

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 μια ἐν	πρῶτος, -η, -ον	ἄπαξ
2	δύο	δεύτερος, -α, -ον	δίς
3	τρεῖς 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	έξακίς
7	έπτα (<i>indeclinable</i>)	ἕβδομος, -η, -ον	έπτακίς
8	όκτω (<i>indeclinable</i>)	δύοος, -η, -ον	
9	ἐννέα (<i>indeclinable</i>)	ἔνατος, -η, -ον	
10	δέκα (<i>indeclinable</i>)	δέκατος, -η, -ον	
11	ἕνδεκα (<i>indeclinable</i>)	ἕνδέκατος, -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(v)	(<i>indeclinable</i>)	
30	τριάκοντα	(<i>indeclinable</i>)	
40	τεσσαράκοντα	(<i>indeclinable</i>)	
50	πεντήκοντα	(<i>indeclinable</i>)	
70	έβδομήκοντα	(<i>indeclinable</i>)	έβδομηκοντακίς
100	έκατόν	(<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 δύσιν or δύσι (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	τριῶν	τριῶν
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 Πετρος εἰπεν τῷ Ἰησου, Κυριε, . . .
εἰ θελεις, ποιησω ὡδε τρεις σκηνας,
σοι μιαν, και Μωϋσεῖ μιαν
και Ἡλιᾳ μιαν.
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. οὐδεις δυναται δυσι κυριοις δουλευειν.
No-one is able to serve two masters.
(Matt 6:24)
3. και ὅτε ἐλαβεν το βιβλιον τα τεσσαρα ζωα
και οι εικοσι τεσσαρες πρεσβυτεροι ἐπεσαν
ἐνωπιον του ἀρνιου.
When he took the book the four creatures
and the twenty four elders fell (down)
before the lamb. (Rev. 5:8)
4. και ώρμησεν ή ἀγελη κατα του κρημνου
εις την θαλασσαν, ως δισχιλιοι, . .
And the herd rushed down the cliff
into the sea, about two thousand, (Mark 5:13)
5. μηδε πορνευωμεν, καθως τινες αὐτων
ἐπορνευσαν, και ἐπεσαν μια ἡμερα
εικοσι τρεις χλιαδες.
Neither let us "porno", as some of them
"porno-ed", and (there) fell in one day
twenty three thousand. (1 Cor. 10:8)
6. και ὁ ἀριθμος αὐτου ἔξακοσιοι ἔξηκοντα ἔξ.
And his number (is) six hundred and sixty six.
(Rev. 13:18)
7. οι δε ἐνδεκα μαθηται πορευονται
εις την Γαλιλαιαν.
The eleven disciples travel
(in)to Galilee. (see Matt. 28:16)
8. ὁ δε εἰπεν αὐτοις, Εις ἐκ των δωδεκα.
He said to them, "One of the twelve."
(Mark 14:20)
9. μετα τουτο ειδον τεσσαρας ἀγγελους . . .
κρατουντας τους τεσσαρας ἀνεμους της γης.
After this I saw four angels . . . holding the
four winds of the earth. (Rev. 7:1)
10. Οὐαι οὐαι ους τους κατοικουντας
ἐπι της γης ἐκ των λοιπων φωνων
της σαλπιγγος των τριων ἀγγελων
των μελλοντων σαλπιζειν.
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. αύτη ἐστιν ἡ μεγαλη και πρωτη ἐντολη. This is the great and first commandment.
(Matt. 22:38)
2. ύπο Ιουδαιων πεντακις τεσσαρακοντα παρα μιαν ἐλαβον. By (the hands of) the Jews I received five times forty (lashes) minus one.(2 Cor. 11:24)
3. και ἔξελθων περι τριτην ώραν είδεν ἄλλους (έργατας). And having gone at about the third hour he saw other (workers). (see Matt. 20:3)
4. παλιν δε ἔξελθων περι ἑκτην και ἐνατην ώραν ἐποιησεν ώσαυτως. Again, having gone at about the sixth and the ninth hour he did similarly. (Matt. 20:5)
5. και ὅταν ἤνοιξεν την σφραγιδα την ἐβδομην, ἐγενετο σιγη ἐν τῳ οὐρανῳ ὡς ἡμιωρον. And when he opened the seventh seal there was silence in heaven (for) about a half-hour. (Rev. 8:1)
6. ἐγω εἰμι ὁ πρωτος και ὁ ἐσχατος. I am the first and the last. (Rev. 1:17)
7. και ὁ ἑκτος ἀγγελος ἐσαλπισεν, και ἥκουσα φωνην μιαν ... λεγοντα τῳ ἑκτῳ ἀγγελῳ, . 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 δευτερα ἀπηλθεν, ιδου ἡ οὐαὶ ἡ τριτη ἐρχεται ταχυ. The second woe has gone, behold, the third woe comes quickly. (Rev. 11:14)
9. και ὁ τεταρχος ἔξεχεν την φιαλην αὐτου ἐπι τον ἥλιον. And the fourth (angel) poured out his bowl upon the sun. (Rev. 16:8)
10. και ἡν ὁ ἀριθμος αὐτων μυριαδες μυριαδων και χιλιαδες χιλιαδων. 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, -εια, -υ** in the next chapter.

