirely regular.

Verbs whose stems end in labials have present stems which end in β, π, πτ, or φ:

+ σ → ψ, therefore -ψ- in future and aorist
+ κ → φ, therefore -φ- in perfect active
+ μ → μμ, therefore -μμ- in perfect middle
+ θ → φθ, therefore -φθ- in aorist passive

Example: τρίβω, τρίψω, ἔτριψα, τέτριφα, τέτριμαι, ἐτρίφθην rub
3. **Dental stems**: 25 regular verbs plus 17 with some irregularity.
Verbs whose stems end in dentals have present stems which end in \( \delta, \zeta, \theta, \) or \( \sigma \):
+ \( \sigma \rightarrow \sigma \), therefore -\( \sigma \)- in future and aorist
+ \( \kappa \rightarrow \kappa \), therefore -\( \kappa \)- in perfect active
+ \( \mu \rightarrow \sigma \mu \), therefore -\( \sigma \mu \)- in perfect middle
+ \( \theta \rightarrow \sigma \theta \), therefore -\( \sigma \theta \)- in aorist passive

Example: \( δικάζω, δικάσω, ἐδίκασα, δεδίκακα, δεδίκασμαι, ἐδικάσθην \) judge

4. **Palatal stems**: 18 regular verbs plus 19 with some irregularity.
Verbs whose stems end in palatals have present stems which end in \( \gamma, \kappa, \chi, \) or \( \sigma \sigma \) (= \( \tau \tau \) in Attic).
+ \( \sigma \rightarrow \kappa \), therefore -\( \kappa \)- in future and aorist
+ \( \kappa \rightarrow \chi \), therefore -\( \chi \)- in perfect active
+ \( \mu \rightarrow \gamma \mu \), therefore -\( \gamma \mu \)- in perfect middle
+ \( \theta \rightarrow \chi \theta \), therefore -\( \chi \theta \)- in aorist passive

Example: \( ἄρχω, ἄρξω, ἦρξα, ἦρχα, ἦργμαι, ἤρχθην \) rule

5. **Liquid stems**: Because this stem ending is unstable, only two of the 42 verbs in this class are entirely regular in their principal parts, but mostly the irregularities are minor differences in the less commonly used stems, so the pattern still helps a great deal. Contract and deponent futures crop up most often in this group, so this is a good opportunity to review these features.
Verbs whose stems end in liquids have present stems which end in \( \lambda, \mu, \nu \) or \( \rho \).
+ \( \sigma \rightarrow \lambda \), therefore -\( \lambda \)- in future and aorist
+ \( \kappa \rightarrow \mu \), therefore -\( \mu \)- in perfect active
+ \( \mu \rightarrow \mu \), therefore -\( \mu \)- in perfect middle
+ \( \theta \rightarrow \kappa \), therefore -\( \kappa \)- in aorist passive

Example: \( κρίνω, κρινῶ, ἔκρινα, κέκρικα, κέκριμαι, ἐκρίθην \) decide

**Irregular stems**: Among the most feared and challenging verbs in Greek are athematic verbs, also known as -\( \mu \) verbs. These are high frequency verbs, however, especially counting all their compound forms, and are thus core verbs. The 80% list includes four athematic verbs which use the -\( \mu \) conjugation in the present, imperfect and aorist tenses, 13 which have -\( \mu \) forms only in the present and imperfect, plus six which have -\( \mu \) forms in the aorist only.

For all of Greek verbs’ reputation for irregularity, there are only ten verbs on the core list with truly mixed principal parts or with irregularities in their parts which make them difficult for even passive recognition (\( αἱρέω, ἀποθνῄσκω, ἔρχομαι, ἐσθίω, ἔχω, λέγω, ὀρᾶω, πάσχω, τρέχω, φέρω \)).

**Nouns**: Greek nouns do not generate the sheer number of forms that verbs can, but beginning Greek textbooks routinely present a great many different noun paradigms without indicating the relevant frequency and importance of the variations. Again a core vocabulary can provide a means to prioritize. The 80% list includes 325 nouns, nearly equally distributed between the
three declensions: 114 1st declension, 103 2nd declension, and 108 3rd declension. Each
decension, of course, allows for some variation and knowing the relative importance of these
variations is helpful.

1st Declension: Nouns of the first declension vary in their paradigms almost always only in the
vowel used in the endings of the singular. Of the 114 first declension nouns, 46 are of the
canonical form with η (like τιμή), 38 have a long α (like οἰκία), four have a short α while
retaining η in the genitive and dative singular (like γλῶσσα); ten alternate a long α with a short
one (like μοῖρα). Twelve nouns are masculine (like πολίτης). Four nouns have some individual
variation (γῆ, κόρη, μνᾶ, νεανίας).

2nd Declension: Nouns of the second declension differ only in gender and the attendant
restrictions on neuter nouns. Of the 103 second declension nouns, 74 are masculine, four are
feminine and 25 neuter. Three nouns have some rarer variation (νοῦς, λεώς, νεώς).

