

# Making Comparisons

Good, Better, and Best

A lesson for the *Paideia* web-app

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# Comparative Forms of Adjectives

- Greek uses a comparative adjective form to say that something exhibits the property to a greater degree
- Comparative ending: **-τερος, -η, -ον**
  - μικρός -> μικρότερος, -η, -ον (smaller)
  - τελειός -> τελειότερος, -η, -ον (more perfect, more complete)
  - καινός -> καινότερος, -η, -ον (newer)
  - γενναίος -> γενναίότερος, -η, -ον (more noble)
  - πονηρός -> πονηρότερος, -η, -ον (more evil)
  - ισχυρός -> ισχυρότερος, -η, -ον (stronger, more powerful)



# Irregular Comparative Forms

- In some cases the connecting vowel is lengthened
  - κακός -> κακώτερος, -η, -ον (worse, more wicked)
  - δυνατός -> δυνατώτερος, -η, -ον (stronger, more powerful)
  - μόνος -> μονώτερος (lonelier, more alone)
  - ἐλεύθερος -> ἐλευθερώτερος (more free)
  - τιμιός -> τιμιώτερος (more precious, more valuable)
- Other minor stem changes
  - ἀσθενής -> ἀσθενέστερος, -η, -ον (weaker, less healthy)



# Irregular Comparative Forms

- Sometimes a different 3rd declension form with stem changes
  - καλός -> καλλίων, -ον (more beautiful)
  - μέγας -> μείζων, -ον (larger, greater)
  - πολὺς -> πλείων, -ον / πλεον, -ον (more numerous)
  - ἔγγυς -> ἔγγιον (closer, narrower)
    - Declined just like Σίμων, -ωνος
- Occasionally a different root altogether
  - ἀγαθός -> βελτίος, -η, -ον
  - ἀγαθός -> κρείττων, -ον / κρείσσω, -ον



# Superlative Forms

- There are two standard “superlative” endings
  - **-ΙΣΤΟΣ**
    - κακος -> κακιστος (worst, most wicked)
    - μεγας -> μεγαιστος (largest, greatest)
  - **-ΤΑΤΟΣ**
    - μικρος -> μικροτατος (smallest)
    - τελειος -> τελειοτατος (most perfect, most complete)
    - πονηρος -> πονηροτατος (worst, most evil)
    - ισχυρος -> ισχυροτατος (strongest, most powerful)
    - εγγυς -> εγγυτατος (closest, narrowest)



# Irregular Superlative Forms

- Again, there may be lengthened connecting vowels or minor stem changes
  - καλός -> καλλίστος (most beautiful)
  - πολὺς -> πλείστος (most numerous)
  - μόνος -> μονώτατος (most lonely, unique, one-of-a-kind)
  - ἅγιος -> ἁγιώτατος (holiest, most sacred)
  - τιμῖος -> τιμιώτατος (most honoured, most valuable)
- ἄγαθος again uses two entirely different stems
  - ἄγαθος -> βέλτιστος, -η, -ον (best)
  - ἄγαθος -> κρατίστος, -η, -ον (best)



# Comparative Adverbs

- ὥς, "like, as"
  - Φοιβη καλος ἐστιν ὥς Δορκας.
    - "Phoebe is beautiful like Dorcas."
- οὕτως, "like this, in this way"
  - Εἶπον Σοφια εἰς το παραπατησαι αὐτην οὕτως.
    - "I told Sophia that she should walk like this."
- ὁμοίως, "in the same way, similarly"
  - Ὅμοιως λεγουσιν Διοδωρος και Σιμων.
    - "Simon and Diodorus speak the same way."
- καθως, "just as, just like, in the same way as"
  - Καθὼς ἐκεῖνός ἐστιν καὶ ἡμεῖς ἐσμεν ἐν τῷ κόσμῳ τούτῳ (1 John 4:17)
    - "We are in this world just like that man is."



# Comparative Adjectives and Pronouns

- ὁμοιος, -η, -ον, "same, similar"
- τοιουτος, τοιαυτη, τοιουτο, "this kind, such"
  - Τοιούταις παραβολαῖς πολλαῖς ἐλάλει αὐτοῖς τὸν λόγον καθὼς ἠδύναντο ἀκούειν. (Mark 4:33)
    - "He was speaking the word to them with such parables, just as they were able to understand."
- ποιος, -α, -ον, "what? what kind of?"
  - Ἐν ποίᾳ ἐξουσίᾳ ταῦτα ποιεῖς; (Matt 21:23)
    - "By what authority are you doing these things?"





# Keep Learning

- You can learn more about making comparisons in Greek here:
  - Mounce, *Basics of Biblical Greek* (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition)
    - Comparative forms of adjectives, 13.11 (p. 110)