Practice - until you can read and translate easily

1. και ὁ δευτερος ἀγγελος ἐσαλπισεν, ... και ἐγενετο το τριτον της θαλασσης αίμα. And the second angel blew (his trumpet) and a third of the sea became blood. (Rev. 9:8)
2. και ἀπεθανεν το τριτον των κτισματων των ἐν τῃ θαλασσῃ, τα ἔχοντα ψυχας. And a third of the creatures died of (those) in the sea, (those) having souls. (Rev. 9:9)
3. και ἐν ἐκεινῃ τῃ ώρᾳ ἐγενετο σεισμος... και το δεκατον της πολεως ἐπεσεν. And in that hour there was an earthquake and a tenth of the city fell. (Rev. 11:13)
4. ούτος γαρ ὁ Μελχισεδεκ, ... ὦ και δεκατην ἀπο παντων ἐμερισεν Ἀβρααμ ... For this Melchizedek, ... to whom Abraham assigned a tithe/tenth of all .. (Heb. 7:1-2)
5. το τεταρτον της γης ... 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 = |, 10 = Δ (δεκα), H = 100 (ἑκατον), X = 1,000 (χιλιοι), M = 10,000 (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

sequential order, they could be used to indicate a numeric value. Digamma (Vau) was still part of the early alphabet, so its use was continued as a number.

1 = A, 2 = B, 3 = Γ, 4 = Δ, 5 = E, 6 = F or ζ (not sigma), 7 = Z, 8 = H, 9 = Θ, 10 = I
The earlier sequences ran into trouble for numbers higher than 26, so the system was refined to allow the higher numbers

20 = K, 30 = Λ, 40 = M, 50 = N, 60 = Ξ, 70 = O, 80 = Π, 90 = Q (koppa), 100 = P (rho)
200 = Σ, 300 = T, 400 = Y (upsilon), 500 = Φ, 600 = X, 700 = Ψ, 800 = Ω, 900 = Τ (sampi)

45.10 Sentences for reading and translation

1. καὶ ἐκείνοι εἰσιν οἱ ἐπὶ την γην την καλην σπαρεντες, οἵτινες ἀκουουσιν τον λογον και παραδεχονται και καρποφορουσιν ἐν τριακοντα και ἐν ἔξηκοντα και ἐν ἑκατον. (Mark 4:20)
2. και ἡσαν οι φαγοντες τους ἀρτους πεντακισχιλιοι ἀνδρες. (Mark 6:44)
3. ὅτι τρεις εἰσιν οι μαρτυρουντες. (1 John 5:7)
4. το πνευμα και το ὑδωρ και το αἷμα, και οι τρεις εἰς το ἐν εἰσιν. (1 John 5:8)
5. Ὡσπερ γαρ ἀνθρωπος . . . ἐκαλησεν τους ἰδιους δουλους και παρεδωκεν αὐτοις τα ὑπαρχοντα αὐτου, και ὃ μεν ἐδωκεν πεντε ταλαντα, ὃ δε δυο,
 ὅ δε ἐν, ἐκαστω κατα την ἴδιαν δυναμιν. (Matt. 25:14-15)
 (παρεδωκεν = he handed over, ἐδωκεν = he gave)
6. οι ἐπτα ἀστερες ἀγγελοι των ἐπτα ἐκκλησιων εἰσιν,
 και αἱ λυχνιαι αἱ ἐπτα ἐκκλησιαι εἰσιν. (Rev. 1:20)
7. και ἐξηλθον οι ἐπτα ἀγγελοι οι ἔχοντας τας ἐπτα πληγας ἐκ του ναου. (Rev. 15:6)
8. και ὁ πεμπτος (ἀγγελος) ἐξεχεεν την φιαλην αὐτου
 ἐπι τον θρονον του θηριου. (Rev. 16:10)
9. και ἡλθεν εις ἐκ των ἐπτα ἀγγελων των ἔχοντων τας ἐπτα φιαλας
 και ἐλαλησεν μετ' ἐμου. (Rev. 17:1)
10. ὁ γαρ πρωτος οὐρανος και ἡ πρωτη γη ἀπηλθαν. (Rev. 21:1)