3rd Declension: Nouns of the third declension display greater variation than those in the first two
decensions, but these variations involve primarily the nominative singular and dative plural. The
sigmas in each ending (the nominative singular -ς and the dative plural -σι) cause these
variations. Like verb stems, third declension nouns benefit from being classified by stem ending:

- Palatal stems
  - like κῆρυξ: 5

- Dental stems
  - Masculine and feminine like ἐλπίς: 9
  - Neuters like σῶμα: 20
  - There are only two nouns on the list like ἀρχων, but these are valuable for also being
    the paradigm for active participles.

- Liquid stems
  - like δαίμων: 7

- Sigma stems
  - like κλέος: 21

- Vowel stems
  - like πόλις: 14
  - Recall that πόλις was also on the 50% list.

The remaining 31 nouns have individual minor irregularities or belong to a category with
three or fewer nouns. The number of variations even within this small sample suggests that
teaching the more stable parts of third declension paradigms is prudent, but it is advisable for
teachers to notice when textbooks give full declensions of nouns which are paradigms for no
other common nouns. It is not unusual for declensions of fundamentally irregular nouns to
appear side by side with paradigms for more common types. Distinguishing and prioritizing
among third declension nouns is too often left up to the unsuspecting reader.

Adjectives:

The adjectives on the 80% list do not vary nearly as much as third declension nouns. The
list includes 188 adjectives. The largest subgroup consists of 1st/2nd declension adjectives like
ἀγαθός or the mechanical variant (like μικρός) sporting an α in the feminine forms, with 52 and 67 entries respectively, for a total of 119. There are seven two-termination adjectives, using only second declension endings (like ἀδικος) and two contract adjectives (χρυσοῦς and διπλοῦς), plus one of the so-called “Attic” declension (πλέως). The third declension adjectives fall into three types: like εὐδαίμων (7), like ἀληθής (9) and like ταχύς (7). The three types of irregular adjectives (μέγας, πᾶς and πολύς) already appear on the 50% list.

There are still other ways to group and present the vocabulary on the core list. Logical semantic groups are especially valuable (parts of the body, words for time, animals, English derivatives, and so on). I have also found that maintaining a stricter control over vocabulary makes it easier to bring in exterior readings. If I use a reading unconnected with the textbook, I gloss the vocabulary not on the core list (or whatever part of the core list we have covered). Doing so makes the process of glossing vocabulary straightforward for me and reinforces the core vocabulary for students. Furthermore, I have generally found that the core list does indeed generally cover the highly repetitive vocabulary of readings across time and genre.

Conclusion

There remains much to discuss, refine and improve in these vocabulary lists, and I sincerely hope lively debate will ensue. More important than any specifics, however, I believe that we as teachers of Greek need to rethink vocabulary. The vocabulary selection in textbooks varies wildly in terms of quantity and quality. Vocabulary lists tend to be dominated by the needs of a narrative, reading passage, or grammatical construction. This haphazard approach not only hinders students in their acquisition of the language but in their appreciation of what this vocabulary has bequeathed to modern languages (Latin too often takes credit for bringing Greek vocabulary to English). We also too readily chalk up difficulties in textbooks to something inherent in the complexity of Greek. Greek does pose multiple challenges and rewards, but speakers of the language in antiquity for the most part were no more intellectual giants than students of the language are today. If we are to provide the access to the ancient Greek world and to the most influential writings in Greek, we owe it to our students and other devotees to ease their journey wherever we legitimately can. A high frequency core vocabulary is one such entry point where we can and should hold the gate open wider.

Wilfred E. Major
Classics
Louisiana State University
CORE GREEK VOCABULARY
for the
FIRST TWO YEARS of GREEK

This list contains approximately 1,100 words, based on the 1193 different words which make up 80% of the Greek database of 3.8+ million words in the Perseus Project. Compiled September 2, 2004 and subsequently revised.

