

GRADE 5 GREEK

First edition

5 units

10 lessons • one quarter

A video for every lesson

FIRST EDITION

COURSE GUIDE

This short course is a first real look inside the Greek language for a fifth grader: not just the alphabet, but how the language actually works. Each lesson is built around a real person, place or object: Alexander's one-language world and the common Greek the New Testament was written in, the potsherds Athenians voted with, the runner from Marathon whose whole message was one word, the altar Paul read in Athens, and a papyrus page of John's Gospel copied seventeen centuries ago.

Every lesson follows the same path. First comes **the story**. Then **how Greek works**: the endings, the badges and the rules the story opens up, explained for a fifth grader. Then **say it out loud**, because Greek is learned by chanting, reciting and reading aloud. Last, **try it**: the student makes flashcards, builds sentences from cards on the table, writes a one-word message like the runner's, and finishes the quarter by reading a morning-in-the-agora story in Greek and lettering a family word plaque.

By the end of the quarter the student can read Greek aloud with confidence, tell a noun's job by its article and its ending (ὁ λόγος does, τὸν λόγον receives), chant the present tense of λύω and the whole verb I AM (εἰμί), build and translate simple sentences both ways, and explain why Greek word order is free where English word order is fixed. Greek named the galaxy and the telephone, gave the church its oldest prayers, and carried the Gospel across the world; the student who walks in through this course will read John 1:1 for the first time and find every word within reach.

Most videos come from trusted teaching channels: Alpha with Angela (a missionary teacher's gentle Biblical Greek series), Daily Dose of Greek and Greek For All (seminary teachers), Murray Vasser, Learn Bright, Bedtime History, TED-Ed, Khan Academy and Smarthistory. Every video was previewed for accuracy and content. A few are made for a slightly older audience; the lesson notes say so. You will hear small differences in pronunciation between channels (classroom Erasmian, Koine and modern Greek); that is normal, and this course

teaches the classroom sounds so that every letter stays distinct.
Some channels end with an invitation to subscribe; you can stop the video when the teaching ends.

Start with Lesson 1.1 →

WHO IT IS FOR

Written for students in grade 5 (about ages 10–11) who read independently. The course assumes the student can sound out the Greek alphabet, as taught in our grade 3 and grade 4 Greek courses; Unit 1 includes a brisk alphabet refresher, so a determined newcomer can start here with a week of extra chanting. A parent or teacher reads along, joins the chants and checks the practice. Nothing needs to be bought: every activity uses paper, index cards or cut paper strips, pencil, crayons and household things.

HOW TO USE THIS COURSE

1. **The weekly rhythm.** The quarter has 10 lessons, one a week, each with three sessions of 30–40 minutes. Session 1 is the warm-up, the video, the teaching and the picture study. Session 2 is the activity and the Greek notebook. Session 3 is the worked examples, the practice sentences and a recitation: the student chants the week's endings and reads the week's Greek out loud to the family. In the second week of each unit, use part of Session 3 for the unit review and the unit challenge.
2. **Chant it every day.** Greek endings are learned the way multiplication tables are: out loud, in rhythm, a few minutes a day. From Unit 2 on, open every session by chanting what has been learned so far: the alphabet (two breaths, alpha to mu, nu to omega), the badge pairs (ὁ λόγος, τὸν λόγον, οἱ λόγοι, τοὺς λόγους), and from Unit 3 the verb columns (λύω, λύεις, λύει, λύομεν, λύετε, λύουσι; εἰμί, εἶ, ἐστί, ἐσμέν, ἐστέ, εἰσί). Five minutes of cheerful chanting beats an hour of silent staring.
3. **Story, then grammar, then doing.** The core ideas are written to be read aloud or read by the student. The paragraph marked *The story* tells what happened; *How Greek works* explains the grammar; *Say it out loud* gives the sounds and chants; *Try it* explains the activity. After each paragraph, ask the student to tell it back in his or her own words.

4. **About the little marks.** Greek prints breathing marks and accents over its words. The student learns to read a rough breathing as h (ó is HO) and an accent as stress-this-syllable, and simply copies the marks when writing. Students are never graded on accents; the course prints them so the eye learns the real look of Greek.
5. **Flashcards and the word wall.** Every lesson adds new Greek words. Make a flashcard for each one (Greek on the front with its article, ó λόγος; English on the back) and keep the growing deck in a box or on a ring. Review the whole deck at the start of Session 2 and Session 3: a word the student gets right three times in a row can move to a weekly pile. By the end of the quarter the deck holds about 55 words.
6. **The word list.** The whole course teaches about 55 words, in this order. Unit 1, first nouns: ó λόγος, ó θεός, ó ἄνθρωπος, ó κόσμος, ó φίλος, ó ἵππος, ó ποταμός, ó οἶκος. Unit 2, nouns and their badges: ó ἀδελφός, ó υἱός, ó δοῦλος, ó ἄγγελος, ó λίθος, ó νόμος, ó καρπός; then ἡ καρδιά, ἡ σοφία, ἡ φωνή, ἡ ζωή, ἡ εἰρήνη, ἡ θάλασσα, ἡ γῆ. Unit 3, verbs and adjectives: λύω, γράφω, λέγω, ἔχω, βλέπω, ἀκούω, φέρω, πέμπω, διδάσκω, παύω; then εἰμί (the whole chant) and the adjectives ἀγαθός, καλός, μικρός, σοφός, πιστός. Unit 4, words of the Way: ó Χριστός, ó κύριος, ó ἀπόστολος, ó διδάσκαλος, ó ναός, ἡ ἀγάπη, ἡ ἀλήθεια, ἡ δόξα, with καί (and) and οὐ/οὐκ (not). Unit 5, agora words: ἡ ἀγορά, ó ἄρτος, ἡ ἐλαία, ó τυρός, and the sight words ἰχθύς and μέλι. This list is the flashcard deck; a student who owns these cards has the course's vocabulary.
7. **The Greek notebook.** Use any notebook for the whole quarter. It holds the vocabulary lists, the badge charts, the verb columns, the translated sentences and the final story. Date every page. Neat charts matter: a student who can find his own chart from week 3 in week 9 has learned how to study.
8. **Translation is a two-way street.** From Unit 3 on, the practice has both directions: Greek into English and English into Greek. Going into Greek is harder and matters more; let the student use the notebook charts freely. The answer is right when the endings are right, not just the words.
9. **Greek and Latin together.** Families doing our Latin courses will feel at home: the endings game is the same game. The one big difference is the article: Latin has no word for the, while Greek pins ó or ἡ on nearly every noun like a badge, which actually makes Greek nouns easier to track. The two languages help each other; neither is required for the other.

10. **Unit review and unit challenge.** Each unit ends with a short review (30 points), which may be done orally, and a unit challenge: an alphabet-to-badges chart poster, a potsherd word game, a one-word postcard delivery, a Mars Hill retelling, and at last a Greek market morning. Keep the challenge work in a folder.
11. **The Greek evening.** In the last week, the student hosts a short family Greek evening: he or she reads the agora story aloud in Greek and English, teaches the family three Greek words, serves bread, olives, cheese and honey like a Greek market stall, and unveils a family word plaque.

SCOPE AND SEQUENCE

UNIT 1 • WEEKS 1–2

Greek Is Alive

How Alexander's conquests made Greek the common language of half the world, so that the New Testament was written in it; a brisk alphabet refresher; and the Greek engine inside English words, from galaxy to telephone, with the Antikythera mechanism as proof of what Greek minds could build.

- 1.1 The Language That Reached Everywhere
- 1.2 English Wears a Chiton: Greek Inside English

UNIT 3 • WEEKS 5–6

Verbs Do the Work

The runner from Marathon delivers a whole sentence in one word, because Greek verb endings carry their own pronouns: λύω I loose, λύομεν we loose; then the burning bush and the great I AM open the verb εἰμί, and sentences like ὁ θεὸς ἀγαθός ἐστιν.

- 3.1 One-Word Victory: The Present Tense
- 3.2 I AM: The Verb εἰμί

UNIT 2 • WEEKS 3–4

The Noun and Its Badge

Greek nouns wear the article like a badge: ὁ λόγος one word, οἱ λόγοι many; how Athenians scratched names on potsherds to vote, and how the badge ὁ or ἡ tells you a noun's gender and number before the ending does.

- 2.1 One and Many: ὁ λόγος, οἱ λόγοι
- 2.2 The Potsherd Vote: Badges for Every Noun

UNIT 4 • WEEKS 7–8

Who Does What to Whom

Paul stands on Mars Hill and reads the Athenians their own altar; the object of a Greek sentence wears -ν (τὸν λόγον), the badge tracks the subject wherever it stands, and the opening of John's Gospel shows free Greek word order carrying exact meaning.

- 4.1 Paul on Mars Hill: The Object Wears Nu
- 4.2 In the Beginning Was the Word

UNIT 5 • WEEKS 9–10

Reading Greece

Everything comes together: the student reads a whole Greek story set in the Athenian agora, bread and olives and a runaway horse; then finds the Greek hiding in daily life, from galaxy to church words, and letters a family word plaque for the Greek evening.

5.1 A Morning in the Agora

5.2 Greek All Around You

WEEKLY PACING CALENDAR

WEEK	PLAN
1	• Session 1: Lesson 1.1 The Language That Reached Everywhere: warm-up, video, teaching and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 1.1 activity (the one-world map and alphabet refresher) and Greek notebook • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, and the first recitation out loud <i>Three short sessions a week is the usual rhythm: one to learn, one to make, one to practice and recite. Add a few minutes of flashcards on the other days if you like.</i>
2	• Session 1: Lesson 1.2 English Wears a Chiton: warm-up, video, teaching and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 1.2 activity (the derivative gears) and Greek notebook • Session 3: Worked examples, practice and recitation • Session 3 (end of unit): Unit 1 review and unit challenge (the Greek-inside-English poster)
3	• Session 1: Lesson 2.1 One and Many: warm-up, video, teaching and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 2.1 activity (badge-flip cards) and Greek notebook • Session 3: Worked examples, practice and recitation
4	• Session 1: Lesson 2.2 The Potsherd Vote: warm-up, video, teaching and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 2.2 activity (the potsherd word game) and Greek notebook • Session 3: Worked examples, practice and recitation • Session 3 (end of unit): Unit 2 review and unit challenge (the badge chart poster)
5	• Session 1: Lesson 3.1 One-Word Victory: warm-up, video, teaching and picture study

WEEK	PLAN
	- Session 2: Lesson 3.1 activity (the verb wheel and the one-word postcard) and Greek notebook - Session 3: Worked examples, practice and recitation
6	- Session 1: Lesson 3.2 I AM: warm-up, video, teaching and picture study - Session 2: Lesson 3.2 activity (ἐστίν sentence building) and Greek notebook - Session 3: Worked examples, practice and recitation - Session 3 (end of unit): Unit 3 review and unit challenge (the verb banner)
7	- Session 1: Lesson 4.1 Paul on Mars Hill: warm-up, video, teaching and picture study - Session 2: Lesson 4.1 activity (sentence-building cards) and Greek notebook - Session 3: Worked examples, practice and recitation
8	- Session 1: Lesson 4.2 In the Beginning Was the Word: warm-up, video, teaching and picture study - Session 2: Lesson 4.2 activity (word-order experiments on John 1:1) and Greek notebook - Session 3: Worked examples, practice and recitation - Session 3 (end of unit): Unit 4 review and unit challenge (the Mars Hill retelling)
9	- Session 1: Lesson 5.1 A Morning in the Agora: warm-up, video, teaching and picture study - Session 2: Lesson 5.1 activity (reading the story) and Greek notebook - Session 3: Read the story aloud again, worked examples, practice and recitation
10	- Session 1: Lesson 5.2 Greek All Around You: warm-up, video, teaching and picture study - Session 2: Lesson 5.2 activity (the family word plaque) and Greek notebook - Session 3: Worked examples, practice and recitation - Session 3 (end of unit): Unit 5 review and unit challenge (the family Greek evening) <i>Last week. Host the family Greek evening: the student reads the agora story in Greek and English, teaches the family three Greek words, serves bread, olives, cheese and honey like a Greek market stall, and unveils the family word plaque.</i>

MATERIALS

Greek notebook (any notebook)

One for the quarter: vocabulary lists, badge charts, verb columns, translations, the final story and the plaque drafts.

Index cards or paper cut into card-sized pieces, and a box, bag or binder ring to keep them

For the flashcard deck that grows every lesson, and for the sentence-building cards in Unit 4.

Pencil, colored pencils or crayons, and a fine-tip marker

For charts, the badge posters, the one-word postcard and the family word plaque.

A few clean flowerpot shards, seashells, or card rectangles colored terracotta

For the potsherd vote game in Unit 2: Athenians wrote on broken pottery because it was free.

Scissors, glue and a sheet of poster board or printer paper taped together

For the badge chart poster and the family word plaque.

Bread, olives, cheese and honey, and a cloth

For the Greek market stall at the family Greek evening in week 10. Any simple snack works.

GRADING

Grades come mostly from the daily work: the recitations, the flashcard reviews, the notebook and the practice sentences, because a language is learned by steady, honest repetition. A student who chants faithfully, keeps a neat notebook and corrects his or her own practice earns full credit.

PART	%
Recitation and flashcards (daily chanting, vocabulary reviews, reading aloud)	30
Greek notebook (dated pages, charts, translations, reflections)	25
Practice sentences (both directions, corrected with the answer key)	15
Unit reviews	15
Unit challenges	15

Scale: A 90–100, B 80–89, C 70–79, D 60–69. Below 60: repeat the chants and practice with help.

- An ending counts, a guess does not: a practice sentence is right when the endings and the badges are right. Let the student use the notebook charts for every exercise; the charts come to live in the head by being used, not by being hidden.
- Accents and breathing marks are copied, never graded. A missing accent costs nothing; a wrong ending costs the point.
- Unit reviews may be done orally for a student who writes slowly; the parent writes down the answers.
- Pronunciation is graded on courage and consistency, not perfection. Any student who says Greek out loud every day is doing it right.

A NOTE TO PARENTS

You do not need to know Greek to teach this course. Every chart has its chant written out, every Greek sentence has its translation in the answer, and every video does the explaining a specialist would. Learn alongside your child: chant together in the car, quiz each other with the flashcards at the table, and let your child catch your mistakes. A parent who is cheerfully learning teaches more than any speech about why Greek matters.

Why Greek at all? Because the New Testament was written in it, and a student who starts now will one day read John and Paul with no one standing between; because Greek built the upper story of English, the words of science, medicine and the church, so every hour here pays back in reading and spelling; and because Greek's tidy badges and endings teach grammar better than English can. When your child meets λόγος, ἀγάπη or δόξα here, he or she is picking up the very words John and Paul wrote.

