With approximately one hundred different English translations of the Bible already published,1 the reader may well wonder why yet another English version has been produced. Those actually engaged in the work of translating the Bible might answer that the quest for increased accuracy, the incorporation of new scholarly discoveries in the fields of semantics, lexicography, linguistics, new archaeological discoveries, and the continuing evolution of the English language all contribute to the need for producing new translations. But in the case of the Lexham English Bible (LEB), the answer to this question is much simpler; in fact, it is merely twofold.

First, the LEB achieves an unparalleled level of transparency with the original language text because the LEB had as its starting point the *Lexham Greek-English Interlinear New Testament*. It was produced with the specific purpose of being used alongside the original language text of the Bible. Existing translations, however excellent they may be in terms of English style and idiom, are frequently so far removed from the original language texts of scripture that straightforward comparison is difficult for the average user. Of course distance between the original language text and the English translation is not a criticism of any modern English translation. To a large extent this distance is the result of the philosophy of translation chosen for a particular English version, and it is almost always the result of an attempt to convey the meaning of the original in a clearer and more easily understandable way to the contemporary reader. However, there are many readers, particularly those who have studied some biblical Greek, who desire a translation that facilitates straightforward and easy comparisons between the translation and the original language text. The ability to make such comparisons easily in software formats like Logos Bible Software makes the need for an English translation specifically designed for such comparison even more acute.

Second, the LEB is designed from the beginning to make extensive use of the most up-to-date lexical reference works available. For the New Testament this is primarily the third edition of Walter Bauer’s *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (BDAG). Users can be assured that the LEB as a translation is based on the best scholarly research available. The Greek text on which the LEB New Testament is based is that of *The Greek New Testament: SBL Edition* (SBLGNT), a new edition produced by Michael W. Holmes in conjunction with the Society of Biblical Literature and Logos Bible Software. In its evaluation of textual variation, the SBLGNT uses modern text-critical methodology along with guidance from the most recently available articles, monographs and technical commentaries to establish the text of the Greek New Testament.

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1 This figure includes translations of the New Testament alone. For one of the most comprehensive lists, see Wikipedia (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_English_Bible_translations).
Naturally, when these two factors are taken into consideration, it should not be surprising that the character of the LEB as a translation is fairly literal. This is a necessary by-product of the desire to have the English translation correspond transparently to the original language text. Nevertheless, a serious attempt has been made within these constraints to produce a clear and readable English translation instead of a woodenly literal one.²

The reader should remember that any Bible translation, to be useful to the person using it, must actually be read. I would encourage every user of the LEB, whether reading it alongside the original languages text or not, to remember that once we understand the meaning of a biblical text we are responsible to apply it first in our own lives, and then to share it with those around us.

W. Hall Harris III
General Editor
Lexham English Bible

For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any double-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, both joints and marrow, and able to judge the reflections and thoughts of the heart.

(Heb 4:12 LEB)

² A small amount of foreignness in a Bible translation is not necessarily a bad thing, because it reminds us that we are reading an ancient text from a different culture. Not only do the linguistic constructions differ considerably from our own, but the cultural presuppositions and assumptions differ as well. I am not convinced that, as a reader of the Bible in the early twenty-first century, I am particularly well-served if Paul comes across sounding like an op-ed columnist in the newspaper or Luke sounds like the anchor of a cable news channel on television. Clarity in translation is one thing, but obliterating the cultural distance that separate the modern reader from the first century is something else again.
INTRODUCTION TO THE SBL GREEK NEW TESTAMENT

The Text

The SBL Greek New Testament (sblgnt) is a new edition of the Greek New Testament, established with the help of earlier editions. In particular, four editions of the Greek New Testament were utilized as primary resources in the process of establishing the sblgnt. These editions (and their abbreviations) are:

WH Brooke Foss Westcott and Fenton John Anthony Hort, The New Testament in the Original Greek, vol. 1: Text; vol. 2: Introduction [and] Appendix (Cambridge: Macmillan, 1881). This justly famous and widely influential nineteenth-century edition of the Greek New Testament was one of the key texts used in the creation of the original Nestle text¹ and was used as the initial basis of comparison in the creation of the United Bible Societies’ Greek New Testament.²

Treg Samuel Prideaux Tregelles, The Greek New Testament, Edited from Ancient Authorities, with their Various Readings in Full, and the Latin Version of Jerome (London: Bagster; Stewart, 1857–1879). Although the fine edition of Tregelles has been overshadowed by that of his close contemporaries Westcott and Hort, his textual judgments reveal a “consistency of view and breadth of appreciation” of all the available textual evidence not always as evident in the work of his major nineteenth-century colleagues, who display (to varying degrees) a tendency toward a preoccupation with the latest “big discovery” (Ephraemi Rescriptus/04 in the case of Lachmann, Sinaiticus/01 in the case of Tischendorf, and Vaticanus/03 in the case of Westcott and Hort).³ Tregelles offers a discerning alternative perspective alongside Westcott and Hort.

