Nominative and Accusative Nouns and THE Definite Article

**Vocabulary:**

* Declension: group of forms or case endings that follow similar patterns (2nd and 1st) Generally matches gender, but not always.

**Parts of a Greek Word**

Stem

* All Greek words have a stem. Usually the first few letters of the lexical form.
  + E.g. λογος stem: λογ or λογο

Case Ending

* All Greek words have a variety of case endings. They tell you how the word is functioning.
  + E.g. λογος case ending: ς or ος

Connecting Vowel?

* Note that the “o” could be part of the stem or the case ending. This is called the connecting vowel in some systems.

**The 5 Noun Cases**

* Nominative (Subject)
* Genitive (Of-ness/From-ness)
* Dative (To-ness/With-ness)
* Accusative (Object)
* ~~Vocative (Direct Address)~~

**Parts of Greek Nouns**

* Every noun you see in a sentence has a Case, a Number, and a Gender, and you identify these based on its case ending.

CASE GENDER NUM.

* E.g. λογος = Nominative, Masculine Singular
* E.g. λογους = Nominative, Masculine, Plural
* E.g. λογον = Accusative, Masculine, Singular
* Note that the gender of a noun never changes
  + (That’s what those extra letters are for in your vocab. More on that later.)
* The number and the case change with the ending

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Masculine | Feminine | Neuter |
| Nom Sing | λόγος | γραφή | ἔργον |
| Gen Sing | - | - | - |
| Dat Sing | - | - | - |
| Acc Sing | λόγον | γραφήν | ἔργον |
| Declension | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| Nom Plur | λόγοι | γραφαί | ἔργα |
| Gen Plur | - | - | - |
| Dat Plur | - | - | - |
| Acc Plur | λόγους | γραφάς | ἔργα |

**Nominative and Accusative Case Endings**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Masculine | Feminine | Neuter |
| Nom Sing | ος | η | ον |
| Gen Sing | - | - | - |
| Dat Sing | - | - | - |
| Acc Sing | ον | ην | ον |
| Declension | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| Nom Plur | οι | αι | α |
| Gen Plur | - | - | - |
| Dat Plur | - | - | - |
| Acc Plur | ους | ας | α |

**Case and Word Order**

* In English, case is largely based on word order.

“Jesus hit the man.” ≠ “The man hit Jesus.”

subj obj subj obj

* Because of inflection, word order doesn’t matter as much in Greek. The subject stays the subject wherever it is in the sentence.

Ἰησους (hit) τον ἀνθρωπον. = τον ἀνθρωπον (hit) Ἰησους.

subj (nom) obj (acc) obj (acc) subj (nom)

^Both sentences *mean* “Jesus hit the man.”^ (And would be translated that way)

**THE Definite Article**

* The word “the” in English is a definite article.
* The definite article in Greek can be attached to any noun. There is no “indefinite article” (e.g. “an”) in Greek.
* It must agree with the noun in Case, Number, and Gender.
* Therefore, there must be a different definite article for every Case, Number and Gender.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Masculine | Feminine | Neuter |
| Nom Sing | ὁ | ἡ | τό |
| Gen Sing | τοῦ | τῆς | τοῦ |
| Dat Sing | τῷ | τῇ | τῷ |
| Acc Sing | τόν | τήν | τό |
|  |  |  |  |
| Nom Plur | οἱ | αἱ | τά |
| Gen Plur | τῶν | τῶν | τῶν |
| Dat Plur | τοῖς | ταῖς | τοῖς |
| Acc Plur | τούς | τάς | τά |