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Module 11

The Definite Article and Persistent Accent

The Definite Article and Adjectives

In Greek and in English the definite article, **the**, is an adjective. Greek and English adjectives have the same function, though the Greek adjective has endings and the English adjective does not. Adjectives in both languages are words that describe nouns and pronouns. In the below,

a midnight dreary,

and

I ponder, weak and weary,

a and dreary describe the noun midnight; weak and weary describe the pronoun, I. In English, words can change their function and part of speech without changing form. Consider the sentence,

I left my gal and **home**.

In this sentence **home** is a noun. In the sentence,

I go **home**,

home is an adverb. In the sentences,

I miss my **home** town,

and

I hit a **home** run,

home is an adjective. In Greek, words do not typically change function and part of speech without changing form. In Greek the adjective has endings becauses each adjective agrees in gender, case, and number with the noun it modifies.

The Definite Article

Though in Greek and in English the definite article is an adjective, the functions of the two definite articles have important similarities and differences. Often the Greek definite article, $\dot{\mathbf{o}}$, $\dot{\mathbf{\eta}}$, $\boldsymbol{\tau}\dot{\mathbf{o}}$, is best translated with its English equivalent **the**. In this case the function of the article in both languages is the same. In other situations English calls for a translation of the Greek article with a possessive adjective: **my**, **your**, **his**, **her**, **our**, **your**, **their**. As you proceed through this text and Part II of the *21st-Century* series, you will encounter additional differences between the way the Greek and English articles function and the meanings they create.

Memorize the forms of the article. Be sure to memorize letters, breathings, and accents so that you can reproduce from memory each form of the article.

Singular			Plural				
	M	F	N		M	F	N
N	Ò	ή	τό	N	οί	αί	τά
A	τόν	τήν	τό	A	τούς	τάς (ā)	τά
G	τοῦ	τῆς	τοῦ	G	τῶν	τῶν	τῶν
D	τῷ	τῆ	τῷ	D	τοῖς	ταῖς	τοῖς
	Sing	gular				Plural	
	Sing M	gular F	N		M	Plural F	N
N		-	N τό	N	M oi		N τά
N G	M	F		N G		F	
	M ò	F ἡ	τό		oi	F αί	τά

1. Note that the masculine and feminine singular and plural nominative forms, $\dot{\mathbf{o}}$, $\dot{\mathbf{\eta}}$, $o\dot{\mathbf{i}}$, and $o\dot{\mathbf{u}}$ do not have an accent. They are proclitics and pronounced so closely with the word that follows them that they almost form a single word. All of the genitive and dative singular and plural forms have a circumflex accent. The remaining nominative and accusative forms have an acute accent.

Remember that the **article** is an **adjective**. In Greek and in English **adjectives** are words that describe nouns. In Greek, adjectives agree with the nouns that they modify in gender, number, and case. In translating Greek, the ability to see the relationship between an adjective and the noun it modifies is one that you will use in every sentence you translate. Consequently, understanding

how the adjective relates to the noun it modifies is essential to your learning the language. The article is the most commonly occurring adjective in ancient Greek. It is also very versatile. In the next module, we will see how it affects meaning in three common instances.

Persistent Accent

Adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions, nouns, and pronouns mainly have a persistent accent. Since they are declined, accents on adjectives, nouns, and pronouns can change nature—acute, grave, circumflex—and position—antepenult, penult, ultima. When presented with any noun or pronoun in a lexicon, the nominative case of the noun or pronoun is given first, the genitive case of the noun or pronoun, second, and the article, third:

Nominative	Genitive Singular	Article	English Equivalent
Singular			
αἷμα	αἵματος	τό	blood

Remember that the article indicates gender. Persistent accent remains the same accent (acute, grave, circumflex) over the vowel or diphthong it is on, as given by the nominative singular in all forms of the word, unless forced by the possibilities of accent to change in nature (acute, circumflex, grave) or position (antepenult, penult, ultima). If an accent violates one of the possibilities (you cannot have a circumflex on the antepenult), the accent will change in nature (acute, grave, circumflex) before position (antepenult, penult, ultima). The accent of most noun forms is persistent and is learned as part of the vocabulary.