The Greek world was a pagan world, and this course says so honestly. Athena's city, the potsherd democracy and Alexander's conquests are told as true history; Paul on Mars Hill is the model for how a Christian reads that world, warmly and without flinching: the Athenians' unknown god had a name, and Paul told them. The videos were all previewed; the TED-Ed day-in-Athens video and a few of the grammar videos are made for slightly older audiences, and the lesson notes say so.

PRINTABLE WORD LIST

VOCABULARY FOR THE COURSE

Classroom Erasmian. Classroom Erasmian, the pronunciation these Greek courses teach: every letter keeps its own sound, which is neither modern Greek nor a reconstructed ancient accent. θ is th, φ is f, χ is kh. A rough breathing adds h. Stress follows the accent written on the word, and the capital letters are that stressed syllable.

Every week's list is printed again inside that lesson. Say the capital letters loudest.

1.1 THE LANGUAGE THAT REACHED EVERYWHERE

λόγος

logos

LO-gos

noun · ὁ λόγος, οἱ λόγοι

a word; reason

ENGLISH logic

ἄνθρωπος

anthropos

ANTH-roh-pos

noun · ὁ ἄνθρωπος, οἱ ἄνθρωποι

a human being

ENGLISH anthropology

κόσμος

kosmos

KOS-mos

noun · ὁ κόσμος, οἱ κόσμοι

order; the world

ENGLISH cosmos

φίλος

philos

FEE-los

noun · ὁ φίλος, οἱ φίλοι

a friend

ENGLISH philanthropy

ποταμός

potamos

po-tah-MOS

noun · ό ποταμός, οί ποταμοί

a river

ENGLISH hippopotamus

οἶκος

oikos

OY-kos

noun · ό οἶκος, οί οἱκοί

a house

ENGLISH economy

κοινός

koinos

koy-NOS

adjective · κοινός, κοινή, κοινόν

common

ENGLISH koine

Ἕλλην

Hellen

HEHL-layn

noun · ό Ἕλλην, οί Ἕλληνες

a Greek

ENGLISH Hellene

Αἴγυπτος

Aiguptos

EYE-goop-tos

noun · ή Αἴγυπτος

Egypt

ENGLISH Egypt

Ἰουδαῖος

Ioudaios

ee-oo-DYE-os

noun · ὁ Ἰουδαῖος, οἱ Ἰουδαῖοι

a Jew

διάλεκτος

dialektos

dee-AH-lehk-tos

noun · ἡ διάλεκτος, αἱ διάλεκτοι

a way of speaking

ENGLISH dialect

1.2 ENGLISH WEARS A CHITON: GREEK INSIDE ENGLISH

γράφω

grapho

GRAH-foh

verb

I write

ENGLISH graph

καρδία

kardia

kar-DEE-ah

noun · ἡ καρδία, αἱ καρδίαι

the heart

ENGLISH cardiac

φωνή

phone

foh-NAY

noun · ἡ φωνή, αἱ φωναί

a voice

ENGLISH telephone

μηχανή

mechane

may-khah-NAY

noun · ή μηχανή, αί μηχαναί

a device

ENGLISH machine

μέτρον

metron

MEH-tron

noun · τὸ μέτρον, τὰ μέτρα

a measure

ENGLISH meter

σκοπός

skopos

sco-POS

noun · ὁ σκοπός, οἱ σκοποί

a watcher; an aim

ENGLISH scope

χιτών

chiton

khee-TOHN

noun · ὁ χιτών, οἱ χιτῶνες

a tunic

ENGLISH chiton

νεῦρον

neuron

NEW-ron

noun · τὸ νεῦρον, τὰ νεῦρα

a sinew

ENGLISH nerve

γαστήρ

gaster

gas-TAYR

noun · ή γαστήρ, αί γαστέρες

the belly

ὀδούς

odous

o-DOOS

noun · ὁ ὀδούς, οἱ ὀδόντες

a tooth

χείρ

cheir

KHAYR

noun · ή χείρ, αί χεῖρες

a hand

2.1 ONE AND MANY: Ὁ ΛΌΓΟΣ, Οἱ ΛΌΓΟΙ

ἀδελφός

adelphos

ah-dehl-FOS

noun · ὁ ἀδελφός, οἱ ἀδελφοί

a brother

δοῦλος

doulos

DOO-los

noun · ὁ δοῦλος, οἱ δοῦλοι

a servant

λίθος

lithos

LEE-thos

noun · ὁ λίθος, οἱ λίθοι

a stone

ENGLISH lithograph

καρπός

karpos

kar-POS

noun · ό καρπός, οί καρποί

fruit

παιδαγωγός

paidagogos

pye-dah-goh-GOS

noun · ό παιδαγωγός, οί παιδαγωγοί

a child's guide

ENGLISH pedagogue

θάνατος

thanatos

THAH-nah-tos

noun · ό θάνατος, οί θάνατοι

death

καιρός

kairos

kye-ROS

noun · ό καιρός, οί καιροί

the right time

τόπος

topos

TO-pos

noun · ό τόπος, οί τόποι

a place

ENGLISH topic

τρόπος

tropos

TRO-pos

noun · ό τρόπος, οί τρόποι

a way, a manner

φόβος

phobos

FO-bos

noun · ό φόβος, οί φόβοι

fear

ENGLISH phobia

μισθός

misthos

mis-THOS

noun · ό μισθός, οί μισθοί

wages

2.2 THE POTSHERD VOTE: BADGES FOR EVERY NOUN

θάλασσα

thalassa

THAH-las-sah

noun · ή θάλασσα, αί θάλασσαί

the sea

ἀγορά

agora

ah-go-RAH

noun · ή ἀγορά, αί ἀγοραί

the marketplace

ENGLISH agoraphobia

νίκη

nike

NEE-kay

noun · ή νίκη, αί νίκαι

victory

χώρα

chora

KHOH-rah

noun · ή χώρα, αί χῶραι

a land, a country

τιμή

time

tee-MAY

noun · ή τιμή, αί τιμαί

honor; a price

σκηνή

skene

skay-NAY

noun · ή σκηνή, αί σκηναί

a tent

ENGLISH scene

κώμη

kome

KOH-may

noun · ή κώμη, αί κῶμαι

a village

ἐπιστολή

epistole

eh-pis-to-LAY

noun · ή ἐπιστολή, αί ἐπιστολαί

a letter

ENGLISH epistle

θύρα

thura

THOO-rah

noun · ή θύρα, αί θύραι

a door

βουλή

boule

boo-LAY

noun · ή βουλή, αί βουλαί

a plan; the council

πλατεῖα

plateia

plah-TAY-ah

noun · ἡ πλατεῖα, αἱ πλατεῖαι

a wide street

3.1 ONE-WORD VICTORY: THE PRESENT TENSE

λύω

luo

LOO-oh

verb

I loose, I destroy

ENGLISH analysis

λέγω

lego

LEH-goh

verb

I say

ENGLISH legend

ἔχω

echo

EH-khoh

verb

I have

βλέπω

blepo

BLEH-poh

verb

I see

ἀκούω

akouo

ah-KOO-oh

verb

I hear

ENGLISH acoustic

φέρω

phero

FEH-roh

verb

I carry

πέμπω

pempo

PEHM-poh

verb

I send

διδάσκω

didasko

dee-DAS-koh

verb

I teach

παύω

pauo

POW-oh

verb

I stop

ENGLISH pause

ἄγω

ago

AH-goh

verb

I lead

μένω

meno

MEH-noh

verb

I remain

3.2 I AM: THE VERB ΕΊΜΙ

εἰμί

eimi

ay-MEE

verb · εἰμί, εἶ, ἐστί(ν), ἐσμέν, ἐστέ, εἰσί(ν)

I am

ἀγαθός

agathos

ah-gah-THOS

adjective · ἀγαθός, ἀγαθή, ἀγαθόν

good

ENGLISH Agatha

καλός

kalos

kah-LOS

adjective · καλός, καλή, καλόν

beautiful, good

πιστός

pistos

pis-TOS

adjective · πιστός, πιστή, πιστόν

faithful

κακός

kakos

kah-KOS

adjective · κακός, κακή, κακόν

bad

νέος

neos

NEH-os

adjective · νέος, νέα, νέον

new, young

ENGLISH neo-

δίκαιος

dikaios

DEE-kye-os

adjective · δίκαιος, δικαία, δίκαιον

just, righteous

μακάριος

makarios

mah-KAH-ree-os

adjective · μακάριος, μακαρία, μακάριον

blessed

αἰώνιος

aionios

eye-OH-nee-os

adjective · αἰώνιος, αἰωνία, αἰώνιον

eternal

ἰσχυρός

ischuros

is-khoo-ROS

adjective · ἰσχυρός, ἰσχυρά, ἰσχυρόν

strong

πλούσιος

plousios

PLOO-see-os

adjective · πλούσιος, πλουσία, πλούσιον

rich

4.1 PAUL ON MARS HILL: THE OBJECT WEARS NU

ἄγνωστος

agnostos

AG-nohs-tos

adjective · ἄγνωστος, ἄγνωστον

unknown

βωμός

bomos

boh-MOS

noun · ὁ βωμός, οἱ βωμοί

an altar

δημιουργός

demiourgos

day-mee-oor-GOS

noun · ὁ δημιουργός, οἱ δημιουργοί

a maker

ENGLISH demiurge

μετάνοια

metanoia

meh-TAH-noy-ah

noun · ἡ μετάνοια

a change of mind

ἀνάστασις

anastasis

ah-NAS-tah-sis

noun · ἡ ἀνάστασις, αἱ ἀναστάσεις

a rising, resurrection

κρίσις

krisis

KREE-sis

noun · ἡ κρίσις, αἱ κρίσεις

a judgment

ENGLISH crisis

εὐσέβεια

eusebeia

ew-SEH-bay-ah

noun · ἡ εὐσέβεια

reverence

θυσία

thusia

thoo-SEE-ah

noun · ἡ θυσία, αἱ θυσίαι

a sacrifice

προσκυνέω

proskuneo

pros-koo-NEH-oh

verb

I bow down, I worship

κηρύσσω

kerusso

kay-ROOS-soh

verb

I proclaim

ENGLISH kerygma

πάγος

pagos

PAH-gos

noun · ὁ πάγος, οἱ πάγοι

a crag; the Hill

4.2 IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD

μονογενής

monogenes

mo-no-geh-NAYS

adjective · μονογενής, μονογενές

only-born

πλήρωμα

pleroma

PLAY-roh-mah

noun · τὸ πλήρωμα, τὰ πληρώματα

fullness

μαρτυρέω

martureo

mar-too-REH-oh

verb

I bear witness

σκηνόω

skenoo

skay-NO-oh

verb

I pitch a tent, I dwell

ἐξηγέομαι

exegeomai

eh-ksay-GEH-o-mye

verb

I explain, I tell forth

κόλπος

kolpos

KOL-pos

noun · ὁ κόλπος, οἱ κόλποι

the bosom, the lap

χάρισμα

charisma

KHAH-ris-mah

noun · τὸ χάρισμα, τὰ χαρίσματα

a gift of grace

ENGLISH charisma

φωτίζω

photizo

foh-TEE-zoh

verb

I give light

ἴδιος

idios

EE-dee-os

adjective · ἴδιος, ἰδία, ἴδιον

one's own

ENGLISH idiom

λαμβάνω

lambano

lam-BAH-noh

verb

I take, I receive

δίδωμι

didomi

DEE-doh-mee

verb

I give

5.1 A MORNING IN THE AGORA

τυρός

turos

too-ROS

noun · ὁ τυρός, οἱ τυροί

cheese

μέλι

meli

MEH-lee

noun · τὸ μέλι

honey

ἔμπορος

emporos

EHM-po-ros

noun · ὁ ἔμπορος, οἱ ἔμποροι

a merchant

σταθμός

stathmos

stath-MOS

noun · ὁ σταθμός, οἱ σταθμοί

a balance; a station

ἱμάτιον

imation

ee-MAH-tee-on

noun · τὸ ἱμάτιον, τὰ ἱμάτια

a cloak

κάπηλος

kapelos

KAH-pay-los

noun · ὁ κάπηλος, οἱ κάπηλοι

a shopkeeper

φορτίον

phortion

for-TEE-on

noun · τὸ φορτίον, τὰ φορτία

a load

τράπεζα

trapeza

TRAH-peh-zah

noun · ἡ τράπεζα, αἱ τράπεζαι

a table

ENGLISH trapeze

κρέας

kreas

KREH-as

noun · τὸ κρέας, τὰ κρέα

meat

ὀψάριον

opsarion

o-PSAH-ree-on

noun · τὸ ὀψάριον, τὰ ὀψάρια

a little fish

ἀγοράζω

agorazo

ah-go-RAH-zoh

verb

I buy in the market

5.2 GREEK ALL AROUND YOU

δόξα

doxa

DO-ksah

noun · ἡ δόξα, αἱ δόξαι

glory

ENGLISH doxology

ἄστρον

astron

AST-ron

noun · τὸ ἄστρον, τὰ ἄστρα

a star

ENGLISH astronomy

γαλαξίας

galaxias

gah-lah-KSEE-as

noun · ό γαλαξίας

the Milky Way

ENGLISH galaxy

άστρονομία

astronomia

ast-ro-no-MEE-ah

noun · ή άστρονομία

star-law

ENGLISH astronomy

γεωγραφία

geographia

geh-oh-grah-FEE-ah

noun · ή γεωγραφία

earth-drawing

ENGLISH geography

φιλοσοφία

philosophia

fee-lo-so-FEE-ah

noun · ή φιλοσοφία

love of wisdom

ENGLISH philosophy

θεολογία

theologia

theh-o-lo-GEE-ah

noun · ή θεολογία

speech about God

ENGLISH theology

δημοκρατία

demokratia

day-mo-krah-TEE-ah

noun · ή δημοκρατία

rule by the people

ENGLISH democracy

φιланθρωπία

philanthropia

fee-lanth-roh-PEE-ah

noun · ή φιланθρωπία

love of human beings

ENGLISH philanthropy

τραγωδία

tragodia

trah-goh-DEE-ah

noun · ή τραγωδία, αί τραγωδίαί

tragedy

ENGLISH tragedy

κωμωδία

komodia

koh-moh-DEE-ah

noun · ή κωμωδία, αί κωμωδίαί

comedy

ENGLISH comedy

UNIT 1

GREEK IS ALIVE

Twenty-three centuries ago a young Macedonian king marched east with his father's army and his teacher's books, and by the time he died at thirty-two, Greek was spoken from Egypt to the edge of India. The empire broke into pieces, but the language stayed whole: a plain, common Greek, the koine, that a merchant in Alexandria, a soldier in Syria and a fisherman in Galilee could all understand. That is why, when the apostles sat down to write the Gospels and the letters, they wrote them in Greek, and why a student who starts Greek today is picking up a key that opens the New Testament

itself. In this unit you will see how far the language traveled, and get your mouth back in training: the alphabet chanted at speed, every letter sounded, every word read aloud.

