

Chapter 10

Adjectives - Part 1

10.1 Adjectives are used to describe or amplify nouns.

e.g. the **good** student, the **black** coat, **wise** men, a **smart** woman

English adjectives always keep the same form, regardless of the gender of the noun they are describing, or whether it is singular or plural.

Greek adjectives, like Greek nouns, have sets of endings which show the grammatical gender, the case, and the number (singular or plural).

A Greek adjective will always agree with (show the same gender, case, and number as) the noun it is describing.

The majority of Greek adjectives have the same set of endings as the First Declension for Feminine nouns, and the same set of endings as the Second Declension for Masculine and Neuter nouns. These adjectives are referred to as 2-1-2 Adjectives. We have already learned all the endings for typical 2-1-2 adjectives. There are some slight variations, corresponding to the variations in the First Declension Feminine nouns.

10.2 Adjectives with endings **-ος, -η, -ον** : The stem ends in a consonant other than a rho.

e.g. ἀγαθος, ἀγαθη, ἀγαθον - good

	Case	Masculine	Feminine	Neuter
Singular	Nominative	ἀγαθος	ἀγαθη	ἀγαθον
	Accusative	ἀγαθον	ἀγαθην	ἀγαθον
	Genitive	ἀγαθου	ἀγαθης	ἀγαθου
	Dative	ἀγαθῳ	ἀγαθῇ	ἀγαθῷ
Plural	Nominative	ἀγαθοι	ἀγαθαι	ἀγαθα
	Accusative	ἀγαθους	ἀγαθας	ἀγαθα
	Genitive	ἀγαθων	ἀγαθων	ἀγαθων
	Dative	ἀγαθοις	ἀγαθαις	ἀγαθοις

I find it easiest to learn this table going across, rather than down, the columns, and working up to speed and rhythm like a railway train.

Practice - until you can read and translate easily

1. ὁ ἀγαθος ἀνθρωπος ἀγαπα τους ἀδελφους αὐτου. The good man loves his brothers.
2. ἡ ἀγαθη ἀδελφη ἀγαπα τους ἀδελφους αὐτης. The good sister loves her brothers.
3. το ἀγαθον παιδιον ἀγαπα τας ἀδελφας αὐτου. The good child loves his sisters.
4. ὁ ἀνθρωπος ἀγαπα τους ἀγαθους ἀδελφους. The man loves the good brothers.
5. ὁ ἀνθρωπος οὐ πλανα τας ἀγαθας ἀδελφας. The man does not lead the good sisters astray.
6. οἱ ἀγαθοι ἀνθρωποι ἀγαπωσιν τους ἀδελφους. The good men love the brothers.
7. ἀγαπωσιν αἱ ἀγαθαι ἀδελφαι τον ἀδελφον αὐτων ; Do the good sisters love their brother?
8. γραφω ἐπιστολην τη ἀγαθη ἀδελφῃ. I write a letter to the good sister.
9. βλεπεις την ἀδελφην του ἀγαθου ἀδελφου. You (singular) see the sister of the good brother.
10. ἀναγινωσκετε την ἐπιστολην της ἀγαθης ἀδελφης. You read the letter of the good sister.

10.3 Adjectives with endings **-ος, -α, -ον** : The stem ends in a vowel or a rho.

e.g. ἄξιος, ἄξια, ἄξιον - worthy

	Case	Masculine	Feminine	Neuter
Singular	Nominative	ἄξιος	ἄξια	ἄξιον
	Accusative	ἄξιον	ἄξιαν	ἄξιον
	Genitive	ἄξιου	ἄξιας	ἄξιου
	Dative	ἄξιῳ	ἄξια	ἄξιῳ
Plural	Nominative	ἄξιοι	ἄξιαι	ἄξια
	Accusative	ἄξιοις	ἄξιας	ἄξια
	Genitive	ἄξιων	ἄξιων	ἄξιων
	Dative	ἄξιοις	ἄξιας	ἄξιοις

