Greek Resources

The Dual

In the early years of the Greek language, some of the Greek dialects used a form known as the "Dual" when speaking of a pair of objects. So there were three "numbers" - singular (speaking of one), dual (speaking of a pair), and plural (speaking of more than one).

The plural supplanted the dual at an early stage in the history of the language.

Homer uses the dual occasionally, but not consistently.

The Aeolic dialect did not have a dual. The Ionic dialect lost the dual at a very early stage. The Attic dialect lost the dual by 300 BC.

Nouns, Adjectives, Participles : The dual has identical endings for
the Nominative, Vocative and Accusative; and for
the Genitive and Dative.

Typical endings : Nouns

	First Declension	**Second Declension**	**Third Declension**
Sing. Nom. Dual : N.V.A. Dual : G.D.	νικη - victory νικα νικαιν	ὀφθαλμος - eye ὀφθαλμω ὀφθαλμοιν	χειρ - hand χειρε χειροιν
Sing. Nom. Dual : N.V.A. Dual : G.D.	γλωττα - tongue[1] γλωττα γλωτταιν	ἱππος - horse ἱππω ἱπποιν	θηρ - wild beast θηρε θηροιν
Sing. Nom. Dual : N.V.A. Dual : G.D.	νεανιας - young man νεανια νεανιαιν	δωρον - gift δωρω δωροιν	πατηρ - father πατερε πατεροιν
Sing. Nom. Dual : N.V.A. Dual : G.D.	κριτης - judge κριτα κριταιν	ὁδος - way ὁδω ὁδοιν	ἀνηρ - man ἀνδρε ἀνδροιν
Sing. Nom. Dual : N.V.A. Dual : G.D.	Ἀτρειδης - son of Atreus Ἀτρειδα Ἀτρειδαιν	νεως, ναος - temple[2] νεω, νηω[3] νεων, νηοιν[3]	γενος - tribe γενει (γενε−ε) γενοιν (γενε−οιν)
Sing. Nom. Dual : N.V.A. Dual : G.D.		υἱος - son υἱει υἱεοιν	ἡρως - hero ἡρωε ἡρωοιν
Sing. Nom. Dual : N.V.A. Dual : G.D.			βασιλευς - king βασιλη βασιλεοιν

(1) γλωττα was the early form. By the time of the NT this had become γλωσσα

(2) νεως was the Attic form, ναος was the form in Κοινη Homer sometimes uses νηος

(3) νεω, νεων were the Attic forms, νηω, νηοιν were the Ionic forms

NOTE - Homer also uses the forms −οιιν and −αιιν for Dual Genitive/Dative endings.
Homer uses variant spellings for many words.

A dual subject may take a dual or plural verb; a neuter dual may take a dual, singular, or plural verb.

A plural subject may take a dual verb if the subject is a pair.

A plural participle may be used with a dual verb, and a dual participle may be used with a plural verb.

A dual subject may be followed by a plural predicate adjective or participle.

Typical endings : Adjectives

Sing. Nom. Dual : N.V.A. Dual : G.D.	ἀγαθος −η −ον - good ἀγαθω −α −ω ἀγαθοιν −αιν −οιν	μεγας μεγαλη μεγα - great μεγαλω μεγαλα μεγαλω μεγαλοιν μεγαλαιν μεγαλοιν
Sing. Nom. Dual : N.V.A. Dual : G.D.	ἀξιος −α −ον - worthy ἀξιω −α −ω ἀξιοιν −αιν −οιν	μειζων μειζον - greater μειζονε μειζονε μειζονοιν μειζονοιν
Sing. Nom. Dual : N.V.A. Dual : G.D.	ἀληθης −ες - true ἀληθει −ει ἀληθοιν −οιν	ταχυς ταχεια ταχυ - swift ταχε−ε ταχεια ταχε−ε ταχε−οιν ταχειαιν ταχε−οιν

Typical endings : Participles

Sing. Nom. Dual : N.V.A. Dual : G.D.	ὠν οὐσα ὀν - being ὀντε οὐσα ὀντε ὀντοιν οὐσαιν ὀντοιν	τιθεις τιθεισα τιθεν - placing τιθεντε τιθεισα τιθεντε τιθεντοιν τιθεισαιν τιθεντοιν
Sing. Nom. Dual : N.V.A. Dual : G.D.	λυων −ουσα −ον - loosing λυοντε −ουσα −οντε λυοντοιν −ουσαιν −οντοιν	διδους διδουσα διδον - giving διδοντε διδουσα διδοντε διδοντοιν διδουσαιν διδοντοιν
Sing. Nom. Dual : N.V.A. Dual : G.D.	λυσας λυσασα λυσαν - having loosed λυσαντε λυσασα λυσαντε λυσαντοιν λυσασαιν λυσαντοιν	λελυκως λελυκυια λελυκον - having loosed λελυκοτε λελυκυια λελυκοτε λελυκοτοιν λελυκυιαιν λελυκτοιν
Sing. Nom. Dual : N.V.A. Dual : G.D.		εἰδως εἰδυια εἰδος - knowing εἰδοτε εἰδυια εἰδοτε εἰδοτοιν εἰδυιαιν εἰδοτοιν

