5.3: Alpha "pure" and "impure"   Does that apply to adjectives?

I have been shyly concealing until now another subgroup in the first declension. Some of the feminine nouns with a nominative ending in **-α** have what is traditionally called a "pure" alpha, others an "impure" one. How do we tell one from the other? In θεά (the goddess), ἡσυχία (tranquility), χαρά, alpha is *pure* because it is preceded by either a vowel or (only) the consonant ῥ. In δόξα (glory, reputation), Μοῦσα (Muse), alpha, preceded by a consonant other than ῥ, is *impure*. Why make such a distinction? Because whereas pure alpha remains throughout all the cases (these are the **-α** nouns we declined in **4.2**), impure alpha changes to **-η** in the genitive and dative of the singular. Their citation makes it immediately clear: in contrast to τέχνη, τέχνης (art, skill) or θεά, θεᾶς, we have δόξα, δόξ-**ης.**

Thus we are encountering a "mixed" subgroup which it will be useful to compare with the straight **-α** and straight **-η** nouns of the first declension we studied before. We need to consider only the singular, since in the plural **all** nouns of the first declension take the vowel **-α**.

First declension singular

citation	τέχν-**η, -ης**	θε-ά, -ᾶς	δόξ-**α,** δόξ-**ης**
nom	τέχν-**η**	θε-ά	δόξ-**α**
gen	τέχν-**ης**	θε-ᾶς	δόξ-**ης**
dat	τέχν-**η**	θε-ᾷ	δόξ-**η**
acc	τέχν-**ην**	θε-άν	δόξ-**αν**
voc	*= nom*	*= nom*	*= nom*

If you review the citation of adjectives that we have been using so far, you will see that their feminine chooses *either* **-α** *or* **-η**.

The issue of *impure alpha* does not apply to the adjectives of the first and second declensions that I have dubbed "Type 1" adjectives:

EXAMPLES

Click **here** for a chart of the declension of these adjectives

ὀρθός, ὀρθή, ὀρθόν = straight, correct

χαλεπός, χαλεπή, χαλεπόν = harsh

ἐμός, ἐμή, ἐμόν = my (possessive adjective)

δίκαιος, δικαία, δίκαιον = just, righteous

μακρός, μακρά, μακρόν = large, great