Practice - until you can read and translate easily

1. ὁ ἅγιος ἄγγελος λεγει τῷ πιστῷ λαῷ. The holy angel speaks to the faithful people.
2. ὁ πιστος λαος ἀναγινωσκει τα ἅγια βιβλια. The faithful people read the holy books.
3. οἱ ἅγιοι ἄγγελοι ἐν τῷ οὐρανῷ ἦσαν. The holy angels were in heaven.
4. βλεπετε τους ἅγιους ἄγγελους; Do you see the holy angels?
5. Ναι, βλεπομεν τους ἅγιους ἄγγελους. Yes, we see the holy angels.
6. το πονηρον δαιμονιον βλασφημει τον Ἰησουν. The evil demon blasphemes Jesus.
7. βλεπεις την μικραν οἰκιαν ἐν τῷ ἀγρῷ; Do you see the little house in the field?
8. Οὐ. οὐ βλεπω την μικραν οἰκιαν. No. I don't see the little house.
9. ἀγαπας τας ἅγιας ἀδελφας. You (singular) love the holy sisters.
10. ἡ ἕτερα ἀδελφη ἀγαπα το μικρον παιδιον. The other sister loves the small child.

10.4 Position of Adjectives

Because of the flexibility of the Greek sentence, adjectives can occur in several positions relative to the noun they describe.

- i. If there is no Definite Article with the noun, the adjective can come either before or after the noun.

e.g. "A holy angel" can be ἅγιος ἄγγελος
or ἄγγελος ἅγιος

- ii. If there is a Definite Article, the article is immediately before the adjective.

The adjective and the article are in the **attributive position**

e.g. "The holy angel" can be ὁ ἅγιος ἄγγελος
or ὁ ἄγγελος ὁ ἅγιος
"the angel, the holy (one)"

This is similar to what we have already met in

Πατερ ἡμων ὁ ἐν τοις οὐρανοις - ἐν τοις οὐρανοις is describing where the Father is

Practice - until you can read and translate easily

1. το δενδρον το μικρον ἐστιν ἐν τῷ ἀγρῷ. The small tree is in the field.
2. ἦσαν οἱ λεπροι οἱ πτωχοι ἐν τῷ οἴκῳ; Were the poor lepers in the house?
3. βλεπεις το ποτηριον το μικρον. You (singular) see the small cup.
4. αὐτοι τηρουσιν την ἐντολην την καινην. They keep the new commandment.
5. ὁ υἱος ὁ ἀγαπητος γραφει ἐπιστολας. The beloved son writes letters.
6. ἀνθρωποι σοφοι οὐ λεγουσιν
δαιμονιους πονηροισ. Wise men do not speak
to evil demons.
7. ὁ Ἰησους ποιει την καινην διαθηκην. Jesus makes the new covenant.
8. ὁ θεος ὁ ἅγιος ἐχει ἐξουσιαν ἐπι της γης. The holy God has authority over the earth.
9. ὁ Λουκας ἦν ἐν τῷ ἰδιῷ οἴκῳ. Luke was in his own house.
10. ὁ Παυλος γραφει την ἐπιστολην την καλην. Paul writes the good letter.

10.5 Predicate use of Adjectives

So far we have used adjectives in an **attributive** manner,
e.g. a black dog, a small cat, the good student, true words

ὁ ἄνθρωπος ὁ ἀγαθος The good man (The man, the good one . . .)
ὁ ἀγαθος ἄνθρωπος The good man

Now we meet the **predicate** use,
e.g. The dog is black. The cat is small. The students are good. The words are true.

See Chapter 5 to review the verb εἶμι, and Section 5.4 to review the Predicate.

εἶμι and other copulative verbs do not have an object, but a complement.

ὁ ἄνθρωπος ἐστὶν ἀγαθος. The man is good.
ἀγαθος ἐστὶν ὁ ἄνθρωπος. The man is good.

NOTE that both ἄνθρωπος and ἀγαθος are in the Nominative.

ἀγαθος is not in the Accusative, so it is not the object of the verb.

There is no object to a copulative verb, but there is a complement which is in the same case as the subject.

NOTE also that there is no Definite Article immediately before the adjective.

This gives a clear distinction between the **attributive use** and the **predicate use** of an adjective.

Because Greek can make this distinction, the copulative verb will sometimes be omitted, and the resulting sentence will read like a newspaper headline.

ὁ ἄνθρωπος ἀγαθος. "The man good" : The man is good.
ἀγαθος ὁ ἄνθρωπος. "Good the man" : The man is good.

