

Dr. Shirley's Greek Courses

Grammar

The Definite Article

The Definite Article "the" has various endings, which show the function of the word it describes in the sentence.

Greek does not have an Indefinite Article "a", "an" - when translating into English we have to put it in as necessary, to make for smooth reading and sense.

As a general rule, which works in most cases :

1. To find the Subject of a sentence, look for the Nominative forms of the Article, or for Nouns with Nominative endings ($-\sigma\varsigma$, $-\eta$, $-\alpha$, $-\sigma\nu$, $-\sigma\iota$, $-\alpha\iota$)
2. To find the Object of a sentence, look for the Accusative forms of the Article, or for Nouns with the same endings ($-\sigma\nu$, $-\eta\nu$, $-\alpha\nu$, $-\sigma\upsilon\varsigma$, $-\alpha\varsigma$, $-\alpha$)
3. To find the Indirect Object of a sentence, look for the Dative forms of the Article, or for Nouns with the same endings ($-\omega$, $-\eta$, $-\alpha$, $-\sigma\iota\varsigma$, $-\alpha\iota\varsigma$)
4. The Genitive shows a relationship of belonging to something, equivalent to English apostrophe S. For example, "the **dog's** collar" uses the remains of the genitive inflection in English.

Singular	Masculine	Feminine	Neuter
Nom.	ὁ	ἡ	το
Acc.	τον	την	το
Gen.	του	της	του
Dat.	τω	τη	τω
Plural			
Nom.	οἱ	αἱ	τα
Acc.	τους	τας	τα
Gen.	των	των	των
Dat.	τοις	ταις	τοις

NOTE :

1. The Genitive Plural ends in $-\omega\nu$ for almost every noun and adjective in Greek.
2. The Neuter Nominative and Accusative Singular have the same endings, as do the Neuter Nominative and Accusative Plural.
3. The Dative Singular forms have an iota subscript.
4. The Dative Plural endings $-\sigma\iota\varsigma$, $-\alpha\iota\varsigma$ are also used for many Greek nouns and adjectives
5. Masculine and Neuter endings often have -o sounds, while Feminine endings are often -a or -ay sounds. (*Compare Spanish, amigo, amiga, etc.*)