

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. ἀγαθός, ἀγαθή, ἀγαθόν - good

	Case	Masculine	Feminine	Neuter
Singular	Nominative	ἀγαθός	ἀγαθή	ἀγαθόν
	Accusative	ἀγαθόν	ἀγαθήν	ἀγαθόν
	Genitive	ἀγαθοῦ	ἀγαθῆς	ἀγαθοῦ
	Dative	ἀγαθῷ	ἀγαθῇ	ἀγαθῷ
Plural	Nominative	ἀγαθοί	ἀγαθαί	ἀγαθά
	Accusative	ἀγαθούς	ἀγαθάς	ἀγαθά
	Genitive	ἀγαθῶν	ἀγαθῶν	ἀγαθῶν
	Dative	ἀγαθοῖς	ἀγαθαῖς	ἀγαθοῖς

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 ἀγαθὸς ἄνθρωπος ἀγαπᾷ τοὺς ἀδελφοὺς αὐτοῦ. The good man loves his brothers.
2. ἡ ἀγαθὴ ἀδελφὴ ἀγαπᾷ τοὺς ἀδελφοὺς αὐτῆς. The good sister loves her brothers.
3. τὸ ἀγαθὸν παιδίον ἀγαπᾷ τὰς ἀδελφὰς αὐτοῦ. The good child loves his sisters.
4. ὁ ἄνθρωπος ἀγαπᾷ τοὺς ἀγαθοὺς ἀδελφοὺς. The man loves the good brothers.
5. ὁ ἄνθρωπος οὐ πλανᾷ τὰς ἀγαθὰς ἀδελφάς. The man does not lead the good sisters astray.
6. οἱ ἀγαθοὶ ἄνθρωποι ἀγαπῶσιν τοὺς ἀδελφοὺς. The good men love the brothers.
7. ἀγαπῶσιν αἱ ἀγαθαὶ ἀδελφαὶ τὸν ἀδελφὸν αὐτῶν ; Do the good sisters love their brother?
8. γράφω ἐπιστολὴν τῇ ἀγαθῇ ἀδελφῇ. I write a letter to the good sister.
9. βλέπεις τὴν ἀδελφὴν τοῦ ἀγαθοῦ ἀδελφοῦ. You (singular) see the sister of the good brother.
10. ἀναγινώσκετε τὴν ἐπιστολὴν τῆς ἀγαθῆς ἀδελφῆς. 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	ἄξίαν	ἄξιον
	Genitive	ἄξίου	ἄξιας	ἄξίου
	Dative	ἄξίῳ	ἄξια	ἄξίῳ
Plural	Nominative	ἄξιοι	ἄξιαί	ἄξια
	Accusative	ἄξίους	ἄξιας	ἄξια
	Genitive	ἄξίων	ἄξίων	ἄξίων
	Dative	ἄξίοις	ἄξιαίς	ἄξίοις

Practice - until you can read and translate easily

1. ὁ ἅγιος ἄγγελος λέγει τῷ πιστῷ λαῷ. The holy angel speaks to the faithful people.
2. ὁ πιστὸς λαὸς ἀναγινώσκει τὰ ἅγια βιβλία. The faithful people read the holy books.
3. οἱ ἅγιοι ἄγγελοι ἐν τῷ οὐρανῷ ἦσαν. The holy angels were in heaven.
4. βλέπετε τοὺς ἁγίους ἀγγέλους; Do you see the holy angels?
5. Ναί, βλέπομεν τοὺς ἁγίους ἀγγέλους. Yes, we see the holy angels.
6. τὸ πονηρὸν δαιμόνιον βλασφημεῖ τὸν Ἰησοῦν. The evil demon blasphemes Jesus.
7. βλέπεις τὴν μικρὰν οἰκίαν ἐν τῷ ἀγρῷ; Do you see the little house in the field?
8. Οὐ. οὐ βλέπω τὴν μικρὰν οἰκίαν. No. I don't see the little house.
9. ἀγαπᾷς τὰς ἁγίας ἀδελφάς. You (singular) love the holy sisters.
10. ἡ ἕτερα ἀδελφὴ ἀγαπᾷ τὸ μικρὸν παιδίον. 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