Then you will turn the telescope around and look at English, because English is wearing Greek all over: telephone (far-voice), microscope (small-looker), galaxy (the milky circle), even alphabet (alpha-beta). You will meet a machine of bronze gears built by Greek hands two thousand years ago, so astonishing that when divers pulled it from a shipwreck, scholars could hardly believe it was real, and you will start a word-engine poster that turns Greek parts into English words all quarter long. Greek is not a dead language in a glass case. It is alive in your Bible, your science book and your own mouth.

PREREQUISITES

- Can sound out the Greek alphabet, even slowly (our grade 3 and 4 Greek courses teach it; a newcomer should spend extra time on this unit's alphabet refresher)
- Can read a rough breathing as h (ὁ = HO) and treat an accent as stress-this-syllable
- Has a notebook, index cards and pencil ready for the quarter

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can tell how Greek became the common language of half the world, and why the New Testament was written in it.
- ☐ I can chant the whole alphabet from alpha to omega without peeking.
- ☐ I can read my first eight nouns aloud with their badges: ὁ λόγος, ὁ θεός, ὁ ἄνθρωπος, ὁ κόσμος, ὁ φίλος, ὁ ἵππος, ὁ ποταμός, ὁ οἶκος.
- ☐ I can take apart five English words built from Greek pieces and explain what the pieces mean.
- ☐ I can tell the story of the Antikythera mechanism.
- ☐ My flashcard deck has the first eight noun cards, and I have reviewed the whole deck twice.

OPTIONAL BOOKS AND RESOURCES FOR THIS UNIT

- **Famous Men of Greece (free online)**: Free at Project Gutenberg, also in print from Memoria Press. Hero stories to read aloud all quarter; the Alexander chapters pair with this unit.
- **Alpha with Angela (YouTube channel)**: Free. A missionary teacher's gentle Biblical Greek series from the alphabet up; good extra review for any lesson in this course.
- **Greek Alphabet Code Cracker, by Classical Academic Press**: A detective-story workbook that drills the alphabet. The right prescription if the refresher in this unit feels too fast.

Not required. Every activity in this unit works with paper, pencil, scissors and the free links below. School Launch has no ties to these authors, publishers or companies.

LESSONS IN THIS UNIT

1.1 The Language That Reached Everywhere

3 sessions of 30–40 minutes

1.2 English Wears a Chiton: Greek Inside English

3 sessions of 30–40 minutes

UNIT 1 REVIEW

Answer aloud or on paper. Use your notebook charts freely; the goal is endings said and read rightly, not memory tricks. 30 points.

1. **5 pts**

Chant the Greek alphabet from alpha to omega. (Parent checks against the chart; one slip allowed.)

2. **5 pts**

Tell, in three or four sentences, how Greek became the common language of half the world and why the New Testament was written in it.

3. **5 pts**

Read aloud and translate: ὁ λόγος, ὁ θεός, ὁ ἄνθρωπος, ὁ κόσμος, ὁ φίλος.

4. **5 pts**

Give the Greek with its badge: the horse, the river, the house.

5. 5 pts

Take apart into Greek pieces with meanings: telescope, theology, photograph, hippopotamus.

6. 5 pts

Tell the story of the Antikythera mechanism in two or three sentences, and name one Greek word engraved into English by that story.

ANSWER KEY

1. α β γ δ ε ζ η θ ι κ λ μ ν ξ ο π ρ σ τ υ φ χ ψ ω, with names and sounds.
2. Alexander's conquests spread Greek from Egypt to India; after him the simple shared koine became everyone's second language; the Old Testament was translated into Greek (the Septuagint); so when the apostles wrote, they wrote in the Greek everybody could read.
3. The word, God, the man, the world, the friend, with the badge read as HO and stresses in place (LO-gos, the-OSS, AN-thro-poss, KOSS-moss, FEE-loss).
4. ὁ ἵππος, ὁ ποταμός, ὁ οἶκος.
5. Tele (far) + scope (looker); theos (God) + logos (word/talk); photo (light) + graph (writing); hippos (horse) + potamos (river).
6. Sponge divers in 1900 found a corroded bronze machine in an ancient shipwreck; X-rays showed hand-cut gears and Greek instructions, a calculator of sun, moon, planets and the Olympic count from about 100 B.C. Mechanism itself is a Greek word (any reasonable choice accepted).

UNIT CHALLENGE: THE GREEK ENGINE ON THE WALL

Finish and present the unit's two wall pieces together: the one-world map of the koine and the derivative gears poster. The student gives the family a two-minute tour: how the language spread, why the New Testament rode it, and how the gears still drive English, reading every Greek word aloud along the way.

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
The map	The map shows the Greek-speaking world with Jerusalem and Alexandria marked, and the student's own sentence underneath.
The gear poster	The gear poster has at least three meshing gears with Greek roots at the hubs and four or more English words each.
Reading aloud	Every Greek word in the tour was read aloud with its breathing and stress.
The surprise question	The student answered one surprise question (a word to unmask, or a noun to translate) without the wall's help.

UNIT 1 • GREEK IS ALIVE • LESSON 1.1 OF 10 • 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

1.1 THE LANGUAGE THAT REACHED EVERYWHERE

OBJECTIVES

- Tell how Alexander's conquests spread Greek, and what koine means.
- Explain why the New Testament was written in Greek.
- Chant the alphabet at speed, forward, with every sound right.
- Read the first eight nouns aloud with their article: ὁ λόγος, ὁ θεός, ὁ ἄνθρωπος, ὁ κόσμος, ὁ φίλος, ὁ ἵππος, ὁ ποταμός, ὁ οἶκος.
- Start the flashcard deck.

Warm-up. Say the alphabet in English as fast as you can. Now think: when you pray, read your Bible or count to ten, you are using tools somebody taught you. Today you meet the story of how God set up a whole world with one shared language, Greek, just in time for the best news ever written. Then you get your Greek alphabet back up to racing speed.

WATCH

Alexander the Great for Kids | Ancient Greece | Simple History

Bedtime History · 8:06

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j_K7588OVPE

WHEN TO WATCH

After The story paragraph. Watch for how far the empire stretched, and remember: everywhere the map turns Alexander's color, people ended up learning Greek.

Note: The video tells the conquests simply, without gore. Alexander was no saint, and the lesson says so; what matters here is what God did with the road system and the language he left behind.

BACKUP VIDEO

Koine Greek: What is it? Where did it come from? And who should learn it?

Biblical Mastery Academy · 16:24

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=grPNtcPl-m8>

Made for adult students, but clear; watch the first half if you want the full story of the common Greek. Small pronunciation differences from our classroom sounds are normal.

KEY TERMS

koine

Greek for 'common.' The everyday shared Greek spoken across Alexander's old empire, and the Greek of the New Testament.

Hellenistic world

The Greek-speaking world Alexander left behind, from Egypt to Persia. 'Hellas' is Greece's own name for itself.

article

The little word the. Greek pins it on nouns like a badge: ὁ λόγος, the word. You will use it all quarter.

Septuagint

The Greek translation of the Old Testament made in Alexandria about 250 B.C., the Bible most of the apostles' first readers knew.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Erasmian sounds, so every letter stays distinct: α ah, ε eh, η ay, ι ee, ο o, ω oh, υ oo. αι says eye, ει ay, οι oy, αυ ow, ευ ew, ου oo. A rough breathing adds h. Capitals show the written accent.

λόγος

logos

LO-gos

noun · ὁ λόγος, οἱ λόγοι

a word; reason

ENGLISH logic

ἄνθρωπος

anthropos

ANTH-roh-pos

noun · ὁ ἄνθρωπος, οἱ ἄνθρωποι

a human being

ENGLISH anthropology

κόσμος

kosmos

KOS-mos

noun · ὁ κόσμος, οἱ κόσμοι

order; the world

ENGLISH cosmos

φίλος

philos

FEE-los

noun · ὁ φίλος, οἱ φίλοι

a friend

ENGLISH philanthropy

ποταμός

potamos

po-tah-MOS

noun · ὁ ποταμός, οἱ ποταμοί

a river

ENGLISH hippopotamus

οἶκος

oikos

OY-kos

noun · ὁ οἶκος, οἱ οἴκοι

a house

ENGLISH economy

κοινός

koinos

koy-NOS

adjective · κοινός, κοινή, κοινόν

common

ENGLISH koine

Ἕλλην

Hellen

HEHL-layn

noun · ὁ Ἕλλην, οἱ Ἕλληνες

a Greek

ENGLISH Hellene

Αἴγυπτος

Aiguptos

EYE-goop-tos

noun · ἡ Αἴγυπτος

Egypt

ENGLISH Egypt

Ἰουδαῖος

Ioudaios

ee-oo-DYE-os

noun · ὁ Ἰουδαῖος, οἱ Ἰουδαῖοι

a Jew

διάλεκτος

dialektos

dee-AH-lehk-tos

noun · ἡ διάλεκτος, αἱ διάλεκτοι

a way of speaking

ENGLISH dialect

CORE IDEAS

The story. In 334 B.C., Alexander of Macedon, a Greek-speaking king barely twenty years old, led his army east against the Persian empire. He had been tutored by the philosopher Aristotle, and he carried Homer's poems in a treasure box on campaign. In eleven years he never lost a battle, and when he died at thirty-two, his generals carved up an empire that stretched from Egypt to India. The empire did not last. The language did. In every new city, and Alexander founded dozens, many named Alexandria, the markets, schools, courts and libraries ran in Greek. Within a century, a trader from Spain and a farmer from Judea could meet on a dock in Egypt and bargain in the same tongue: a plain, friendly, everyday Greek that scholars call koine (koy-NAY), 'the common one.' In Alexandria, Jewish scholars even translated the whole Old Testament into Greek, the famous Septuagint, because so many of God's people now spoke Greek before anything else.

Why it matters to your Bible. Three centuries later, when Matthew, John, Paul and Peter sat down to write Gospels and letters meant for everybody, they did not write in Hebrew, or Latin, or Aramaic. They wrote in koine Greek, the one language a letter could wear and be read from Rome to Egypt without translation. Paul could mail one letter to the Romans, written in Greek, and know it would be read aloud and understood. The apostle John heard the risen Lord name himself with Greek letters: I am Alpha and Omega. When you learn Greek, you are not learning a classroom curiosity; you are learning the language God chose for the New Testament, prepared centuries ahead by roads, ships and one ambitious king who had no idea what his language would one day carry.

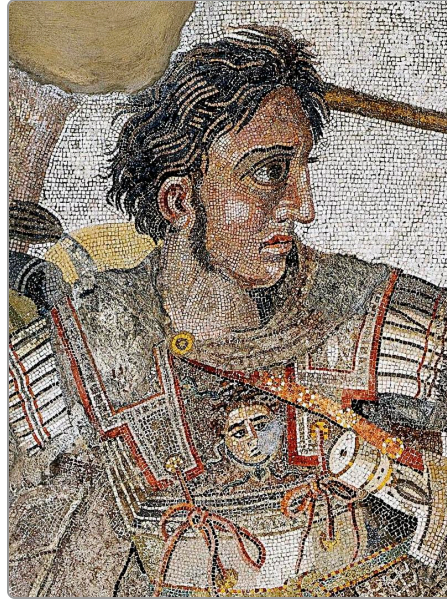
How Greek works: meet the badge. Here are your first eight Greek nouns. Each one comes wearing a little word: ὁ (HO), which means the. Greek loves to pin the article on a noun like a badge, and the badge will soon tell you secrets about the noun. For now, read the pairs: ὁ λόγος (ho LO-gos), the word; ὁ θεός (ho the-OSS), God; ὁ ἄνθρωπος (ho AN-thro-poss), the man; ὁ κόσμος (ho KOSS-moss), the world; ὁ φίλος (ho FEE-loss),

the friend; ὁ ἵππος (ho HIP-poss), the horse; ὁ ποταμός (ho po-ta-MOSS), the river; ὁ οἶκος (ho OY-koss), the house. Every one ends in -ος, the most Greek of all endings; English kept it in words like cosmos and hippopotamus (river-horse, two of your new words in one!).

Say it out loud. This week the alphabet comes back up to speed. Chant it in two breaths: alpha, beta, gamma, delta, epsilon, zeta, eta, theta, iota, kappa, lambda, mu, then nu, xi, omicron, pi, rho, sigma, tau, upsilon, phi, chi, psi, omega. Remember the traps: η says long AY (not n), ρ is r (not p), υ says ü/oo, the rough breathing (') adds h, so ὁ is HO and ἵππος is HIP-poss. Then read the eight nouns aloud three times each, badge and all, stressing the marked syllable. Greek is a said language before it is a written one; the Greeks themselves read everything aloud.

Try it. This week you make the first eight flashcards (front: ὁ λόγος; back: the word) and draw the one-world map: the sweep of Alexander's world from Greece to India, with Jerusalem and Alexandria marked, and one sentence of your own under it about why the New Testament is in Greek. The map goes up on the wall; the quarter's whole story lives on it.

PICTURE STUDY



Alexander at the Battle of Issus (the Alexander Mosaic), Unknown mosaicist, after a Greek painting, About 100 B.C., copying a painting of about 310 B.C. · Floor mosaic of about a million tiny stone tesserae · From the House of the Faun, Pompeii; now in the Naples National Archaeological Museum

Image: [Wikimedia Commons](#), public domain

This is Alexander himself, charging at the Persian king at the battle of Issus, as a Roman floor remembered him. The mosaic copies a famous Greek painting made within living memory of Alexander, and it is built from about a million tiny squares of colored stone. A volcano buried it; archaeologists found it paving the floor of the grandest house in Pompeii.

Look closely

- Find Alexander's eye. The mosaicist caught a whole character, young, fearless, a little wild, in a few dozen stone chips.
- Count the colors. Only about four, browns, reds, creams, blacks, yet the picture seems full of light.
- Find the face on his breastplate: the armor wears a staring gorgon, an old Greek badge meant to frighten enemies.
- Notice the bare head. Other soldiers wear helmets; the artist wanted everyone to know exactly which rider this is.

Talk about it

1. Alexander is shown mid-charge, not enthroned in victory. What does that choice say about what the Greeks admired in him?

2. A floor is walked on. Why do you think a Roman householder wanted this scene underfoot in his grandest room?
3. Alexander conquered the world's languages into one. What did God do with that one language three centuries later?

ACTIVITY

The one-world map and the first eight cards

Every quarter needs a wall. Today you put up the map that explains why Greek matters, and start the flashcard deck you will carry to the last day.

