

Chapter 8

First Declension Feminine Nouns ending in -η

8.1 In chapters 4 and 6 we met nouns of the Second Declension, with endings characterized by an -ο sound, and which are predominantly masculine or neuter.

We now meet the **First Declension** - a family of nouns which are predominantly feminine, and whose endings are characterized by an -α or -αy sound.

There are several variations in the pattern of endings for these nouns, depending on whether the nouns ends an **-α** or an **-η**

8.2 For nouns in **-η**, the pattern is

	Singular	Plural
Nom.	STEM- η	STEM- αι
Acc.	STEM- ην	STEM- ας
Gen.	STEM- ης	STEM- ων
Dat.	STEM- η	STEM- αις

Note that the Dative singular has a iota-subscript, and that the Genitive plural is **-ων**.

Note also the change in vowel between the singular and the plural endings.

For **ἀρχή** (beginning) this becomes

	Singular	Plural
Nom.	ἀρχή	ἀρχαί
Acc.	ἀρχήν	ἀρχάς
Gen.	ἀρχῆς	ἀρχῶν
Dat.	ἀρχῆ	ἀρχαῖς

8.3 The Feminine form of the **Definite Article** : ἡ

The forms are similar to those of **ἀρχή**. Let us learn them as a pair

	Singular	Plural
Nom.	ἡ ἀρχή	αἱ ἀρχαί
Acc.	τὴν ἀρχήν	τὰς ἀρχάς
Gen.	τῆς ἀρχῆς	τῶν ἀρχῶν
Dat.	τῇ ἀρχῆ	ταῖς ἀρχαῖς

Practice - until you can read and translate easily

1. ἡ ἀδελφή περιπατεῖ ἐν τῇ συναγωγῇ. The sister is walking in the synagogue.
2. εἶσιν αἱ δοῦλαι ἐν τῷ ἱερῷ ; Are the servant girls in the temple?
3. ἡ ἀδελφή ἀναγινώσκει ἐπιστολάς. The sister is reading letters.
4. αἱ ἀδελφαὶ ζητοῦσιν τὴν εἰρήνην τοῦ θεοῦ. The sisters seek the peace of God.
5. ἔστιν τὸ παιδίον ἐν τῇ συναγωγῇ ; Is the child in the synagogue?
6. ζητεῖτε τὴν δικαιοσύνην τοῦ θεοῦ ; Are you seeking the righteousness of God?
7. Ναί, ζητοῦμεν τὴν δικαιοσύνην τοῦ θεοῦ ἐν τῷ οὐρανῷ. Yes, we are seeking the righteousness of God in heaven.
8. ὁ Ἰησοῦς διδάσκει τὸν λόγον τοῦ θεοῦ ἐν παραβολαῖς ἀλλ' οἱ Φαρισαῖοι ἐν τῇ συναγωγῇ οὐ λαμβάνουσιν τὴν διδαχὴν αὐτοῦ. Jesus teaches the word of God in parables, but the Pharisees in the synagogue do not accept his teaching.
9. ὁ θεὸς ποιεῖ τὴν γῆν καὶ ποιεῖ τοὺς ἀνθρώπους ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς. God makes the earth and makes (the) men on the earth.
10. τηροῦσιν τὰς ἐντολάς τοῦ κυρίου ; Do they keep the commandments of the Lord?

8.4 The Feminine forms of the Third Personal Pronoun "she", "it" : αὐτή

αὐτή uses exactly the same endings as ἡ

		Singular		Plural
Nom.	she	αὐτή		αὐταί they
Acc.	her	αὐτήν		αὐτάς them
Gen.	her	αὐτῆς		αὐτῶν their
Dat.	to her	αὐτῇ		αὐταῖς to them

Practice - until you can read and translate easily

1. αὐτή ἀναγινώσκει τὴν ἐπιστολὴν
ταῖς ἀδελφαῖς αὐτῆς. She reads the letter
to her sisters.
2. ὁ Ἰωάννης ζητεῖ τὴν ἀδελφὴν καὶ καλεῖ αὐτῆ. John seeks the sister and calls to her.
3. οἱ ἀδελφοὶ ἀγαπῶσιν τὰς ἀδελφὰς
καὶ τηροῦσιν αὐτάς. The brothers love the sisters
and keep them.
4. οἱ Σαδδουκαῖοι ἀκούουσιν τὴν διδασχὴν
τῶν ἀποστόλων
ἀλλ' οὐ λαμβάνουσιν αὐτήν. The Sadducees hear the teaching
of the apostles
but they do not accept it.
5. ὁ θεὸς βλέπει τὴν γῆν
καὶ βλέπει τοὺς ἀνθρώπους ἐπ' αὐτῆς. God sees the earth
and sees the men on it.
6. τὸ τέκνον βλέπει τὴν ἀδελφὴν καὶ λέγει αὐτῇ. The child sees the sister and speaks to her.
7. αὐτὸς λέγει αὐταῖς. He speaks to them (gals).
8. αὐτὴ οὐ λέγει αὐτοῖς. She does not speak to them.
9. αὐτὸς βλέπει αὐτήν ; Does he see her?
10. ὁ υἱὸς γράφει τὴν ἐπιστολὴν
ἀλλ' αἱ ἀδελφαὶ οὐκ ἀναγινώσκουσιν αὐτήν. The son writes the letter
but the sisters do not read it.

