

# Possessive Pronouns

Mine, Yours and Everyone Else's

A lesson for the *Paideia* web-app  
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# Talking About Ownership

- Pronouns ('I', 'you', 'she', etc.) "stand in" for nouns
  - make our conversation less repetitive
- We learned the **nominative** forms before
  - The antecedent is the clause **subject**
- Different forms to express **ownership**
  - Like the English **possessive pronouns**
    - My, your, his, her, its, our, their



# First-Person Pronouns

- First person is common, so also quite irregular

nominative

ἐγώ

I

possessive

μου  
ἐμου

my



# Second-Person Pronouns

- Follow a clearer pattern
  - Stem is the consonant σ

nominative

σὺ

you

possessive

σου

your



# Third-Person Pronouns

- Stem **αὐτ-**
  - Adds 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> declension noun endings
  - So a different form for each gender

	masculine	feminine	neuter
nominative	<b>αὐτός</b> he	<b>αὐτή</b> she	<b>αὐτό</b> it
possessive	<b>αὐτοῦ</b> his	<b>αὐτῆς</b> her	<b>αὐτοῦ</b> its



# Using Possessive Pronouns

- ή μητηρ **έμου**
  - "my mother"
- **σου** το τεκνον
  - "your child"
- θυγατηρ **αὐτου**
  - "his daughter" or "a daughter of his"



# Using Possessive Pronouns

- Remember that word-order is flexible
  - All three sentences mean "He is my father."

Αὐτός ὁ πατηρ μου.

Ὁ πατηρ μου αὐτός.

Μου αὐτός ὁ πατήρ.



# Reading Strategies

- Find the nominative words first
  - Which is **subject**, which is complement?
  - Which is modified by the **possessive pronoun**?

Μου αὐτός ὁ πατήρ.





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Μου αὐτός | **is** | ὁ πατήρ.



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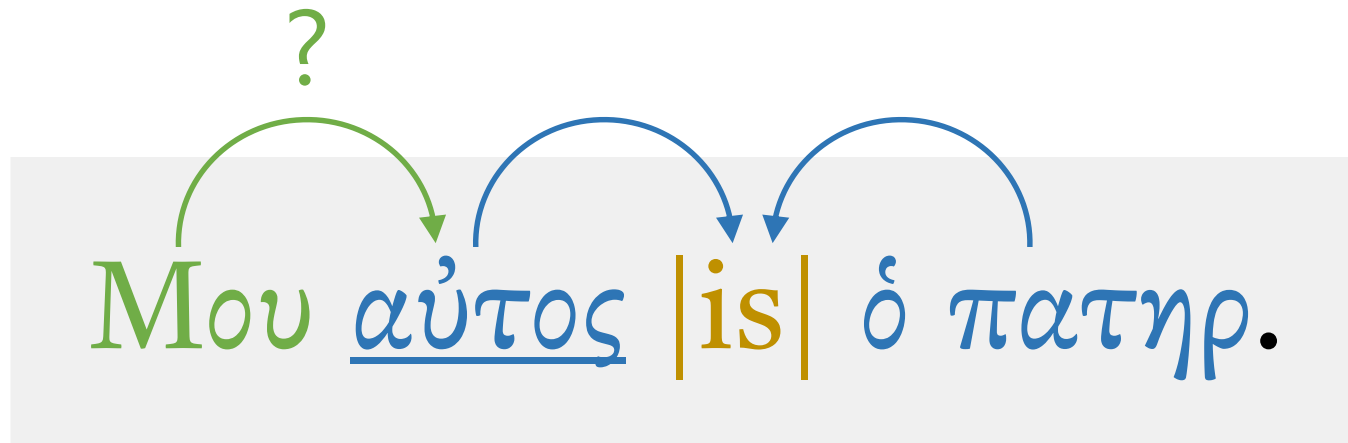
Μου αὐτός |is| ὁ πατήρ.

The diagram illustrates the grammatical structure of the sentence. It shows the possessive pronoun 'Μου' (My) in green, the subject 'αὐτός' (he) in blue and underlined, the verb 'is' in yellow and enclosed in vertical bars, and the complement 'ὁ πατήρ' (the father) in blue. Two blue curved arrows indicate the relationships: one from 'Μου' to 'αὐτός', and another from 'αὐτός' to 'ὁ πατήρ'.



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