You will need

- A sheet of printer paper or poster board for the map
- Colored pencils or crayons
- 8 index cards and a box, bag or binder ring

Steps

1. Draw the map: the Mediterranean Sea as a rough oval, Greece on the left, Egypt at the bottom, Persia and India sweeping right. No need for precision; label GREECE, EGYPT, JERUSALEM, ALEXANDRIA, INDIA.
2. Shade everything from Greece to India in one color: the world that learned Greek after Alexander.
3. Write the title: Η ΚΟΙΝΗ, 'the common (language),' in your best Greek capitals.
4. Under the map write one sentence in your own words answering: why is the New Testament in Greek?
5. Make the eight flashcards, badge included: ὁ λόγος / the word; ὁ θεός / God; ὁ ἄνθρωπος / the man; ὁ κόσμος / the world; ὁ φίλος / the friend; ὁ ἵππος / the horse; ὁ ποταμός / the river; ὁ οἶκος / the house.
6. Run the deck once: say each Greek word aloud, guess the English, flip and check. Then run it backward, English to Greek.

Tips

- Say every word OUT LOUD as you write it. A flashcard made in silence teaches half as much.
- Stress the marked syllable and make the rough breathings breathe: HO LO-gos, HIP-poss.
- Keep the map simple and bold; it is a story poster, not an atlas page.

Check your work

- ☐ My map shows the Greek-speaking sweep from Greece to India with Jerusalem and Alexandria marked.

- ☐ My sentence under the map answers the question in my own words.
- ☐ All eight cards are in the deck, each with its ó badge.
- ☐ I ran the deck both directions out loud.

GREEK NOTEBOOK

1. Write the date, then the alphabet from memory, small letters, in two rows. Check it against a chart and fix any letter that went missing.
2. Copy the eight nouns with their badges and meanings, one per line.
3. Write koine and Septuagint with one-sentence definitions in your own words.
4. Copy this sentence and keep it: The New Testament was written in Greek because Greek was the language everybody shared.

From history. Alexander kept his copy of Homer's Iliad, corrected by Aristotle, under his pillow with a dagger, and when his army captured the Persian king's treasure, he chose its most precious casket to carry the book. The man who scattered Greek across the world was himself carried along by a book he loved; he simply never imagined which Book his language was being prepared for.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Read *ó ποταμός* aloud and translate it.

▼ Show solution

1. The badge ó wears a rough breathing: say HO.
2. Sound the noun through: po-ta-MOSS, stress on the last syllable where the accent sits.
3. Recall the card: ποταμός is river.

Answer: HO po-ta-MOSS: the river. (Hiding inside hippopotamus, the river-horse.)

Example 2. Which of your eight nouns is hiding in the English word cosmonaut?

▼ **Show solution**

1. Chop the English word: cosmo-naut.
2. Match the first piece to a flashcard: κόσμος, world (naut is Greek too: sailor).

Answer: ὁ κόσμος, the world. A cosmonaut is a world-sailor, a sailor of the universe.

Example 3. Say 'the friend' in Greek, badge and all.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Find the card: friend is φίλος.
2. Pin on the badge: ὁ.
3. Stress the first syllable: FEE-loss.

Answer: ὁ φίλος (ho FEE-loss).

PRACTICE

1. **Easy** What does koine mean, and who spoke it?

▼ **Show answer**

Common. It was the shared everyday Greek spoken across Alexander's old empire, from Egypt to the edge of India, by traders, soldiers, schoolboys and apostles.

2. **Easy** Chant the alphabet aloud, then name the three trap letters that fool English eyes and say what each really is.

▼ **Show answer**

η is not n, it is eta, long AY; ρ is not p, it is rho, r; ν is not v, it is nu, n. (Bonus trap: υ, upsilon, says ü/oo.)

3. **Easy** Read aloud and translate: ὁ θεός, ὁ οἶκος, ὁ ἵππος.

▼ **Show answer**

ho the-OSS, God; ho OY-koss, the house; ho HIP-poss, the horse.

4. **Medium** Why did Paul write his letter to the Romans, of all people, in Greek and not Latin?

▼ **Show answer**

Because koine Greek was the common language of the whole eastern Mediterranean world, even in Rome, where much of the church spoke Greek. One Greek letter could be read everywhere without translation.

5. **Medium** Give the Greek, badge and all: the world; the river; the word.

▼ **Show answer**

ὁ κόσμος; ὁ ποταμός; ὁ λόγος.

6. **Medium** What was the Septuagint, and why did it exist?

▼ **Show answer**

The Greek translation of the Old Testament, made in Alexandria about 250 B.C., because so many of God's people in the Greek-speaking world knew Greek better than Hebrew.

7. **Hard** All eight of your nouns end in -ος. English borrowed some of them almost whole. Name two English words that still show a Greek -os or -us ending from this list, and what they mean.

▼ **Show answer**

Cosmos (κόσμος, the ordered world) and hippopotamus (ἵππος + ποταμός, river-horse; Latin respelled -os as -us). Logos also appears in English books about John 1:1.

8. **Challenge** Galatians 4:4 says God sent his Son 'when the fulness of the time was come.' Name two ways the Greek language shows that the time was full, prepared ahead.

▼ **Show answer**

A common language the whole world could read meant the gospel could travel without translation; and the Septuagint meant the Old Testament was already in that language, so the apostles could quote Scripture every reader knew. The king who spread the language never knew what it would carry.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Reading Greek letters as their English look-alikes: η as n, ρ as p, ν as v. Chant the traps until they can't catch you.

- Skipping the breathing mark: ó is HO, with a real h. A badge without its breath is only half read.
- Learning cards silently. Greek goes in through the mouth and ears; always say the word aloud.
- Thinking Alexander spread the gospel. He spread a language; God, centuries later, filled it. Keep the order straight.

Make it a game · Alphabet Grand Prix. Lay the eight noun cards face up. A parent calls an English meaning ('the horse!'); the student slaps the right card and reads it aloud, badge, breathing and stress ('ho HIP-poss!'). One point per clean catch, and a bonus lap: chant the whole alphabet in under 30 seconds. Ten points wins the checkered flag.

Scripture. “But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,” (Galatians 4:4, KJV)

Roads, ships, one shared language: the world was made ready before the Son was sent into it. What looks like the ambition of kings is, under God, the setting of a table.

UNIT 1 · GREEK IS ALIVE · LESSON 1.2 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30-40 MINUTES

1.2 ENGLISH WEARS A CHITON: GREEK INSIDE ENGLISH

OBJECTIVES

- Take apart English words built from Greek pieces: tele-, micro-, -phone, -scope, -graph, -logy.
- Tell the story of the Antikythera mechanism.
- Recognize the Greek pieces γράφω (write) and λόγος (word) inside English.
- Read all eight Unit 1 nouns fluently and begin spotting them in English words.
- Build the derivative gears poster.

Warm-up. Count how many Greek words you say before breakfast: telephone, if anyone still says it; TV, short for television, far-seeing; even church, from the Greek kyriakon, the Lord's house. English is wearing Greek the way a Greek wore a chiton, a tunic, every day, everywhere, without thinking about it. Today you learn to see the Greek underneath.

WATCH

Latin and Greek roots and affixes | Reading | Khan Academy

Khan Academy · 6:23

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fiaPqgwJFo4>

WHEN TO WATCH

After the How Greek works paragraph. Watch for how one root unlocks a whole family of words; keep a tally of roots you already know from Unit 1.

Note: The video covers Latin roots too. Families doing our Latin courses will enjoy spotting which is which; tele-, micro- and -ology are the Greek team.

BACKUP VIDEO

The machine that changed our understanding of human history - Max G. Levy

TED-Ed · 6:19

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XNEHP6qFeCs>

After the second story paragraph, to see the Antikythera mechanism itself: the gears, the dials and the Greek letters engraved on the bronze.

KEY TERMS

derivative

An English word built from pieces of an older language. Telescope is a derivative of Greek tele (far) + skopeo (I look).

chiton

The everyday tunic a Greek wore. Our lesson's picture of English: Greek worn so comfortably we forget it is there.

root

The meaning-carrying piece inside a word: graph (write) inside autograph, paragraph and photograph.

mechanism

From Greek mechane, a clever device. The Antikythera mechanism is the most astonishing machine the ancient world left us.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Erasmian sounds, so every letter stays distinct: α ah, ε eh, η ay, ι ee, ο o, ω oh, υ oo. αἰ says eye, εἰ ay, οἰ oy, αὐ ow, εὐ ew, οὐ oo. A rough breathing adds h. Capitals show the written accent.

γράφω

grapho

GRAH-foh

verb

I write

ENGLISH graph

καρδία

kardia

kar-DEE-ah

noun · ή καρδία, αί καρδίαι

the heart

ENGLISH cardiac

φωνή

phone

foh-NAY

noun · ή φωνή, αί φωναί

a voice

ENGLISH telephone

μηχανή

mechane

may-khah-NAY

noun · ή μηχανή, αί μηχαναί

a device

ENGLISH machine

μέτρον

metron

MEH-tron

noun · τὸ μέτρον, τὰ μέτρα

a measure

ENGLISH meter

σκοπός

skopos

sko-POS

noun · ό σκοπός, οί σκοποί

a watcher; an aim

ENGLISH scope

χιτών

chiton

khee-TOHN

noun · ό χιτών, οί χιτώνες

a tunic

ENGLISH chiton

νεῦρον

neuron

NEW-ron

noun · τὸ νεῦρον, τὰ νεῦρα

a sinew

ENGLISH nerve

γαστήρ

gaster

gas-TAYR

noun · ή γαστήρ, αί γαστέρες

the belly

ὀδούς

odous

o-DOOS

noun · ό ὀδούς, οί ὀδόντες

a tooth

χείρ

cheir

KHAYR

noun · ή χείρ, αί χείρες

a hand

CORE IDEAS

The story. In 1900, Greek sponge divers sheltering from a storm by the tiny island of Antikythera found an ancient shipwreck full of statues. Among the treasures was a lump of corroded bronze the size of a shoebox. Two thousand years of seawater had turned it to crust, but inside, scholars slowly realized, were GEARS, dozens of bronze gearwheels cut by hand, with Greek letters engraved beside them. It took a hundred years and X-ray machines to read it properly: the lump was a calculating machine, built around 100 B.C., that tracked the sun, the moon, the planets and even the four-year count of the Olympic games. Nothing so intricate appears again for more than a thousand years. The men who built it thought in Greek, counted in Greek letters, and engraved Greek instructions on the bronze, and the words they used are still working in your mouth: mechanism itself is Greek.

The engine inside English. When English needed words for new wonders, it did what the Antikythera craftsmen did: it reached for Greek parts and geared them together. Tele (far) + phone (voice) = telephone, the far-voice. Tele + scope (looker) = telescope. Micro (small) + scope = microscope. Photo (light) + graph (writing) = photograph, light-writing. Bio (life) + logy (talk about, from λόγος) = biology, the talk about living things. One Greek gear can drive a dozen English machines: know graph and you own autograph (self-writing), paragraph, biography and geography (earth-writing) at a glance.

How Greek works: two gears you already own. Two of this course's own words are master gears. *ὁ λόγος*, word, reason, account, drives every -logy and -logue in English: biology, geology, theology (the talk about God: *θεός* + *λόγος*, two flashcards shaking hands!), dialogue, catalogue. And the verb *γράφω* (GRA-fo), I write, which you will conjugate properly in Unit 3, drives every graph: photograph, autograph, paragraph. When a scientist names a new machine or a new science today, he still reaches for the Greek parts bin. Learn fifty Greek words and you have learned five hundred English ones at wholesale prices.

Say it out loud. Chant the alphabet in two breaths, then read the gear words in Greek dress: *τῆλε* (TAY-leh, far), *μικρός* (mik-ROSS, small), *γράφω* (GRA-fo, I write), *λόγος*, *θεός*, *κόσμος*. Then play the unmasking game aloud: say telephone slowly, tele-phone, and hear the Greek through the English. Say hippopotamus and hear *ἵππος* and *ποταμός* trotting inside it.

Try it. This week you build the derivative gears poster: paper gears that physically mesh, each gear a Greek root, each tooth an English word it drives. It hangs beside the one-world map, and you will add teeth to the gears all quarter as new Greek words join the deck.

PICTURE STUDY



The Antikythera Mechanism, Unknown Greek craftsmen, About 150–100 B.C. · Bronze gearwork, corroded by two thousand years under the sea · National Archaeological Museum, Athens

Photo: Joy of Museums, via [Wikimedia Commons](#), CC BY-SA 4.0

These crusted lumps of bronze are the remains of the most astonishing machine the ancient world left us: a geared calculator of the heavens, pulled from a shipwreck by sponge divers in 1900. X-rays later revealed dozens of hand-cut gears inside, and thousands of tiny engraved Greek letters, the maker's own instruction manual.

Look closely

- Find the big gear in the largest fragment and follow its teeth; every one was cut by hand with a file.
- Look for the faint engraved lines and letters on the flat plates; the machine explained itself in Greek.
- Notice how much is missing. Scholars rebuilt the design from barely a third of the original parts.
- The whole machine was about the size of a shoebox. Guess how many gears fit inside: more than thirty.

Talk about it

1. The mechanism predicted where sun and moon would stand years ahead. What does its maker's confidence say about how orderly God's heavens are?

2. Why would a device like this be engraved with instructions rather than kept secret?
3. If one shipwreck held this, what else might Greek workshops have built that we have never found?

ACTIVITY

The derivative gears

The Antikythera craftsmen cut bronze gears to drive the heavens. You will cut paper gears to drive English, each Greek root turning a wheel of English words.

You will need

- 3–4 circles of paper or light card, about the size of a saucer (trace a bowl)
- Scissors, glue or a glue stick, and a sheet of poster board or printer paper
- Colored pencils or a fine-tip marker

Steps

1. Cut 3 or 4 circles and trim simple gear teeth around each edge, 6 to 8 broad teeth per gear.
2. Label each gear's hub with one Greek root in big letters: ΓΡΑΦΩ (write), ΛΟΓΟΣ (word), ΘΑΛΕ (far), ΜΙΚΡΟΣ (small).
3. On the teeth of each gear, write English words that root drives: for ΓΡΑΦΩ, photograph, autograph, paragraph, biography; for ΛΟΓΟΣ, biology, theology, dialogue, catalogue; for ΘΑΛΕ, telephone, telescope, television; for ΜΙΚΡΟΣ, microscope, microphone, microbe.
4. Glue the gears onto the poster so their teeth mesh like real gearwheels.
5. Title the poster THE GREEK ENGINE, and add one blank gear for words you will discover later in the quarter.
6. Present it: turn an imaginary crank and read each gear aloud, root first, then its words.