8.5 Sentences for reading and translation

1. ζητοῦμεν τὴν ἀγάπην τοῦ θεοῦ καὶ τὴν εἰρήνην αὐτοῦ.
2. αὐτὴ ἀκούει τὴν φωνὴν τῆς ἀδελφῆς ἐν τῷ οἴκῳ.
3. αὐταὶ ἀκούουσιν τὴν διδασχὴν τοῦ Ἰησοῦ ἐν τῇ συναγωγῇ ;
4. ἡ διδασχὴ τοῦ Ἰησοῦ δικαιοσύνη καὶ ἀγάπη ἐστίν.
5. ἀκούω τὴν φωνὴν τῆς ἀδελφῆς ἀλλ' οὐ βλέπω αὐτήν.
6. ἀναγινώσκομεν τὴν γραφὴν ἐν τῷ βιβλίῳ.
7. ἡ ἀδελφὴ διδάσκει ἐν παραβολαῖς, ὁ δὲ λαὸς ἐν τῇ συναγωγῇ οὐ λαμβάνει
τὴν διδασχὴν αὐτῆς.
8. ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος. (John 1:1)
9. ἦσαν αἱ ἀδελφαὶ ἐν τῷ ἱερῷ ; Οὐ, αὐταὶ ἐν τῇ συναγωγῇ ἦσαν.
10. ἦν ἡ δούλη ἐν τῇ συναγωγῇ ;
Ναί, αὐτὴ ἐν τῇ συναγωγῇ ἦν, νῦν δὲ ἐν τῷ οἴκῳ ἐστίν.

8.6 Writing Practice : Write the Greek, while saying aloud (Matt. 6:9-11)

Πάτερ ἡμῶν ὁ ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς,	Our Father, the (one) in the heavens,
ἀγιασθήτω τὸ ὄνομά σου,	let your name be sanctified,
ἐλθέτω ἡ βασιλεία σου,	let your kingdom come,
γενηθήτω τὸ θέλημά σου,	let your will / wish happen (come to pass),
ὡς ἐν οὐρανῷ καὶ ἐπὶ γῆς.	just as in heaven (so) also on earth.
τὸν ἄρτον ἡμῶν τὸν ἐπιούσιον	Our bread of / for the day

The exact meaning of ἐπιούσιον is a matter of debate - it seems to be derived from "needed for existence". In the New Testament it only occurs in Matthew 6:11 and Luke 11:3.

8.7 New Testament Passages for reading and translation

Matt. 9:26, Luke 2:14, John 1:1, 1 John 5:11-12

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

ἐξῆλθεν	(it) went out
αὕτη	this (<i>Feminine Demonstrative Adjective οὗτος, αὕτη, τούτο - "this"</i>)
ὅλην	the whole (<i>Feminine Accusative singular of ὅλος ὅλη ὅλον - the whole</i>)
ἐκεῖνην	that (<i>Feminine Demonstrative Adjective ἐκεῖνος, -η, -ον - "that"</i>)
ἡ δόξα	glory
ἐν ὑψίστοις	in (the) highest (places)
εὐδοκίας	good will (<i>Accusative plural of εὐδοκία - good will</i>)
ἡ μαρτυρία	witness, testimony
ὅτι	that
αἰώνιον	eternal (<i>Masculine or Feminine Accusative singular of αἰώνιος - eternal</i>)
ἔδωκεν	(he) gave (<i>a past tense of δίδωμι - I give</i>)
ἡμῖν	to us
ὁ ἔχων	the one having = he who has
ὁ μὴ ἔχων	the one not having = he who does not have

8.8 Vocabulary to learn

ἡ ἀγάπη	love	(particularly between Christians)
ἡ ἀδελφή	sister	
ἡ ἀρχή	beginning	(hence "archaeology", "archaic")
ἡ γῆ	earth	(hence - "geography, geology, geometry")
ἡ γραφή	writing	(from γράφω - I write)
ἡ διδαχή	teaching	(from διδάσκω - I teach)
ἡ δικαιοσύνη	righteousness	
ἡ δούλη	slave girl, servant girl	
ἡ εἰρήνη	peace	
ἡ ἐντολή	commandment	
ἡ ἐπιστολή	letter, epistle	(mail, not letter of the alphabet)
ἡ ζωή	life	(from ζάω - I live) (hence zoology)
ἡ κεφαλή	head	
ἡ παραβολή	parable	(from παρά - beside, and βάλλω - I put, throw; a parable is a story with a parallel meaning)
ἡ συναγωγή	synagogue	(from σύν - together, with, and ἄγω - I lead) (The people are gathered together at a synagogue)
ἡ φήμη	report, fame	
ἡ φωνή	voice, sound	(from φωνέω - I call) (hence "telephone")
ἡ ψυχή	soul, inner life, one's inmost being	(English words beginning with psych- are derived from ψυχή)
αὕτη	she	
ἡ	the	(feminine)
πρός	with, towards, for the purpose of, so that, near	(with Accusative)
πρός	at, near	(with Dative)
πρός	for the sake of, for	(with Genitive)

Do not worry about the various ways of translating prepositions (such as πρὸς).

Use whichever translation best fits with the sense of the sentence.

We will have a whole chapter on prepositions later.