

Adjectives for Evaluating

Expanding Your Greek Vocabulary

A lesson for the *Paideia* web-app

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Calling Something 'Good'

- καλός, -ή, -όν, "excellent"
 - "Beautiful" (excellent form)
 - "Morally good" (excellent action)
 - "Skillful" (excellent performance)
- ἀγαθός, -ή, -όν, "morally good"
- γενναῖος, -α, -ον, "high-born, noble, elite"



Calling Something 'Bad'

- κακός, -ή, -όν, "of bad quality"
 - Opposite of καλος
 - "bad, wicked" (bad behaviour)
 - "ugly" (bad form)
 - "rotten, spoiled" (bad quality)
- πονηρός, -ά, -όν, "morally evil"
 - Opposite of ἀγαθος
 - Notice final -α in the feminine
- ταπεινός, -ή, -όν, "low-born, ignoble, humble"
 - Opposite of γενναιος
 - Jews and Christ-followers invert this set of values!



Adjectives as Forms of Address

- **γενναῖος, -α, -ον**
 - to one's social superiors
 - **Χαιρε, ὦ γενναιε!** "Hello, sir!"
 - reinforces hierarchy of social status
- **ἀγαθός, -ή, -όν**
 - **Χαιρε, ὦ ἀγαθε!** "Hello, my good man!"
 - can indicate friendship (so social co-operation)
- **καλός, -ή, -όν**
 - **Χαιρε, ὦ καλε!** "Hello, beautiful! Hello, excellent man!"
 - emphasizing that their value is in the beauty or usefulness they contribute



Value-Laden Oppositions

- πλούσιος, -α, -ον, "rich"
 - One who has *ὁ/το πλοῦτος*, "wealth"
- vs. πτωχός, -ή, -όν, "poor"
 - Social status was determined more by birth than wealth



Value-Laden Oppositions

- δυνατός, -ή, -όν, "capable, powerful"
- ισχυρός, -ά, -όν, "strong"
- vs. ἀσθενής, -ές, "weak"
 - 3rd declension adjective
 - Masc. and fem. use **-ης**, neut. uses **-ες**
 - Real stem **ἀσθενε-**
 - Nom. plur. **ἀσθενεις** (masc. and fem.) or **ἀσθενη** (neut.)
 - power was measured in influence
 - physical robustness and strength also highly valued



Value-Laden Oppositions

- ἐλεύθερος, -α, -ον, "free"
- vs. δοῦλος, -η, -ον, "enslaved, bound; slavish, servile"
 - because slavery was so universal, it was feared and loathed
 - to be enslaved was to be less than human
 - often used metaphorically in Greco-Roman ethics
 - should not be δούλος to our passions
 - rational self-control, freedom from desire, make one truly ἐλευθερος
 - again, the Jewish tradition sometimes challenged this evaluation
 - all should be δούλος to God



The Same and the Other

- αὐτός, -ή, -ό, "same"
 - Pronoun used as an adjective meaning "same"
 - το αὐτό τεκνον ("the same child")
 - ἡ θυγατηρ αὕτη ("the same daughter")
- ἄλλος, -η, -ο, "other"
 - Note pronoun-like neuter ending
 - Another thing of the same kind
 - ἄλλος δούλος ("another slave")
- ἕτερος, -α, -ον, "other", "different"
 - Another thing of a different kind
 - ἕτερος τόπος ("another place", "a different place")



Putting Things (and People) In Order

- πρῶτος, -η, -ον, "first"
- ἔσχατος, -η, -ον, "last"
 - often expresses one's place in
 - time
 - status or honour
 - any kind of competition
 - everyone was constantly aware of their place in the social hierarchy



Each, Some, Any

- ἕκαστος, -η, -ον,
"each"
- τις, τι, "some, any"
 - Without an accent **τις** becomes the indefinite pronoun

Τις ἄνηρ γενναίος.

"**Some** man is noble."
"A **certain** man is noble."
"**Any** man is noble."

Τίς ἄνηρ γενναίος;

"**Which** man is noble?"

Τι ἔλαιον σου;

"Was **any** olive oil made by you?"

Τί ἔλαιον σου;

"**What** olive oil was made by you?"

