

Chapter 45

Numerals

45.1 Numerals are adjectives which describe the number or serial order of something.

- e.g. **Two** students did their homework.
The **second** student gave a better answer than the **first**.
Fred came **fourth** in the race.
On the **third** day Jesus rose from the dead.

Numerals may be classified as

Definite - denoting an exact number, e.g. two

Indefinite - the number is not specified, e.g. some, all, enough, few.

Definite numerals may be classified as

Cardinals - showing how many, e.g. two

Ordinals - showing the order, e.g. second

Multiplicatives - adverbs, showing how many times, e.g. twice

Definite numerals may be made indefinite by adding a word such as "about"

- e.g. About ten students did their homework.
When Jesus was about twelve (years old) he went to Jerusalem.

45.2 Cardinals, Ordinals, and Multiplicatives : Learn this table

Number	Cardinal	Ordinal	Multiplicative
1	εἷς μία ἓν	πρῶτος, -η, -ον	ἅπαξ
2	δύο	δεύτερος, -α, -ον	δίς
3	τρεις τρια	τρίτος, -η, -ον	τρίς
4	τέσσαρες, -α	τέταρτος, -η, -ον	τετρακίς
5	πέντε (<i>indeclinable</i>)	πέμπτος, -η, -ον	πεντακίς
6	ἕξ (<i>indeclinable</i>)	ἕκτος, -η, -ον	ἕξακίς
7	ἑπτὰ (<i>indeclinable</i>)	ἕβδομος, -η, -ον	ἑπτακίς
8	ὀκτώ (<i>indeclinable</i>)	ὄγδοος, -η, -ον	
9	ἐννέα (<i>indeclinable</i>)	ἕνατος, -η, -ον	
10	δέκα (<i>indeclinable</i>)	δέκατος, -η, -ον	
11	ἑνδεκα (<i>indeclinable</i>)	ἑνδέκατος, -η, -ον	
12	δώδεκα (<i>indeclinable</i>) or δεκαδύο	δωδέκατος, -η, -ον ("ten plus two", <i>indeclinable</i>)	
14	δεκατέσσαρες	(<i>indeclinable</i>)	
15	δεκαπέντε	(<i>indeclinable</i>)	
20	εἴκοσι(ν)	(<i>indeclinable</i>)	
30	τριάκοντα	(<i>indeclinable</i>)	
40	τεσσαράκοντα	(<i>indeclinable</i>)	
50	πεντήκοντα	(<i>indeclinable</i>)	
70	ἑβδομήκοντα	(<i>indeclinable</i>)	ἑβδομηκοντακίς
100	ἑκατόν	(<i>indeclinable</i>)	
300	τριακόσιοι, -αι, -α		
1000	χίλιοι, -αι, -α or ἡ χιλιάς, -αδος		
2000	δισχίλιοι, -αι, -α		
5000	πεντακισχίλιοι, -αι, -α		
10,000	μύριοι, -αι, -α		

As you will notice, most of the Cardinals are indeclinable. The main exception is the word for "one" which we met in Chapter 44.

45.3 "Two" - δύο

By the time of the New Testament, δύο had lost its case-endings except for the Dative, which had become δουσιν or δυσι (moveable ν). There are no separate forms for Masculine, Feminine or Neuter.

45.4 "Three" - τρεῖς

The Declension of τρεῖς is as follows

	Masc. & Fem.	Neuter
Nominative	τρεῖς	τρια
Accusative	τρεῖς	τρια
Genitive	τριων	τριων
Dative	τρισιν	τρισιν

45.5 "Four" - τέσσαρες

The Declension of τέσσαρες is as follows

	Masc. & Fem.	Neuter
Nominative	τέσσαρες	τέσσαρα
Accusative	τέσσαρας	τέσσαρα
Genitive	τέσσαρων	τέσσαρων
Dative	τέσσαρσιν	τέσσαρσιν

Classical Greek uses the stem τετταρ- which is the source of English compounds with "tetra".

45.5 "Myriad" - μύριοι, αι, -α - 10,000 and μυρίος, -α, -ον - countless, thousands

μύριοι, -αι, -α is plural, and is used to denote the number 10,000
μυρίος, -α, -ον is singular, and is used to denote any great number - beyond counting.