NIV Richard J. Goodrich and Albert L. Lukaszewski, A Reader’s Greek New Testament (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003). This edition presents the Greek text behind the New International Version⁴ as reconstructed by Edward Goodrick and John

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Kohlenberger III. It thus represents the textual choices made by the Committee on Bible Translation, the international group of scholars responsible for the NIV translation. According to its editors, this edition differs from the United Bible Societies/Nestle-Aland editions of the Greek New Testament at 231 places.

RP


**Establishing the Text**

The starting point for the SBLGNT was the edition of Westcott and Hort. First, the WH text was modified to match the orthographic standards of the SBLGNT (described below). Next, the modified version was compared to the other three primary editions (Treg, NIV, and RP) in order to identify points of agreement and disagreement between them. Where all four editions agreed, the text was tentatively accepted as the text of the SBL edition; points of disagreement were marked for further consideration. The editor then worked systematically through the entire text, giving particular attention to the points of disagreement but examining as well the text where all four editions were in agreement. Where there was disagreement among the four editions, the editor determined which variant to print as the text; occasionally a reading not found in any of the four editions commended itself as the most probable representative of the text and therefore was adopted. Similarly, where all four texts were in agreement, the editor determined whether to accept that reading or to adopt an alternative variant as the text. In this manner, the text of the SBLGNT was established.

**Orthography and Related Matters**

The orthography of this edition (including accents and breathings) follows that of the Bauer-Danker-Árndt-Gingrich lexicon (BDAG). This includes both text and apparatus: entries in the apparatus generally have been conformed to the orthography of BDAG.

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5 A second edition published by the same editors and publisher in 2007 (reviewed and modified by Gordon Fee) presents the Greek text behind the TNIV translation.
8 Or, to put the matter a bit more precisely, which variant most likely represents the form in which the text first began to be copied and to circulate.
9 In all, there are fifty-six variation units in the SBLGNT where the editor preferred a reading not found in any of the four primary editions. In thirty-eight of those instances, the editor’s preferred reading is also read by WHmarg (30x) and/or Tregmarg (2x) and/or NA (10x).
10 Occasionally breathings are as much a matter of interpretation as of lexicography. In agreement with a minority of the membership of the UBS Editorial Committee (see Bruce M. Metzger, *A Textual Commentary on The Greek New Testament* [London: United Bible Societies, 1971], 616 [a discussion of Phil 3:21 not found in the second edition]), the SBLGNT occasionally prints a rough breathing on forms of αὐτός.
regardless of the spelling of the source edition.

With regard to elision (e.g., ἀλλʼ for ἀλλά), crasis (e.g., καὶ ἐγὼ for καὶ ἐγώ), movable ν, and the interchange between first aorist and second aorist verb endings, the text of Westcott and Hort has been followed. As in the case of orthography, this guideline generally applies to the apparatus as well as the text.

**Capitalization**

Capitalization follows the pattern of the third edition of *The Apostolic Fathers: Greek Texts and English Translations*, which capitalizes (1) the first word of a paragraph; (2) the first word of direct speech; and (3) proper nouns. Occasionally capitalization in a variant reading in the apparatus may follow that of the source edition.

**Verse Division, Punctuation, and Paragraphing**

The verse divisions follow those of the Nestle-Aland/United Bible Societies Greek texts throughout. Differences between editions have not been recorded.

Punctuation generally follows that of Westcott and Hort. Regular exceptions include instances where a textual decision or the adoption of NRSV paragaphing required a corresponding change in punctuation. Where Westcott and Hort employed two consecutive punctuation marks (such as a comma following or preceding a dash; see 1 Tim 1:5, 2:7), these have been reduced to a single mark. A high point has been added before direct speech if no other punctuation is present. Occasionally other changes have been made as required by context.

Paragraphing generally follows the pattern of the NRSV. Conflicts between NRSV paragaphing and Westcott and Hort punctuation have been resolved on a contextual basis.