Pronouns, The Definite Article

Sing. Nom. Dual : N.V.A. Dual : G.D.	ἐγω - I[1] νω - we two[1] νων	αὐτος αὐτη αὐτο - he, she, it αὐτω αὐτα αὐτω αὐτοιν αὐταιν αὐτοιν	ὁ ἡ το - the τω τω τω τοιν τοιν τοιν
Sing. Nom. Dual : N.V.A. Dual : G.D.	συ - you[2] σφω - you two σφων	οὑτος αὑτη τουτο - this τούτω τούτω τούτω τουτοιν τουτοιν τουτοιν	ὁς ἡ ὁ - who, which ὡ ὡ ὡ οἱν οἱν οἱν
Sing. Nom. Dual : N.V.A. Dual : G.D.		ἐκεινος ἐκεινη ἐκεινο - that ἐκεινω ἐκεινω ἐκεινω ἐκεινοιν ἐκεινοιν ἐκεινοιν	τις τι - someone τινε τινε τινοιν τινοιν

(1) Homer has ἐγω, ἐγων, NVA νωϊ, νω ; GD νωϊν

(2) Homer has συ, τυνη, NVA σφωϊ, σφω, σφωε; GD σφωϊν, σφων

Verbs

The First Person Dual is the same as the First Person Plural except for a few instances in poetry.
The forms of the Second and Third Persons Dual are identical or very similar to each other.

Tense, Mood, Voice	Person	
Primary tenses Indicative Active, and Subjunctive Active	2 3	−τον −τον
Secondary tenses Indicative Active, and Optative Active	2 3	−τον −την
Primary tenses Indicative Middle/Passive, and Subjunctive Middle/Passive	2 3	−σθον −σθον
Secondary tenses Indicative Middle/Passive, and Optative Middle/Passive	2 3	−στον −σθην
Imperative Active	2 3	−τον −των
Imperative Middle/Passive	2 3	−σθον −σθων

Tense, Mood, Voice	Pers.	λυω I loose	τιθημι I place	διδωμι I give	εἰμι I am
Present Indicative Active	2 3	λυετον λυετον	τιθετον τιθετον	διδοτον διδοτον	᾿ιτον ᾿ιτον
Future Indicative Active	2 3	λυσετον λυσετον			
Imperfect Indicative Active	2 3	ἐλυετον **ἐλυετην**	ἐτιθετον **ἐτιθετην**	ἐδιδοτον **ἐδιδοτην**	ἠτον **ἠτην**
Aorist Indicative Active	2 3	ἐλυσατον **ἐλυσατην**	ἐθετον **ἐθετην**	ἐδοσθον **ἐδοσθην**	
Perfect Indicative Active	2 3	λελυκατον λελυκατον			
Pluperfect Indicative Active	2 3	ἐλελυκατον **ἐλελυκατην**			
Present Subjunctive Active	2 3	λυητον λυητον	τιθητον τιθητον	διδωτον διδωτον	᾿ιητον ᾿ιητον
Aorist Subjunctive Active	2 3	λυσητον λυσητον	θητον θητον	δωσον δωσον	
Perfect Subjunctive Active	2 3	λελυκητον λελυκητον			
Present Optative Active	2 3	λυοιτον **λυοιτην**	τιθειτον **τιθειτην**	διδοιτον **διδοιτην**	᾿ιοιτον ᾿**ιοιτην**
Future Optative Active	2 3	λυσοιτον **λυσοιτην**			
Aorist Optative Active	2 3	λυσαιτον **λυσαιτην**	θειτον **θειτην**	δοιτον **δοιτην**	
Perfect Optative Active	2 3	λελυκοιτον **λελυκοιτην**			
Present Imperative Active	2 3	λυετον **λυετων**	τιθετον **τιθετων**	διδοτον **διδοτων**	᾿ιτον ᾿**ιτων**
Aorist Imperative Active	2 3	λυσατον **λυσατων**	θετον **θετων**	δοτον **δοτων**	
Present Indicative Middle	2 3	λυεσθον λυεσθον	τιθεσθον τιθεσθον	διδοσθον διδοσθον	
Future Indicative Middle	2 3	λυσεσθον λυσεσθον			
Imperfect Indicative Middle	2 3	ἐλυεσθον ἐλυεσθον			
Aorist Indicative Middle	2 3	ἐλυσασθον **ἐλυσασθην**	ἐθεσθον **ἐθεσθην**	ἐδοσθον **ἐδοσθην**	
Perfect Indicative Middle	2 3	λελυσθον λελυσθον			
Pluperfect Indicative Middle	2 3	ἐλελυσθον ἐλελυσθον			
Present Subjunctive Middle	2 3	λυησθον λυησθον	τιθησθον τιθησθον	διδωσθον διδωσθον	
Aorist Subjunctive Middle	2 3	λυσθησθον λυσθησθον	θησθον θησθον	δωσθον δωσθον	
Present Optative Middle	2 3	λυοισθον **λυοισθην**	τιθεισθον **τιθεισθην**	διδοισθον **διδοισθην**	
Future Optative Middle	2 3	λυσοισθον **λυσοισθην**			
Aorist Optative Middle	2 3	λυσαισθον **λυσαισθην**	θεισθον **θεισθην**	δοισθον **δοισθην**	
Present Imperative Middle	2 3	λυεσθον **λυεσθων**	τιθεσθον **τιθεσθων**	διδοσθον **διδοσθων**	
Aorist Imperative Middle	2 3	λυσασθον **λυσασθων**	θεσθον **θεσθων**	δοσθον **δοσθων**	
Future Indicative Passive	2 3	λυθησεσθον λυθησεσθον			
Aorist Indicative Passive	2 3	ἐλυθητον **ἐλυθητην**			
Aorist Subjunctive Passive	2 3	λυθητον λυθητον			
Aorist Imperative Passive	2 3	λυθητον **λυθητων**			