45.6 Cardinals Practice - until you can read and translate easily

1. ὁ Πέτρος εἶπεν τῷ Ἰησοῦ, Κυριε, . . .
εἰ θέλεις, ποιησῶ ὧδε τρεῖς σκηνας,
σοι μίαν, καὶ Μωϋσεῖ μίαν
καὶ Ἰλιὰ μίαν.
Peter said to Jesus, "Lord,
if you wish. I will make three tents here,
one for you, and one for Moses,
and one for Elijah. (Matt. 17:4)
2. οὐδεὶς δυνατὸς δυσι κυριοῖς δουλεῖν.
No-one is able to serve two masters.
(Matt 6:24)
3. καὶ ὅτε ἔλαβεν τὸ βιβλίον τὰ τέσσαρα ζῶα
καὶ οἱ εἴκοσι τέσσαρες πρεσβύτεροι ἔπεσαν
ἐνώπιον τοῦ ἀρνίου.
When he took the book the four creatures
and the twenty four elders fell (down)
before the lamb. (Rev. 5:8)
4. καὶ ὥρμησεν ἡ ἀγέλη κατὰ τοῦ κρημνοῦ
εἰς τὴν θαλάσσαν, ὡς δισχίλιοι, . .
And the herd rushed down the cliff
into the sea, about two thousand, (Mark 5:13)
5. μηδε πορνεύωμεν, καθὼς τινες αὐτῶν
ἐπορνεύσαν, καὶ ἔπεσαν μίᾳ ἡμέρᾳ
εἴκοσι τρεῖς χιλιάδες.
Neither let us "porno", as some of them
"porno-ed", and (there) fell in one day
twenty three thousand. (1 Cor. 10:8)
6. καὶ ὁ ἀριθμὸς αὐτοῦ ἑξάκοσιοι ἑξήκοντα ἕξ.
And his number (is) six hundred and sixty six.
(Rev. 13:18)
7. οἱ δὲ ἑνδεκά μαθηταὶ πορεύονται
εἰς τὴν Γαλιλαίαν.
The eleven disciples travel
(in)to Galilee. (see Matt. 28:16)
8. ὁ δὲ εἶπεν αὐτοῖς, Εἷς ἐκ τῶν δωδεκά.
He said to them, "One of the twelve."
(Mark 14:20)
9. μετὰ τοῦτο εἶδον τέσσαρας ἀγγέλους . . .
κρατοῦντας τοὺς τέσσαρας ἀνέμους τῆς γῆς.
After this I saw four angels . . . holding the
four winds of the earth. (Rev. 7:1)
10. Οὐαὶ οὐαὶ οὐαὶ τοῖς κατοικοῦντας
ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς ἐκ τῶν λοιπῶν φωνῶν
τῆς σαλπίγγος τῶν τριῶν ἀγγέλων
τῶν μελλοντῶν σαλπίζειν.
Woe, woe, woe to the dwellers
on the earth from the remaining sounds
of the trumpet(s) of the three angels
(of those) about to blow. (Rev. 8:13)