Tips

- Say the Greek root aloud each time you write an English tooth; the sound is the glue.
- Don't fuss over perfect teeth; bold and readable beats neat and tiny.
- If a word has TWO Greek gears (theology, television), draw a line connecting the gears; that's the machine running.

Check your work

- ☐ Each gear has a Greek root at the hub and at least four English words on its teeth.

- ☐ The gears visibly mesh on the poster.
- ☐ I can read every gear aloud, Greek root included.
- ☐ The blank gear is waiting for new words.

GREEK NOTEBOOK

1. Write the date, then take apart five English words into Greek pieces with meanings: telephone, microscope, photograph, theology, hippopotamus.
2. Copy γράφω and τῆλε and μικρός with pronunciations and meanings.
3. Write one sentence: the Antikythera mechanism shows that Greek minds could build almost anything.
4. Run the flashcard deck and record your score (right the first try / total).

From history. When scientists X-rayed the Antikythera mechanism, they found more than gears: thousands of tiny Greek letters engraved inside, a built-in instruction manual. The machine's makers assumed any educated user could read Greek. Twenty centuries later, the scholars who finally read those instructions could do it for one reason: somebody had taught them the same alphabet you chanted this morning.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Take apart the word theology.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Chop it: theo-logy.
2. Theo: θεός, God (flashcard!).
3. -logy: from λόγος, word, talk, account.

Answer: Theology is the talk about God, θεός + λόγος. Two of your own flashcards built it.

Example 2. A doctor orders a cardiograph. Using Greek gears, guess what it does. (καρδία, heart, joins your deck in Unit 2.)

▼ **Show solution**

1. Chop it: cardio-graph.
2. Cardio: Greek kardia, heart.
3. Graph: γράφω, I write.

Answer: A heart-writer: a machine that writes out the heart's beats. Greek pieces predict the meaning before the dictionary does.

Example 3. Build an English word meaning 'far-looker' from Greek parts, then say what it is.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Far: tele (τῆλε).
2. Looker: scope (from skopeo, I look).
3. Gear them: tele + scope.

Answer: Telescope, the far-looker pointed at God's sky.

PRACTICE

1. **Easy** What two Greek pieces build telephone, and what does each mean?

▼ **Show answer**

Tele (τῆλε), far, and phone (φωνή), voice: the far-voice.

2. **Easy** What was found in the Antikythera shipwreck, and what could it do?

▼ **Show answer**

A bronze geared machine from about 100 B.C. that tracked the sun, moon and planets, and even counted the four-year cycle of the Olympic games, with Greek instructions engraved on it.

3. **Easy** Which flashcard noun hides inside biology, geology and dialogue?

▼ **Show answer**

ὁ λόγος, word, talk, account. A -logy is a talk about something.

4. **Medium** Take apart: microscope, photograph, geography.

▼ **Show answer**

Micro (small) + scope (looker): the small-looker. Photo (light) + graph (writing): light-writing. Geo (earth) + graphy (writing): earth-writing.

5. **Medium** Theology and θεός: explain the connection, then build the matching word for 'the talk about life.'

▼ **Show answer**

Theology is θεός + λόγος, the talk about God. Life is bios in Greek, so the talk about life is biology.

6. **Medium** Say aloud and translate: ὁ λόγος, ὁ κόσμος, ὁ φίλος. Then name one English word each one drives.

▼ **Show answer**

The word (logic, biology, dialogue); the world (cosmos, cosmonaut); the friend (philosophy, the love of wisdom; Philadelphia, brotherly love).

7. **Hard** Philadelphia means 'brotherly love,' and philosophy means 'love of wisdom.' What Greek flashcard word is doing the loving in both, and which Unit 2 word will supply the wisdom?

▼ **Show answer**

φίλος, friend/loving, is in both. The wisdom is σοφία, which joins the deck in Unit 2: philo-sophia, the love of wisdom.

8. **Challenge** Invent a sensible English-style word from Greek gears for 'a machine that writes down rivers' and defend it.

▼ **Show answer**

Potamograph: ποταμός (river) + γράφω (I write), on the pattern of photograph. Any answer gearing a real root pair logically earns the point; river scientists really are called potamologists.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Confusing phone (φωνή, voice) with photo (φῶς/φωτός, light). Telephone carries voices; photograph writes with light.
- Thinking derivative-hunting is trivia. It is wholesale vocabulary: one root buys a word family.

- Writing Greek roots in English letters only. Write ΓΡΑΦΩ and γράφω; the Greek spelling is what trains your eye.
- Forgetting that -logy words come from λόγος. If you can say biology, you already own a Greek noun.

Make it a game · Unmask the Greek. A parent says an English word from the gear poster (telescope! biography! microphone!); the student must unmask it: name the Greek pieces and their meanings in under ten seconds. One point each; a bonus point for saying the Greek with its real sounds (GRA-fo, not graff-oh). First to ten gets to invent one new gear word for the blank gear.

Scripture. “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.” (Psalm 19:1, KJV)

The Antikythera craftsmen geared bronze to follow the heavens; the heavens themselves were already following their Maker. Every telescope and planetarium since is one more way of reading verse one.

UNIT 2

THE NOUN AND ITS BADGE

A Greek schoolboy learned his letters from a teacher with a wax tablet and a stern eye, and one of the first things he learned was that Greek nouns change their clothes. One word is ὁ λόγος; two or more are οἱ λόγοι. The ending turns, and the little badge in front, the article, turns with it, always matching, always loyal. That badge is Greek's great gift to learners: before you even reach the noun, ὁ or οἱ has already whispered to you whether one or many are coming. English says the for everything; Greek dresses the badge to match the noun, and once you can read the badges, Greek sentences begin to open like doors.

Then the potsherds come out. Once a year, the citizens of Athens could vote to send one too-powerful man away for ten years, and the ballot was a piece of broken pottery, an ostrakon, with a name scratched on it. Archaeologists have dug thousands out of the Athenian agora, many spelling the same name: Themistocles. On those sherds you can see real Greek hands writing real Greek names, and in this unit's second lesson the feminine badges ἡ and αἱ join the masculine ones, with seven

beautiful new nouns to wear them: the heart, wisdom, the voice, life, peace, the sea and the earth.

PREREQUISITES

- Can chant the alphabet at speed and read the breathing marks (Unit 1)
- Knows the first eight nouns by flashcard: ὁ λόγος, ὁ θεός, ὁ ἄνθρωπος, ὁ κόσμος, ὁ φίλος, ὁ ἵππος, ὁ ποταμός, ὁ οἶκος
- Can tell the koine story in his or her own words

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can flip any of my -ος nouns between one and many: ὁ λόγος, οἱ λόγοι; ὁ φίλος, οἱ φίλοι.
- ☐ I can explain what the article badge tells me before I even read the noun.
- ☐ I can tell the story of the potsherd vote and what an ostrakon is.
- ☐ I can read the seven feminine nouns with their badges: ἡ καρδία, ἡ σοφία, ἡ φωνή, ἡ ζωή, ἡ εἰρήνη, ἡ θάλασσα, ἡ γῆ.
- ☐ I can flip feminine nouns to the plural with their badge: ἡ καρδία, αἱ καρδίαι; ἡ φωνή, αἱ φωναί.
- ☐ My deck holds all Unit 1 and Unit 2 words, and I can sort the cards into the ὁ team and the ἡ team without peeking.

OPTIONAL BOOKS AND RESOURCES FOR THIS UNIT

- **Alpha with Angela (YouTube channel)**: Free. Her early lessons walk through exactly this unit's ground, nouns, articles and plurals, at a gentle pace.
- **Elementary Greek: Koine for Beginners, Year One, by Christine Gatchell**: A gentle one-lesson-a-day Greek course many homeschool families use; its early weeks pair well with this unit if you want daily worksheets.
- **Famous Men of Greece (free online)**: Free at Project Gutenberg. Read the Themistocles chapter with Lesson 2.2: the man whose name fills the potsherd drawers of the agora museum.

Not required. Every activity in this unit works with paper, pencil, scissors and the free links below. School Launch has no ties to these authors, publishers or companies.

LESSONS IN THIS UNIT

2.1 One and Many: ὁ λόγος, οἱ λόγοι

3 sessions of 30–40 minutes

2.2 The Potsherd Vote: Badges for Every Noun

3 sessions of 30–40 minutes

UNIT 2 REVIEW

Answer aloud or on paper. Charts and the deck may be consulted once per question; endings and badges must be exactly right. 30 points.

1. **5 pts**

Chant the badge grid with sounds, and say what each badge announces.

2. **5 pts**

Flip to the plural, badge and all: ὁ λόγος, ὁ ἀδελφός, ἡ καρδιά, ἡ φωνή.

3. **5 pts**

Translate: ὁ υἱός, οἱ δοῦλοι, ἡ εἰρήνη, αἱ θάλασσαι, ὁ καρπός.

4. **5 pts**

Put into Greek, badges on: the law; the angels; wisdom; the voices.

5. 5 pts

Tell the potsherd story: what was an ostracism, whose name fills the drawers, and what does the custom teach about cities and gratitude?

6. 5 pts

Unpack into Greek pieces with meanings: philosophy, cardiology, geography.

ANSWER KEY

1. ὁ (HO) one masculine; οἱ (HOY) many masculine; ἡ (HAY) one feminine; αἱ (HIGH) many feminine.
2. οἱ λόγοι, οἱ ἀδελφοί, αἱ καρδίαι, αἱ φωναί.
3. The son, the servants, peace, the seas, the fruit.
4. ὁ νόμος; οἱ ἄγγελοι; ἡ σοφία; αἱ φωναί.
5. Athens could vote one man into ten years' exile by scratching names on potsherds; thousands survive, many against Themistocles, the admiral who saved Greece. Crowds forget their debts quickly; gratitude must be kept on purpose.
6. φίλος + σοφία, the love of wisdom; καρδία + λόγος, the talk about the heart; γῆ + γράφω/graphy, earth-writing, describing the earth.

UNIT CHALLENGE: THE BADGE CHART POSTER

Make the unit's wall piece: a big badge chart showing the four badges learned so far (ὁ, οἱ, ἡ, αἱ) with three example nouns under each, singular and plural pairs written out, decorated with a drawn ostrakon in one corner carrying the student's favorite Greek word. Present it to the family with the badge grid chanted and five nouns sorted live on request.

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
The badges	All four badges appear with correct breathings and at least three correct example nouns each.
The pairs	Singular/plural pairs are written with badge and ending agreeing in every pair.
The sounds	The chart is read aloud with correct sounds (HO, HOY, HAY, HIGH) during the presentation.
The live sort	The student sorts five nouns called out by the family, including at least one feminine plural, without touching the deck.

UNIT 2 • THE NOUN AND ITS BADGE • LESSON 2.1 OF 10 • 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

2.1 ONE AND MANY: ὁ λόγος, οἱ λόγοι

OBJECTIVES

- Tell what a Greek school was like: the teacher, the wax tablet, the recitation.
- Flip -ος nouns between singular and plural: ὁ λόγος, οἱ λόγοι.
- Explain how the article badge changes with its noun: ὁ for one, οἱ for many.
- Learn seven new masculine nouns: ὁ ἀδελφός, ὁ υἱός, ὁ δοῦλος, ὁ ἄγγελος, ὁ λίθος, ὁ νόμος, ὁ καρπός.
- Read mixed singulars and plurals aloud and translate them.

Warm-up. Hold up one pencil: the pencil. Now grab a fistful: the pencils. English changed the noun but left 'the' alone. Greek is more thorough: when the noun changes clothes, the badge changes too. Chant the alphabet, run the deck, and get ready to meet the plural.

WATCH

Biblical Greek - Lesson 6 - Masculine, feminine and neuter plural articles and nouns. Free Greek.

Alpha with Angela · 16:34

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SjfGRhudnm8>

WHEN TO WATCH

After the How Greek works paragraph. It is part of her series but stands on its own; chant the plurals along with her, and don't worry about the neuter words (τό) she shows, you will meet those properly in grade 6.

Note: Angela uses a slightly different pronunciation system (Koine); hearing both is normal and healthy. Our course chants the classroom sounds.

BACKUP VIDEO

Amazing Greek 1st and 2nd Declension Nouns

Daily Dose of Greek · 0:36

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GJ5AAMQhrqM>

A 36-second treat after practice: a seminary teacher's whole noun chart sung at speed. You will understand more of it every week of this course.

KEY TERMS

noun

A word that names a person, place or thing: ὁ ἀδελφός, the brother; ὁ λίθος, the stone.

article

The badge word the. Masculine singular ὁ, masculine plural οἱ (sounds like 'hoy').

singular and plural

One, or more than one. Greek shows it twice: in the noun's ending AND in its badge: ὁ λόγος, οἱ λόγοι.

ending

The noun's last letters, which carry its number (and soon, its job): -ος one, -οι many.

paidagogos

The household servant who walked a Greek boy to school, παιδαγωγός, the ancestor of our word pedagogue. Paul says the law was our schoolmaster to bring us to Christ.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Erasmian sounds, so every letter stays distinct: α ah, ε eh, η ay, ι ee, ο o, ω oh, υ oo. αι says eye, ει ay, οι oy, αυ ow, ευ ew, ου oo. A rough breathing adds h. Capitals show the written accent.

ἀδελφός

adelphos

ah-dehl-FOS

noun · ὁ ἀδελφός, οἱ ἀδελφοί

a brother

δοῦλος

doulos

DOO-ios

noun · ὁ δοῦλος, οἱ δοῦλοι

a servant

λίθος

lithos

LEE-thos

noun · ὁ λίθος, οἱ λίθοι

a stone

ENGLISH lithograph

καρπός

karpos

kar-POS

noun · ὁ καρπός, οἱ καρποί

fruit

παιδαγωγός

paidagogos

pye-dah-goh-GOS

noun · ό παιδαγωγός, οί παιδαγωγοί

a child's guide

ENGLISH pedagogue

θάνατος

thanatos

THAH-nah-tos

noun · ό θάνατος, οί θάνατοι

death

καιρός

kairos

kye-ROS

noun · ό καιρός, οί καιροί

the right time

τόπος

topos

TO-pos

noun · ό τόπος, οί τόποι

a place

ENGLISH topic

τρόπος

tropos

TRO-pos

noun · ό τρόπος, οί τρόποι

a way, a manner

φόβος

phobos

FO-bos

noun · ό φόβος, οί φόβοι

fear

ENGLISH phobia

μισθός

misthos

mis-THOS

noun · ὁ μισθός, οἱ μισθοί

wages

CORE IDEAS

The story. School in Athens started at dawn. A boy walked there with a trusted household servant, the παιδαγωγός, carrying a wax tablet, two leaves of wood filled with beeswax, and a stylus, pointed on one end for writing and flat on the other for erasing. The teacher wrote a line; the boy copied it until his rows of alphas stopped wobbling; then came recitation, long stretches of Homer learned by heart and performed out loud. We can watch the whole scene, because the painter Douris painted a school day around a drinking cup about 480 B.C., and even signed it: teachers with scrolls and tablets, boys standing to recite, a music lesson with lyres. The boys on that cup learned exactly what you are learning this week: how a Greek noun turns from one to many.