ἀγαθός -η -όν good
ἀγάλμα –ατος, τό glory, statue
ἀγαν too much
ἀγανακτέω be annoyed with
ἀγάτη –ης, ἥ love, charity
ἀγγέλλω announce
ἄγγελος –ου, ὁ messenger, angel
ἀγνοέω not know
ἀγορά, –ᾶς, ἡ market place
ἀγορεύω say, proclaim
ἄγω lead, bring
ἀγών, –ῶνος, ὁ contest
ἀγωνίζομαι contend for a prize
ἀδελφή –ῆς, ἡ sister
ἀδελφός –ου, ὁ brother
ἀδίκημα, –ατος, τό a wrong, an injustice
ἀδίκος –ον unjust
ἀδύνατος –ον impossible
ἀεί always
ἀείδω (Attic ᾳδω) sing
ἀέκων –ουσα –ου (Attic ἀκων) unwilling
ἀθάνατος –ον immortal
ἀθλον –ου, τό prize
ἀθροίζω muster
ἀθρόος –α –ον crowded
αισθάνομαι perceive
αισχρός –α –ον wretched
αισθάνομαι perceive
aiσχύνω dishonor
αιτάω ask
αιτία –ας, ἥ cause
αιτώμαι accuse, blame
αιτίας –α –ον responsible, guilty
αἴχμαλωτος –ου, ὁ prisoner of war
ἀκολουθέω follow
ἀκούω hear
ἀκριβής –ες exact
ἀκρος –α –ον top
ἀλγος –ους, τό pain
ἀληθέα –ας, ἡ truth
ἀληθής –ες true
ἀλίσκομαι be taken
ἀλλά but
ἀλλήλων (oblique cases only) one another
ἀλλος –η –ον other
ἀλλότριος –α –ον someone else’s
ἀλλώς otherwise
ἀμα at the same time
ἀμαρτάνω make a mistake, miss the target
ἀμείβω change
ἀμείνων –ον better
ἀμελεῖ not worry
ἀμέλεω ward off
ἀμφί + gen, dat, acc about, around
ἀμφιθετέω argue
ἀμφίτερος –α –ον both
ἀμφότερος –α –ον both
ἀν generalizes dependent clauses with the subjunctive; makes independent clauses less real (contrary to fact)
ἀνά + gen, dat, acc up, on
ἀνάγω lead up
ἀναφέρω raise
ἀναλαμβάνω pick up
ἀναβάω board, cross
ἀναγγέλλω recognize
ἀνέχω hold up
ἀνιστημι stand up
ἀνατίθημι put up, set on
ἀναχωρέω go back
ἀναγκάζω force, compel
ἀναγκαῖος –α –ον necessary
ἀναγκή –ης, ἡ necessity
ἀνάθημα –ατος, τὸ a curse
ἀναξ, -ακτος, ὁ ruler, lord
ἀνδρεῖος –α –ον manly, brave
ἀνεμός –ου, ὁ wind
ἀνευ + gen without
ἀνήιο, ἄνθρωπος, ὁ man
ἀνθός –ους, τὸ flower
ἀνθρώπος -ου, ὁ human being
ἀνόητομι open up
ἀντι + gen opposite
ἀνω up
ἀξίος –α –ον worthy
ἀξιώ consider worthy
ἀπαλλάσσω release, escape
ἀπαντάω + dat meet
ἀπαξ once
ἀπας –ασα -αν all together
ἀπειρος –α –ον inexperienced, ignorant
ἀπό + gen from
ἀπαγγέλλω announce
ἀπάγω carry off
ἀφαιρέω take from
ἀποθετω step from
ἀποδιδομι point away
ἀποδίδωμι give back
ἀπειθω be away
ἀπέρχομαι go away
ἀπέχω keep away
ἀποθνῄσκω die
ἀφημι let go
ἀφυκέωμαι come to
ἀφίημι remove, revolt
ἀποκορώνιον separate (mid: answer)
ἀποκτείνω kill
ἀπολαμβάνω take from
ἀπολείπω leave behind
ἀπόλλυμι kill (mid: die)
ἀπολογέομαι defend oneself
ἀπολύσω set free from
ἀποπέμπω send away
ἀποπλέω sail away
ἀποστέλλω send away
ἀποστερέω deprive
ἀποφαίνω display
ἀποφοίτω set away
ἄρα then
ἄρχω rule
ἄρχων –οντος, ὁ ruler, archon
ἄστυ –αστος, τὸ chariot
ἄρχων (Attic ἀρχότοιω) join
ἄρχω plow
ἄρταξον snatch
ἄρτι just now
ἄρχαιος –α –ον ancient
ἀρχή –ης, ἡ beginning, rule
ἄρχω rule
ἄρχων –οντoς, ὁ ruler, archon
ἀστίς -ις, ἡ a round shield
ἀστυν, ἀστεώς, τὸ town
ἀσφάλεια –ας, ἡ security
ἀσφαλής –ες safe
ἀτάρ but
ἀτε just as, because
ἄτη –ης, ἡ blindness, destruction
αὐ γαῖς again
ἄνάξω increase
ἀυτε again
αὐτίκα immediately
αὐτοθι on the spot
αυτός –η –ό self, same, s/he/it
ἀφινω suddenly
βαίνω walk
βάλλω throw
βάρβαρος –α –ον foreign, barbarous
βαρύς –εα –ο heavy
βασιλεία –ας ἡ kingdom
βασιλεύω –α –ον king, royal
βασιλέως –α –ον kingly, royal
βασιλείας, βασιλείως, ὁ king
βασιλεύω be king, rule, reign
βασιλικός –η –όν royal, kingly
βέβαιος –α –ον firm
βέλος –ους, τὸ missile, weapon
βέλτιστος –η –ον best
βελτίων -οv better
βία –ας, η force
βιάζω, βιάζω force, compel
βιβλίος –ου, ο book
βίος –ου, ο life
βίω live
βλάπτω hurt
βλέπω see
βοήθεια –ας, η help
βοηθέω help
βουλεύω deliberate
βουλη -ης, η plan, council
βουλομαι want, wish
βούς, βοῦς, ο/η ox
βοσκος –εια –υ short
βοστός –ου, ο mortal
βομός –ου, ο altar
γαία –ας, η earth
γαμέω marry
γάμος –ου, ο wedding, marriage
γάρ for, because
γε for sure
γελάω laugh
γεννάω beget
γένος –ους, το race, family
γέρας –ους, το prize
γέρων –οντος, ο old man
γῆ, γης, η earth
γήρας –ως, το old age
γίγνομαι become, be
γίγνοσκον come to know, learn
γλυκος –εια –υν sweet
γλώσσα –ης, η tongue, language
γνώμη –ης, η thought, intelligence, opinion
γονιν so then, for sure
γράμμα –ατος, το letter
γράφω write
γυμνος –η –oν naked
γυνη, γυνακος, η woman
δαιμον –οντος, ο spirit, god, demon
dαικών cry
dε and, but
dει it is necessary
dειδον fear
dείκνυμι show
δειλός -η -ον cowardly
deινός –η –ον awesome
deίπνον –ου, το feast
dέκα, ten
dενδρον –ου, το tree
dεξιος –α –oν right
dεός –ους, το fear
dεσπότης -ου, ο master
dεύρο (to) here
dεύτερος –α –ον second
dέχομαι welcome
dέω (1) bind
dέω (2) need
dή now
dήλος -η -oν clear
dηλώ show
dήμος –ου, ο people
dήπου perhaps, maybe
dια + gen, acc through