Practice - until you can read and translate easily

1. ὁ Χριστος ἀξιος. Christ is worthy.
2. ἀξια ἡ Μαρια. Mary is worthy.
3. οἱ πρεσβυτεροι εἰσιν ἀξιοι. The elders are worthy.
4. αἱ ἀδελφαι ἀξια εἰσιν. The sisters are worthy.
5. το παιδιον ἀξιον ; Is the child is worthy.
6. τα δαιμονια οὐκ ἀξια ἐστιν. The demons are not worthy.
7. οἱ ἄνθρωποι μακαριοι ἦσαν. The men were happy.
8. μικρον το τεκνον. The child is small.
9. ἦν ὁ ἄνθρωπος ἀξιος ; Was the man worthy?
10. ὁ ἄνθρωπος ὁ κακος οὐκ ἀξιος ἦν. The bad man was not worthy.

10.6 Adjectives with no separate Feminine endings

There are a few adjectives which do not have separate masculine and feminine forms - they have only a masculine/feminine and a neuter set of endings.

This group includes all adjectives starting with the negative prefix ἀ-, and also αἰώνιος (eternal, ageless)

Practice - until you can read and translate easily

1. ἡ ἀδελφη ἀδικος ἐστιν. The sister is unrighteous.
2. αἱ ἀδελφαι οὐκ ἀδικοι ἦσαν. The sisters were not unrighteous.
3. ἀκαθαρος ἡ καρδια. The heart is unclean.
4. ἀπιστος ἡ καρδια του ἀνθρωπου. The heart of the man is faithless.
5. ζητουσιν την ζων την αἰωνιον. They seek (the) eternal life.
6. ἡ γενεα ἡ ἀπιστος
οὐ λαμβανει τον Χριστον. The faithless generation
does not receive Christ.
7. ἀπιστος ἡ ἀδελφη. The sister is unfaithful.
8. ἡ ἀδελφη ἀδικος ἦν ; Was the sister unrighteous?
9. αἱ ἀδελφαι αἱ ἀπιστοι ἀδικοι εἰσιν. The faithless sisters are unrighteous.
10. ἀκαθαρος ἡ γλωσσα του ἀνθρωπου. The tongue of the man is unclean.

10.7 Use of Adjectives as Nouns

When you look at Vocabulary 10.12 you will see some adjectives which you met previously as nouns. In Greek, it is quite common to use an adjective as a noun, and let the gender of the adjective show whether it is referring to a man, a woman, or a thing.

ἅγιοι - holy	οἱ ἅγιοι - the holy men/people - the saints
τυφλος - blind	ὁ τυφλος - the blind man
πρεσβυτερος - elder, eldest	ὁ πρεσβυτερος - the elder

Practice - until you can read and translate easily

1. μακαριοι οἱ ἅγιοι.	The saints are happy / blessed.
2. οἱ πιστοι μακαριοι ἦσαν.	The faithful were happy / blessed
3. ὁ πονηρος ζητει τα ἴδια.	The evil man seeks (his) own (things).
4. ὁ πρεσβυτερος λεγει τοις ἁγιοις.	The elder speaks to the saints.
5. ὁ Ἰωαννης λαλει τοις τυφλοις.	John talks to the blind men.
6. οἱ ἀπιστοι οὐ βλέπουσιν τον ἅγιον θεον.	The faithless do not see the holy God.
7. οἱ πτωχοι ζητουσιν τους ἄρτους.	The poor (men) seek the loaves.
8. αὐτη λαλει τοις πτωχοις ;	Does she speak to the poor (men)?
9. ὁ σοφος ἀγαπα την καινην διαθηκην.	The wise man loves the new covenant.
10. οἱ ἀπιστοι οὐ μακαριοι εἰσιν.	The faithless are not happy / blessed

10.8 Sentences for reading and translation

1. το ἀγαθον παιδιον ἀγαπα τον διδασκαλον τον σοφον.
2. ὁ πρεσβυτερος ὁ σοφος διδασκει τα παιδια αὐτου.
3. ὁ υἱος ὁ ἀγαπητος φανεροι την δοξαν του θεου.
4. ἐν τη τριτη ἡμερα αἱ πισται ἀδελφαι βλέπουσιν τον Ἰησουν.
5. μακαριοι οἱ καθαροι τη καρδια.
6. ὁ πονηρος οὐκ ἀγαπα τους πιστους διακονους της βασιλειας του θεου.
7. οἱ πρεσβυτεροι γραφουσιν την ἐπιστολην την δευτεραν ταις ἐκκλησιαις ;
8. αὐτος ὁ θεος ἀγαπα τους πτωχους και τους τυφλους.
9. οἱ δικαιοι οὐκ ἀγαπωσιν τα ἔργα του πονηρου.
10. οἱ πιστοι λαμβανουσιν την ζωνην την αἰωνιον ἐν τῷ οὐρανῷ.