Vowel Length

In the paradigms and accenting practice of this text, macrons mark alpha, iota, and upsilon if long. Short vowels and diphthongs are not marked. In authentic texts and in the Practice Translating of this text, macrons do not occur. Diphthongs are by definition long with this exception: final - $\alpha\iota$ and - $o\iota$ are short for purposes of accentuation except in the optative, a mood learned in Part II of the 21st-Century series. - $\alpha\iota$ and - $o\iota$ are final when they appear as the last two letters of a word, $\lambda \tilde{\upsilon} \sigma \alpha\iota$ but not $\lambda \dot{\upsilon} \sigma \alpha\iota \varsigma$.

Review Possibilities of Accent

Review these four possibilities, rememorizing them if you need to.

Acute Accent

- 1. An acute accent can appear on the antepenult, penult, or ultima.
- 2. An acute accent can only appear on the antepenult if the ultima is short.

Circumflex Accent

- 1. A circumflex accent can appear only on long vowels and never accents the antepenult.
- 2. A circumflex accent can appear on the penult if the penult is long and the ultima is short. Try using the mnemonic PLUS: Penult Long Ultima Short.

Additional Possibilities of Accent

Memorize these additional possibilities.

Acute Accent

- 1. An acute accent can appear on the antepenult, penult, or ultima.
- 2. An acute accent can only appear on the antepenult if the ultima is short.
- 3. An acute accent on the ultima changes to a grave when followed by a second word in a sentence.
- 4. An acute accent on the ultima does not change to a grave when followed by a second word in a sentence if there is a pause (comma, raised dot, period, question mark).

Circumflex Accent

- 1. A circumflex accent can appear only on long vowels and never accents the antepenult.
- 2. A circumflex accent can appear on the penult if the penult is long and the ultima is short. Remember PLUS: Penult Long Ultima Short.
- 3. A circumflex accent can appear on a long ultima.

Grave Accent

- 1. A grave accent can only appear on the ultima.
- 2. A grave accent can only appear on the ultima when a second word in a sentence follows without a pause. A pause is indicated by a comma, raised dot, period, or question mark.

Chart for Possibilities of Accent

Key: a stands for antepenult; **pe** for penult; and **u** for ultima.

	Acute	Grave	Circumflex
Antepenult	Possible if ultima is short: á-pe-ŭ	Never	Never
Penult	Possible but not if penult is long and ultima is short: a-pé-u	Never	Possible if penult is long and ultima is short: a-pê-ŭ
Ultima	Possible if pause follows: a-pe-ú + pause between words	Possible if no pause follows: a-pe-ù + no pause between words	Possible: a-pe-ũ

If, when reading the above, your head is left spinning, do not worry. Most people need to start applying what they are learning before they can begin to enter into understanding. In the below exercises you can learn from the examples. As you need to, go back and reread the possibilities for accent, committing them to memory through applied practice.

Application of the Chart for Possibilities of Accent in Persistent Accent. Consider the following examples.

1.	ἄνθρωπος (nominative):	άνθρώπου, άνθρώπῳ
2.	βιβλίον (nominative):	βιβλίου, βιβλίῳ
3.	νῆσος (nominative):	νήσου, νήσω, νῆσον
4.	δρᾶμα (nominative):	δράματος, δραμάτων
5.	ἀρετή (nominative):	άρετήν, άρετάς

Explanations.

- 1. ἀνθρώπου, ἀνθρώπω: the ultima is long and so the acute accent must change in position from the antepenult to the penult, but not in nature.
- 2. **βιβλίου**, **βιβλίω**: no violation of the possibilities and so no change.
- 3. **νήσου, νήσω:** the penult and ultima are long and so the accent must change in nature from a circumflex to an acute, but need not change position. **νῆσον:** the penult is long and the ultima is short and so the accent remains a circumflex on the penult.
- 4. $\delta\rho\dot{\alpha}\mu\alpha\tau$ oc: the accent remains over the syllable $\delta\rho\bar{\alpha}$ but must change in nature to an acute, because the number of syllables changed from two

to three and it is not possible to have a circumflex on the antepenult. **δρᾶμάτων:** the accent must change position because the ultima is long.