45.7 Ordinals and Multiplicatives Practice - until you can read and translate easily

1. αὕτη ἐστὶν ἡ μεγάλη καὶ πρώτη ἐντολή. This is the great and first commandment.
(*Matt. 22:38*)
2. ὑπο Ἰουδαίων πεντακίς τεσσαρακοντα
παρα μίαν ἔλαβον. By (the hands of) the Jews I received five
times forty (lashes) minus one. (*2 Cor. 11:24*)
3. καὶ ἐξελθὼν περὶ τρίτην ὥραν εἶδεν
ἄλλους (ἐργατάς). And having gone at about the third hour
he saw other (workers). (*see Matt. 20:3*)
4. πάλιν δὲ ἐξελθὼν περὶ ἕκτην καὶ
ἐνάτην ὥραν ἐποίησεν ὡσαύτως. Again, having gone at about the sixth and the
ninth hour he did similarly. (*Matt. 20:5*)
5. καὶ ὅταν ἠνοιξεν τὴν σφραγίδα τὴν
ἕβδομην, ἐγενετο σιγή ἐν τῷ οὐρανῷ
ὡς ἡμίωρον. And when he opened the seventh seal
there was silence in heaven
(for) about a half-hour. (*Rev. 8:1*)
6. ἐγὼ εἰμὶ ὁ πρῶτος καὶ ὁ ἔσχατος. I am the first and the last. (*Rev. 1:17*)
7. καὶ ὁ ἕκτος ἀγγελὸς ἔσαλπισεν,
καὶ ἤκουσα φωνὴν μίαν . . .
λεγοντα τῷ ἕκτῳ ἀγγέλῳ, . . . And the sixth angel blew (a trumpet),
and I heard a (one) a voice,
saying to the sixth angel . (*Rev. 9:13-14*)
8. Ἡ οὐαὶ ἡ δευτέρα ἀπηλθεν, ἴδου ἡ οὐαὶ
ἡ τρίτη ἐρχεται ταχύ. The second woe has gone, behold, the third
woe comes quickly. (*Rev. 11:14*)
9. καὶ ὁ τεταρτὸς ἐξέχεεν τὴν φιάλην αὐτοῦ
ἐπὶ τὸν ἥλιον. And the fourth (angel) poured out his bowl
upon the sun. (*Rev. 16:8*)
10. καὶ ἦν ὁ ἀριθμὸς αὐτῶν μυριάδες μυριάδων
καὶ χιλιάδες χιλιάδων. And the number of them was myriads of
myriads, and thousands of thousands.
(*Rev. 5:11*)

45.8 Fractions

Classical Greek has several ways of expression fractions, but by the time of the New Testament, these are simplified. Often the neuter of the ordinal is used.

We will meet the word for a half, ἡμισυς, -εἰα, -υ in the next chapter.

Practice - until you can read and translate easily

1. καὶ ὁ δευτερός ἀγγελὸς ἔσαλπισεν, . . .
καὶ ἐγενετο τὸ τρίτον τῆς θαλάσσης αἷμα. And the second angel blew (his trumpet)
and a third of the sea became blood.
(*Rev. 9:8*)
2. καὶ ἀπεθάνεν τὸ τρίτον τῶν κτισμάτων
τῶν ἐν τῇ θαλάσσει, τὰ ἔχοντα ψυχάς. And a third of the creatures died
of (those) in the sea, (those) having souls.
(*Rev. 9:9*)
3. καὶ ἐν ἐκείνῃ τῇ ὥρᾳ ἐγενετο σεισμός . . .
καὶ τὸ δεκάτον τῆς πόλεως ἔπεσεν. And in that hour there was an earthquake
and a tenth of the city fell. (*Rev. 11:13*)
4. οὗτος γὰρ ὁ Μελχισεδεκ, . . . ᾧ καὶ δεκάτην
ἀπὸ πάντων ἐμερίσεν Ἀβραάμ . . . For this Melchizedek, . . . to whom Abraham
assigned a tithe/tenth of all . . . (*Heb. 7:1-2*)
5. τὸ τεταρτὸν τῆς γῆς . . . A quarter (fourth part) of the earth . . . (*Rev. 6:8*)

45.9 Numeric Notation in Greek

The earliest numeric notation used by the Greeks had a vertical stroke for "one" of anything. Ancient Athens used an "acrophonic" system, whereby the first letter of the word for a number was used to represent the number. In this system

1 = Ι, 10 = Δ (δεκα), 100 = Η (ἑκατον), 1,000 = Χ (χιλιοι), 10,000 = Μ (μυριοι)

This system seems to have been used mostly for inscriptions, and varied from city to city. Written documents more often had the names of the numbers written out in full.

