PHILIP S. PEEK Ancient Greek I A 21st Century Approach



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Module 21 First Declension Short Alpha Nouns

Nouns

Nouns in Greek are defined just like nouns are in English; but the way they create meaning is different. As in English, Greek nouns (ἀνόματα) refer to people, places, things, and ideas. Greek nouns have endings. English nouns can change form when they show possession as in Jada's book, where the 's is added as a suffix and indicates that the book belongs to Jada. English nouns also change form when expressing the plural: two suns, three oxen, four mice. The endings on Greek nouns, as we have seen previously, create the same meanings that English does through form change, word order, and the use of prepositional phrases.

First Declension Short Alpha Nouns in $-\alpha$, $-\eta \varsigma$ and $-\alpha$, $-\bar{\alpha}\varsigma$

These nouns are feminine in gender. In the Attic dialect, nouns whose stem ends in - ϵ , - ι , or - ρ take the short alpha - α , - $\bar{\alpha}\varsigma$ endings. Memorize these endings, know how to obtain the stem, and know how to decline the nouns. As you learn new ending sets, look at the similarities and differences each has when compared to those endings you have already memorized.

Declining First Declension Short Alpha Nouns $-\alpha$, $-\eta\varsigma$ **and** $-\alpha$, $-\bar{\alpha}\varsigma$

To decline first declension nouns ending in $-\alpha$, $-\eta \varsigma$ and $-\alpha$, $-\bar{\alpha}\varsigma$, first get the stem by removing the genitive singular ending $-\eta \varsigma$ or $-\bar{\alpha}\varsigma$. What remains is the stem. To the stem add the following endings:

| | I | Feminine | | Feminine | | | | |
|---|-------|----------|---|--------------------------------|------|--|--|--|
| | Set 3 | | | Set 4 (*stem ends in -ɛ, -ı, - | | | | |
| | S | Pl | | S | Pl | | | |
| Ν | -α | -αι | Ν | -α* | -αι | | | |
| Α | -αν | -ᾶς | Α | -αν | -āς | | | |
| G | -ης | -ῶv | G | -ᾶς | -ῶv | | | |
| D | -ŋ | -αις | D | -ą | -αις | | | |
| V | -α | -αι | V | -α | -αι | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |

Feminine

| | Fem | inine | | Feminine | | | | |
|---|-------|-------|---|----------------------------------|------|--|--|--|
| | Set 3 | | | Set 4 (*stem ends in -ε, -ι, -ρ) | | | | |
| | S | Pl | | S | Pl | | | |
| Ν | -α | -αι | Ν | - α * | -αι | | | |
| G | -ης | -ῶν | G | -āς | -ῶv | | | |
| D | -ŋ | -αις | D | -ą | -αις | | | |
| Α | -αν | -āς | Α | -αν | -āς | | | |
| V | -α | -αι | V | -α | -αι | | | |

θάλαττα, θαλάττης and πεῖρα, πείρᾱς

| | S | Pl | | S | Pl |
|--------|---------------------|-----------------------|--------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Ν | θάλαττα | θάλατται | Ν | πεῖρα | πεῖραι |
| Α | θάλατταν | θαλάττāς | Α | πεῖραν | πείρāς |
| G | θαλάττης | θαλαττῶν | G | πείρᾶς | πειρῶν |
| D | θαλάττῃ | θαλάτταις | D | πείρą | πείραις |
| V | θάλαττα | θάλατται | V | πεῖρα | πεῖραι |
| | | | | | |
| | S | Pl | | S | Pl |
| N | S θάλαττα | ΡΙ θάλατται | N | S πεῖρα | ΡΙ πεῖραι |
| N G | - | | N G | - | |
| | θάλαττα | θάλατται | | πεῖρα | πεῖραι |
| G | θάλαττα θαλάττης | θάλατται θαλαττῶν | G | πεῖρα πείρᾶς | πεῖραι πειρῶν |

1. The alpha of the nominative singular, accusative singular, and vocative singular is short.

- 2. The accent shifts to the ultima in the genitive plural.
- 3. Use the $-\alpha$, $-\bar{\alpha}\varsigma$ endings when the stem ends in $-\epsilon$, $-\iota$, $-\rho$.
- 4. Remember that final -**αι** and -**οι** are short for purposes of accentuation except in the optative, a mood learned in Part II of the *21st-Century* series.
- 5. If the nominative has an acute accent on the ultima, it changes to a circumflex in the genitive and dative, singular and plural.