dιαρέχο μαι divide, cut apart
dιαβαίνω step across
dιαβάλλω throw across
dιέρχομαι go through
dιάκειμαι be arranged (pass. of διατίθημι)
dιαλέγω discuss
dιαλύω dissolve
dιάνοια –ας, η thought, intention
dιοικέω manage a house
dιαπράσσω pass over, accomplish
dιαπεράω finish
dιατίθημι arrange
dιατρέξω consume, spend time
dιαφέρω carry on, make a difference
dιαφθείρω escape
dιαφθείρω destroy
dιαθήκη –ης, η arrangement, last will and testament
dιάιτα –ης, η lifestyle
dιακόσιοι –αι –α two hundred
dιδάσκω teach
dίδωμι give
dικαίω judge
dίκαιος –α –oν just
dικαιοσύνη –ης, η justice
dικαστήριον –ου, το court
dικαστής –ου, ο judge, juror
dίκη –ης, η justice, lawsuit
διό, διόπερ because of this
dιός –α –ον divine
dιότι since
dιπλούς -ή -ον double
dισχίλιοι –αι –α two thousand
dίχα apart
dιώκω pursue
dόγμα -ατος, το opinion, dogma
dοκεῖ it seems
dοκέω think

dόλος –ου, ο τrick

dόξα –ης, η glory, opinion
dόρυ, δόρατος, το spear
dόυλος -ου, ο slave
dραω do
dύναμαι be able, can
dύναμις -εως, η power
dυνατός -ης -ον able
dύο, two
dώδεκα twelve
dώμα -ατος, το house
dώρον –ου, το gift
eαν = ει + αν
eαρ, εαρος, το spring
eαυτού -ης -οι his/her/its own
eαω allow
eγγύς near
eγειρω wake up
eγω, εμοι I
eθελω wish
εθνος –ους, το nation
εθνος –ους, το custom, character
εθνικος –ους, το proper, probable
eθνικος twenty
εικον –όνος, η image
eιμι be
eιμι go (cf. ἔρχομαι)
eιπον say (cf. λέγω, φημί)
eιγω confine
eιρήνη -ης, η peace
eις + acc into
eισάγω lead
eισέρχομαι go into, enter
eισφέρω carry into, pay taxes
eις, μια, ἐν one
eίτα then, next
eίτε either…or
εκ, εξ + gen from, out of
εέλγω lead out
εαφέω take out
εαπατάω deceive
εκβάλλω throw out
εκδίδωμι surrender
εέλέγχω refuse
εέρχομαι go or come out
εέστι it is allowed, it is possible
εκλειπω leave out
εκπέμπω send out
εκπύτω fall out
εκτείνω stretch out
εκφέρω carry out
εκαστος –η –ον each
eκάτερος –α –ον each of two
eκατόν hundred
εκεί there
εκείθεν from there
εκείνος –η –ον that
εκκλησία –ας, η assembly
εκτός outside
εκων –ους –ον, willing
ελάπσων –ον smaller, less
ελαυνω drive
ελεγος –ου, ο a lament
ελέγχω refuse
ελευθερία –ας, η freedom
ελευθερος –α –ον free
ελευθερόω set free
ελπίζω hope for
ελπίς -ιδος, η hope
εμαυτος my own
εμος -η –ον my, mine
εν + dat in
εμβάλλω throw in
ενδίδωμι give in
ενθυμέομαι ponder
εγκαλέω accuse
εμπίπτω fall on
εμπροσθεν in front
ἐντυγχάνω meet with
ἐναντίος –α –ον opposite
ἐνέκα because of
ἐνθά there
ἐνθάδε from there
ἐνιαυτός –ο, ό year
ἐνιοί –αι –α some
ἐνιαυτός –οῦ, ὁ year
ἐνιαυτός –οῦ, ὁ year
ἐνιαυτός –οῦ, ὁ year
ἐνιαυτός –οὖ, ὁ year
ἐνιαυτός –οὖ, ὁ year
ἐνιαυτός –οὖ, ὁ year
ἐνιαυτός –οὖ, ὁ year
ἐντυγχάνω meet with
ἐντυγχάνω meet with
ἐντυγχάνω meet with
κέρας –άτος, τό horn
κεφάλη -ής, ἡ head
κήρυκας –υκός, ὁ messenger
κινδύνενωσ risk
κίνδυνος –ος, ὁ danger
κινέω move
κλέος –ους, τό glory
κλέπτω steal
κλίνω bend
κοινός -ή -όν common