During the 5th and 4th centuries BC the letters of the alphabet started to be used for ordering lists, and for the books of the Iliad and the Odyssey. This system gradually replaced the acrophonic system, and was in general use by the time of the New Testament. Because the letters of the alphabet were given a definite

ἀναβα	come up !	(Aorist Imperative of ἀναβαίνω - I go/come up)
δειξω	I will show	(Future of δεικνυμι - I indicate)
γενεσθαι	to happen	(Aorist Infinitive of γινομαι - I become, I am)
ἔγενομην	I was	(Aorist Middle of γινομαι - I become, I am)
ἔκειτο	placed, standing	(Imperfect of κειμαι - I lie, stand)
καθημενος	(a guy) seated	(Present Participle Masculine of καθημαι - I sit)
όρασει	sight, appearance	(Dative of ἡ όρασις, -εως - sight, vision, appearance)
ίασπιδι	jasper	(Dative of ἡ ίασπις, -ιδος - jasper)
σαρδιω	carnelian	(Dative of το σαρδιον - carnelian)
ίρις	rainbow	(ἡ ίρις, ίριδος - rainbow)
σμαραγδινω	emerald	(Dative of ό σμαραγδινος - emerald green color)
περιβεβλημενους	wearing	(Perfect Participle of περιβαλλω - I wrap around, put on clothes)
άστραπαι	lightning flashes	(ἡ άστραπη - lighting)
λαμπαδες	lamps	(ἡ λαμπας, -αδος - lamp, torch)
καιομεναι	burning	(Passive Participle of καιω - I set on fire)
ύαλινη	(made of) glass	(Feminine of ύαλινος, -η, -ον, from ἡ ύαλος, -ου - glass)
κρυσταλλω	crystal	(Dative of ό κρυσταλλος - crystal)
γεμοντα	full of	(Participle of γεμω - I am full of [something])
μοσχω	calf	(Dative of ό μοσχος - calf)
άετω	eagle	(Dative of ό άετος - eagle)
πετομενω	flying	(Participle of πετομαι - I fly)
περυγας	wings	(ἡ περυξ, περυγος - wing)
γεμουσιν	they are full of	(γεμω - I am full of [something])
άναπαουσιν	rest	(ἡ άναπαυσις, -εως - rest, stopping, refreshment)
τοξον	a bow	(το τοξον - bow, for arrows)
έδοθη	(it) was given	(Aorist Passive of δίδωμι - I give)
πυρρος, -η, -ον	fiery red	(το πυρ, πυρος - fire)
σφαξουσιν	they will slaughter	(Future, in place of Subjunctive, of σφαζω - I slaughter)
μεγαλη	great, big	(Feminine of μεγας, μεγαη, μεγα - great, big)
μελας	black	(μελας, μελαινα, μελαν - black)
ζυγον	yoke, weighing scales	
ἡ χοινιξ, -ικος	a measure of about 1 quart or 1 liter	(about 1 day's ration of grain)
δηναριου	denarius, "penny"	(το δηναριον - about 1 day's wage for a laborer)
κριθων	of barley	(ἡ κριθη - barley - coarser and cheaper than wheat)
μη άδικησης	do not damage, harm	(Prohibition with μη + Subjunctive of άδικεω - I harm)
χλωρος	green, yellow-green	(χλωρος, -α, -ον - green; hence "chlorine") (the perception and naming of colors varies from one culture to another)
άποκτειναι	to kill	(Aorist Infinitive of άποκτεινω - I kill)
έν ρομφαια	with the sword	(ἡ ρομφαια - sword)
έσφαγενων	of the ones having been slaughtered	(Perfect Participle of σφαζω - I slaughter)
φωνη μεγαλη	with a loud voice	
έως ποτε ;	how long ?	
έκδικεις . . έκ . .	you avenge (something on someone)	(from έκδικεω - I vindicate)
ἡ στολη	a long robe, the Latin "stola"	
έρρηθη	"it was said"	(Aorist Passive of λεγω - I say)
άναπαουσονται	they should rest	(Future Middle of άναπαυω - I cause to rest)
πληρωθωσιν	(they) should be fulfilled	(Aorist Subjunctive Passive of πληροω - I fulfill)
άποκτεννεσθαι	to be killed	(Aorist Passive Infinitive of άποκτεινω - I kill)
μεγας	great, big	(μεγας, μεγαλη, μεγα - great, big)