How Greek works: the flip. Take ὁ λόγος, the word. To say the words, Greek flips the ending: λόγος becomes λόγοι, and, here is the beautiful part, the badge flips to match: ὁ becomes οἱ (HOY). So: ὁ λόγος, the word; οἱ λόγοι, the words. ὁ φίλος, the friend; οἱ φίλοι, the friends. ὁ ἄνθρωπος, the man; οἱ ἄνθρωποι, the men. Every -ος noun in your deck plays: ὁ ἵππος, οἱ ἵπποι; ὁ ποταμός, οἱ ποταμοί; ὁ οἶκος, οἱ οἴκοι. The badge and the ending always agree, like a uniform and its cap. Say the pairs until the flip feels like flicking a light switch.

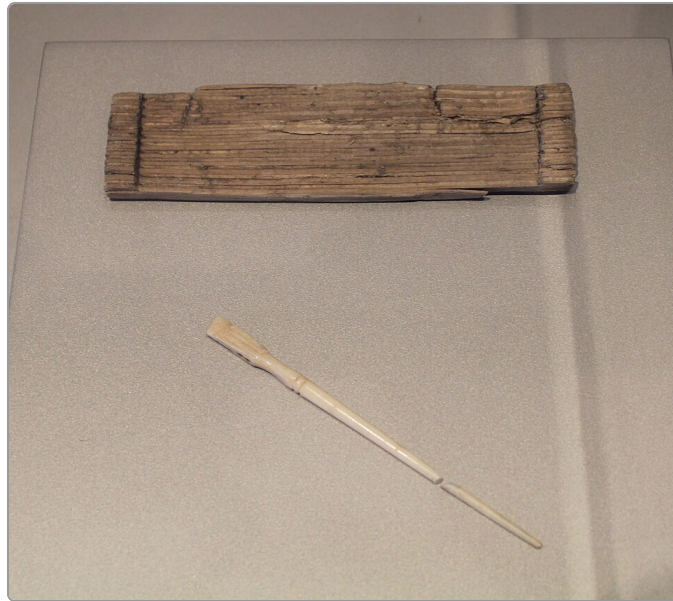
Seven new nouns join the team. All masculine, all wearing ὁ: ὁ ἀδελφός (ho a-del-FOSS), the brother (Philadelphia, brotherly love, hides φίλος + ἀδελφός); ὁ υἱός (ho hwee-OSS), the son, a word you will meet constantly in the New Testament; ὁ δοῦλος (ho DOO-loss), the servant, the word Paul uses for himself: a servant of Jesus Christ; ὁ ἄγγελος (ho ANG-el-oss), the messenger, our word angel, remember γγ says ng; ὁ λίθος (ho LEE-thoss), the stone (monolith, a single stone); ὁ νόμος (ho NO-moss), the law (astronomy, the law of the stars); ὁ καρπός (ho kar-POSS), the fruit, as in the fruit of the Spirit.

Say it out loud. Chant the flips in pairs, down the whole deck: ὁ λόγος, οἱ λόγοι! ὁ ἀδελφός, οἱ ἀδελφοί! ὁ δοῦλος, οἱ δοῦλοι! Keep the stress where the accent sits and let οἱ ring out as HOY. Then read these aloud and translate by badge and ending alone: οἱ

φίλοι. ὁ υἱός. οἱ ἄγγελοι. ὁ λίθος. οἱ ἵπποι. A Greek could hear one from many with his eyes shut; by Friday, so can you.

Try it. This week you make badge-flip cards: each noun card gets a sliding sleeve that flips it from singular to plural, badge and ending together. The new nouns join the deck, and the deck splits for the first time into teams, all ὁ this week; next lesson the ἡ team arrives.

PICTURE STUDY



A Wax Tablet and Stylus, Unknown Roman-era makers, First centuries A.D. · Wooden tablet once filled with wax, and a pointed bone stylus · Narbo Via museum, Narbonne, France

Photo: Zunkir, via [Wikimedia Commons](#), CC BY-SA 4.0

This is the ancient world's school slate: a wooden tray once filled with a thin skin of dark beeswax, written on with the pointed end of the stylus and erased with the flat end. Greek schoolboys carried tablets exactly like it to their lessons five hundred years before this one was made, and the design never needed changing.

Look closely

- Find the raised rim around the tablet; it kept the wax in and protected the writing when two tablets were folded face to face.
- Look at the stylus's two ends: a point for writing, and a flattened top for smoothing mistakes away, the eraser was built in.
- The wax here has perished; the wood grain you see was once hidden under a smooth black writing surface.
- Guess its weight: lighter than your notebook, and it lasted for years of lessons.

Talk about it

1. A wax tablet erases with a fingernail's warmth. What kinds of writing belonged on wax, and what deserved papyrus or stone?
2. Why would a schoolmaster prefer wax tablets to papyrus for boys learning their letters?

3. What would survive of YOUR schoolwork after two thousand years, and what would it tell a digger about you?

ACTIVITY

Badge-flip cards

A Greek noun never goes out without its badge. Today you build cards that flip noun and badge together, one to many and back.

You will need

- 7 index cards for the new nouns, plus 4 strips of paper about an inch wide
- Scissors, tape and a pencil
- The flashcard deck so far

Steps

1. Make the seven new flashcards first: ὁ ἀδελφός / the brother; ὁ υἱός / the son; ὁ δοῦλος / the servant; ὁ ἄγγελος / the messenger, angel; ὁ λίθος / the stone; ὁ νόμος / the law; ὁ καρπός / the fruit.
2. Pick four favorite nouns. For each, write the frame on a card: ___ λόγ___ with the badge space at the front and the ending space at the back.
3. Make a slider strip for each card: on one segment write ὁ and -ος, on the next οἱ and -οι. Thread or tape the strip so sliding it flips BOTH badge and ending at once.
4. Drill: a parent says 'many words!' and you slide to οἱ λόγοι and read it aloud; 'one brother!' slides to ὁ ἀδελφός.
5. Run the whole deck once, flipping every -ος noun to plural out loud from memory, no sliders.
6. File the sliders in the deck box; they come back out whenever the flip gets rusty.

Tips

- Badge and ending move together, always. If you slid only one, the uniform is wrong; start the card again.
- Watch the accent on ἀδελφός: the stress stays on the last syllable in the plural, ἀδελφοί.
- Say οἱ as one clean syllable, HOY, not oh-ee.

Check your work

- ☐ My four slider cards flip badge and ending together.

- ☐ The seven new cards are in the deck.
- ☐ I can flip any -ος noun in the deck to its plural aloud without a slider.
- ☐ I translated five mixed singulars and plurals called out by a parent.

GREEK NOTEBOOK

1. Write the date and the flip rule in your own words: the ending turns, and the badge turns with it.
2. Write five pairs, singular and plural with meanings: ὁ λόγος / οἱ λόγοι; ὁ φίλος / οἱ φίλοι; ὁ ἀδελφός / οἱ ἀδελφοί; ὁ ἄγγελος / οἱ ἄγγελοι; ὁ ἵππος / οἱ ἵπποι.
3. Copy the seven new nouns with meanings.
4. Find and write two English words hiding your new nouns (examples: monolith, astronomy, angel, Philadelphia).

From history. The paidagogos who walked a boy to school was often an older, trusted servant, and he carried the boy's tablet and lyre. Paul reached for exactly this picture in Galatians 3:24: the law was our paidagogos, our child-walker, to bring us to Christ, the way the old servant delivered the boy to the real teacher and then stood aside.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Flip ὁ δοῦλος (the servant) to the plural and translate both.

▼ Show solution

1. Flip the ending: δοῦλος becomes δοῦλοι.
2. Flip the badge to match: ὁ becomes οἱ.
3. Read both aloud.

Answer: ὁ δοῦλος, the servant; οἱ δοῦλοι, the servants.

Example 2. You read *οἱ ἄγγελοι* on a page. One messenger or many, and how do you know before translating?

▼ **Show solution**

1. Check the badge: *οἱ* is the plural badge.
 2. Check the ending: *-οἱ* agrees.
 3. Badge and ending vote together: plural.
-

Answer: Many: the messengers (or the angels). The badge *οἱ* announced it before the noun finished.

Example 3. Put into Greek: the sons.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Find the card: son is *υἱός*.
 2. Plural ending: *υἱοί*.
 3. Plural badge: *οἱ*.
-

Answer: *οἱ υἱοί* (hoy hwee-OY).

PRACTICE

1. **Easy** What does the badge *ὁ* tell you? What does *οἱ* tell you?

▼ **Show answer**

ὁ: one masculine noun is coming (the ___). *οἱ*: more than one (the ___s).

2. **Easy** Translate: *ὁ ἀδελφός, οἱ ἀδελφοί, ὁ καρπός, οἱ λίθοι*.

▼ **Show answer**

The brother, the brothers, the fruit, the stones.

3. **Easy** Flip to plural, badge and all: *ὁ νόμος, ὁ ἵππος, ὁ οἶκος*.

▼ **Show answer**

οἱ νόμοι, οἱ ἵπποι, οἱ οἶκοι.

4. **Medium** Put into Greek: the messengers; the son; the friends.

▼ **Show answer**

οἱ ἄγγελοι; ὁ υἱός; οἱ φίλοι.

5. **Medium** Paul calls himself δοῦλος of Jesus Christ (Romans 1:1). What does the word mean, and why is it a strong thing to call yourself?

▼ **Show answer**

Servant (bond-servant). Paul, free Roman citizen and scholar, chose the lowest title on purpose: he belongs entirely to his Master.

6. **Medium** Which is correct and why: ὁ λόγοι or οἱ λόγοι?

▼ **Show answer**

οἱ λόγοι. Badge and ending must agree; ὁ (singular badge) cannot escort λόγοι (plural ending).

7. **Hard** The city name Philadelphia is built from two of your flashcards. Name them and translate the city's name literally.

▼ **Show answer**

φίλος (friend, loving) + ἀδελφός (brother): brotherly love, the city of brother-love (Revelation 3:7 writes to the church there).

8. **Challenge** English says 'the word' and 'the words' with the same 'the.' Greek refuses. What does a reader GAIN from Greek's fussiness? Give one concrete example.

▼ **Show answer**

The badge warns you about the noun before and even without the ending: hear οἱ and you already know many are coming. In fast reading or a torn manuscript, οἱ ...λόγοι is recoverable from the badge alone. (Any sound example earns the point.)

COMMON MISTAKES

- Flipping the ending but not the badge (ὁ λόγοι). The uniform always matches: ὁ λόγος, οἱ λόγοι.
- Reading οἱ as 'oy-ee.' It is one syllable, HOY, with a rough breathing: the h is real.
- Saying ἄγγελος with a hard double g. γγ says ng: ANG-el-oss.
- Forgetting υἱός starts with a rough breathing: hwee-OSS, not wee-OSS.

Make it a game • Badge Patrol. Shuffle the noun deck. Flip a card: if the student reads it correctly AND flips it to the other number (singular to plural or back) within five seconds, the card is captured. A wrong badge sends the card to the parent's pile. Capture 12 cards to win; play again with the parent reading and the student catching any badge-and-ending mismatches on purpose slipped in.

Scripture. “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!” (Psalm 133:1, KJV)

οἱ ἀδελφοί, the brothers, together: the psalm's whole picture in one Greek plural. Some words are simply better in the plural.

UNIT 2 • THE NOUN AND ITS BADGE • LESSON 2.2 OF 10 • 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

2.2 THE POTSHERD VOTE: BADGES FOR EVERY NOUN

OBJECTIVES

- Tell the story of ostracism and the potsherds of the Athenian agora.
- Meet the feminine badges: ἡ for one, αἱ for many.
- Learn seven feminine nouns: ἡ καρδία, ἡ σοφία, ἡ φωνή, ἡ ζωή, ἡ εἰρήνη, ἡ θάλασσα, ἡ γῆ.
- Flip feminine nouns to the plural: ἡ καρδία, αἱ καρδαί; ἡ φωνή, αἱ φωναί.
- Sort any noun in the deck into its badge team on sight.

Warm-up. Run the flips: ὁ λόγος? (οἱ λόγοι!) ὁ υἱός? (οἱ υἱοί!) Now a puzzle: every noun so far has been a ὁ noun. But Greek nouns come in teams, and today the second team marches in wearing a different badge. Listen for it: ἡ καρδία, the heart.

WATCH

Greek Lesson 10.1: The Article

Murray Vasser · 5:29

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oNMEQ4GSWpY>

WHEN TO WATCH

After the How Greek works paragraph. A seminary teacher lays out the badge system briskly; watch for ó and ἡ doing exactly what this lesson teaches. He shows the full chart, including rows you will learn in later grades; let them wash over you.

Note: Koine pronunciation in places; our classroom sounds differ a little, and both are fine.

BACKUP VIDEO

Two Minute History: Getting Ostracised in Classical Athens

AD BC History · 2:32

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FUMMFDR_nQU

After The story paragraph: the potsherd vote in two brisk minutes, scratched names and all.

KEY TERMS

ostrakon

A broken piece of pottery, free ancient scratch paper. Plural ostraka. Athenians voted with them, and our word ostracize remembers it.

feminine article

The badge ἡ (HAY) for one, αἱ (HIGH) for many: ἡ καρδία, αἱ καρδίαι.

gender (of nouns)

Greek sorts every noun into a team: masculine (badge ó), feminine (badge ἡ), or neuter (badge τό, coming in grade 6). It is a grammar team, not a claim about the thing itself.

agora

The marketplace and public square of a Greek city, where the voting, trading and talking happened. You will spend a whole morning there in Unit 5.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Erasmian sounds, so every letter stays distinct: α ah, ε eh, η ay, ι ee, ο o, ω oh, υ oo. αἰ says eye, εἰ ay, οἰ oy, αὐ ow, εὐ ew, οὐ oo. A rough breathing adds h. Capitals show the written accent.