45.11 Writing Practice : Write the Greek, while saying aloud (Matt. 5:11-12)

μακαριοι ἔστε ὅταν ὄνειδισωσιν ύμας Happy are you when(ever) they insult/denounce you
και διωξωσιν και εἰπωσιν and persecute (you) and say
παν πονηρον καθ' ύμων ψευδομενοι every evil thing against you falsely
 ένεκεν ἐμου. on account of me.
χαιρετε και ἀγαλλιασθε, Rejoice and be glad.

45.12 New Testament Passages for reading and translation

Matt. 18:12-13, Luke 12:52, Rev. 4:1-8, Rev. 6:1-17

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

γενηται	there might be, it might happen (Aorist Subjunctive of γινομαι - I become, I am)
πλανηθη	(it) is led astray, gets lost, wanders (Passive of πλαναω - I lead astray)
οὐχι ἀφησει ;	will he not leave ? (asking a question with the expected answer "yes, certainly")
ἀφησει	he will leave (Future of ἀφιημι - I remit, leave)
τα ὄρη	the mountains (Plural of το ὄρος, -ους - mountain)
πορευθεις	having gone (Aorist Participle of πορευομαι - I travel, go, come)
το πλανωμενον	the lost one (Passive Participle of πλαναω - I lead astray)
γενηται εύρειν	he might happen to find (εύρειν - Aorist Infinitive of ενρισκω - I find)
πεπλανημενοις	having been lost (Perfect Passive Participle of πλαναω - I lead astray)
διαμεμερισμενοι	having been divided (Perfect Passive Participle of διαμεριζω - I divide)
ἡνεωγμενη	having been opened (Perfect Passive Participle of ὀνοιγω - I open)

