

The Definite Article

Learning To Say “The”

A lesson for the *Paideia* web-app
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What Is An Article?

- In English we have two articles, "a" and "the"
 - We can easily tell the difference between "a book" and "the book"

a/an	indefinite article	the following noun is not any particular member of its category
the	definite article	the following noun is a particular member of its category

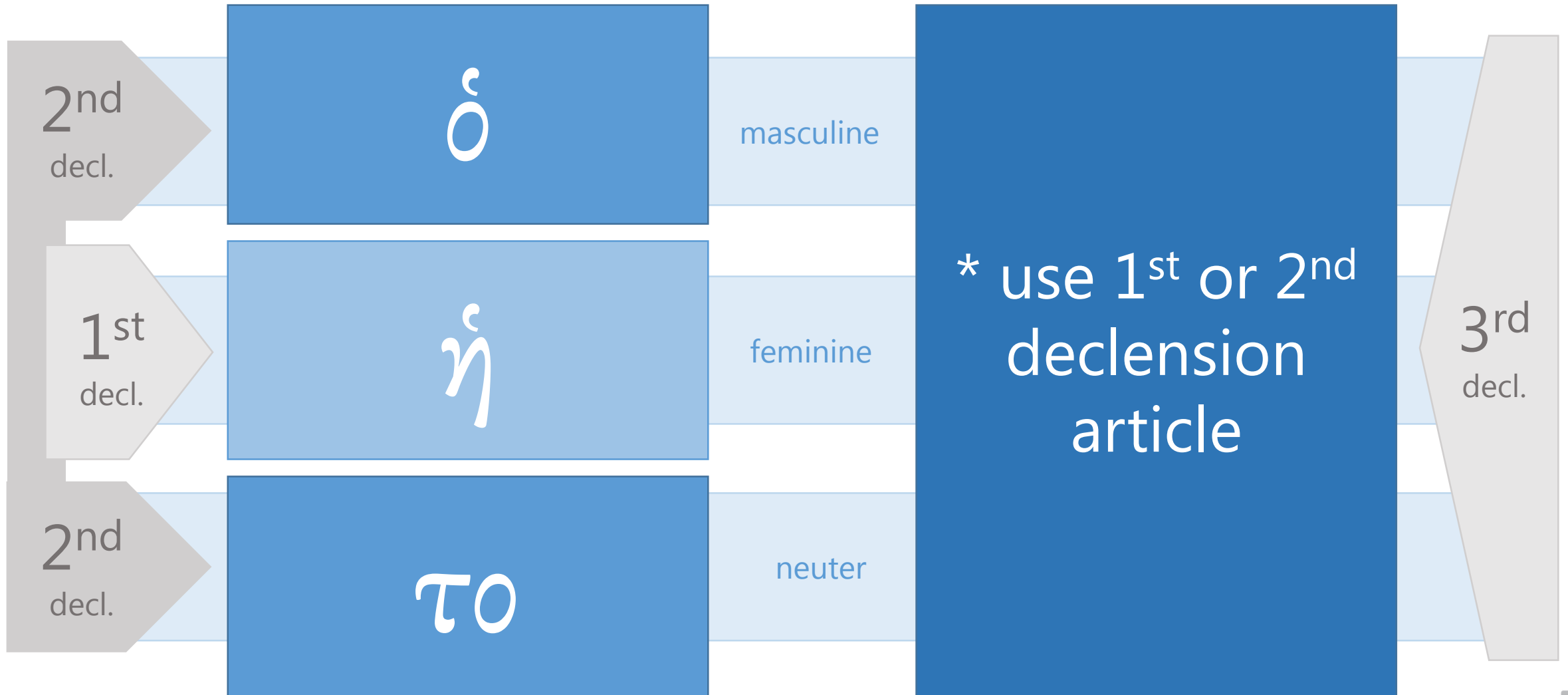


The Article In Greek

- Greek has no indefinite article ("a")
 - A noun on its own is indefinite
 - λογος = "a word"
 - θεος = "a god"
- Greek has only a **definite** article ("the")
 - Comes in three forms, one for each gender
 - Like nouns, takes different forms in different cases
 - basic form: τ + 1st or 2nd declension case ending
 - but nominative forms are irregular



The Nominative Definite Article



Examples of the Greek Article

λογος

"a word"

ὁ λογος

"the word"

θυρα

"a door"

ἡ θυρα

"the door"

τεκνον

"a child"

το τεκνον

"the child"

θυγατηρ

"a daughter"

ἡ θυγατηρ

"the daughter"



The Article and Word Order

- Word order generally doesn't affect meaning in Greek
 - But there are some exceptions
- The article must come before its noun
 - Right: ὁ λογος
 - Right: ἡ ἀδελφη
 - Wrong: ~~τεκνον το~~
- Everything in between modifies that noun
 - We'll see how this works later



Keep Learning

- You can learn more about the Greek article here:
 - Mounce, *Basics of Biblical Greek*
 - Chapter 6 exegetical insight (p. 27)
 - definite article, 6.19—6.24 (pp. 35—36)
 - translation procedure, 6.25—6.27 (p. 37)