5. ἀρετήν, ἀρετάς: there is no violation of the possibilities and so no change.

Use these examples and the Chart on Possibilities of Accent to help you complete the persistent accent practice.

Practice with Persistent Accent. The first word in bold gives the persistent accent. Accent the unbolded words. Check your answers with those in the Answer Key.

- 1. θεός: θεον, θεοι, θεους
- 2. λόγος: λογου, λογω, λογον, λογων, λογοις, λογους, λογοι
- 3. **ἄνθρωπος:** ἀνθρωπου, ἀνθρωπω, ἀνθρωπον, ἀνθρωπων, ἀνθρωποις, ἀνθρωποι
- 4. άρχή: άρχην, άρχαι, άρχδς
- 5. πρᾶγμα: πραγματος, πραγματι, πραγματα, πραγματων
- 6. **πόλεμος:** πολεμου, πολεμων, πολεμων, πολεμοις, πολεμους, πολεμοι
- 7. λιμήν: λιμενος, λιμενι, λιμενα, λιμενες, λιμενων, λιμενας
- 8. χώρα: χωρας, χωραις, χωραι
- 9. ὄνομα: ὀνοματος, ὀνοματι, ὀνοματα, ὀνοματων
- 10.σῶμα: σωματος, σωματι, σωματα, σωματων

There is additional accent practice in Appendix X.

Practice Translating. Translate the sentences below adapted from Euripides' *Alkestis* (Άλκηστις). Remember the meanings and functions of the cases presented in Module 7. Nominative case endings are bolded; genitive endings are italicized; dative endings are highlighted; and accusative endings are underlined. Check your understanding with the translations in the Answer Key. Now go back and read each sentence two or three times, noticing with each rereading how much better your understanding of the sentence becomes. Make this a habit and you will improve quickly.

<u>Case</u>	Ending	Function
Nominative	-α, -αι, -ευς, -η, -ηρ, -ο,	subject of the verb
	-ος	
Genitive	$-\alpha\varsigma$, $-\eta\varsigma$, $-o\varsigma$, $-o\upsilon$, $-o\upsilon\varsigma$, $-\omega v$	possession; dependence; object of a verb or preposition

<u>Case</u>	Ending	Function
Dative	-η, -ι, -οις, -ω	indirect object of the verb; object of a preposition
Accusative	$-\alpha$, $-\alpha\nu$, $-\alpha\varsigma$, $-\varepsilon$, $-\eta\nu$, $-\omega\nu$, $-\omega\varsigma$, $-\omega\nu\varsigma$	object of the verb, preposition, or prefix

Απόλλων: ὁ Ζεὺς κτείνει παῖδα τὸν ἐμόν, Ἀσκληπιόν, καὶ στέρνοις ἐμβάλλει φλόγα. αὐτὸν γὰρ χολόω ἐπεὶ τοὺς τέκτονας Δίου πυρὸς κτείνω, τοὺς Κύκλωπας. θητεύειν δὲ ἐμὲ ὁ πατὴρ θνητῷ παρ' ἀνδρὶ τούτων ἄποινα ἀναγκάζει. ἔρχομαι δὲ τὴν εἰς γαῖαν καὶ βουφορβέω ξένῳ καὶ τὸν σώζω οἶκον. ὅσιὸς μέν εἰμι καὶ ὁσίου δὲ ἀνδρὸς τυγχάνω, παιδὸς Φέρητος, Ἀδμήτου· αὐτὸν θανεῖν ῥύομαι καὶ Μοίρας δολόω. αἰνέουσι δὲ ἐμοὶ αὶ θεαί τε καὶ λέγουσιν ὅτι ὁ δὲ Ἀδμητος Ἁιδην αυτίκ' ἐκφεύγει καὶ διαλλάσσει ἄλλον τοῖς κάτω νεκρόν. ὁ δὲ πάντας δ' ἐλέγχει καὶ διεξέρχεται φίλους, πατέρα τε καὶ μητέρα. ὁ δ' οὐχ εὑρίσκει οὐδένα, πλὴν γυναικός· ἡ μήτηρ αὐτὸν τίκτει ἀλλὰ οὐ ἐθέλει θανεῖν πρὸ αὐτοῦ. ἡ μὲν γυνἡ ἐθέλει μηκέτ' εἰσοράειν φάος· ὁ δ' αὐτὴν κατ' οἴκους ἐν χεροὶ βαστάζει καὶ ἡ δὲ ψυχορραγέει.