Πάτερ ἡμῶν ὁ ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς - ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς is describing where the Father is

Practice - until you can read and translate easily

1. τὸ δένδρον τὸ μικρὸν ἐστὶν ἐν τῷ ἀγρῷ. The small tree is in the field.
2. ἦσαν οἱ λεπροὶ οἱ πτωχοὶ ἐν τῷ οἴκῳ; Were the poor lepers in the house?
3. βλέπεις τὸ ποτήριον τὸ μικρὸν. You (singular) see the small cup.
4. αὐτοὶ τηροῦσιν τὴν ἐντολὴν τὴν καινὴν. They keep the new commandment.
5. ὁ υἱὸς ὁ ἀγαπητὸς γράφει ἐπιστολάς. The beloved son writes letters.
6. ἄνθρωποι σοφοὶ οὐ λέγουσιν
δαίμονιους πονηροῖς.
to evil demons.
7. ὁ Ἰησοῦς ποιεῖ τὴν καινὴν διαθηκὴν. Jesus makes the new covenant.
8. ὁ θεὸς ὁ ἅγιος ἔχει ἐξουσίαν ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς. The holy God has authority over the earth.
9. ὁ Λουκᾶς ἦν ἐν τῷ ἰδίῳ οἴκῳ. Luke was in his own house.
10. ὁ Παῦλος γράφει τὴν ἐπιστολὴν τὴν καλὴν. 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 ἀγαθός The good man (The man, the good one . . .)
ὁ ἀγαθός 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 εἶμί, and Section 5.4 to review the Predicate.

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

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

NOTE that both ἄνθρωπος and ἀγαθός are in the Nominative.

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

Practice - until you can read and translate easily

1. ὁ Χριστὸς ἄξιος. Christ is worthy.
2. ἄξια ἡ Μαρία. Mary is worthy.
3. οἱ πρεσβύτεροι εἰσὶν ἄξιοι. The elders are worthy.
4. αἱ ἀδελφαὶ ἀξίαι εἰσὶν. The sisters are worthy.
5. τὸ παιδίον ἄξιον ; Is the child is worthy.
6. τὰ δαιμόνια οὐκ ἄξια ἐστίν. The demons are not worthy.
7. οἱ ἄνθρωποι μακάριοι ἦσαν. The men were happy.
8. μικρὸν τὸ τέκνον. The child is small.
9. ἦν ὁ ἄνθρωπος ἄξιος ; Was the man worthy?
10. ὁ ἄνθρωπος ὁ κακὸς οὐκ ἄξιος 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 ἀδελφὴ ἄδικος ἐστίν. The sister is unrighteous.
2. αἱ ἀδελφαὶ οὐκ ἄδικοι ἦσαν. The sisters were not unrighteous.
3. ἀκάθαρτος ἡ καρδία. The heart is unclean.
4. ἄπιστος ἡ καρδία τοῦ ἀνθρώπου. The heart of the man is faithless.
5. ζητοῦσιν τὴν ζωὴν τὴν αἰώνιον. They seek (the) eternal life.
6. ἡ γενεὰ ἡ ἄπιστος
οὐ λαμβάνει τὸν Χριστόν. The faithless generation
does not receive Christ.
7. ἄπιστος ἡ ἀδελφή. The sister is unfaithful.
8. ἡ ἀδελφὴ ἄδικος ἦν ; Was the sister unrighteous?
9. αἱ ἀδελφαὶ αἱ ἄπιστοι ἄδικοι εἰσὶν. The faithless sisters are unrighteous.
10. ἀκάθαρτος ἡ γλῶσσα τοῦ ἀνθρώπου. 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
τυφλός - blind	ὁ τυφλός - the blind man
πρεσβύτερος - elder, eldest	ὁ πρεσβύτερος - the elder

