

1.4 Prepositions

Gold Standard translations and commentary

1. The general set up a trophy in the marketplace.
2. They did not set up the constitution in accordance with the law.
NOTE: κατά with an object such as τὸν νόμον or τὰς σπονδὰς takes the meaning “in accordance with.”
3. The general stationed his army before the gate.
4. He was coming to the assembly with his brothers.
NOTE: Strictly speaking, without a context one cannot determine whether the brothers belong to him or not. Either he was coming with his own brothers or with brothers.
5. Hippokrates died, and the ones with him fled to Elis.
6. Helixos and Koiratidas were coming into the agora to help.
7. Thibron was not descending to the plain with his army.
NOTE: κατά gives the sense of downwards motion, here from the high ground to the plain.
8. Pharnabazos was coming to help, and he was marching to the sea with his cavalry.
9. He was leading the infantry against Methymna.
10. Thrasyllus sent away the prisoners to Athens.
NOTE: αἰχμή = “spear” so αἰχμᾶλωτος = “someone taken by the spear, a prisoner.”
11. He was approaching the gates with Meidias.
NOTE: Not εἰμί but εἶμι.
12. He led the Mysteries of the Athenians by land.
NOTE: This sentence is referring to the procession that wound its way from Athens to the deme, Eleusis, where the Eleusinian Mysteries were held. Because of the Spartan fortification of nearby Dekelea, the Athenians had been traveling by sea. With the return of Alkibiades from exile in 407, they felt confident enough of their safety to make the traditional procession by land.
13. He announced to Eteonikos what happened in the sea battle.
NOTE: τὰ περὶ τὴν ναυμαχίαν literally translates “the things concerning the sea battle.”
14. Euryptolemos proposed a bill in accordance with the law.
NOTE: γνώμη means, literally, “opinion, judgment.” In the context of the assembly (as here) it means a “proposal, motion.”
15. He made an expedition in the [neighborhood of the] Academy.
NOTE: The Academy [whence the modern word] was a gymnasium in a suburb of Athens where Plato taught and which gave its name to his school of thought.
16. They were victorious, and pursued the enemy up to the plain.
17. They were pursuing the men to the theater.
18. The Boiotarchs threw him down from the altar.
NOTE: Boiotarchs are magistrates in Boiotia, the region that contains the city of Thebes.

19. Agesilaos was spending time in Ephesos.
20. By chance, Pharnabazos' men were going up onto the ridge.