κολάζω punish
κόλπος –ους, ὁ womb, bay
κομίζω bring
κόπτω cut
κόρη –ης, ἡ girl
κοσμέω arrange
κόσμος –ος, ὁ order
κράτεω rule (+ gen.)
κράτιστος –η -όν strongest
κράτος –ους, τό strength
κρείσσων –ον stronger
κρίνω judge, decide
κρίσις –είς, ἡ judgment, decision
κρύτης –ους, ὁ judge
κρύπτω hide
κτάμαι acquire
κτείνω kill
κύκλος –ους, τό circle
κυρέω meet (+ gen.), happen
κύριος –ους, ὁ lord, master
κύων, κυνός, ὁ or ἡ dog
κωλύω prevent
κώμη –ης, ἡ village
λαγχάνω obtain by a lottery
λαλέω talk, babble
λαμβάνω take
λαμπρός –α -όν bright
λανθάνω do without being noticed
λέγω say, speak
λείπω leave
λευκός –ή -όν white
λεύκως, λευκό, ὁ the people
λίθος –ους, ὁ stone
λιμήν –ένος, ὁ harbor
λίμνη –ης, ἡ pool, swamp
λιμός –ους, ὁ or ἡ hunger
λογίζομαι calculate
λόγος –ους, ὁ word
λοιπός –η -όν remaining
λόφος –ους, ὁ crest (esp. of a helmet), mane, ridge
λυτέω hurt
λύω loosen, destroy
μαγείας –ας -όν long
μάλα very, very much
μάλλιστα very, very much
μᾶλλον more, rather
μανθάνω learn
μάνις –ας, ἡ insanity
μάντις –εις, ὁ prophet
μαρτυρεῖ witness, give testimony
μαρτυρία –ας, ἡ witness, testimony, evidence
μάρτυς, μαρτυρος, ὁ or ἡ witness
μάχη –ης, ἡ battle
μάχομαι fight
μέγαρον –ου, τό a large room
μέγας, μεγάλη, μέγα big
μέγεθος –ους, τό magnitude
μέλας, μέλαινα, μέλαν black
μέλει it is a problem, or worry, for (+ dat.)
μέλλω intend, going to
μένω on the one hand, on the other hand
μέντοι however, of course
μένω stay
μέρος –ους, τό part
μέσος –η -όν middle
μετά with (+ gen.) after (+ acc.)
μεταβάλλω change
μεταπέμπω summon
μετέχω be involved (+ gen.)
μεταξύ between
μέχρι until
μή not (ὦ with indicative verbs)
μήδε and not
μηδείς no one
μήτε and not
μήκος –ους, τό length
μήν [emphasizes preceding particle]
μήτηρ, μητρός, ἡ mother
μηχανή –ης, ἡ device
μικρός –α -όν small
μιμητικό remind, (in perfect middle)
remember
μισέω hate
μοθός –ού, ó pay
μνά μνάς, ἡ mina, = 100 drachma = 1/60 talent
μνήμη –ης, ἡ memory
μοίρα -ας, ἡ fate
μόνος –η –on alone, single
μῦθος –ου, ὁ story
μυρίας -άδος, ἡ 10,000, a countless amount
μυρίος –α –on countless
ναί yes
ναυμαχία –ας, ἡ sea battle
ναυ, νεώς, ὁ ship
ναυτικός -η –on naval
νεανίας –ου, ὁ young man
νεκρός –ου, ὁ corpse
νέμω distribute
νέος –α –on young
νεώς, νεώ, ὤ temple
νήσος –ου, ἡ island
νικάω conquer, win
νίκη –ης, ἡ victory
νοέω have in mind
νομίζω consider
νόμιμος –η –on customary
νόμος –ου, ὁ custom, law
νοῦς, νοῦ, ὁ mind
νόσος –ου, ὁ disease
νόμφη –ης, ἡ bride
νύν, νυνί now
νύξ, νυκτός, ἡ night
ξένος –ου, ὁ foreigner, stranger
ξύλον –ου, τὸ wood
ὁ, ἡ τὸ the
όδε ἦδε τὸδε this
όδος –ου, ὁ road
όθεν from where
οἶδα know
οἰκείος –α –on domestic
οἰκέτης –ου, ὁ servant
οἰκέω inhabit, occupy
οἰκία –ας, ἡ house, household
οἰκοδομέω build a house
οίκος –ου, ὁ house
οίμα, οἰμάμαι think
οίος –α –on such a kind
οίος –α –on τ’ εἰμι be able
οἴχομαι be gone
ὀκτώ eight

