Word Order in Greek

When Does It Matter?

A lesson for the *Paideia* web-app
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Greek Word Order Is Highly Flexible

Ἡ σου δουλη μητηρ μου.

Greek Word Order Is Highly Flexible

- Clauses like these all mean the same thing
- But word order sometimes *does* matter

When Is Order Strictly Observed?

- An article always comes before the nominal it modifies
  - You can't put the article after its noun, pronoun, or adjective

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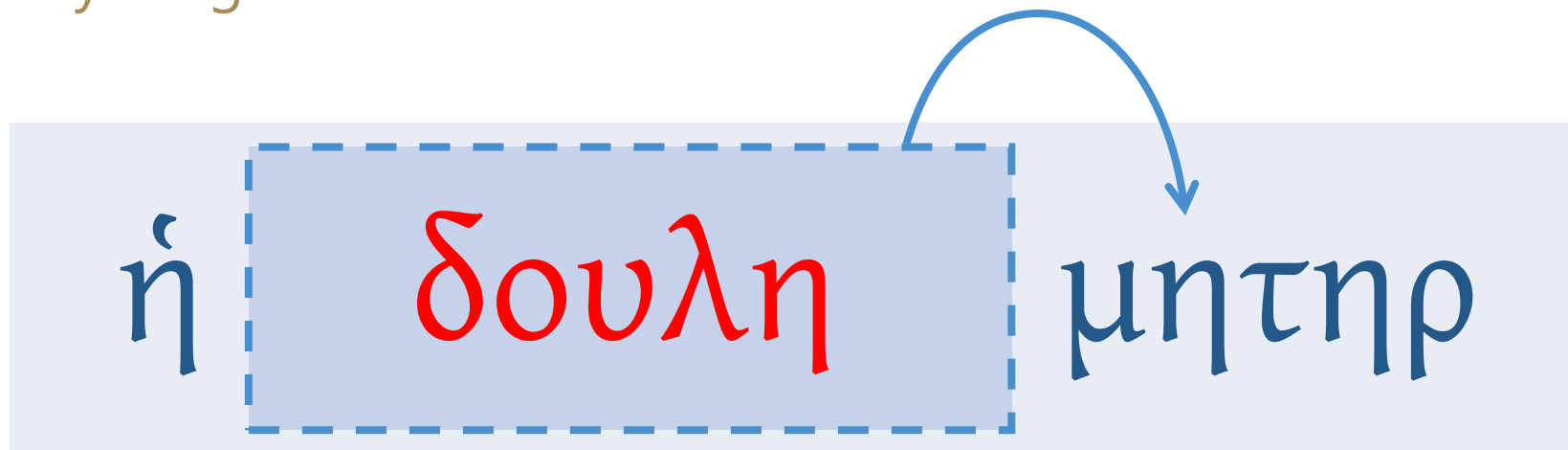 - Everything between an article and its nominal modifies that nominal

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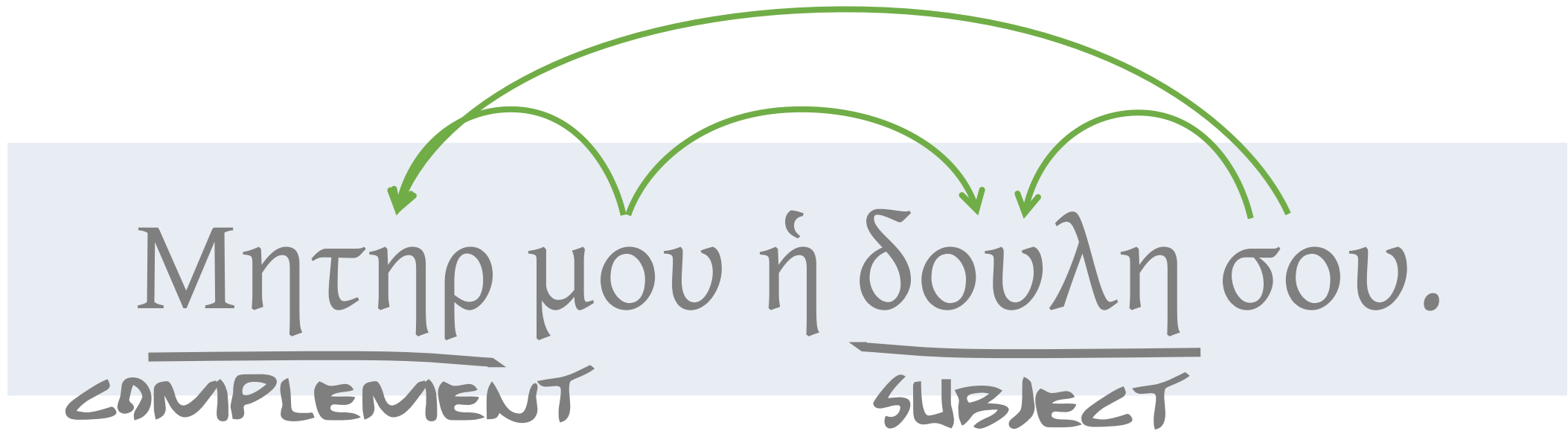
Οὐ μητηρ μου ἡ δουλη σου.

COMPLEMENT

Looser Principles of Word Order

- A modifier relates to the closest word possible.
  - Whether before or after

Looser Principles of Word Order

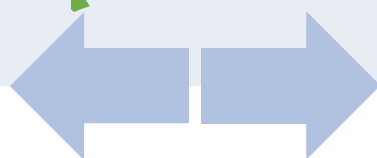- A modifier relates to the closest word possible.
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- Subject and complement don't mix

Μητηρ μου |is| ἡ δουλη σου.

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