ἀναβά	come up !	(Aorist Imperative of ἀναβαίνω - I go/come up)
δειξώ	I will show	(Future of δεικνύμι - I indicate)
γενεσθαι	to happen	(Aorist Infinitive of γίνομαι - I become, I am)
ἐγενομην	I was	(Aorist Middle of γίνομαι - I become, I am)
ἐκειτο	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 ὄρασις, -εως - sight, vision, appearance)
ἰασπιδι	jasper	(Dative of ἡ ἰασπις, -ιδος - jasper)
σαρδιω	carnelian	(Dative of το σαρδιον - carnelian)
ἱρις	rainbow	(ἡ Ἱρις, ἵριδος - rainbow)
σμαραγδινω	emerald	(Dative of ὁ σμαραγδινος - emerald green color)
περιβεβλημενους	wearing	(Perfect Participle of περιβαλλω - I wrap around, put on clothes)
ἀστραπαι	lightning flashes	(ἡ ἀστραπη - lighting)
λαμπαδες	lamps	(ἡ λαμπας, -αδος - lamp, torch)
καιομεναι	burning	(Passive Participle of καιω - I set on fire)
ὑαλινη	(made of) glass	(Feminine of ύαλινος, -η, -ov, from ἡ ύαλος, -ov - glass)
κρυσταλλω	crystal	(Dative of ὁ κρυσταλλος - crystal)
γεμοντα	full of	(Participle of γεμω - I am full of [something])
μοσχω	calf	(Dative of ὁ μοσχος - calf)
ἀετω	eagle	(Dative of ὁ ἀετος - eagle)
πετομενω	flying	(Participle of πετομαι - I fly)
πτερυγας	wings	(ἡ πτερυξ, πτερυγος - wing)
γεμουνσιν	they are full of	(γεμω - I am full of [something])
ἀναπαυσιν	rest	(ἡ ἀναπαυσις, -εως - rest, stopping, refreshment)
τοξον	a bow	(το τοξον - bow, for arrows)
ἔδοθη	(it) was given	(Aorist Passive of διδωμι - I give)
πυρρος, -η, -ov	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, μελан - 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 ἀδικησης	do not damage, harm	(Prohibition with μη + Subjunctive of ἀδικεω - I harm)
χλωρος	green, yellow-green	(χλωρος, -α, -ov - green; hence "chlorine")
		(the perception and naming of colors varies from one culture to another)
ἀποκτειναι	to kill	(Aorist Infinitive of ἀποκτεινω - I kill)
ἐν ρομφαια	with the sword	(ἡ ρομφαια - sword)
ἐσφαγενων	of the ones having been slaughtered	(Perfect Participle of σφαζω - I slaughter)
φωνη μεγαλη	with a loud voice	
έως ποτε ;	how long ?	
ἐκδικεις . . ἐκ . .	you avenge (something on someone)	(from ἐκδικεω - I vindicate)
ἡ στολη	a long robe, the Latin "stola"	
ἐρρεθη	"it was said"	(Aorist Passive of λεγω - I say)
ἀναπαυσονται	they should rest	(Future Middle of ἀναπαυω - I cause to rest)
πληρωθωσιν	(they) should be fulfilled	(Aorist Subjunctive Passive of πληρωω - I fulfill)
ἀποκτεννεσθαι	to be killed	(Aorist Passive Infinitive of ἀποκτεινω - I kill)
μεγας	great, big	(μεγας, μεγαλη, μεγα - great, big)

ό σακκος	sackcloth	(<i>course cloth used for sacks and for mourning clothes</i>)
τριχινος, -η, -ον	made of hair	(<i>from ἡ θριξ, τριχινος - hair</i>)
ό δλυνθος	late or unripe fig	
ἀπεχωρισθη	(it) was separated, parted	(<i>Aorist Passive of ἀποχωριζω - I separate</i>)
έλισσομενον	being rolled up	(<i>Passive Participle of ἐλισσω - I roll up</i>)
ἡ νησος, -ου	island	
ἐκινηθησαν	(they) were moved	(<i>Aorist Passive of κινεω - I move</i>)
ό μεγισταν, -ανος	great man, magnate	(<i>from μεγας, μεγαλη, μεγα - great, big</i>)
σπηλαια	caves	(<i>το σπηλαιον - cave</i>)
πεσετε	fall!	(<i>Aorist Imperative of πιπτω - I fall</i>)
κρυψατε	hide!	(<i>Aorist Imperative of κρυπτω - I hide</i>)
σταθηναι	to stand	(<i>Aorist Passive Infinitive of ιστημι - I stand, cause to stand</i>)

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

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

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	(Roman officer in charge of 600-1,000 soldiers)
ἡ χιλιάς, -αδος	(group of) a thousand	
λευκός. -η, -ον	white	
μυρίος, -α, -ον	thousands, countless	
μαλλον	more	
ἔμπροσθεν	in front, before	(as Adverb, or as Preposition with Genitive)
ἐνώπιον	before	(Preposition with Genitive - literally "in the face of")
ἐπάνω	above, over (used for "on")	(as Adverb, or as Preposition with Genitive)
κυκλόθεν	round about, all around	(as Adverb, or as Preposition with Genitive)
κύκλῳ	round about, in a circle	(as Adverb, or as Preposition with Genitive)
ὅπισθεν	behind, after	(as Adverb, or as Preposition with Genitive)
ὑποκάτω	under, underneath	(as Adverb, or as Preposition with Genitive)
ποτέ	once, at one time, when	
πότε ;	when ?	
ταχέως	quickly	
ταχὺ	quickly	
ώσαντως	similarly, likewise, in the same way	