όλιγος –η –on few
ὀλλυμι destroy, lose
ὀλος –η –on whole
ὀμήνυμι swear
ὀμοίος –α –on or ὁμοίος –α –on like
ὀμοίω make like
ὀμολογέω agree
ὀμόω unite
ὀμως nevertheless
ὀνομα –ατος, τὸ name
ὀνομάξω call by name
ὀξύς –εια-υ sharp
ὀπλίτης –ου, ὁ heavily-armed soldier, hoplite
ὀπλον –ου, τὸ weapon, tool
ὀποίος –α –on of what sort
ὀποίος –η –on as many as
ὀπότε when
ὀποτε wherever
ὀπως how, as, so that
ὀρασω see
ὀργη –ης, ἡ anger
ὀργηίζω make angry
ὀρθός –η –on straight
ὀρθὼ set straight
ὀρκος –ου, ὁ oath
ὀρμάω rush
ὀρμη –ης, ἡ attack
ὀρος, ὄρου, ὁ mountain, hill
ὀρος, ὄρου, ὁ boundary
ὁ ὁ ὁ who, which, that
ὁσος –η –on however much
ὁσπερ, ὁπερ, ὅπερ the very one who, the very thing which
ὁστε ὅτε ὅτε who, which
ὁστες ὅτι any one who, anything which
ὅταν = ὅτε + ἀν whenever
ὁτε when
ὁτι because, that
ον, ονκ, οὑχ not (with indicative verbs)
οὐδε but not
οὐδείς, οὐδεμια, οὐδὲν no one, nothing
οὐκέτι no longer
οὔτε and not
οὔτις no one, nobody
οὔπω not yet