First Declension Nouns in $-\eta\varsigma$, $-\upsilon\upsilon$ and $-\bar{\alpha}\varsigma$, $-\upsilon\upsilon$

These nouns are masculine in gender. In the Attic dialect, endings from the $-\bar{\alpha}\varsigma$, -ov declension are found only in nouns whose stem ends in - ε , - ι , or - ρ . Memorize these endings, know how to obtain the stem, and know how to decline the nouns. As you learn new ending sets, look at the similarities and differences each has when compared to those endings you have already memorized.

Declining First Declension Masculine Nouns in – $\eta \varsigma$, –

ου and $-\bar{\alpha}\varsigma$, -ου

To decline first declension nouns ending in $-\eta\varsigma$, $-\upsilon\upsilon$ and $-\bar{\alpha}\varsigma$, $-\upsilon\upsilon$, first remove the genitive singular ending $-\upsilon\upsilon$. What remains is the stem. To the stem add the following endings:

| | Mase | culine | Masculine | | | | | |
|---|---------|--------|-----------|---------------------------------------------|------|--|--|--|
| | Set 5 | | | Set 6 (use when stem ends in -ε, -ι, | | | | |
| | S | Pl | | S | Pl | | | |
| Ν | -ης | -αι | Ν | -āς | -αι | | | |
| Α | -ην | -āς | Α | -āν | -āς | | | |
| G | -00 | -ũv | G | -0U | -ῶv | | | |
| D | -IJ | -αις | D | -ą | -αις | | | |
| v | -α, -η* | -αι | V | -ā | -αι | | | |

*For the vocative singular, use $-\alpha$ unless otherwise noted.

| | Masc | uline | Masculine | | | | | |
|---|------------|-------|-----------|------------------------------------------------|------|--|--|--|
| | Se | t 5 | | Set 6 (use when stem ends in -ε, -ι, -ρ | | | | |
| | S | Pl | | S | Pl | | | |
| Ν | -ης | -αι | Ν | -āς | -αι | | | |
| G | -00 | -ῶν | G | -00 | -ῶv | | | |
| D | - <u>n</u> | -αις | D | -ą | -αις | | | |
| Α | -ην | -āς | Α | -āν | -āς | | | |
| V | -α, -η* | -αι | V | -ā | -αι | | | |

*For the vocative singular, use **-***α* unless otherwise noted.

στρατιώτης, στρατιώτου and νεανίας, νεανίου

| S | Pl |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| νεανία | ᾶς νεανίαι |
| νεανία | αν νεανίας |
| νεανία | ου νεανιῶν |
| νεανί | ā νεανίαις |
| νεανία | ā νεανίαι |
| | |
| | S Pl |
| Ν νεανίά | āς νεανίαι |
| G νεανία | ου νεανιῶν |
| D νεανίζ | ā νεανίαις |
| Α νεανία | αν νεανίας |
| V νεανία | ā νεανίαι |
| | νεανία νεανία νεανία νεανία νεανία G νεανία D νεανία A νεανία |

- 1. Some nouns with nominatives ending with $-\eta \varsigma$, have the vocative singular ending $-\eta$ instead of $-\alpha$.
- 2. The accent shifts to the ultima in the genitive plural.
- 3. Use the $-\bar{\alpha}\varsigma o\upsilon$ endings when the stem ends in $-\varepsilon$, $-\iota$, $-\rho$.
- 4. Remember that final -**αι** and -**οι** count as short for purposes of accentuation except in the optative, a mood learned in Part II of the *21st-Century* series.

5. If the nominative singular has an acute accent on the ultima, it changes to a circumflex in the genitive and dative, singular and plural.

Noun Identification

You now know ten sets of endings for nouns:

| First, Second, and Third Declension Noun Sets | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----|-----|------|----|-----|----|----------|------|-------------|----|----------------|-------|-------|--------|-----|----------------------------|-------|--------|-------|
| | 1 st Declension | | | | | | | | | | | 2 ⁿ | d Dec | lensi | on | 3 | 3 rd Declension | | | |
| | Se | t 1 | Se | t 2 | Se | t 3 | S | et 4 | S | Set 5 Set 6 | | | Set 7 | | Set 8 | | Set 9 | | Set 10 | |
| |] | F | Fε, | ι, ρ |] | F | Fa | Fε,ι,ρ Ι | | | Με | , ι, ρ | M/F | | Neuter | | M/F | | Neuter | |
| N | η | αι | ā | αι | α | αι | α | αι | ης | αι | āς | αι | ος | οι | ον | α | | ες | | α |
| Α | ην | āς | āν | āς | αν | āς | αν | āς | ην | āς | āν | āς | ον | ους | ον | α | α,ν | ας | | α |
| G | ης | ῶv | āς | ῶv | ης | ῶv | āς | ῶv | ου | ῶv | ου | ῶv | ου | ων | ου | ων | ος | ων | ος | ων |
| D | ŋ | αις | ą | αις | n | αις | ą | αις | ŋ | αις | ą | αις | ώ | οις | ώ | οις | ι | σι(ν) | ι | σι(ν) |
| V | η | αι | ā | αι | α | αι | α | αι | α, η | αι | ā | αι | 3 | οι | ον | α | | ες | | α |

