

Lesson 8: Key to Reading

main clause
 [ὄνον ἄνθρωπος ἤγε εἰς τὴν ἀγοράν].
 DO S V εἰς + acc

main clause
 [ἔφερε δὲ ὁ ὄνος ξόανον ἐπὶ νότου.]
 V S DO ἐπὶ + gen

main clause
 [πολλοὶ οὖν ἐν τῇ ὁδῷ τὸν θεὸν ἠσπάζοντο.]
 S ἐν + dat DO V

main clause *indirect statement*
 [ὁ δὲ ὄνος ἐνόμιζε] (ὡς αὐτὸς¹ σέβεται)
 S V S V

main clause
 καὶ [ἐβούλετο καταβάλλειν τὸ ξόανον].
 V complem. infinitive DO

main clause *indirect statement*
 [ἔλεγε] (ὅτι ξόανα θεοὶ οὐ φέρουσιν.)
 V DO S V

main clause *main clause*
 [ἀλλὰ ὁ δεσπότης ἔπαισε τὸν ὄνον] καὶ [ἔλεγε·]
 S V DO V

dependent clause *main clause*
 “ὦ κακὲ κεφαλῇ, (εἰ καὶ² θεὸν φέρεις,) [ὄνος εἶ καὶ οὐ θεός].
 vocative DO V PN V PN

*A man was taking a donkey to the marketplace, and the donkey was carrying on his back the carved image of a god. On the road, therefore, many men saluted the god. The donkey thought that **he** was being honored and wanted to put down the image. He said that gods do not carry statues. But the master beat the donkey and said, "O dumbhead, even if you carry a god, you are a donkey and not a god."*

Notes

1) αὐτός in the nominative is intensive. Note also that Greek does not shift the verb of the indirect statement to the past, as we do at least in written English, because the main verb is a past tense.

2) An adverbial clause = "even if, although." A condition exists but it does not hinder the fulfillment of the main clause.