

## 7

# Adjectives

You will be able to—

1. understand English adjectives and their various uses;
2. learn and translate various Greek adjectives;
3. identify attributive, predicate, and substantive uses of Greek adjectives;
4. properly identify the grammatical agreement between an adjective and its accompanying substantive;
5. identify the various forms of the verb εἶμι in the present active indicative;
6. master ten more high-frequency vocabulary words; and
7. finish memorizing Jn. 1:1 in Greek.

## Definition

An adjective is a word used to modify a noun or pronoun. The adjective often specifies more clearly what the noun or pronoun actually means. It often answers the question “What kind of \_\_\_\_\_ is it?”

The soft snow hit the windshield.

Answers: What kind of snow? Soft.

The snow was soft.

## Three Uses of Adjectives

Adjectives are used in three ways:

1. An attributive adjective attributes a characteristic to the noun it modifies.  
The good book
2. A predicate adjective assigns a characteristic to the subject of the sentence.  
The book is good.
3. As a substantive, an adjective acts independently, as a noun itself.  
The good die young.

Examples:

1. Attributive use:  
The red car hit the big truck behind the rear tire.
2. Predicate use:  
Roses are red and violets are blue.

## 3. Substantive use:

The kind receive their rewards, but the unjust are often surprised (i.e., the kind person; the unjust person).

Adjectives modify nouns and pronouns. They will match the nouns they modify in number, gender, and case.

Adjectives frequently use a 2-1-2 paradigm scheme:

masculine = Second declension forms  
 feminine = First declension forms  
 neuter = Second declension forms

Because you already know the first and second declensions, it is easy to recognize the gender, number, and case of the adjectives.

**Adjective Paradigm****ἀγαθός (good)**

Declension	2	1	2
<b>Singular</b>	<b>Masc.</b>	<b>Fem.</b>	<b>Neut.</b>
Nom.	ἀγαθός	ἀγαθή	ἀγαθόν
Gen.	ἀγαθοῦ	ἀγαθῆς	ἀγαθοῦ
Dat.	ἀγαθῷ	ἀγαθῇ	ἀγαθῷ
Acc.	ἀγαθόν	ἀγαθήν	ἀγαθόν
<b>Plural</b>			
Nom.	ἀγαθοί	ἀγαθαί	ἀγαθά
Gen.	ἀγαθῶν	ἀγαθῶν	ἀγαθῶν
Dat.	ἀγαθοῖς	ἀγαθαῖς	ἀγαθοῖς
Acc.	ἀγαθοὺς	ἀγαθάς	ἀγαθά

**Adjective Paradigm for words ending in ε, ι, or ρ****δίκαιος (righteous)**

Declension	2	1	2
<b>Singular</b>	<b>Masc.</b>	<b>Fem.</b>	<b>Neut.</b>
Nom.	δίκαιος	δικαία	δίκαιον
Gen.	δικαίου	δικαίας	δικαίου
Dat.	δικαίῳ	δικαία	δικαίῳ
Acc.	δίκαιον	δικαίαν	δίκαιον
Voc.	δίκαιε	δικαία	δίκαιον
<b>Plural</b>			
Nom. Voc.	δίκαιοι	δίκαιαι	δίκαια
Gen.	δικαίων	δικαίων	δικαίων
Dat.	δικαίοις	δικαίαις	δικαίοις
Acc.	δικαίους	δικαίας	δίκαια

**Attributive position = Adjective has article.**

ὁ ἀγαθὸς λόγος      the good word  
 ὁ λόγος ὁ ἀγαθός      the good word

ἐγὼ εἰμι ὁ ποιμὴν ὁ καλός.  
 I am the good shepherd (Jn. 10:11).

ἐν τῇ ἐσχάτῃ ἡμέρᾳ  
 in the last day (Jn. 6:39)

**Predicate position = Adjective has no article.**

ἀγαθὸς ὁ λόγος      The word is good.  
 ὁ λόγος ἀγαθός      The word is good.

καὶ ὁ ἄνθρωπος οὗτος δίκαιος  
 And this man was righteous (Lk. 2:25).

φαίνεσθε τοῖς ἀνθρώποις δίκαιοι.  
 you appear to men to be righteous (Mat. 23:28).

**Substantive use = Adjective is used as a noun—has no noun**

The substantive use often has the article but no accompanying noun.

οἱ δὲ δίκαιοι εἰς ζωὴν αἰώνιον  
 but the righteous unto eternal life (Mat. 25:46)

Ὁ δὲ δίκαιος ἐκ πίστεως ζήσεται  
 But the righteous will live by faith (Rom. 1:17).