| First, Second, and Third Declension Noun Sets | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----|-----|------|----|-------------|----|---------|------|----------|----|----------------|-------|--------|-------|----------------------------|-------|--------|----|--------|--|
| | 1 st Declension | | | | | | | | | | | 2 ⁿ | d Dec | lensi | on | 3 rd Declension | | | | | |
| | Se | t 1 | Se | t 2 | Se | Set 3 Set 4 | | | | et 5 | Se | Set 6 Set 7 | | | Set 8 | | Set 9 | | Se | Set 10 | |
| | l | F | Fε, | ι, ρ |] | F | Fa | ε, ι, ρ | | Μ Με,ι,ρ | | M/F | | Neuter | | M/F | | Neuter | | | |
| N | η | αι | ā | αι | α | αι | α | αι | ης | αι | āς | αι | ος | οι | ον | α | | ες | | α | |
| G | ης | ῶv | āς | ῶv | ης | ῶv | āς | ῶv | ου | ῶv | ου | ῶv | ου | ων | ου | ων | ος | ων | ος | ων | |
| D | ŋ | αις | ą | αις | ŋ | αις | ą | αις | ŋ | αις | ą | αις | ώ | οις | ώ | οις | ι | σι(ν) | ι | σι(ν) | |
| Α | ην | āς | āν | āς | αν | āς | αν | āς | ην | āς | āν | āς | ον | ους | ον | α | α,ν | ας | | α | |
| ۷ | η | αι | ā | αι | α | αι | α | αι | α, η | αι | ā | αι | 3 | οι | ον | α | | ες | | α | |

For the nouns below, take note of what set of endings each noun takes.

| χρῆμα, χρήματος τό thing, matter, affair ; (pl.) money | set 10 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| πολίτης (πολιήτης), πολίτου ὁ citizen, freeman | set 5 |
| ἡμέρᾶ, ἡμέρᾶς ἡ day | set 2 |
| θάλαττα, θαλάττης ή sea | set 3 |
| παῖς, παιδός ἡ ὁ child | set 9 |
| χώρā, χώρāς ἡ land, country | set 2 |
| θεός, θεοῦ ἡ ὁ god, goddess | set 7 |
| πεῖρα, πείρᾶς ἡ trial, attempt | set 4 |
| ἔργον, ἕργου τό work, deed, task; building | set 8 |
| πρᾶγμα, πράγματος τό matter, thing, affair; problem | set 10 |
| νεανίᾶς, νεανίου ὁ youth, young man | set 6 |
| ἀρχή, ἀρχῆς ἡ rule, command; beginning | set 1 |
| στρατιώτης, στρατιώτου ὁ soldier | set 5 |

| ὅπλον, ὅπλου τό weapon | set 8 |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| δόξα, δόξης ἡ expectation, notion, opinion; reputation | set 3 |
| λόγος, λόγου ὁ word, speech, story; reason, account | set 7 |
| γραῦς, γραός ἡ old woman | set 9 |

Practice Declining Nouns. Decline these nouns with the article (answers are in the Answer Key): μοῦσα, μούσης ἡ *muse* and ποιητής, ποιητοῦ ὁ *poet*.

As you write out the forms, note the similarities and differences with the endings you have already memorized. Writing out the forms helps you to process this new information.

Practice Translating. Translate the sentences below, which have been adapted from Euripides' *Medea* (**Mήδεια**). Remember the meanings and functions of the cases presented in Module 7. Use your memory to identify endings and their functions. If you forget an ending or a function, consult the **Adjective**, **Adverb**, **Noun, and Pronoun Chart** in Appendix VIII and the **Case and Function Chart** in Appendix I. Check your understanding with the translations in the Answer Key, making sure that you understand why each word translates as it does. 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.

