

## FORWARD

*The conjunction of the Greek verb is undoubtedly one of the most difficult aspects of Modern Greek. Many of the somewhat unpredictable verb forms were irregular even in Classical Greek. In the course of many centuries which the linguistic development into Modern Greek represents, only a few verb forms remained the same as in Classical Greek; most underwent great changes. Some forms were simplified, some were treated like other frequently used verbs (analogy) and their erroneous formations were eventually accepted and through constant use became standard forms. Some verb forms owe their existence to dialectal influences or are loan words from foreign languages. While the verb forms of the ancient and Classical Greek language have been thoroughly investigated by scholars of many nationalities, comparatively little research has been done on the verb formations of Modern and contemporary Greek.*

*The present book does not want to tackle these difficult problems. Having taught Greek for almost 50 years, I wanted to state why the Greek verb presents such difficulty to the learner and even to many native speakers: though many simplifications have occurred, language, a living thing, cannot be regulated as if it were a machine. For some years, the spontaneous development of the spoken language, the demotiki, had been suppressed in favor of the so-called "pure" language, the katharevusa which tends to retain or revive archaic forms and orthography. In the demotiki, the infinitive is never used and has been replaced by the subjunctive.*

*The book at hand contains a list of 333 Greek verbs which are the most commonly and frequently used. Each verb is individually conjugated in both voices (active, middle-passive) and in all its moods (indicative, subjunctive, imperative). Its infinitive and participles are also given. For all verb forms English translations or appropriate equivalents are given. Short sentences are provided to illustrate their literal meaning or a peculiar idiomatic expression which may vary considerably from the original meaning.*

*I hope this book will be handy and reliable reference work and a valuable companion to students of Modern Greek.*

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