θάλασσα

thalassa

THAH-las-sah

noun · ή θάλασσα, αί θάλασσα

the sea

ἀγορά

agora

ah-go-RAH

noun · ή ἀγορά, αί ἀγοραί

the marketplace

ENGLISH agoraphobia

νίκη

nike

NEE-kay

noun · ή νίκη, αί νίκαι

victory

χώρα

chora

KHOH-rah

noun · ή χώρα, αί χώραι

a land, a country

τιμή

time

tee-MAY

noun · ή τιμή, αί τιμαί

honor; a price

σκηνή

skene

skay-NAY

noun · ή σκηνή, αί σκηναί

a tent

ENGLISH scene

κώμη

kome

KOH-may

noun · ή κώμη, αί κῶμαι

a village

ἐπιστολή

epistole

eh-pis-to-LAY

noun · ή ἐπιστολή, αί ἐπιστολαί

a letter

ENGLISH epistle

θύρα

thura

THOO-rah

noun · ή θύρα, αί θύραι

a door

βουλή

boule

boo-LAY

noun · ή βουλή, αί βουλαί

a plan; the council

πλατεῖα

plateia

plah-TAY-ah

noun · ή πλατεῖα, αί πλατεῖαι

a wide street

CORE IDEAS

The story. Athens had a strange and famous safety valve. Once a year the citizens could hold an ostracism: every voter scratched a name on a piece of broken pottery, an ostrakon, and if enough sherds piled up against one man, he had to leave Athens for ten years. Not prison, not disgrace exactly, just: you have grown too powerful, take a long walk. Archaeologists digging the agora have pulled up thousands of these sherds, and whole drawers of them spell one name: ΘΕΜΙΣΤΟΚΛΗΣ, Themistocles,

the very admiral whose fleet saved Greece at Salamis. Grateful cities are forgetful cities. The sherds survive because broken pottery is forever, and on them you can see ordinary Athenian handwriting, letter shapes wobbling exactly the way letters wobble on your own cards.

How Greek works: the second team. Every Greek noun belongs to a team, and grammarians call the teams genders: masculine, feminine, and (next year) neuter. The masculine team wears *ὁ*. The feminine team wears *ἡ* (HAY), and in the plural *αἱ* (HIGH). Team membership is grammar, not biology: *ἡ θάλασσα*, the sea, is no more a lady than *ὁ λίθος* is a gentleman. The badge is simply how the noun dresses, and you learn each noun WITH its badge, the way you learned *ὁ λόγος*. From today, a flashcard without its badge is only half a card.

Seven feminine nouns, each one a treasure. *ἡ καρδιά* (hay kar-DEE-ah), the heart (cardiology); *ἡ σοφία* (hay so-FEE-ah), wisdom (philosophy, the love of wisdom); *ἡ φωνή* (hay fo-NAY), the voice (telephone, microphone); *ἡ ζωή* (hay dzo-AY), life (zoology); *ἡ εἰρήνη* (hay ay-RAY-nay), peace (the name Irene); *ἡ θάλασσα* (hay THA-lass-sah), the sea; *ἡ γῆ* (hay GAY), the earth (geography, geology). Plurals flip just as faithfully as the masculines: *ἡ καρδιά*, *αἱ καρδίαι*; *ἡ φωνή*, *αἱ φωναί*; *ἡ θάλασσα*, *αἱ θάλασσαι*. One badge-team ends mostly in -α or -η; hear it and you can often guess the team.

Say it out loud. Chant the badge grid, four cells, like a tiny march: *ὁ, οἱ, ἡ, αἱ*, HO, HOY, HAY, HIGH. Then pair-chant the new nouns: *ἡ καρδιά*, *αἱ καρδίαι*! *ἡ φωνή*, *αἱ φωναί*! *ἡ γῆ* (the earth gets no plural chant; there is only one earth, and Greek agrees). Then mixed drill, by ear: a parent says a badge, *ὁ! ἡ! αἱ! οἱ!*, and you answer with any noun wearing it correctly.

Try it. This week the deck gets its great sorting: every card marked with its team, and the potsherd game begins, real words scratched on pot-shaped cards and voted into teams. From now on, every new noun you ever learn in Greek walks in wearing *ὁ*, *ἡ* or *τό*, and you will always ask a new word the Athenian question: which badge do you wear?

PICTURE STUDY



An Ostrakon Voting Against Themistocles, An Athenian voter, About 480–470 B.C. · Broken pottery sherd with scratched letters · Museum of the Ancient Agora, Athens

Photo: Marsyas, via [Wikimedia Commons](#), CC BY-SA 2.5

This is a real ballot from Athens' strange yearly vote: a broken piece of pottery, free scratch material lying in every street, with a name cut into it by a citizen's own hand. The name is Themistocles, the admiral whose fleet had saved Greece at Salamis. Enough sherds like this one, and even the hero of Salamis had to leave the city for ten years.

Look closely

- Read the capital letters: ΘΕΜΙΣΘΟΚΛΕΣ, with the old Athenian spellings; you can sound them out yourself now.
- Notice the strokes: scratched with a point into fired clay, not inked. Count how many strokes the voter needed.
- The sherd is curved, it was once part of a pot's shoulder. Imagine the whole vessel it broke from.
- Compare the handwriting to your own letter cards: ancient hands wobbled exactly where yours does.

Talk about it

1. Why was broken pottery the perfect voting paper for a city where everyone, rich or poor, had to be able to vote?

2. The man this sherd banished had saved the voters' lives. What does that teach about crowds and gratitude?
3. If your handwriting survived 2,500 years, what would you want it to be found saying?

ACTIVITY

The potsherd sort

Athenians sorted their leaders with potsherds; you will sort your nouns. Every card in the deck joins a badge team today, publicly, by vote of the only citizen who matters: the reader.

You will need

- 7 index cards for the new nouns
- 6 to 10 'potsherds': pieces of a clean broken flowerpot with no sharp edges, large seashells, or card rectangles colored terracotta and torn, not cut, around the edges
- A marker, and two bowls or boxes labeled *ὁ* and *ἡ*

Steps

1. Make the seven new flashcards, badges on: *ἡ καρδία* / the heart; *ἡ σοφία* / wisdom; *ἡ φωνή* / the voice; *ἡ ζωή* / life; *ἡ εἰρήνη* / peace; *ἡ θάλασσα* / the sea; *ἡ γῆ* / the earth.
2. On each potsherd, write one noun from the deck WITHOUT its badge: *καρδία*, *λόγος*, *φωνή*, *ἄδελφός*, *θάλασσα*, *υἱός*...
3. Hold the vote: draw a sherd, read the noun aloud, and cast it into the right bowl, *ὁ* or *ἡ*, declaring the full form like a herald: *ἡ θάλασσα!*
4. A parent audits the bowls against the flashcards. Any noun in the wrong bowl is 'recalled from exile' and voted again.
5. Mark every card in the whole deck with a small team letter in the corner (*ὁ* or *ἡ*).
6. Finish with the plural flips of the new team, aloud: *αἱ καρδίαί*, *αἱ φωναί*, *αἱ θάλασσαι*.

Tips

- If you use a real flowerpot, a grown-up breaks it inside a towel and sands any sharp edges; Athenians used broken pots precisely because they were everywhere and free.
- Declare every vote OUT LOUD with the badge; silent sorting teaches the eye but not the ear.

- γῆ is tiny but mighty: one letter of noun, one badge, and all of geography inside it.

Check your work

- ☐ All seven new cards are in the deck with badges.
- ☐ Every sherd landed in the right bowl, declared aloud.
- ☐ Every card in the deck now carries its team mark.
- ☐ I can chant the badge grid: ó, oi, ῆ, αἰ.

GREEK NOTEBOOK

1. Write the date and the badge grid with sounds: ó (HO), oi (HOY), ῆ (HAY), αἰ (HIGH).
2. Copy the seven feminine nouns with meanings, then write three of them in the plural with αἰ.
3. Write ostrakon and its story in one sentence of your own.
4. Find and write three English words built from this lesson's nouns (examples: cardiology, philosophy, telephone, zoology, geography, Irene).

From history. Plutarch tells of an illiterate farmer at an ostracism who handed his sherd to a stranger and asked him to write 'Aristides' on it. The stranger, who happened to BE Aristides the Just, asked what harm the man had done him. 'None,' said the farmer, 'I am just tired of hearing him called the Just.' Aristides wrote his own name on the sherd and handed it back, and went into exile with his reputation improved.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Which badge does σοφία wear, and how would you say 'wisdom' and then spot it inside an English word?

▼ Show solution

1. Check the card: σοφία is on the feminine team.
2. Dress it: ῆ σοφία (hay so-FEE-ah).
3. English hunt: philo-sophy, the love of wisdom.

Answer: ῆ σοφία; philosophy carries it, with φίλος doing the loving.

Example 2. Flip ἡ φωνή to the plural and translate both forms.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Ending flips: φωνή becomes φωναί.
2. Badge flips to match: ἡ becomes αἱ.
3. Translate.

Answer: ἡ φωνή, the voice; αἱ φωναί, the voices.

Example 3. A sherd reads θάλασσα. Cast your vote: which bowl, and what do you declare?

▼ **Show solution**

1. Recall the card: θάλασσα is feminine.
2. Declare it with the badge as you cast it.

Answer: The ἡ bowl: ἡ θάλασσα, the sea.

PRACTICE

1. **Easy** Give the four badges you now know, with their sounds.

▼ **Show answer**

ὁ (HO) masculine singular; οἱ (HOY) masculine plural; ἡ (HAY) feminine singular; αἱ (HIGH) feminine plural.

2. **Easy** Translate: ἡ καρδία, ἡ ζωή, αἱ φωναί, ἡ γῆ.

▼ **Show answer**

The heart, life, the voices, the earth.

3. **Easy** What was an ostrakon, and what English word remembers it?

▼ **Show answer**

A broken piece of pottery used as free writing material, famously for Athens' send-him-away vote; ostracize.

4. **Medium** Dress each bare noun in its badge: εἰρήνη, ἄγγελος, θάλασσα, υἱός.

▼ **Show answer**

ἡ εἰρήνη, ὁ ἄγγελος, ἡ θάλασσα, ὁ υἱός.

5. **Medium** Put into Greek: the hearts; the voice; the sons.

▼ **Show answer**

αἱ καρδίαι; ἡ φωνή; οἱ υἱοί.

6. **Medium** Is ἡ θάλασσα feminine because the sea is somehow ladylike? Explain what gender means for Greek nouns.

▼ **Show answer**

No. Gender is the noun's grammar team, which decides its badge and endings; it is not a claim about the thing. The sea wears ἡ the way a player wears a jersey.

7. **Hard** Zoology, geology, cardiology: unpack each into its two Greek pieces with meanings, using your cards.

▼ **Show answer**

ζωή (life) + λόγος: the talk about living things; γῆ (earth) + λόγος: the talk about the earth; καρδία (heart) + λόγος: the talk about the heart. One -logy gear, three new machines.

8. **Challenge** Thousands of sherds vote Themistocles out of the city his fleet saved. Weigh it: what was wise about the ostracism law, and what was unjust in this use of it? One sentence each.

▼ **Show answer**

Wise: it gave the city a peaceful brake on any man growing too mighty, with no bloodshed. Unjust: it let envy punish a benefactor who had committed no crime; gratitude should have weighed more than fear. (Any thoughtful pairing earns full credit.)

COMMON MISTAKES

- Learning a noun without its badge. From now on the badge is part of the word: ἡ καρδία, never just καρδία.
- Reading ἡ as 'n' or as 'ay' without the breath. The rough breathing makes it HAY.
- Assuming -η/-α endings are automatically feminine and -ος masculine with no exceptions. It is a good first guess, but let the badge, not the guess, have the final word (grade 6 will show you a famous exception, ἡ ὁδός, the road).
- Writing αἱ without its breathing mark. It is αἱ (HIGH), breathed, badge of the feminine plural.

Make it a game · Ostracism Night. Each family member gets three potsherd cards. The student reads a bare noun aloud (no badge); everyone secretly writes the badge they think it wears (ὁ, οἱ, ἡ or αἱ for plurals) and casts the sherd into the bowl. The student, as magistrate, reveals the true badge with the flashcard. Wrong voters are 'ostracized' to the kitchen for one round. Last citizen standing wins; the student must judge every round correctly to stay magistrate.

Scripture. “Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.” (Proverbs 4:23, KJV)

Two of this week's words in one proverb: ἡ καρδιά and ἡ ζωή, the heart and the life that flows from it. The Septuagint of this verse uses both; guard the one and you guard the other.

UNIT 3

VERBS DO THE WORK

In 490 B.C. a runner came pounding down the dusty road from the plain of Marathon to the city of Athens, twenty-five miles without stopping, carrying the only thing that mattered: news. The story says he gasped a single word to the waiting city before he collapsed: νενικήκαμεν, 'We have won!' One Greek word, a complete message: who won (we), what happened (victory), and that it is finished. Greek can do that because a Greek verb carries its own pronoun in its ending, and in this unit you learn the six endings that make it possible. Chant one column, λύω, λύεις, λύει, λύομεν, λύετε, λύουσιν, and you can run every verb in your deck: I write, you see, she hears, we send, they teach, with nobody needing to say I, you or she at all.

Then comes the greatest verb of all. When Moses asked God his name at the burning bush, the answer, in the Greek Old Testament the apostles read, was built on the verb to be: ἐγώ εἰμι, I AM. Jesus took those very words on his own lips: I am the bread of life; I am the good shepherd; before Abraham was, I am. The verb εἰμί is irregular, it breaks the patterns, in Greek as in English (am, is, are), but it is the busiest verb in the language and the backbone of sentences like ὁ θεὸς ἀγαθός ἐστιν, God is good. By the end of this unit you will chant it whole and build sentences with it, and your Greek will have verbs doing the work verbs were made for.

PREREQUISITES

- Can flip any deck noun between singular and plural with its badge (Unit 2)
- Knows the Unit 1 and Unit 2 vocabulary by flashcard, sorted into badge teams
- Can chant the alphabet and the badge grid (ὁ, οἱ, ἡ, αἱ) without help

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can tell the story of the runner from Marathon and explain how one Greek word can be a whole sentence.
- ☐ I can chant the present tense of λύω with meanings: λύω I loose, λύεις you loose, λύει he or she looses, λύομεν we loose, λύετε you all loose, λύουσι they loose.
- ☐ I can run any verb on my list the same way: γράφω, λέγω, ἔχω, βλέπω, ἀκούω, φέρω, πέμπω, διδάσκω, παύω.
- ☐ I can chant εἰμί with meanings: εἰμί, εἶ, ἐστί, ἐσμέν, ἐστέ, εἰσί.
- ☐ I can build and translate linking sentences: ὁ θεὸς ἀγαθὸς ἐστίν; οἱ φίλοι πιστοὶ εἰσιν.
- ☐ I can translate short subject-verb sentences both ways: οἱ ἀδελφοὶ γράφουσιν; the friend hears.

OPTIONAL BOOKS AND RESOURCES FOR THIS UNIT

- **Daily Dose of Greek (free site and channel)**: Free. Two-minute videos through the Greek New Testament, plus the song-chants this course borrows for backup videos. A wonderful habit for a family that catches the Greek bug.
- **Alpha with Angela (YouTube channel)**: Free. Her verb lessons drill the same endings this unit chants, with on-screen practice.
- **Song School Greek, by Classical Academic Press**: Songs that plant vocabulary and chants in younger singers; a cheerful supplement if siblings want to join the chanting.

