# Introductory NT Greek

Week 5

#### Week 5

- Review
  - Nouns, Pronunciation
- English:
  - Prepositional Phrases
- Greek:
  - Word Order
  - Adjectives
  - Prepositions

## Greek Nouns Say a Lot

αγγελου -- from a messenger αγγελοις -- to some messengers

- Any given noun has the following properties:
  - Case: Expresses the intended usage of the word in the sentence.
  - Gender: Masculine, feminine, neuter.
  - Number: Singular or plural.
- In order to express all of this, nouns have a number of different forms.

# Cases (Review)

- · Nominative: naming; gives the subject.
- · Genitive: description; gloss: 'of'
- · Ablative: separation; gloss: 'from'
- Dative: reception; gloss: 'to'; often gives the indirect object
- · Locative: location; gloss: 'in'
- · Instrumental: means; gloss: 'by' or 'with'
- · Accusative: limitation; gives the direct object
- · Vocative: address

## **Prepositions**

- Prepositions are small words that relate their object to another word in the sentence.
- All prepositions have an object, which is the noun or pronoun following the preposition.
- Examples (**preposition**, *object*):
  - Mr. Morton walked **down** the *street*.
  - Pearl replied in the afternoon.
  - Mr. Morton knocked **on** her door.

# Purpose of Prepositions

- · Prepositions clarify time
  - We went to the store at five.
  - You are coming over on Monday.
  - I'll be done in half an hour.
- · They clarify position
  - We went to the store at five.
  - I rested my cup on the dresser.
  - I lost my keys in the couch.
  - I swept the dust under the rug.

# **Prepositional Phrases**

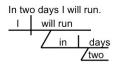
- A prepositional phrase consists of a preposition, its object, and any modifiers of that object.
- Each prepositional phrase has exactly one preposition.
- · Examples:
  - I'll be done in half an hour.
  - I hid under the blue and white truck.
  - You hit the fly on the table with a flyswatter.

# **Prepositional Phrases**

• The hills across the valley of the Ebro were long and white. On this side there was no shade and no trees and the station was between two lines of rails in the sun. Close against the side of the station there was the warm shadow of the building and a curtain, made of strings of bamboo beads, hung across the open door into the bar, to keep out flies. The American and the girl with him sat at a table in the shade, outside the building. It was very hot and the express from Barcelona would come in forty minutes. It stopped at this junction for two minutes and went on to Madrid.

Earnest Hemingway, "Hills Like White Elephants"

## Diagramming



A prepositional phrase is almost always a modifier and so goes below the baseline. The object of the preposition is separated from the preposition by a direct object marker.

I threw the ball in the bin. I threw ball

Clarifies which ball was thrown

I threw the ball in the bin.

threw in bin /the /the

Clarifies where the hall was thrown

#### Word Order

- · In English, word order greatly matters.
  - The red panda licked Evie.
  - Evie licked the red panda.
  - He gave the girl beautiful flowers.
  - He gave the beautiful girl flowers.
- In Greek, word order matters much less. Why?

#### Word Order

- There are more cues to usage in the Greek than there are in English. It is easier to identify how a word is being used in a sentence and which words go together.
  - The red panda (direct object) licked Evie (subject).
  - Evie (subject) licked the red panda (direct object).
  - He gave the [girl beautiful] flowers.
  - He gave the girl [beautiful flowers].

#### Word Order

- So why pick one word ordering over another one? Is there significance to the order?
- Oftentimes, emphasis is given to the first word in the sentence. Greeks organized the sentence so that the most important thing came first.
  - God was the Word (John 1:1, word for word)
- · But word order may be chosen for other reasons - even including the aesthetics of how it sounds.

## Adjectives

- Adjectives carry more information in Greek than in English.
  - Case
  - Gender
  - Number
- · Unlike nouns, an adjective may take on any gender, just by changing its ending.
- That bears repeating. A noun's gender is fixed - an adjective's is not.