οὗ where
οὐκον therefore
οὖν therefore, so
οὐρανός –οῦ, ὁ sky, heaven
οὐσία –ας, ἡ substance, property
οὔτος, αὐτή, τούτος this
οὐτώς in this way
ὀφείλω owe
ὀφθαλμός –οῦ, ὁ eye
ὀφφα so that, until
ὀχλος –οῦ, ὁ crowd, mob
ὀψις, -εως, ἡ sight, appearance
πάθος –ους, τὸ suffering
παιδεύω educate
παῖς, παιδός, ὁ, ἡ child
παλαιός –ά –ον old
πάλιν back
παντάπασι altogether
πάντη entirely
πάνυ altogether
παρά, παρ’ from (+ gen.), beside (+ dat.), to (+ acc.)
παραγγέλλω transmit
παραγίγνομαι be present
παραδίδωμι hand over
παραδόσεις –ον contrary to expectation, paradoxical
πάρεμι be present
πάρεστι it is possible (+dat.)
παρέχω provide
παρίστημι set or stand beside
παρακαλέω appeal to
περίεργον –ος, ὁ or, a creator, poet
παρθένος –οῦ, ἡ girl
πάς πᾶσα πᾶν all
πάσω sprinkle
πάσχω suffer, experience
πατήρ, πατρός, ὁ father
πάτριος –α –ον of or belonging to one’s father
πατρίς, -ίδος, ὁ fatherland
πάύω stop
πεδίον –ου, τὸ plain
πεζός -ή -όν on foot
πείθω persuade
πειράζω test
πειράω try
πέλας near
πέμπω send
πεντακόσιοι –α –α five hundred
πέντε five
πεντήκοντα fifty
πέρ [emphasizes fifty]
πέρα pass through
πέραθε destroy
περί around, about (+ gen., dat., acc.)
περίεμι be around
περιόστημι place round
πέτασα –ας, ἡ rock
πηρός –α –ον disabled
πιμπλήμι fill
πίνω drink
πίπτω fall
πιστεύω trust
πιστις, -εως, ἡ trust
πιστός -ή -ον faithful
πλείστος –η –ον most
πλείσταν, πλέων more
πλέω sail
πλέως, πλέα, πλέον full of
πλήθος –ους, τὸ crowd
πληθν except (+ gen.)
πληρόω fill
πληροφορία –ας –ον near
πληρέω strike
πλοίον –ου, τὸ ship
πλούσιος –α –ον rich
πλοῦτος –ου, ὁ wealth
πνεύμα –ατος, τὸ wind, breath
ποιεῖω make
ποιητής –ου, ὁ creator, poet
ποίος –α –ον what sort of?
πολέμεω make war
πολέμος –α –ον hostile (m.pl.: the enemy)
πολέμος –ου, ὁ war
πολιορκῄω besiege
πολιορκία –ας, ἡ siege
πόλις, -εως, ἡ a city
πολιτεία –ας, ἡ constitution, citizenship,
republic
πολιτεύω participate in government or politics
πολίτης –ου, ὁ citizen
πολιτικός -ή -όν  
πολλάκις  
πολύς πολλή πολύ  
πονηρός –α –αν evil, painful  
πόνος –ου, ὁ work  
πορεία –ας, ἡ journey  
πορέω carry, march  
πόρος far  
ποταμός –ου, ὁ river  
ποτέ ever  
ποτέρος –α –ον which of the two?  
ποτός –η –ον drinkable  
πού somewhere  
πούς ποδός, ὁ foot  
πράγμα –ατος, τό thing  
πράξις, ‐εως, ἡ action  
πράσσω do  
πρεσβευτής –ου, ὁ old man, ambassador (rare in pl.)  
πρεσβεύω be the elder or ambassador  
πρέσβυς, πρέσβεως, ὁ ambassador (esp. in pl.), old man  
πριν before  
πρὸ + gen. before  
προάγω lead on  
προαίρεσις, ‐εως, ἡ choice, purpose  
προαιρέω prefer, choose  
πρόγονος –ου, ὁ ancestor  
προδίδωμι betray  
προερέω, προεῖπον proclaim  
προέρχομαι advance  
προθέω run forward  
προθυμία –ας, ἡ eagerness  
πρόθυμος –ον eager  
προίημι send ahead, shoot  
προίστημι set in front  
πρόνοια –ας, ἡ foresight  
πρός + dat. to, + acc. in addition to  
προσαγορεύω greet  
προσάγω put before  
προσδέχομαι accept  
πρόσειμι belong to, be present  
προσέρχομαι come or go to  
προσέχω hold to, offer  
προσηκῶ have arrived  
πρόσθεν before

προσλαμβάνω take or receive besides  
προσπίπτω fall upon, strike against  
προστάσσω place at  
προστίθημι put to  
προσφέρω bring to

πρόσωπον –ου, το face  
πρότερος –α –αν before  
πρόφασις –ου, ὁ excuse  
προφήτης –ου, ὁ prophet  
πρώτος –η –ον first  
πτερόν –ου, το wing  
πυλή –ης, ἡ gate  
πυρήνοιμαι ascertain  
πυρί, πυρός, το fire  
πωλέω sell

πώς in any way  
πώς how?

ῥᾴδιος –α –ον easy  
ῥέω flow  
ῥήτωρ, ῥήτορος, ὁ orator, speaker, politician  
ῥύθμος –ου, ὁ rhythm  
ῥώμη –ης, ἡ strength  
σαυτόν -ης yourself [reflexive]  
σαφής –ές clear  
σελήνη –ης, ἡ moon  
σημαίνω show  
σημεῖον –ου, το sign  
σίτος –ου, ὁ grain  
σκεπτομαι examine  
σκέπτομαι prepare  
σκήνη –ης, ἡ tent, stage  
σκοπέω look at  
σὸς –η –όν your, yours  
σοφία –ας, ἡ wisdom  
σοφός -η -όν wise  
σπουδάζω hurry  
σπονδή -ης, ἡ libation  
σπονδάω hurry  
σπονδή -ης, ἡ eagerness  
στάδιον –ου, το stade = 606.75 feet = roughly 1/8 of a mile  
στάσις –εως, ἡ revolution  
στέλλω send  
στερέω separate  
στέρνον –ου, το chest
στόλος
στράτευμα
στράτης
στράτιωτος
στρατιά
στρατός
στρατόπεδον
στρεφώ
σύν
σύναγω
συμβαίνω
συμβαλλω
συλλαμβάνω
συμβουλεύω
σύνειμι
συνέρχομαι
συνίστημι
συμφορά
συμμαχία
σύμμαχος
συντίθημι
συγχωρέω
συν
συνάγω
συνάπτω
συγγενής
συγκλητος
συλλαμβάνω
συμβαίνω
συμβαλλω
συλλαμβάνω
συμβουλεύω
σύνειμι
συνέρχομαι
συνίστημι
συμφορά
συμμαχία
σύμμαχος
συντίθημι
συγχωρέω
συν