Adverbs, Prepositions, and Verbs

αἰνέω tell of; praise; promise, vow	*ἔρχομαι come, go
ἀναγκάζω compel, force	*ěxw have, hold; be able + inf.; kalws ěxein to be well
αὐτίκα immediately	*θανεῖν to die
βαστάζω lift, raise	θητεύω be a slave, to serve + dat.
*βούλομαι want, prefer; wish, be willing	κτείνω kill
βουφορβέω be a cowherd	λέγω say, tell, speak
διαλλάσσω change, exchange, give in exchange	μηκέτι no longer
διεξέρχομαι go through; be past, be gone by	οὐκέτι no more, no longer, no further
δολόω trick, deceive	πλήν except for + gen.
*εἰμί be, be possible	ἡύομαι draw to oneself, save; αὐτὸν θανεῖν ρύομαι I save him from dying
είσοράειν to look upon	σώζω save
ἐκφεύγω flee, escape	τίκτω bear, give birth

ἐλέγχω cross-examine; put to the test; *τυγχάνω obtain, meet + gen. prove; refute

*εὑρίσκω find χολόω anger, upset

*ἐθέλω (θέλω) wish, be willing ψυχορραγέω let the soul break loose, be at the last breath

ἐμβάλλω throw in, put in; put 'x' in acc. into 'y' in dat.

Adjectives, Nouns, Pronouns

Nominative	Genitive	Dative	Accusative	English Equivalent
Άδμητος	Άδμήτου	Άδμήτω	Άδμητον	Admetos
Άιδης	Άιδου	Άιδη	Άιδην	Hades
*ἄλλος	ἄλλου	ἄλλω	ἄλλον	another, other
*ἀνήρ	άνδρός	άνδρί	ἄνδρα	man, husband
ἄποινα	ἀποίνων	ἀποίνοις	ἄποινα	ransom, payment
Άσκληπιός	Άσκληπιοῦ	Άσκληπιῷ	Άσκληπιόν	Asklepios
*αὐτή	αὐτῆς	αὐτῆ	αὐτήν	she, her, hers
*αὐτός	αὐτοῦ	αὐτῷ	αὐτόν	he, him, his
βουλεύματα	βουλευμάτων	βουλεύμασι	βουλεύματα	will
βροτοί	βροτῶν	βροτοῖς	βροτούς	mortals
γαῖα	γαίας	γαία	γαῖαν	earth, land
*γυνή	γυναικός	γυναικί	γυναῖκα	woman, wife
*έγώ	έμοῦ	έμοί	έμέ	I, me, mine
*ἐμόν	έμοῦ	έμῷ	έμόν	my
*Ζεύς	Διός	Διί	Δία	Zeus
*θεαί	θεῶν	θεαῖς	θεάς	goddesses
θνητός	θνητοῦ	θνητῷ	θνητόν	mortal
Κύκλωπες	Κυκλώπων	Κύκλωψι (ν)	Κύκλωπας	Kyklopes
*μήτηρ	μητρός	μητρί	μητέρα	mother
Μοῖραι	Μοιρῶν	Μοίραις	Μοίρας	Fates
νεκρός	νεκροῦ	νεκρῷ	νεκρόν	corpse
ξένος (ξεῖνος)	ξένου	ξένω	ξένον	stranger, guest-friend
οί κάτω	τῶν κάτω	τοῖς κάτω	τοὺς κάτω	those below

