

The Article & Adjective

Chapter 5

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The Article

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The Article

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Identification

The article is used to distinguish one individual or object from another.

ποῦ ἐστὶν ὁ τεχθεὶς βασιλεὺς τῶν Ἰουδαίων;

Where is **he** who has been born king of the Jews?
(Matt 2:2).

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The Article

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
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Par Excellence

The article identifies one who is in a class by himself.

ὁ προφήτης εἶ σύ;

Are you **the** prophet?
(John 1:21).

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The Article

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Monadic

The article points to someone or something that is unique or one-of-a-kind.

οὕτως γὰρ ἠγάπησεν ὁ θεὸς τὸν κόσμον, ὥστε
τὸν υἱὸν τὸν μονογενῆ ἔδωκεν

For God so loved the world, that he gave **his**
only Son (John 3:16 ESV).

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The Article

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

With Abstract Nouns

The article was often employed in Greek with abstract terms where English would not use one.

ἡ σωτηρία ἐκ τῶν Ἰουδαίων ἐστίν

Salvation is from the Jews
(John 4:22).

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Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

The Article

Previous Reference (anaphoric)

The article points back to a substantive that was previously mentioned (usually translated as “this” or “that”).

πόθεν οὖν ἔχεις τὸ ὕδωρ τὸ ζῶν;

So where do You get that “living water”?
(John 4:11 ESV).

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Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
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The Article

Generic

An article may be used with a noun that is typical of a class or group (cf. “**the** man on the street”).

Προσέχετε ἀπὸ τῶν ψευδοπροφητῶν

Be on your guard against false prophets
(Matt 7:15).

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Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

The Article

As a Pronoun

The article functions as a (1) personal, (2) relative, (3) possessive, (4), demonstrative, or (5) alternate pronoun.

Personal Pronoun	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> οἱ δὲ εἶπαν αὐτῷ</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"> They told him <small>(Matt 2:5).</small> </div>
Relative Pronoun	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> τὸν πατέρα ὑμῶν τὸν ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"> your Father who is in heaven <small>(Matt 5:16 ESV).</small> </div>

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Possessive Pronoun	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> ὁ δὲ διέδωκεν... τὸν βίον</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"> And he divided...his property <small>(Luke 15:12 ESV)</small> </div>
Demonstrative Pronoun	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> οἱ ἐν τῷ πλοίῳ προσεκύνησαν αὐτῷ </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"> those in the boat worshiped Him <small>(Matt 14:33).</small> </div>
Alternative Pronoun	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> αὐτὸς ἔδωκεν τούς μὲν ἀποστόλους</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"> He gave some as apostles <small>(Eph 4:11 NASB).</small> </div>

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The Article

Substantiver

The article may turn adverbs, adjectives, participles, infinitives, prepositional phrases, particles, and even entire clauses, statements, or quotations into substantives.

τὰ ἐν τῷ κόσμῳ

the things in the world
(1 John 2:15).

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ὁ λόγος

The Article

With Indeclinable Nouns

The article may be included with indeclinable proper names or places so as to better indicate its function.

Εὐλογητὸς κύριος ὁ θεὸς τοῦ Ἰσραὴλ

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel
(Luke 1:68).

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Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
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The Article

Objects of Prepositions

An anarthrous noun used with some prepositions may still be definite.

χαίρετε ἐν κυρίῳ πάντοτε

Rejoice in **the Lord** always
(Phil 4:4).

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ὁ λόγος

The Article

Granville Sharp Rule

One article linked with two **singular**, personal, non-proper nouns (excluding personal names) suggests that they both refer to the same person or object.

τοῦ μεγάλου θεοῦ καὶ σωτῆρος ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ

our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ
(Titus 2:13).

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Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

The Article

Granville Sharp Rule

Two articles suggest that two people or objects are referenced.

ὁ ἀρνούμενος τὸν πατέρα καὶ τὸν υἱόν

The one who denies **the Father** and **the Son**
(1 John 2:22).

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Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

The Article

Colwell's Canon

A definite predicate nominative does not usually take the article when preceding a copulative (linking) verb.

1) If the noun **follows** the copulative verb (**εἰμι**) the article is usually expressed (**ἐγὼ εἰμι τὸ φῶς τοῦ κόσμου**; John 8:12).

2) If the noun **precedes** the copulative verb (**εἰμι**) the article is usually **unexpressed** (**φῶς εἰμι τοῦ κόσμου**; John 9:5).

θεὸς ἦν ὁ λόγος The word was **God** (John 1:1).

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ὁ λόγος

The Article

Apollonius' Canon

When two nouns are in a genitive construction, both the head noun and the noun in the genitive case either have or lack the article.