## Adjective Forms (singular)

	Masculine	Feminine	Neuter
Nominative	ἀγαθος	ἀγαθη	άγαθον
Genitive	άγαθου	ἀγαθης	άγαθου
Ablative			
Dative			
Locative	ἀγαθῳ	ἀγαθη	ἀγαθῳ
Instrument al			
Accusative	ἀγαθον	άγαθην	άγαθον
Vocative	ἀγαθε	ἀγαθν	άγαθον

# Adjectives

- · Why should an adjective be able to change its gender?
- · An adjective modifies a noun.
- · A noun has case, gender, and number.
- An adjective has case, gender, and number.
- They have to match!

# Word Order (Revisited)

Does

He gave a girl beautiful flowers.

Mean

He gave a [beautiful girl] flowers.

He gave a girl [beautiful flowers].

# Word Order (Revisited) He gave a girl beautiful flowers.

- · Would it help to know the gender of beautiful?
  - Girl is feminine, flowers is neuter.
- Would it help to know the number of beautiful?
  - Girl is singular, flowers is plural.
- Would it help to know the case of beautiful?
  - Girl is likely dative, flowers is likely accusative.

# **Prepositions**

- · Good news: there are fewer proper prepositions in Greek than in English (17 vs. about 50).
- · Bad news: while there are fewer prepositions, some of them change meaning depending upon how they're being used.
  - μετα + genitive object: with
  - μετα + accusative object: after
- · Bottom line? You've got just about the same number of prepositions to remember in Greek as you have to remember in English.

# **Prepositions**

- · If word order doesn't matter, how do we match up the preposition to its object?
- · Prepositions have case. Nouns have case.
- · The case of the preposition must match the case of its object.
- The Greeks didn't get too adventurous with order of the preposition. It tends to be found quite close to its object.

# **Prepositions**

- δ λογος ήν <u>προς</u> τον θεον. The word was with [the] God. (John 1:1) Both  $\pi\rho\sigma\varsigma$  and  $\theta\epsilon\sigma\nu$  are accusative.
- παντα <u>δι</u>' αυτου έγενετο. All things through him became. (John 1:3) Both  $\delta \iota \alpha$  and  $\alpha \dot{\upsilon} \tau o \upsilon$  are genitive.
- <u>ἐν</u> α**υ**τῳ ζωη ἠν. In him life was. (John 1:4) Both ἐν and αὐτω are locative.

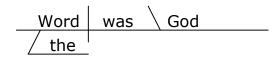
#### Homework

· Diagram sentences in the handout.

## Week 4 Homework Answers

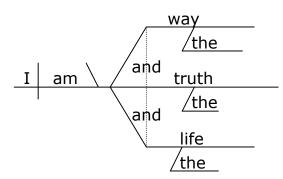
Diagram

1. the Word was God (John 1:1)

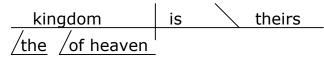


2. WHO BECAME HIS COUNSELOR? (Romans 11:34)

3. I am the way and the truth and the life (John 14:6)



4. theirs is the kingdom of heaven (Matt 5:3) ['of heaven' is one word]



<sup>\*</sup> that which belongs to them -- used without a following noun as a pronoun equivalent in meaning to the adjective their (Merriam Webster) [Craig's note: theirs is functioning as a substantive – its implied meaning is 'their possession'].

### Translate

- 1. λογος (NNMS, 'word') word
- 2.  $d^2$ γγελου (NGMS, 'messenger') from a messenger, of a messenger
- 3.  $\pi \varepsilon \mu \psi \omega$  (VIFA1S, 'I send') I will send.
- 4. ἐβαπτι $\sigma$ α (VIAA1S, 'I baptize') I baptized.
- 5. καρποι (NNMP, 'fruit') fruit
- 6. ἐκκλησιας (NAFP, 'church') churches
- 7. λιθοις (NDMP, 'stone') to stones, with stones, in stones
- 8. δωρων (NGNP, 'gift') of gifts, from gifts

# Week 5 Homework