10.9 Writing Practice : Write the Greek, while saying aloud (Matt. 6:9-12)

πατερ ἡμων ὁ ἐν τοις οὐρανοις,	Our Father, the (one) in the heavens,
ἀγιασθητω το ὄνομα σου,	let your name be sanctified,
ἐλθετω ἡ βασιλεια σου,	let your kingdom come,
γενηθητω το θελημα σου,	let your will / wish happen (come to pass),
ὡς ἐν οὐρανῷ και ἐπι γης.	just as in heaven (so) also on earth.
τον ἄρτον ἡμων τον ἐπιουσιον	Our bread of / for the day
δος ἡμιν σημερον	give to us today;
και ἀφες ἡμιν τα ὀφειληματα ἡμων	and remit/forgive (to) us our debts/guilt,

From today's studies, you will recognize that τὸν ἐπιουσιον (for the day, daily) is describing τὸν ἄρτον, and both are in the Accusative. They are the object of δος - give!

10.10 Modern Greek Greetings

Modern Greek uses καλος, -η, -ον for greetings such as "Good Morning".

As in the English "Goodbye" (God be with ye) the Greek contracts into a one-word greeting :

καλημερα	pronounced "kalee mAIR ah"	"Good Day"	καλη + ἡμερα
καλησπερα	pronounced "kalee spAIR ah"	"Good Evening"	καλη + ἡσπερα
καληνυκτα	pronounced "kalee NEEK tah"	"Good Night"	καλη + νυκτα

10.11 New Testament Passage for reading and translation : I John 2:7-8

In your Greek New Testament, read the passage aloud several times until you can read it without long pauses or stumbling. Then use the translation helps to translate it.

ὕμιν	to you	(plural)
ἣν	which	(feminine, referring back to ἐντολή)
εἶχετε	you had	(plural; a past tense of ἔχω - I have)
ὅν	which	(masculine, referring to ὁ λόγος)
ἤκουσατε	you heard	(plural; a past tense of ἀκούω - I hear)
ὃ	(the thing) which	(Relative Pronoun, nominative singular neuter)
	(The accent is what marks this as a relative pronoun rather than a definite article)	
ὃ ἐστὶν ἀληθές	the thing which is true	
πάλιν	again	
ἐν ὑμῖν	in you	(plural)
παραγεται	(it) passed away	
φαινει	(it) shines	

10.12 Vocabulary to learn

ἀγαθός -η -ον	good, morally upright, useful	
ἀγαπητός -η -ον	beloved	(ἀγαπάω - I love)
καινός -η -ον	new	(ἡ καινή διαθήκη = the New Testament)
κακός -η -ον	bad	
καλός -η -ον	good, right, proper	
ὅλος -η -ον	whole	
πιστός -η -ον	faithful	(πιστεύω - I trust in, believe)
πτωχός -η -ον	poor	
σοφός -η -ον	wise	(ἡ σοφία - wisdom)
τυφλός -η -ον	blind	
ἅγιος -α -ον	holy	
ἄξιος -α -ον	worthy	
δεξιός -α -ον	right	(right-hand, do not use for "correct or righteous")
	(ambidextrous people can use both hands equally well.)	
δίκαιος -α -ον	righteous	(ἡ δικαιοσύνη - righteousness)
ἴδιος -α -ον	one's own, personal	(an idiot does his own thing)
μακάριος -α -ον	happy	
παλαιός -α -ον	old	(hence palaeontology)
ἕτερος -α -ον	other, different	(originally "the other, of two")
καθαρός -α -ον	clean, pure	(catharsis is a cleansing)
μικρός -α -ον	small	(hence the scientific terms beginning micro-)
πονηρός -α -ον	evil	
πρεσβύτερος -α -ον	elder (of two), eldest	
ἄδικος -ος -ον	unrighteous	
ἀκάθαρτος -ος -ον	unclean	
ἄπιστος -ος -ον	faithless, unfaithful	
αἰώνιος -ος -ον	eternal, everlasting	
ἀληθής -ής -ες	true	(Nom. singular. Do not attempt to use other cases yet)
ἡ σκοτία	darkness	
το ὀφείλημα	debt, guilt, sin	(Nom. singular. Do not attempt to use other cases yet)
το φῶς	light	(Nom. singular. Do not attempt to use other cases yet)
ἤδη	already	