ὁ λόγος τοῦ θεοῦ (John 10:35)

λόγος θεοῦ (1 Pet 1:23)

the Word of God

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Adjectives

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Adjectives

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
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Four uses of adjectives

The man [is] good	Predicate
The good man	Attributive
The good [man]	Substantival
The man ate first	Adverbial

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Adjectives

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
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Predicate Adjectives

An adjective that predicates a certain quality to the subject, frequently by way of a copulative (linking) verb.
The article is **never** directly in front of the adjective.

πιστὸς ὁ θεός	God is faithful (1 Cor 1:9)
πιστὸς ἐστὶν ὁ κύριος	the Lord is faithful (2 Thess 3:3)

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Adjectives

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Attributive Adjectives

An adjective that ascribes a particular quality to a noun or substantive. The article, when present, occurs **directly in front** of the adjective.

ὁ ἀληθινὸς θεός	the true God (1 John 5:20)
τὸ φῶς τὸ ἀληθινόν	the true light (John 1:9)

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Adjectives

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ὁ λόγος

Substantival Adjectives

The adjective functions as a noun or substantive in a given phrase. The article, when present, occurs **directly in front** of the adjective.

εἶ ὁ ἅγιος	You are the Holy [One] (John 6:69)
οἱ ἅγιοι	the saints (=holly ones) (1 Cor 6:2)

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Adjectives

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Adverbial Adjectives

Use of an adjective (usually in the neuter accusative singular) to modify a verb rather than noun.

καὶ προελθὼν **μικρόν** ἔπεσεν ἐπὶ πρόσωπον αὐτοῦ

Going **a little farther**, he fell facedown
(Matt 26:39).

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Adjectives

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
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Other Forms

Participles, adverbs, nouns, and prepositional phrases can function as adjectives.

τῆς χάριτος τῆς δοθείσης μοι	The grace given to me (Rom 12:3)
τῆς ἄνω κλήσεως	The upward call (Phil 3:14ESV)
ἐν τῷ Ἰορδάνῃ ποταμῷ	in the Jordan river (Matt 3:6)

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Adjectives

Degree Forms

There are three degrees of adjectives:

Positive	σοφός, wise
Comparative	σοφώτερος, wiser
Superlative	σοφώτατος, wisest

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Adjectives

Two ways of forming the **comparative degree**

1) Third declension ending on comparative noun.

μείζων	greater
πλέον	more
χείρων	worse
κρείσσον	better
κρείττων	

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Adjectives

Two ways of forming the **comparative degree**

2) **-τερος, -τερα, -τερον** to the positive degree form.

ἀσθενής, weak	ἀσθενέστερος, weaker
ισχυρός, strong	ισχυρότερος, stronger
μικρός, small	μικρότερος, smaller
πρεσβύς, old	πρεσβύτερος, older

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Adjectives

Two ways to make a **comparison**

1) Use of the term **ἢ** ("than")

μείζων ἐστὶν ὁ ἐν ὑμῖν **ἢ** ὁ ἐν τῷ κόσμῳ

Greater is He who is in you **than** he who is in the world (1 John 4:4 NASB).

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Adjectives

Two ways to make a **comparison**

2) Use of the genitive case

ὁ πατὴρ μείζων **μοῦ** ἐστίν

the Father is greater **than I**
(John 14:28).

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Adjectives

Two ways of forming the **superlative degree**

1) **-ιστος** ending.

μέγας, great	μέγιστος, greatest
πολύς, much	πλείιστος, most
μικρός, small	ἐλάχιστος, smallest
	ὑψιστος, highest

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Adjectives

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Two ways of forming the **superlative degree**

2) **-τατος** ending.

ἅγιος, holy	ἁγιώ τατος , holiest
τίμιος, valuable	τιμιώ τατος , most valuable
ἀκριβής, strict	ἀκριβέσ τατος , strictest

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Adjectives

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
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Degree Forms

Some of the most common comparative and superlative adjectives use alternate forms (cf. good → better → best).

μικρός, small → ἐλάχιστος, **smallest**

κακός, bad → χείρων, **worse**

καλός, good → κάλλιον, better → κράτιστος, **best**

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Adjectives

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
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Elativ Sense

Adjectives of the comparative and superlative degrees regularly conveyed an “elative” sense. E.g., μέγιστος could mean “greatest” or “very great” (elative).

συνάγεται πρὸς αὐτὸν ὄχλος **πλείστος**

a **very large crowd** gathered around Him
(Mark 4:1).

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Adjectives

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Degree Changes

Adjectives of one degree were frequently adapted to communicate another degree. A positive adjective could function like a comparative or superlative and a comparative could function like a superlative.

πίστις, ἐλπίς, ἀγάπη ... **μείζων** δὲ τούτων ἡ ἀγάπη

faith, hope, and love...but the **greatest**
of these is love (1 Cor 13:13).

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