Adjective Notes

Adjectives in English:

* Adjectives: words that modify nouns (or pronouns).
* Ways they work (function):
  + Attributive (Describe or Qualify)
    - e.g. “The black bag.” “She learned modern Greek.” “The good man.”
  + Substantival (Act as a Noun)
    - e.g. “The good, the bad, the ugly.” “Out with the old in with the new.”
  + Predicate (“Is” Adjectives)
    - e.g. “God is good.” “I’m blue.” “He was stupid, but now he’s smart.”
* Determined by (1) word order (2) article use (3) context

Adjectives in Greek:

- Form

* You already know most adjective endings, they match the noun and article endings.
* An adjective must be able to match case, number, and gender with any noun it modifies.
* Therefore…

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Masculine | Feminine | Neuter |
| Nom Sing | ἀγαθός | ἀγαθή | ἀγαθόν |
| Gen Sing | ἀγαθοῦ | ἀγαθῆς | ἀγαθοῦ |
| Dat Sing | ἀγαθῷ | ἀγαθῇ | ἀγαθῷ |
| Acc Sing | ἀγαθόν | ἀγαθήν | ἀγαθόν |
| Declension | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| Nom Plur | ἀγαθοί | ἀγαθαί | ἀγαθά |
| Gen Plur | ἀγαθῶν | ἀγαθῶν | ἀγαθῶν |
| Dat Plur | ἀγαθοῖς | ἀγαθαῖς | ἀγαθοῖς |
| Acc Plur | ἀγαθούς | ἀγαθάς | ἀγαθά |

Adjectives in Greek:

- Function

* Same functions as in English
* Match the noun in Case, Number, and Gender
* determined by (1) word order (2) article use (3) context
* Ways they work (function):
  + Attributive (Describe or Qualify)

[Article] [Adjective] [Noun] ὁ ἀγαθος ἀνθρωπος

[Article] [Adjective] [Article] [Noun] ὁ ἀγαθος ὁ ἀνθρωπος

[Article] [Noun] [Article] [Adjective] ὁ ἀνθρωπος ὁ ἀγαθος

All of these would be translated: “The good man.”

Because they are all “attributive”

* + Substantival (Act as a Noun)
    - There is no noun to modify!

[Article] [Adjective] ὁ ἀγαθος

This would be translated: “The good”

Because it is “substantival”

* + Predicate (“Is” Adjective)
    - The adjective doesn’t have an

article and isn’t ”trapped”

[Article] [Noun] [Adjective] ὁ ἀνθρωπος ἀγαθος

[Adjective] [Article] [Noun] ἀγαθος ὁ ἀνθρωπος

These would both be translated “The man is good.”

Because they are in the “predicate”