

Dr. Shirley's Greek Courses

Grammar

Adjectives - Introduction

Adjectives describe nouns, and "agree" with the noun they describe (same gender, case, number)

Adjectives and adverbs both occur in three "degrees" :

	simple,	comparative,	superlative
Adjectives.	The quick cat,	the quicker cat,	the quickest cat
Adverbs :	The cat ate quickly,	the cat ate more quickly,	the cat ate most quickly

Most Greek adjectives belong to the **Second Declension**, with endings

–ος –η –ον (for stems ending in a consonant other than rho) or –ος –α –ον (for stems ending in a vowel or rho)

Some adjectives belong to the **Third Declension**,

eg πλειων –ων –ον (more) ἀληθης –ης –ης, (true) For these forms, Masculine and Feminine have the same endings.

εὐθους –εια –υ (straight)

A few adjectives belong to a **mixed First and Third Declension**,

eg εἷς μια ἓν (one), πολυς πολλη πολυ (many), μεγας μεγαλη μεγα (great)

and also Participles of the form –ων –ουσα –ον ; –ας –ασα –αν

also –εις –εισα –εν (First and Second Aorist Passives); –ως –υια –ος (Perfect Participle Active)

Comparative and Superlative Adjectives

Adjectives in –ος –η –ον and –ος –α –ον form the comparative by inserting –τερ– and the superlative by inserting –τατ– or –ιστ–

δικαιος –α –ον
righteous

δικαιοτερος –α –ον
more righteous

δικαιοτατος –η –ον
most righteous

ὑψηλος –η –ον
high

ὑψηλοτερος –α –ον
higher

ὑψιστος –η –ον
highest

if the syllable before the –ος is short, it is usually lengthened

σοφος –η –ον
wise

σοφωτερος –α –ον
wiser

σοφωτατος –η –ον
wisest

Irregular Comparative and Superlative Adjectives :

ἀγαθος –η –ον
good

κρεισσαν –ων –ον
better

κρατιστος –η –ον
best

κακος –η –ον
bad

χειρων –ων –ον
worse

(worst - use comparative)

μεγας –η –ον
great

μειζων –ων –ον
greater

μεγιστος –η –ον
greatest

μικρος –α –ον
small

μικροτερος –α –ον
smaller

ἐλαχιστος –η –ον
smallest

πολυς πολλη πολυ
many

πλειων –ων –ον
more

πλειστος –η –ον
most