Nominative	Genitive	Dative	Accusative	English Equivalent
οἶκος	οἴκου	οἴκῳ	οἶκον	house, palace
ὄσιος	ὁσίου	ὸσίῳ	ὄσιον	devout, holy
*οὐδείς	οὐδένος	οὐδένι	οὐδένα	noone
*παῖς	παιδός	παιδί	παῖδα	child
*πάντες	πάντων	πάσι (ν)	πάντας	all
*πατήρ	πατρός	πατρί	πατέρα	father
πῦρ	πυρός	πυρί	πῦρ	fire
στέρνον	στέρνου	στέρνῳ	στέρνον	breast, chest
*ταῦτα	τούτων	τούτοις	ταῦτα	these things
τέκτονες	τεκτόνων	τέκτοσι (ν)	τέκτονας	makers, artisans
φάος (φῶς)	φάεος (φωτός)	φάει (φωτί)	φάος (φῶς)	light, daylight
Φέρης	Φέρητος	Φέρητι	Φέρητα	Pheres
*φίλος	φίλου	φίλώ	φίλον	friend, loved-one
φλόξ	φλογός	φλογί	φλόγα	flame, fire
*χείρ	χειρός	χειρί	χεῖρα	hand; force, army

1. The asterisk indicates the top 250 most frequently occurring vocabulary, which you are to memorize.

Practice Parsing Greek Sentences. Parse each word of the sentence found below. For nouns and pronouns, give case and function. For verbs, give person, number, tense, mood, and voice. For adverbs and conjunctions, identify them. For prepositional phrases, give the preposition and the preposition's object. For adjectives, tell what noun they agree with in gender, number, and case.

ὁ Ζεὺς κτείνει παῖδα τὸν ἐμόν, Ἀσκληπιόν, καὶ στέρνοις ἐμβάλλει φλόγα. Check your answers with those in the Answer Key.

Herodotos

Born in Halikarnessos (Halicarnassus), a gateway between the Greek and Persian worlds, Herodotos began the telling of history. Most biographical information about him is gleaned from his historical work, his *Histories*. In writing it, Herodotos traveled throughout the Mediterranean and the surrounding lands, interviewing sources and looking over data. In helping to create the genre of history, Herodotos focuses on the eighty-two years from 560 to 478 BCE. Outside of this frame he looks back to the origins of the first eight gods, and forward to

the events of the Peloponnesian War (431–404 B.C.E.). In crafting his narrative, he makes use of a variety of source material, records events he does and does not believe, and passes judgment where he deems it appropriate, taking pains to establish the truth of what occurred. Where this is not possible, he still preserves what his sources relate. As he worked, he made mistakes and he got things right. His scope is a broad one. As he crafts his narrative, he discusses many other subjects, including the great struggle between the Persian Empire and the Greekspeaking city-states at the dawn of the classical era. These other things include chronology, colonies, customs, deeds, flora and fauna, food, funeral practices, genealogy, geography, great works, lineage, marriage, origins, religion, and sex. Herodotos does not merely list events or tell tales; his history inquires into the causes of events, and casts its net wide to include ethnography and legend as well as military and political history. Though parts of his work read as though Herodotos is a carnival barker, calling his audience to view the strange and incredible world of flying snakes, fish-eating horses, and gold-digging ants, underlying even these fantastic accounts is a reasonable and rational mind, seeking to present what it has gone to great lengths to discover. In presenting his findings, Herodotos weaves a variety of perspectives into his work, creating a complexity that recognizes the difficulties involved in explaining the past. The result is a rich narrative, full of nuance, that offers certainty when it can and uncertainty when it cannot.

Module 11 Top 250 Vocabulary to be Memorized. Like learning the alphabet and endings, memorizing vocabulary is essential to acquiring language. The better you memorize the top 250 most frequently occurring words, the greater mastery of the language you will have.

Adjective and Particle

ò, ἡ, τό the (proclitic, ò, ἡ, οἰ, αἰ)

 $\dot{\mathbf{\omega}}$ (precedes a noun, marks for the vocative case, often not translated) oh

Verbs

ἄyω do, drive, lead

ἀκούω hear, hear of or about, listen, heed + gen. or acc. of thing or gen. of person ἄρχω rule, command; begin + gen.

