



# INTRODUCTION TO NOUNS AND ARTICLES IN ANCIENT GREEK

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# NOUNS:

“A WORD USED TO DESCRIBE A PERSON, PLACE, THING, OR IDEA.”

- Proper nouns: used to describe a unique person, place, etc. [must be capitalized]. “Persia” or “Pericles” or “the Peloponnesian War.”
- Common nouns: describe people or things in general.
- Concrete vs. abstract nouns: can it be perceived through the senses? “table” vs. “hope”
- Collective nouns: refers to a group of things: “a class of students” or “a grove of trees”

## IDENTIFY THE NOUNS

After this happened, Tissaphernes **came** to the Hellespont. When Alcibiades went to visit him with a single trireme, bearing friendly offerings and gifts, Tissaphernes **seized** him and **imprisoned** him in Sardis, saying that the King ordered him to make war upon the Athenians. Thirty days later, however, Alcibiades and Mantitheus, who had been taken prisoner in Caria, **provided** themselves with horses and **made** their escape from Sardis by night to Clazomenae.

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# NOUNS ARE DECLINED

- Characteristics = number, gender, and case
- Number = singular, plural, [dual]
- Gender = masculine, feminine, neuter
- Case = nominative, genitive, dative, accusative, [vocative]

# CASES IN GREEK: **NOMINATIVE**

- Subject [SBJ] of a finite verb
- Predicate Nominative [PNOM] after a copular verb.
  - Ralph is an elephant.
  - Judith became President.

## WHICH NOUNS WOULD BE NOMINATIVE?

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## NOMINATIVE SBJ

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## NOMINATIVE PNOM

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## CASES IN GREEK: ACCUSATIVE

- Direct Object
- Extent of Time = “He stayed for seven days.”
- Extent of Space = “They traveled seventy stades.”
- Place to Which = “He sailed to Ephesus.”
- Adverbial = “In the end, he spoke.”

## WHICH NOUNS WOULD BE ACCUSATIVE?

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## (1) PLACE TO WHICH; (2) DIRECT OBJECT

After this happened, Tissaphernes came to the (1) Hellespont. When Alcibiades went to visit him with a single trireme, bearing friendly (2) offerings and gifts, Tissaphernes seized him and imprisoned him in Sardis, saying that the King ordered him to make (2) war upon the Athenians. Thirty days later, however, Alcibiades and Mantisheus, who had been taken prisoner in Caria, provided themselves with (2) horses and made their (2) escape from Sardis by night to (1) Clazomenae.

## CASES IN GREEK: **GENITIVE**

- Usually translated “of”
- Possession: “Pete’s book” = “the book of Pete”
- Material, partitive = “a piece of pie”
- Quality, price = “A woman of good character” or “a bribe of 60 drachmas”
- Charge = “the penalty of exile”

## CASES IN GREEK: **GENITIVE**

- Comparison = “Adam is taller than Fred.”
- Cause (with verbs like envy, admire, hate, pity) = “I am envious of your new car.”
- Separation/Place from which = “He left [from] Athens.”
- Time/Place within which
  - “During the day,” “in summer,” “in the next few hours”
  - “The Persians were looting in Caria.”

## WHICH NOUNS WOULD BE GENITIVE?

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## GENITIVE = PLACE FROM WHICH AND TIME DURING WHICH

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# CASES IN GREEK: DATIVE

- Indirect Object = “to” or “for”
  - “John gave a gift to Charlie.”
- Instrument/means/accompaniment
  - “The king was killed by a javelin.”
  - “He marched in with an army.”
- \*Locative/Place where
  - “He was born in Ephesus” or “Her friends found her at home.”
- \*Time when
  - “On the next day, he departed for home.”
- Degree Difference
  - “Later by seven days” or “Longer by a mile”

## WHICH NOUNS WOULD BE DATIVE?

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## (1) ACCOMPANIMENT/INSTRUMENT; (2) PLACE WHERE

After this happened, Tissaphernes came to the Hellespont. When Alcibiades went to visit him with a single (1) trireme, bearing friendly offerings and gifts, Tissaphernes seized him and imprisoned him (2) in Sardis, saying that the King ordered him to make war upon the Athenians. Thirty days later, however, Alcibiades and Mantisheus, who had been taken prisoner (2) in Caria, provided themselves with horses and made their escape from Sardis by night to Clazomenae.

### (3) INDIRECT OBJECT

After this happened, Tissaphernes came to the Hellespont. When Alcibiades went to visit him with a single (1) trireme, bearing friendly offerings and gifts, Tissaphernes seized him and imprisoned him in (2) Sardis, saying that the King ordered him to make war upon the (3) Athenians. Thirty days later, however, Alcibiades and Mantisheus, who had been taken prisoner (2) in Caria, provided themselves with horses and made their escape from Sardis by night to Clazomenae.

## (4) DEGREE OF DIFFERENCE

After this happened, Tissaphernes came to the Hellespont. When Alcibiades went to visit him with a single (1) trireme, bearing friendly (1) offerings and (1) gifts, Tissaphernes seized him and imprisoned him in (2) Sardis, saying that the King ordered him to make war upon the (3) Athenians. Thirty (4) days later, however, Alcibiades and Mantitheus, who had been taken prisoner (2) in Caria, provided themselves with horses and made their escape from Sardis by night to Clazomenae.

<b>Genitive</b>	<b>Dative</b>	<b>Accusative</b>
	<b>PLACE</b>	
Source/ Separation/ Extent	Place Where	Place to Which
	<b>TIME</b>	
Extent	When	Within Which

# ARTICLE

- **Definite article** = “the”
  - Greek has no indefinite article “a/an”
- Technically articles are among the demonstrative adjectives, but Greek generally treats them as a separate part-of-speech
- Must match the noun they modified in gender, number, and case [*though their endings will not necessarily match*]
- Do not need to be immediately preceding their noun

## WHICH WORDS ARE ARTICLES? WHAT NOUN DOES EACH MODIFY?

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