Τάσων: οὐ κρινοῦμαι τῶνδέ σοι τὰ πλείονα. ἀλλ', εἴ τι βούλῃ παισὶν ἢ σαυτῃ, ψυγῆς προσωφέλημα, χρημάτων ἐμῶν λαβεῖν πλείονα, ταῦτα σχήσεις. ἕτοιμος ἀφθόνῳ διδόναι χειρὶ ξένοις τε πέμπειν σύμβολα. οἰ δὲ δράσουσί σ' εὖ. καὶ ταῦτα μὴ θέλουσα, μωρανεῖς. λήγουσα δ' ὀργῆς, κερδανεῖς ἀμείνονα.

5 Μήδεια: οὐ βούλομαι ξένοις τοῖς σοῖς χρᾶσθαι οὔτε τι δέχεσθαι. κελεύω μὴ ἡμῖν διδόναι. κακοῦ γὰρ ἀνδρὸς δῶρ' ὄνησιν οὐκ ἔχει.

Τάσων: ἀλλ' οὖν ἐγὼ μὲν δαίμονας μαρτύρομαι ὡς πάνθ' ὑπουργεῖν σοί τε καὶ τέκνοις θέλω. σοὶ δ' οὐκ ἀρέσκει τὰ ἀγαθά. ἀλλ' αὐθαδία φίλους ἀπωθῆ· τοιγὰρ ἀλγυνῃ πλέον.

10 Μήδεια: ὥρα σοὶ χωρεῖν· πόθῷ γὰρ τῆς νεοδμήτου κόρης σπουδάζεις χρονίζειν δωμάτων ἐξώπιος; δοκεῖ σοὶ νυμφεύειν· ἴσως γάρ τοιοῦτον θρηνήσῃ γάμον.

Adverbs and Verbs

| ἀλγύνω, ἀλγυνέω pain, grieve, distress; (fut. mid. and pass.) suffer pain, be distressed | κερδαίνω, κερδανέω gain, derive profit |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ἀπωθέω, ἀπεώσω thrust away, push back | κρίνω, κρινέω judge, decide, pick out, choose, separate |
| ἀ ρέσκω, ἀρέσω please + dat.; make good, make amends | λαβεῖν to take |
| * βούλομαι, βουλήσομαι want, prefer; wish, be willing | μαρτύρομαι, μαρτυρέομαι invoke, call to witness |
| γαμέω, γαμέω or γαμήσω, marry; (mid.) give in marriage, marry (a man) | μωραίνω, μωρανέω be silly, be foolish |
| δέχομαι, δέξομαι receive; meet; encounter; accept; undertake + inf. | νυμφεύω, νυμφεύσω betroth, marry; give in marriage |
| *δίδωμι give; δίκην δίδωμι I pay the penalty; δίδωμι χάριν I give thanks | *πέμπω, πέμψω send |
| *δοκέω, δόξω seem, think; seem best, think best + inf. | πλέον more |
| δράω, δράσω do, accomplish, act | σπουδάζω, σπουδάσω be serious, be earnest; be eager + inf. |
| *ἔχω, ἕξω or σχήσω have, hold; be able + inf.; καλῶς ἔχειν to be well | τοιγάρ therefore, accordingly |
| *θέλω, θελήσω wish, be willing | ὑπουργέω, ὑπουργήσω render service, help, assist + dat. |
| θρηνέω, θρηνήσω sing a dirge, wail; bewail | *χράομαι, χρήσομαι use, employ, experience + dat. |
| ἴσως perhaps | χρονίζω spend time; tarry, linger |
| *κελεύω, κελεύσω bid, order, command | χωρέω, χωρήσω make room for; retire; advance |
| <u>Adjectives, Nouns, Pronouns</u> | |
| *ἀγαθός, ἀγαθή, ἀγαθόν good, noble | ὄνησις, ὀνήσεως ἡ use, profit, advantage; good luck |
| ἀμείνονα, ἀμεινόνων τά better | ἀ <mark>ργή, ἀργῆς ἡ</mark> mood; anger, wrath |