**Predicate or Attributive**

Sometimes neither the adjective nor the noun has the article. In this case the context must determine whether to translate it attributively or predicatively.

καὶ ἀνὴρ ἀγαθὸς καὶ δίκαιος  
 and a good and righteous man (Lk. 23:50)

**Introduction to εἰμί**

εἰμί is a stative verb (it indicates a state of being) and so has no voice (active, middle, or passive).

In English “is” takes a *predicate nominative* rather than the normal accusative. It is correct to say “This is he” and incorrect to say “This is him.” Similarly, in Greek a noun or pronoun in the nominative goes with the verb, one as the subject the other nominative is the predicate nominative. Learn to chant through this paradigm.

**Present Indicative of εἰμί**

Singular		Plural	
εἰμί	I am	ἐσμέν	we are
εἶ	you are	ἐστέ	you are
ἐστί(ν)	he/she/it is	εἰσί(ν)	they are

Note: The third singular and plural may take a moveable ν.

Examples:

ὅτι ὁ θεὸς ἀληθὴς ἐστίν  
that God is true (Jn. 3:33)

Ἡλίας εἶ; καὶ λέγει, Οὐκ εἰμί. Ὁ προφήτης εἶ σύ;  
“Are you Elijah?” And he said, “I am not.” “Are you the prophet?” (Jn. 1:21).

**Predicate Adjective with a verb:** attributes some quality to the subject of the sentence. It is used with verbs εἰμί and γίνομαι (I become).

ὁ θεὸς ἀληθὴς ἐστίν  
God is true (true=Pred. Nom. Adj.) (John 3:33)

**Chant #4: Present Indicative (PAI) εἰμί Verb**  
(chant left column then right column)

εἰμί	ἐσμέν
εἶ	ἐστέ
ἐστί(ν)	εἰσί(ν)

**οὐ, οὐκ, and οὐχ (no, not)**

**Οὐ** is placed before the word it negates, which is usually the verb. There are three main forms of this word, depending on the initial letter of the word that follows it:

1. οὐ before a consonant.
2. οὐκ before a vowel with a smooth breathing mark.
3. οὐχ before a vowel with a rough breathing mark.

In addition, οὐχί is a strengthened form of οὐ (see lexicon).

Examples: οὐ—no, not (before a consonant)

1. καὶ ταῦτα οὐ γινώσκεις;  
And you do not understand these things? (Jn. 3:10).
2. καὶ οὐ λαμβάνετε με  
And you do not accept me (Jn. 5:43).

Examples: οὐκ—no, not (before a word that begins with a vowel with a smooth breathing mark)

1. καὶ τὸν λόγον αὐτοῦ οὐκ ἔχετε ἐν ὑμῖν.  
And you do not have his word in you (Jn. 5:38).
2. καὶ λέγει Οὐκ εἰμί -- notice Οὐκ is capitalized indicating it is a quotation  
And he said, “I am not.” (Jn 1:21)

Examples: οὐχ—no, not (before a word that begins with a vowel with a rough breathing mark)

1. οὐχ ὑμεῖς λέγετε ὅτι . . .  
Do you not say that . . . (Jn. 4:35).
2. καὶ οὐχ ὁ ἄνθρωπος διὰ τὸ σάββατον  
and not man for the Sabbath (Mk. 2:27)

## Vocabulary

ἀγαθός, -ή, -όν	good (102)
ἅγιος, -α, -ον	holy (233)
δίκαιος, -α, -ον	righteous (79)
εἰμί	I am (2,460)
Ἰουδαῖος, -α, -ον	Jewish, a Jew (195)
μέγας, μεγάλη, μέγα	great, large (243)
νεκρός, -ά, -όν	dead (128)
οὐ, οὐκ, οὐχ	no, not (1606)
πρῶτος, -η, -ον	first (155)
φωνή, -ῆς, ἡ	voice (139)

## Memory Verse: John 1:1

Ἐν	ἀρχῇ	ἦν	ὁ	λόγος,		
In	beginning	Was	the	Word,		
καὶ	ὁ	λόγος	ἦν	πρὸς	τὸν	θεόν,
and	the	Word	was	with	the	God,
καὶ	θεὸς	ἦν	ὁ	λόγος.		
and	God	was	the	Word.		

Note: In the last clause, the definite article marks ὁ λόγος as the subject; θεός is a predicate. Thus the translation “the Word was God.”