δύναμαι be able, be strong enough + inf.

καλέω call

οἴομαι (οἶμαι) think, suppose, believe

πράσσω (πράττω) do, make; fare; + κακῶς suffer

φέρω bring, bear, carry; endure

Etymology Corner XI by Dr. E. Del Chrol

Technical Terms 7, Parts of Speech

Conjunctions, **Module** 5. The root meaning of the Greek word for conjunction, σύνδεσμος, is very close to the root meaning of its Latin counterpart, **conjunction**. We already met συν- together, with. Its equivalent in Latin is **con-**, **co-**, **cum-**. δεσμός bond binds, chains, or links things together. The Latin **jungere** to join also binds, chains, or links. Think about how a **junction** is where two roads or wires meet. The root of **jungere** to join is part of a large number of English words like **join** and **yoke** (something that binds animals to a plow). The English word **yoga** is derived from the Sanskrit word **yoga** act of joining, which is derived from the same Indo-European base as **yoke**. Two words, like **yoga** and **yoke**, which are derived from a common source word are called **cognates**. **Derivatives** or **loan words**, like **postpositive**, are aliens that come from a non-native source. All English words whose etymologies are Greek or Latin are derivatives or loan words. A crude estimation suggests that of the 20,000 most commonly spoken English words about 12,000 are loan words from Greek (2,000) and Latin (10,000).

What to Study and Do 11. Before moving on to the next module, make sure that you can write out the forms of the article from memory and that you understand the concept of adjective and noun agreement. In order to remember the article for the long term, review the forms a few times each week. When reviewing, make sure that you can write them out from memory without looking at the answers. Also memorize the possibilities for accent and make sure that you are able to accent nouns.

Learning Tip 11: Own Your Learning. Teachers can assist your learning but cannot bring about your understanding. Good teaching explains information clearly. Good teachers encourage, guide, inspire, and support you, reminding you that mistakes are necessary, that setbacks and barriers are part of the process, and that stress inhibits learning. Ultimately it is you who control your learning and how deeply your thinking goes.

When you memorize vocabulary, repetition is a standard strategy. Some words, such as $\mathbf{\tilde{a}v\theta\rho\omega\pio\varsigma}$ or $\mathbf{\beta io\varsigma}$, you will remember based upon your knowledge of the meanings of the Greek loan words **anthropology** and **biology**. Continue to use the memorization strategies that work well for you. For words you need help memorizing, try as an alternative the strategy of linking. This strategy is the same as the one introduced for learning vowel sounds. Applying this strategy well takes concentration, so clear your mind and focus your attention. You need to **SEE** each word. Your senses—hearing, seeing, tasting, touching, smelling—are closely linked with your memory. When you use your imagination to create an image in your mind, make it come alive with your **Senses**. Exaggerate the image and Energize it, causing it to act. When you use your

imagination in this way, the tedium of memorization is replaced by the excitement of invention. Take the Greek word, ἀνήρ man, husband. In linking, you associate the English equivalent man, husband with the word you need to remember, ἀνήρ. First think of an English word or two that sound like the Greek word. To me ἀνήρ sounds similar to on air. To link the two come up with an interaction between man and on air, exaggerating the image so as to make it memorable. I imagine a man floating on air over Greece, in a flying suit made out of the blue and white Greek flag. As he flies, the man is eating fresh-baked bread dipped in tzatziki. On his finger is a huge wedding ring made of gold with many doves etched into it. The wedding ring reminds me that the noun ἀνήρ also means husband. You can apply this same strategy to English words you have difficulty recalling. I consistently falter in recalling the word hibiscus. Recently I linked the hibiscus plant with Biscuit, the dog belonging to my in-laws. I picture **Bis**cuit sitting in the plant with a big hibiscus flower on his head, wagging his tail hi. Since I created this link, I no longer have trouble recalling this word. To watch Nelson Dellis explain the process of linking for remembering vocabulary, follow the links below,

Nelson Dellis, The Linking Method I¹

Nelson Dellis, The Linking Method II.²

¹ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fjk5nBtqM3c.

² https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z6j2mU8OCsA.