Michael W. Holmes
General Editor
SBL Greek New Testament

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13 A category that offers, to be sure, numerous opportunities for differences of opinion.
14 A partial exception occurs at the end of Acts 19, where (in accordance with some editions and many recent translations) a forty-first verse number has been placed in the text, but in brackets ([41]), to indicate uncertainty regarding its status.
15 For example, at the end of Phil 1:18, WH’s punctuation was given preference over the NRSV paragraph break, whereas at Phil 2:14 the NRSV paragraphing was followed rather than the WH punctuation (which was changed accordingly).
Reverse interlinears are relatively new tools for students of the Bible, but connecting the original language with its translation is not a new concept. One of the earliest printed editions of the Greek New Testament, the Complutensian Polyglot, used a complex system of superscript letters to connect words in the original Greek with the representative words in the supplied Latin translation.

This reverse interlinear is like the example of the Complutensian Polyglot, where the text of the Greek is linked together with an actual, readable translation of the Greek text. In the case of the *LEB Greek-English Reverse Interlinear New Testament*, the Greek of the *SBL Greek New Testament* (sblgnt) is linked with the New Testament of the *Lexham English Bible* (LEB).

### Structure of the Reverse Interlinear

In the alignment of the English text with the Greek text, the order of the English translation is kept. This allows the *LEB Greek-English Reverse Interlinear New Testament* to be used and read as a normal English translation or used as a normal study edition. The order of the Greek words, however, is also preserved through the use of subscript numbers after each Greek word. This allows one to reassemble the Greek text as necessary.

The reverse interlinear itself is comprised of five lines of information:

- English Translation (from the LEB)
- Greek Edition (from the sblgnt)
- Transliteration of the Greek Edition
- Greek Parsing Codes (from the Logos Greek Morphology)
- Strongs Number (from the Logos Greek Morphology)

An example is found in Matthew 5:13a:

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“You are the salt of the earth.
Ὑμεῖς ἐστε τὸ ἅλας τῆς γῆς
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In this example, the word order of the English translation is close to that of the Greek, as indicated by the subscript numbers adjacent to the Greek words. In the Greek, the word “of” is connected with the word translated “earth,” this is indicated by the arrow pointing to the number of the Greek word.
Symbols of the Reverse Interlinear

In addition to the alignment of terms, several symbols are used to indicate further relationships between the English and Greek text.

- An arrow shows the source of one English word in a group
- A dot indicates an ellipsis or redundancy
- Brackets show a group of Greek words translated by a single English word or phrase
- A triangle shows the source of one English word when it is separated from its group
- English italics show an English phrase that is idiomatic or cannot be connected to any single Greek word

The relationship between Greek and English, as between any two languages, is sufficiently complex that these symbols, while adequate, do fall short at times. The primary intent of the alignment is to show the Greek words or phrases that lie behind particular English words or phrases. This alignment cannot be seen as justification for a particular translation, but should instead be used as a tool to dig deeper from the English translation into the underlying Greek.

A Concluding Word

Some may say that an alignment such as this will only perpetuate improper word study and exegesis, allowing those who know little of the language of the New Testament to think and do more than they should, with improper practice or poor theology as the result. I say a person’s reach should exceed their grasp; my own reach has certainly been pressed in creating alignments such as these. And I am better for it.

Thanks to W. Hall Harris and also to Michael W. Holmes for their precise, rigorous work in creating the Lexham English Bible and the SBL Greek New Testament. And thanks to Michael Heiser, Academic Editor for Logos Bible Software, for asking me to do this alignment.

Thanks also to my sweetheart and wife, Amy, without whose encouragement and support I would have never taken on projects such as this.

Rick Brannan
Alignment Editor
LEB English-Greek Reverse Interlinear New Testament
GUIDE TO THE MORPHOLOGICAL CODES

Each Greek word in the New Testament has been assigned a morphological code that represents information about the parsing or declension of the word. These codes are a concise method to annotate certain valuable information about the role of each word in the sentence. This section provides information on expanding the codes; on turning NASM into “Noun, Accusative, Singular, Masculine.”

Bottom-of-the-Page Morphological Information

Each two-page spread contains, at its foot, a short list of abbreviations to help expand the morphological codes without needing to return to this longer listing. The bottom left page provides abbreviations for non-verb items and the bottom right provides information for verb tense, voice and mood. Types of code are delimited by a bullet.

Parts of Speech

The following parts of speech are supported in the Logos Bible Software Greek morphological scheme. The upper-case bold letter represents the one-letter code that represents the word in the scheme. If the letter representing the term is not found in the word, it follows in parentheses.

Part of speech is always the first field in the morphological code. It determines which fields are acceptable for the balance of the code set.