| *ἀνήρ, ἀνδρός ὁ man, husband | *παῖς, παιδός ἡ ὁ child |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <mark>αὐθαδία, αὐθαδίας ἡ</mark> willfulness, stubbornness | *πάντα, πάντων τά all, each, whole |
| ἄφθονος, ἄφθονον without envy; plentiful | πλείονα, πλειόνων τά more |
| γάμος, γάμο υ ὁ wedding, marriage | πόθος, πόθου ὁ yearning for + gen. |
| δαίμων, δαίμονος ὁ deity; fortune; destiny | προσωφέλημα, προσωφελήματος τό help, aid |
| δῶμα, δώματος τό houses | σαυτή, σαυτῆς ἡ yourself |
| δῶρον, δώρου τό gift | *σός, σή, σόν your |
| ἐξώπιος, ἐξώπιον out of sight of | σύμβολον, συμβόλου τό signs, tokens, codes |
| ἕτοιμος, ἑτοίμη, ἕτοιμον ready, at hand; able + inf. | τέκνον, τέκνου τό child |
| *θέλουσα, θελούσης ἡ wishing, being willing | *τοιοῦτος, τοιαύτη, τοιοῦτο of such a kind or sort |
| *κακός, κακή, κακόν bad, evil, cowardly | *φίλος, φίλου ὁ friend |
| κόρη, κόρης ἡ girl; daughter | φυγή, φυγῆς ἡ flight, escape, exile |
| λήγουσα, ληγούσης ἡ staying, abating; stopping, ceasing from + gen. | *χείρ, χειρός ἡ (dat pl. χερσίν) hand; force, army |
| νεόδμητος, νεόδμητον newly tamed; new-wedded | *χρῆμα, χρήματος τό thing; (pl.) goods, money, property |
| ξένος (ξεῖνος), ξένου (ξείνου) ὁ stranger; guest-friend | ὥρα, ὥρας ἡ season, period, time |

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, specify the noun they agree with in gender, number, and case.

πόθω γαρ τῆς νεοδμήτου κόρης σπουδάζεις χρονίζειν δωμάτων ἐξώπιος; Check your answers with those in the Answer Key.

History

History begins with Herodotos. Though influenced by epic, travelogues, medical treatises, and other intellectual writings, Herodotos and his *Histories* are discontinuous. They represent a distinct break with the past in their creation of a new genre intent on explaining what happened in the fighting between the Greeks and the barbarians and on preserving other items of interest, including customs, fauna, flora, great works, sexual mores, and religious beliefs. Thoukydides continued Herodotos' novel approach, writing a contemporary history of the Peloponnesian Wars, which he called an objective presentation of what really happened and a κτῆμα ἐς αἰεί, *possession for all time*. Xenophon then picked up where Thoukydides left off, starting his *Hellenika* in 411 BCE and ending in 362 BCE. Our fascination with histories, myths, and stories of all sorts continues today as we seek to understand the present and predict the future through our study of the past.

Module 21 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 vocabulary words, the greater mastery of the language you will have.

Nouns and Adjectives

ἀγαθός, ἀγαθή, ἀγαθόν good, noble δόξα, δόξης ἡ expectation, notion, opinion; reputation θάλασσα (θάλαττα), θαλάσσης ἡ sea μόνος, μόνη, μόνον only, sole, alone, solitary; one πολέμιος, πολεμία, πολέμιον hostile πρότερος, προτέρα, πρότερον prior, before, sooner πρῶτος, πρώτη, πρῶτον first, for the present, just now σός, σή, σόν your φίλος, φίλη, φίλον friendly, kind, well-disposed + dat.; (n.) friend

Etymology Corner XXI by Dr. E. Del Chrol

Technical Terms 17, Parts of Speech

Verbs, cont. The word **finis** in Latin means *end*, so **finite** verbs are doubly appropriate in English. On a small level, the verb has an *ending* on it (a **finis**). On a broader level,

the endings *limit* the action of a verb to a person and number doing it and making the action *finite*. When a verb has *no limitations* of person and number, i.e., *no endings*, it is an **infinitive**. **Infinitives** are translated in English with **to**, and you can remember that from the famous saying of Buzz Lightyear who became a grammarian after the *Toy Story* series: "To = infinitive! And beyond!"

What to Study and Do 21. Before moving on to the next module, make sure that you have memorized the short-alpha noun endings and can decline these nouns from memory. Also make sure that you understand that each noun takes one ending set. Finally make sure that you understand how to read the chart on noun endings.

Learning Tip 21: Learn from Mistakes and Successes. Look for the errors behind your mistakes but beware of rearview-mirror hindsight biases. Own your failures and your mistakes. The most common error is to learn too little from your mistakes, though the opposite is also possible. Also evaluate your successes—were you just lucky or did you reason things out correctly? Consider this culinary example. You cook a dish that does not taste as good as you wish. Consider the ingredients you used, how you cooked it, and how you spiced it. Find your error and look to correct it. If your spicing is off, try using more or less salt and balancing your flavors with acid. Learning to do anything consistently well requires an understanding of what works and what does not