Practice - until you can read and translate easily :

1. μακάριοι οἱ ἅγιοι.	The saints are happy / blessed.
2. οἱ πιστοὶ μακάριοι ἦσαν.	The faithful were happy / blessed
3. ὁ πονηρὸς ζητεῖ τὰ ἴδια.	The evil (man) seeks (his) own (things).
4. ὁ πρεσβύτερος λέγει τοῖς ἁγίοις.	The elder speaks to the saints.
5. ὁ Ἰωάννης λάλει τοῖς τυφλοῖς.	John talks to the blind men.
6. οἱ ἄπιστοι οὐ βλέπουσιν τὸν ἅγιον θεόν.	The faithless do not see the holy God.
7. οἱ πτωχοὶ ζητοῦσιν τοῦς ἄρτους.	The poor (men) seek the loaves.
8. αὐτὴ λάλει τοῖς πτωχοῖς ;	Does she speak to the poor (men)?
9. ὁ σοφὸς ἀγαπᾷ τὴν καινὴν διαθήκην.	The wise man loves the new covenant.
10. οἱ ἄπιστοι οὐ μακάριοι εἰσίν.	The faithless are not happy / blessed

10.8 Sentences for reading and translation

1. τὸ ἀγαθὸν παιδίον ἀγαπᾷ τὸν διδάσκαλον τὸν σοφόν.
2. ὁ πρεσβύτερος ὁ σοφὸς διδάσκει τὰ παιδιά αὐτοῦ.
3. ὁ υἱὸς ὁ ἀγαπητὸς φανεροῖ τὴν δόξαν τοῦ θεοῦ.
4. ἐν τῇ τρίτῃ ἡμέρᾳ αἱ πισταὶ ἀδελφαὶ βλέπουσιν τὸν Ἰησοῦν.
5. μακάριοι οἱ καθαροὶ τῇ καρδίᾳ.
6. ὁ πονηρὸς οὐκ ἀγαπᾷ τοὺς πιστοὺς διακόνους τῆς βασιλείας τοῦ θεοῦ.
7. οἱ πρεσβύτεροι γράφουσιν τὴν ἐπιστολὴν τὴν δευτέραν ταῖς ἐκκλησίαις ;
8. αὐτὸς ὁ θεὸς ἀγαπᾷ τοὺς πτωχοὺς καὶ τοὺς τυφλοὺς.
9. οἱ δίκαιοι οὐκ ἀγαπῶσιν τὰ ἔργα τοῦ πονηροῦ.
10. οἱ πιστοὶ λαμβάνουσιν τὴν ζωὴν τὴν αἰώνιον ἐν τῷ οὐρανῷ.

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

Πάτερ ἡμῶν ὁ ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς,	Our Father, the (one) in the heavens,
ἁγιασθήτω τὸ ὄνομά σου,	let your name be sanctified,
ἐλθέτω ἡ βασιλεία σου,	let your kingdom come,
γενηθῆτω 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 δὸς ἡμῖν σήμερον ·	Our bread for the day give to us today;
καὶ ἄφες ἡμῖν τὰ ὀφειλήματα ἡμῶν	and remit/forgive (to) us our debts/guilt,

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

10.10 Modern Greek Greetings

Modern Greek uses καλός, -ή, -όν 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"	καλή + ἡμέρα
καλησπερα	pronounced "kalee spAIR ah"	"Good Evening"	καλή + ἑσπέρα
καληνυκτα	pronounced "kalee NEEK tah"	"Good Night"	καλή + νύκτα

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.

ὕμῖν	to you	(plural)
ἣν	which	(feminine, referring back to ἐντολή)
εἶχετε	you had	(plural; a past tense of ἔχω - I have)
ὃν	which	(masculine, referring to ὁ λόγος)
ἠκούσατε	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)	
πάλιν	again	
ὃ ἐστὶν ἀληθές	the thing which is true	
ἐν ὑμῖν	in you	(plural)
παράγεται	(it) passed away	
φαίνει	(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 καινὴ 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	