ὁ σακκος	sackcloth	(course cloth used for sacks and for mourning clothes)
τριχινος, -η, -ον	made of hair	(from ἡ θριξ, τριχινος - hair)
ὁ ὄλυνθος	late or unripe fig	
ἀπεχωρισθη	(it) was separated, parted	(Aorist Passive of ἀποχωρίζω - I separate)
ἐλισσομενον	being rolled up	(Passive Participle of ἐλίσσω - I roll up)
ἡ νησος, -ου	island	
ἐκινήθησαν	(they) were moved	(Aorist Passive of κινεω - I move)
ὁ μεγισταν, -ανος	great man, magnate	(from μεγας, μεγαλη, μεγα - great, big)
σπηλαια	caves	(το σπηλαιον - cave)
πεσετε	fall!	(Aorist Imperative of πιπτω - I fall)
κρυπατε	hide!	(Aorist Imperative of κρυπτω - I hide)
σταθηναι	to stand	(Aorist Passive Infinitive of ἵστημι - I stand, cause to stand)

45.13 Vocabulary to learn : Learn table 44.2, and these additional words

ἀγαλλιάω	I rejoice greatly, I am extremely joyful	
ἀναπαύω	I cease (to do something)	(from ἀνα + παυω - I cease)
ἐκχέω	I pour out	
καίω	I burn	
καρποφορέω	I bear fruit	(ὁ καρπος - fruit + φερω - I bear)
κινέω	I move	(hence "cinema", "kinetic")
μερίζω	I divide, assign, apportion	
ὀρμάω	I rush	
παραδέχομαι	I receive, welcome, accept	
πορνεύω	I commit (sexually) immoral acts, I am (sexually) immoral, I "porno"	
σαλπίζω	I blow a trumpet	
σειώ	I shake	
σιγάω	I am silent, stop talking	
σφάζω	I slaughter	
ἡ ἀγέλη	herd (of pigs)	
ὁ ᾗδης	Hades, the place of the dead in Greek mythology	
ἡ βροντή	thunder	
ἡ δεκάτη	a tenth, a tithe	
ὁ δεσπότης	master, slave-owner	
ὁ ἑκατοντάρχης	centurion	(Roman officer in charge of 100 soldiers)
ὁ ἑκατόνταρχον	centurion	(Roman officer in charge of 100 soldiers)
το ζῷον	living creature	(from ἡ ζωη - life)
το ἡμίωρον	half an hour	
το θυσιαστήριον	altar	(from θυω - I kill, slaughter, sacrifice)
ὁ κρημνός	cliff, steep bank	
ἡ μυριάς, -αδος	group of 10,000, countless, thousands, myriad	
ἡ ὀργή	wrath, anger, fury	(hence "orgy" - when one loses control of oneself)
ἡ πορνεία	immorality (sexual), unfaithfulness	
ἡ πόρνη	prostitute	
ὁ πόρνος	sexually immoral man, dirty old man	
ἡ σάλπιγξ, -ιγγος	trumpet, trumpet blast	
ἡ σιγή	silence	
ἡ σκηνή	tent, booth, shelter	
ὁ σύνδουλος	fellow-servant	(συν - with + δουλος - slave, bond-servant)

το τάλαντον	talent - a weight, between 58 - 80 lbs., as much as a man could carry. Also, money equivalent to that weight of silver or gold.
ἡ φιάλη	bowl
ὁ χιλίαρχος	tribune (<i>Roman officer in charge of 600-1,000 soldiers</i>)
ἡ χιλιάς, -αδος	(group of) a thousand
λευκός. -η, -ον	white
μυρίος, -α, -ον	thousands, countless
μαλλον	more
ἔμπροσθεν	in front, before (<i>as Adverb, or as Preposition with Genitive</i>)
ἐνώπιον	before (<i>Preposition with Genitive - literally "in the face of"</i>)
ἐπάνω	above, over (used for "on") (<i>as Adverb, or as Preposition with Genitive</i>)
κυκλόθεν	round about, all around (<i>as Adverb, or as Preposition with Genitive</i>)
κύκλω	round about, in a circle (<i>as Adverb, or as Preposition with Genitive</i>)
ὄπισθεν	behind, after (<i>as Adverb, or as Preposition with Genitive</i>)
ὑποκάτω	under, underneath (<i>as Adverb, or as Preposition with Genitive</i>)
ποτε	once, at one time, when
πότε ;	when ?
ταχέως	quickly
ταχύ	quickly
ὠσαύτως	similarly, likewise, in the same way