σώζω save
σώμα –σώμα, τό body
σωτηρία –σωτηρία, τή safety
tάλαντον –τό, το an amount of silver worth 600
drachma
tάξις –εως, τή arrangement, order
τάσσω arrange
tαύτη in this way,
tαυρος –ου, τό bull
tαυτό = τό αυτό the same
tάφος –ου, τό tomb
tάχος –ους, τό speed
tαχύς –εία –υ quick
tε and
tεἶνω stretch
tειχέω build walls
tείχος –ους, τό wall
tεκμήριον –ου, τό evidence
tέκνον –ου, τό child
tελευταίος –α –ον last, final
tελευτάω finish, die
tελευτή –ης, τή completion, death
tελέω fulfil
tέλος –ους, τό end
tέμινω cut
tεσσαράκοντα forty
tέσσαρες –α four
tέταρτος –η –ον fourth
tετρακόσιοι –α –α four hundred
tευχώ build
tέχνη –ης, τή art, skill
tη, here, there
tηλικουτος –αυτή –ουτον of such an age or size
tηρέω watch for
tιθήμι put
tίκτω give birth
tιμάω honor
tιμή –ης, τή value
tιμωρέω help, avenge
tιμωρία –ας, τή help, vengeance
tίς τι someone, something
tίς τί who? what? which?
tοι let me tell you, for sure
tοινυν therefore
tοιούσθε, τοιάδε, τοιόνδε such a
tοιούτος, τοιαύτη, τοιότο such as this
τολμάω dare
tósoν –ou, το bow
tóπος –ou, ό place, topic
tooóde –ηδε –ονδε so much, so many
tooóntos –αυτη –ούτον) so large, so much
tóte then
tραίμα –ατος, το wound
tρεῖς τρία three
tρέξω run
tρέχω run
tρεφώ nourish
tριάκοντα thirty
tριακόσιοι so
tρίτος third
tρίβω rub
tρόπος way
tρόφη –ης, ό nourishment, food
tυγχάνω happen (+ part.) hit, meet, have (+ gen.)
tυφαννις –ιδος, η tyranny
tυφαννως –ων, ο ruler, tyrant
tύχη –ης, η luck
tύβίζω insult, offend, disrespect
tύρος –εως, η offense, disrespect, arrogance
tύγης –ες healthy
tύω, ουδατος, το water
υιός –ου, ό son
υμέτερος –α –ων your, yours
υπάτος –η –ων highest, the top of
υπέρ for (+ gen.), beyond (+ acc.)
υπερβάλλω excel
υπερβολή –ης, η excess
υπισχνέομαι promise
υπνός –ου, ύ sleep
υπό by (+ gen.), under (+ gen., dat.), down under (+ acc.)
υπακούω listen to
υπάρχω begin, exist
υπολαμβάνω take up
υπομένω stay behind, survive
υστερος –α –ων following
υψηλός –η –ων high
φαίνω show, appear
φάλαγξ –αγγος, η phalanx, battle-array
φανερός –α –ων clear
φαμακον –ου, το drug

φάσκω claim
φαύλος –η –ων trivial
φέρω carry
φεύγω flee, run away
φημί say
φθάνω anticipate
φθείρω destroy
φιλέω love
φιλία –α, η love, friendship
φιλός –α –ων friendly, dear
φίλος –η –ων beloved, dear
φοβέω terrify
φοβός –ου, ο fear
φόνος –ου, ό slaughter
φράζω tell
φρονεω think
φροντίζω think
φρονήσω guard
φυλάκη –ης, η guard
φυλλάτω hit
φυλή –ης, η tribe
φύσις voice
φωνή –ης, η nature
φώτος –εως, η light
φρουρά –άς, η guard
φρονέω think
φόβος –ου, ό fear
φοβός –ου, ό fear
φοβέω terrify
φυλακή –ης, η guard
φυλάκις –ης, η guard
φωνή –ης, η sound, voice
φωτός –εως, η light
φιλία –α, η use
χαίρω be happy
χαλέπιος –η –ων difficult
χάρις –τος, η grace, favor
χέιραν ό –ων, ό winter
χειρός, χειρος, η hand
χειρός, χειρος, ό hand
χειρών, η χειρον worse
χέω pour
χέω pour
χάλιοι –αί –α a thousand
χόω pile up, bury
χρήσιμος –η –ων useful
χρήσιμος –η –ων useful
χρόνος –ου, ὁ time
χρυσός –η –οῦν golden
χρυσός –ου, ὁ gold
χώρα –ας, ἡ land
χωρέω move
χωρίον –ου, τό place
χωρίς apart
ψευδής –ές false
ψευδώ lie, cheat
ψηφίζω vote
ψήφισμα –ατος, τό decree
ψήφος –ου, ἡ vote
ψυχή –ῆς, ἡ breath
ὦ, O! oh!
ώδε in this way
ώρα –ας, ἡ season
ώς as, since, so that (+ subj/opt), (indirect statement) that, to (+ acc.)
ώστε just as, as if
ώστε that (result)
ωφελέω help