



Lesson 4

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Chapter 9, Adjectives

English

- Adjectives *function* 2 ways in English:
 1. *Modify a noun*: "He is a **good** dog."
 2. *Take the place of a noun*:
 - "Both the **good** & the **bad** are here."
 - "The **dead** will rise."
- Adjectives have 3 *positions* in English:
 1. *Attributive position*:
 - "The **bad** dog barked." [adj. > noun]

2. Predicate position:

"The dog is **bad**." [noun > *is* > adj.]

3. Independent (isolated) position

"The **dead** will rise." [adj.]

Greek

- Adjectives may function:
adjectivally (= modify a noun) or substantivally (= substitute for a noun).
- When modifying a noun, adjectives agree with that noun in gender, number, and case.
- An adjective does not have any gender of its own; it may be used to modify a noun in any gender.
- Adjectives use the same case endings as nouns. (Which means no new endings to learn!)
- Lexical form: ἀγαθός, ἡ, ον, good (This gives the masculine, feminine, and neuter endings; the entry is **not** the same as nouns which give nom. sing., gen. sing., article.)
- Feminine forms, like nouns, may use either α or η endings in the singular.

- The noun may have **α** endings when modifying a noun that uses **η** endings (and vice-versa).
- **Substantival adjectives** take the **case** appropriate to their **function** in the sentence; **gender and number** agree with the **noun** for which they substitute.
 - ✓ If adj. functions as **subject** of a sentence, it will be **nom.** case ("The **dead** will rise.")
 - ✓ If it functions as the **obj. of a prep.** that governs **dat.** case, it will be in **dat.** (He is *in* the **dark.**)
 - ✓ Substantival adjectives *usually* have an article (not always).
- **Adjectival adjectives** are used in two ways:
 - ✓ direct description of the noun (the **good** man)
 - ✓ statement about the noun (The man is **good.**)
- An adjective that modifies an **articular noun** will always have an article in front of the adjective.

- 2 word-order patterns may occur (there is **no difference** in meaning or translation):

article > adjective > noun ὁ ἀγαθός ἄνθρωπος = the good man	"first attributive position"
article > noun > article > adjective ὁ ἄνθρωπος ὁ ἀγαθός = the good man	"second attributive position"

- Whenever an adjective follows a noun, **the article must be repeated** in front of the noun.
- When **no article** precedes an adjective used with an **articular noun** the adjective is said to be in **predicate position** and is translated as a predicate adjective, supplying the verb **is**.

ἀγαθός ὁ ἄνθρωπος.

= The man **is** good.

ὁ ἄνθρωπος **ἀγαθός**

= The man **is** good.

- What about nouns without articles? ("*anarthrous*")

There are approximately 2,400 such instances in the NT (a quarter of all adj.-noun constructions). Here the rule is:

CONTEXT !

They may be **either** **substantival** (not common) **or** (more often) **adjectival** (in either attributive or predicate position).

ἀγαθος **ἄνθρωπος**

= a good man or, A man *is* good.

ἄνθρωπος **ἀγαθος**

= a good man or, A man *is* good.

Summary Chart

Adjectives

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graph TD; A[Adjectives] --> B[Adjectival  
modify a noun]; A --> C[Substantival  
substitute for a noun]; B --> D[Attributive position]; B --> E[Predicate position];
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