- adJective
- Noun
- Definite article
- pronoun
- Verb
- Conjunction
- adverB
- Interjection
- Preposition
- parTicle
- indeclinable (X)

The different fields encoded will be listed, but because each of these have some overlap (e.g., case, number, and gender are present with several different parts of speech) the definition of contents of each field will be discussed after each part of speech has been discussed.
Adjective

Adjectives contain the following fields:

- Case
- Number
- Gender
- Degree (optional)

Noun

Nouns contain the following fields:

- Case
- Number
- Gender

Articles

Articles contain the following fields:

- Case
- Number
- Gender

Pronouns

Pronouns contain the following fields:

- Pronoun-type
- Person (a dash ‘-’ specifies no value)
- Case
- Number
- Gender
- Pronoun-subtype (only valid with “personal” pronouns)

Verbs

Verbs contain the following fields:

- Tense
- Voice
- Mood (a dash ‘-’ specifies no value)
- Person
- Number
- Case (optional)
- Gender (optional)

Conjunctions

Conjunctions contain the following fields:

- Conjunction Type
- Conjunction Subtype
Adverbs

Adverbs contain the following fields:

- Adverb Type

Particles

Particles contain the following fields:

- Particle Type

Indeclinable Words

Words that are indeclinable have the following fields:

- Indeclinable Type

Other Parts of Speech

The following parts of speech are only tagged for their part of speech.

- Interjection
- Preposition

Part of Speech Field Information

The following field-types are used above.

- Case
- Number
- Gender
- Degree
- Tense
- Voice
- Mood
- Person
- Number
- Pronoun-type
- Pronoun-subtype
- Conjunction-type
- Conjunction-subtype
- Particle-type
- Adverb-type
- Indeclinable-type

The contents of these fields are defined below. As with the part of speech codes above, an upper-cased bold letter indicates the proper code.

Case

The following cases are supported.

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1 The Adverb Type and Particle Type lists are equivalent.
• Nominative
• Dative
• Genitive
• Accusative
• Vocative

Number

The following numbers are supported.
- Singular
- Plural
- Dual

Gender

The following genders are supported.
- Masculine
- Feminine
- Neuter

Person

The following persons are supported. Person is unique in using a number instead of a letter for its code.
- First Person (1)
- Second Person (2)
- Third Person (3)

Pronoun-type

The following pronoun types are supported.
- Relative
- reCiprocal
- Demonstrative
- correlative (K)
- Interrogative
- indefinite (X)
- reFlexive
- poSsessive
- Personal

Pronoun-subtype

The following pronoun subtypes are supported for Personal pronouns only.
- intensive Atributive
- intensive Predicative
Degree

The following degrees are supported. This field is always optional.

- **Comparative**
- **Superlative**
- **Other**

Conjunction-type

The following conjunction-type values are supported.

- **Logical**
- **Adverbial**
- **Substantival**

Conjunction-subtype

The following conjunction-subtype values are supported. These are context-dependent, the subtype value depends on the conjunction-type value.

*Logical*

- **Ascensive**
- **conNnective**
- **Contrastive**
- **correlative (K)**
- **Disjunctive**
- **emPhatic**
- **eXplanatory**
- **Inferential**
- **Transitional**

*Adverbial*

- **causal (Z)**
- **comParative**
- **conNcessive**
- **Conditional**
- **Declarative**
- **Local**
- **Purpose**
- **Result**
- **Temporal**

*Substantival*

- **Content**
- **Epexegetical**

*Adverb-type*

The following adverb-types are supported.
• Conditional
• Correlative (K)
• Emphatic
• indefinite (X)
• Interrogative
• Negative
• Place
• Superlative

Particle-type

The following particle-types are supported.

• Conditional
• Correlative (K)
• Emphatic
• indefinite (X)
• Interrogative
• Negative
• Place
• Superlative

Indeclinable-type

The following types of indeclinable words are supported.

• Letter
• Proper noun
• Numeral
• Foreign word
• Other

Tense

The following types of tense are supported.

• Present
• Imperfect
• Future
• future-perfect
• Aorist
• perfect
• perfect

Voice

The following types of voice are supported.

• Active
• Middle
• Passive
• middle-passive (U, that is, it may be either middle or passive, or it is ‘undeterminable’ or a ‘union’)
The following types of moods are supported.

- **Indicative**
- **Subjunctive**
- **Optative**
- **Imperative**
- **Infinitive**
- **Participle**

Participles are treated as verbs, there is no distinction as to whether they are substantive.