

"What" and "Who" Questions

Beginning To Converse in Greek

A lesson for the *Paideia* web-app
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Asking “What” and “Who” Questions

- We’ve already learned how to ask someone’s name
 - So we’ve already seen how this works
- The interrogative pronoun
 - Pronoun
 - Stands in place of a nominal
 - Interrogative
 - For asking questions (interrogating)
- English has two interrogative pronouns
 - What?
 - Who?



The Greek Interrogative Pronoun

- Greek has two forms as well
 - Depends on gender
 - Agrees with the nominal you're asking about

	Masc. and Fem.	Neut.
nom.	τίς	τί

Τίς ὁ υἱός;	υἱός is masculine
Τί το παις;	παις is neuter
Τίς ἡ μητηρ;	μητηρ is feminine



Interrogative Pronoun "Gotchas"

- The accent is necessary

- **τίς** = "what?" "who?"
 - interrogative pronoun
- **τις** = "something," "someone"
 - indefinite pronoun

- Typing tip

- Typed with a "dead key" like breathing marks
 - Usually the ";" key (try with or without SHIFT)

	Masc. and Fem.	Neut.
nom.	τίς	τί

 ,  = ί

OR

 + Shift ,  = ί



Interrogative Pronoun "Gotchas"

- Either form can mean "what?" or "which?"
 - Inanimate objects have gender in Greek

Τίς ὁ σου οἶκος;

Which is your house?

Τίς συναγωγή;

What is a synagogue?

Τί το γυμνασιον;

What is the gymnasium?

Τί το ὄνομα σου;

What is your name?



Interrogative Pronoun "Gotchas"

- Either form can mean "what?" or "which?"
- Either form can mean "who?"
 - Some words for people are neuter
 - Pronoun should agree with the nominal you're asking about

Τίς ἡ σου θυγατηρ;

Who is your sister?

Τίς ὁ πατηρ σου;

Who is your father?

Τί σου το τέκνον;

Who is your child?



Interrogative Pronoun "Gotchas"

- Either form can mean "what?" or "which?"
- Either form can mean "who?"
- But each has a default
 - **Τί** = "what?" (impersonal)
 - **Τίς** = "who?" (personal)

Τίς οὗτος;

Who is this?

Τί τουτο;

What is this?



Word Order in Questions

- Interrogative pronoun can come anywhere in sentence
 - Always the predicate complement
 - Just not between article and its nominal

Τίς ὁ σου ἀδελφος;

Ὁ ἀδελφος σου τίς;

Σου τίς ὁ ἀδελφος;

Ὁ ἀδελφος τίς σου;



Adjectival Use of ΤΙΣ/ΤΙ

- Sometimes **τίς/τί** acts like an adjective
 - Modifies an explicit complement
 - Translated "which?"

Τίς **άνηρ** ό σου πατηρ;

Which **man** is your father?



Keep Learning

- You can learn more about the interrogative pronoun and asking questions here:
 - Mounce, *Basics of Biblical Greek*
 - Interrogative pronoun, 10.11 (p. 81)



Mounce introduces all the case forms of τίς together, while we are starting with just the nominative. Don't worry yet about the other cases.