Not required. Every activity in this unit works with paper, pencil, scissors and the free links below. School Launch has no ties to these authors, publishers or companies.

3.1 One-Word Victory: The Present Tense

3 sessions of 30–40 minutes

3.2 I AM: The Verb εἰμί

3 sessions of 30–40 minutes

UNIT 3 REVIEW

Answer aloud or on paper. Notebook charts may be used freely; endings must be exactly right. 30 points.

1. **5 pts**

Chant the present of λύω with meanings, then the present of εἰμί with meanings.

2. **5 pts**

Conjugate γράφω through the present with meanings.

3. **5 pts**

Translate into English: οἱ υἱοὶ ἀκούουσιν. ὁ δοῦλος πιστός ἐστιν. πέμπομεν.

4. **5 pts**

Translate into Greek: the teacher speaks; you all see; the friends are wise.

5. **5 pts**

Tell the runner's story and explain, using νενικήκαμεν or any verb from your list, how one Greek word can be a complete sentence.

6. **5 pts**

What did God answer from the burning bush, how does the Greek Old Testament say it, and where does Jesus take up those words?

ANSWER KEY

1. λύω, λύεις, λύει, λύομεν, λύετε, λύουσι(ν): I loose through they loose. εἰμί, εἶ, ἐστί(ν), ἐσμέν, ἐστέ, εἰσί(ν): I am through they are.
2. γράφω I write, γράφεις you write, γράφει he/she writes, γράφομεν we write, γράφετε you all write, γράφουσι(ν) they write.
3. The sons hear (listen). The servant is faithful. We send.
4. ὁ διδάσκαλος λέγει; βλέπετε; οἱ φίλοι σοφοί εἰσιν.
5. After the victory at Marathon, the runner carried the news twenty-five miles and said one word, νενικήκαμεν, We have won. The ending -μεν carries the pronoun we, so the verb needs no separate subject: γράφομεν is likewise the whole sentence 'we write.'
6. I AM THAT I AM (Exodus 3:14); the Septuagint's phrase is ἐγώ εἰμι (ὁ ὢν); Jesus speaks ἐγώ εἰμι in John's Gospel, as in 'before Abraham was, I am' (John 8:58) and the great I AM sayings.

UNIT CHALLENGE: THE VERB BANNER

Make the unit's wall piece: a banner with the two great columns side by side, λύω and εἰμί, fully written with meanings, crowned by ἐγώ εἰμι in the student's best lettering, and a small runner drawn in the corner with νενικήκαμεν on a ribbon. Present it with both columns chanted from memory and two sentences built live from family-called English.

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
The columns	Both columns are complete and correct, every breathing and ending in place.
The crown	ἐγώ εἰμι is lettered as the crown, with its Exodus and John story told in one sentence each during the presentation.
The chants	Both chants were delivered from memory with meanings.
The live sentences	Two live sentences (one λύω-family, one εἰμί linking) were built correctly on request.

3.1 ONE-WORD VICTORY: THE PRESENT TENSE

OBJECTIVES

- Tell the story of Marathon and the runner's one-word message.
- Explain how a Greek verb ending contains its own pronoun.
- Chant and write the present tense of λύω: λύω, λύεις, λύει, λύομεν, λύετε, λύουσι(ν).
- Conjugate other verbs on the same pattern: γράφω, λέγω, ἔχω, βλέπω, ἀκούω, φέρω, πέμπω, διδάσκω, παύω.
- Translate subject-verb sentences both ways: ὁ φίλος γράφει; the brothers hear.

Warm-up. Say 'We have won!' in English: three words. The marathon runner said it in one. Play the shrinking game: I am writing (three words), I write (two), and Greek: γράφω (one). Where did I go? Into the ending. Today you learn the six endings that carry their own pronouns, the secret that makes Greek verbs one-word sentences.

WATCH

Koine Greek: Present Active Indicative Verbs

Greek For All · 8:13

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n4vPy0x7lbg>

WHEN TO WATCH

After the How Greek works paragraph. Chant the λύω column along with the teacher, and listen for the six endings: -ω, -εις, -ει, -ομεν, -ετε, -ουσι.

Note: A seminary-style lesson, clear and calm; his Koine pronunciation differs a little from our classroom sounds, which is normal. Stop when the practice verses end if attention runs out.

BACKUP VIDEO

Two Minute History: How were Marathon Races Invented? Battle of Marathon and the Runner Pheidippides

AD BC History · 2:52

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4m6a1TWCNqE>

After The story paragraph: the battle and the famous run in two minutes, told simply and without gore.

KEY TERMS

verb

The action or being word of a sentence:
writes, hears, carries, is.

person

Who is doing the verb: first person is I
or we, second is you, third is he, she, it
or they.

stem

The part of the verb that carries its
meaning, before the ending: γραφ- in
γράφω, άκου- in άκούω.

conjugation

Running a verb through its persons:
λύω, λύεις, λύει... the verb's parade in
uniform.

person ending

The verb's last letters, which name the
doer: -ω I, -εις you, -ει he/she, -ομεν we,
-ετε you all, -ουσι they.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Erasmian sounds, so every letter stays distinct: α ah, ε eh, η ay, ι ee, ο o, ω oh, υ oo. αι says eye, ει ay, οι oy, αυ
ow, ευ ew, ου oo. A rough breathing adds h. Capitals show the written accent.

λύω

luo

LOO-oh

verb

I loose, I destroy

ENGLISH analysis

λέγω

lego

LEH-goh

verb

I say

ENGLISH legend

ἔχω

echo

EH-khoh

verb

I have

βλέπω

blepo

BLEH-poh

verb

I see

ἀκούω

akouo

ah-KOO-oh

verb

I hear

ENGLISH acoustic

φέρω

phero

FEH-roh

verb

I carry

πέμπω

pempo

PEHM-poh

verb

I send

διδάσκω

didasko

dee-DAS-koh

verb

I teach

παύω

pauo

POW-oh

verb

I stop

ENGLISH pause

ἄγω

ago

AH-goh

verb

I lead

μένω

meno

MEH-noh

verb

I remain

CORE IDEAS

The story. In 490 B.C. the Persian king sent a fleet to punish Athens, and his army landed at the bay of Marathon, twenty-five miles from the city. The Athenians marched out roughly ten thousand strong, farmers and potters and poets in bronze, and faced a force far larger. For days the two armies watched each other; then the Athenians charged at a run across the open plain, folded in on the Persian flanks, and drove the invaders back into the sea. Herodotus says 192 Athenians fell; they were buried under one mound that still stands in the plain. And then the news had to move: the story the Greeks loved to tell says a runner raced the twenty-five miles to Athens without stopping, gasped one word to the anxious city, νενικήκαμεν (neh-nee-KAY-ka-men), We have won!, and fell dead with his message delivered. Twenty-four centuries later, when the modern Olympics began at Athens in 1896, the longest race was invented in his honor and named for the plain: the marathon. A Greek shepherd named Spyridon Louis won it, and Greece wept for joy.

How Greek works: the ending is the pronoun. How can νενικήκαμεν be a whole sentence? Look at its tail: -μεν means WE. The runner never said the word 'we'; his verb ending carried it. Every Greek verb works this way, and the present tense uses six endings you will now own for life: -ω I, -εις you, -ει he, she or it, -ομεν we, -ετε you

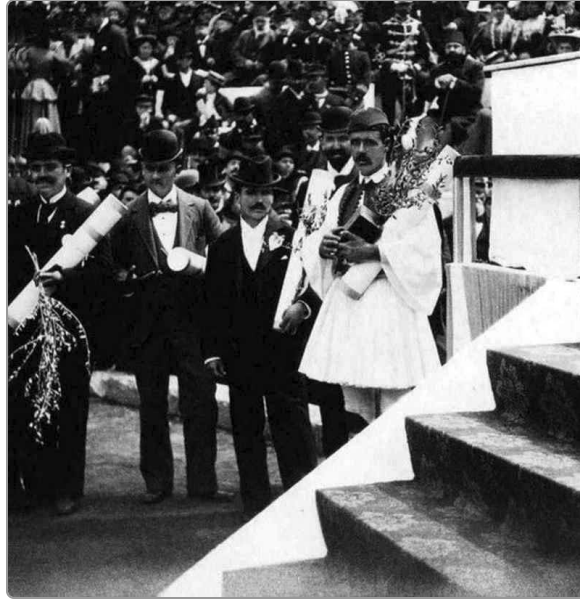
all, -ουσι(ν) they. The practice verb every Greek student has chanted for centuries is λύω, I loose (untie, set free): λύω I loose, λύεις you loose, λύει he looses, λύομεν we loose, λύετε you all loose, λύουσι(ν) they loose. (That little (ν) is a polite extra nu Greek adds before vowels or a pause, like English 'a' becoming 'an.') Six forms, six complete English sentences. Γράφω is a full sentence: I write. Ακούομεν: we hear.

One pattern, ten verbs. Your verb list all runs on the same rails: γράφω I write (photograph!), λέγω I say, ἔχω I have, βλέπω I see, ἀκούω I hear (acoustics!), φέρω I carry (Christopher, the Christ-carrier), πέμπω I send, διδάσκω I teach (didactic), παύω I stop (pause!). Swap the stem, keep the endings: γράφω, γράφεις, γράφει, γράφομεν, γράφετε, γράφουσι. Ακούω, ακούεις, ακούει... You now command sixty verb forms with one chant.

Say it out loud, then read. Chant λύω down the column three times with meanings. Then marry verbs to your nouns and read your first full Greek sentences: ὁ φίλος γράφει. The friend writes: ὁ φίλος is the subject, -ει says he. οἱ ἀδελφοὶ ἀκούουσιν. The brothers hear: plural subject, -ουσι(ν) says they. ὁ διδάσκαλος λέγει καὶ οἱ υἱοὶ ἀκούουσιν. The teacher speaks and the sons listen. Notice the agreement handshake: one subject takes -ει, many take -ουσι. Noun badge, noun ending, verb ending, all nodding together.

Try it. This week you build a verb wheel, a spinner matching the six endings to their six persons, and run every verb on the list through it. Then you write your own one-word victory messages, Marathon style, and send them across the house to be decoded.

PICTURE STUDY



Spyridon Louis, Winner of the First Modern Marathon, Unknown photographer, 1896, at the first modern Olympic games in Athens · Photograph · Panathenaic Stadium, Athens

Image: [Wikimedia Commons](#), public domain

When the Olympic games were reborn at Athens in 1896, the organizers invented a brand-new race in honor of the old runner's story: twenty-five miles from the plain of Marathon to the city, the first marathon. A quiet Greek water-carrier named Spyridon Louis won it, and a hundred thousand Greeks wept and roared him home. Here he stands in his country's festival dress, olive branch in hand, the first man ever to win a race named Marathon.

Look closely

- Find the olive branch, the ancient victor's prize, carried straight out of the old games into the new.
- Look at his dress: the fustanella, Greece's festival costume, worn to receive his honors as a son of the countryside.
- Study the faces around him, top hats and fezzes and mustaches, all turned toward one tired, calm man.
- He ran the distance in just under three hours, on dirt roads, pausing once, the story says, for a cup of wine from his sweetheart's village.

Talk about it

1. Louis was offered rich rewards afterward and asked only for a horse and cart for his water business. What does that tell you about him?

2. Why do you think the 1896 organizers wanted a race that retold a 2,400-year-old story?
3. The runner of 490 B.C. carried news of a victory he did not win himself. What messages worth running for have been put in your hands?

ACTIVITY

The verb wheel and the one-word postcard

Six endings, every verb. Today you build the spinner that drills them, then send one-word messages that are whole sentences, just like the runner's.

You will need

- Two circles of paper or card, one a bit smaller than the other, and a brad or pushpin (or two cards side by side)
- 10 index cards for the new verbs
- Strips of paper for the one-word postcards

Steps

1. Make the wheel: around the big circle write the six persons with meanings: I; you; he/she/it; we; you all; they. Around the small circle write the endings: -ω, -εις, -ει, -ομεν, -ετε, -ουσι(ν). Pin the small circle on top so each ending can line up with its person.
2. Spin and chant: line up each ending with its person and say the λύω form aloud with its meaning, three times around.
3. Work the list: for each verb (γράφω, λέγω, ἔχω, βλέπω, ἀκούω, φέρω, πέμπω, διδάσκω, παύω), spin to three random persons and say the form: βλέπω with 'we'... βλέπομεν, we see.
4. Make the ten verb flashcards (dictionary form on the front: γράφω; meaning on the back: I write) and add them to the deck.
5. Write three one-word postcards: a single Greek verb form each, such as ἀκούετε (you all are listening!), γράφομεν (we are writing), παύει (he stops). Deliver them around the house.
6. The recipient brings the postcard back; you decode it aloud together, ending first: -ετε, you all... ἀκούετε, you all hear!

Tips

- Always say the meaning with the form: πέμπομεν, we send. An ending without a meaning is an empty shell.
- Keep the stress steady on the stem for most forms: GRA-fo, GRA-feis, GRA-fei, GRA-fo-men... let the accent on your chart lead you.

- The (ν) on λύουσι(ν) is optional dress; say λύουσιν before a pause and you will always be right.

Check your work

- ☐ My wheel lines up all six endings with the right persons.
- ☐ I can conjugate a verb chosen at random from the list, all six forms with meanings.
- ☐ The ten verb flashcards are in the deck.
- ☐ I delivered and decoded three one-word postcards.

GREEK NOTEBOOK

1. Write the six person endings with meanings in a column, dated: -ω I, -εις you, -ει he/she/it, -ομεν we, -ετε you all, -ουσι(ν) they.
2. Write the full present of λύω with English beside each form.
3. Write the full present of one more verb you choose from the new list.
4. Copy and translate: ὁ φίλος γράφει. οἱ ἄδελφοὶ ἀκούουσιν.

From history. Herodotus, our oldest source, tells of a professional runner named Pheidippides who ran not Marathon-to-Athens but Athens-to-Sparta, a hundred and forty miles in two days, to ask for help before the battle. The one-word victory run entered the story later, and the Greeks told both tales side by side. When the 1896 Olympics revived the distance, they chose the Marathon road; since then, every marathon finisher has been quoting a Greek verb with his feet.

Practice habit. From today, open every Greek session with the double chant: the badge grid (ὁ, οἱ, ἡ, αἱ), then the λύω column, both out loud with meanings. Two minutes, every time, to the end of the course. This pair is the skeleton key of Greek.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Conjugate *ἀκούω* (I hear) through the present tense.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Find the stem: ἀκου-.
 2. Attach the six endings: -ω, -εις, -ει, -ομεν, -ετε, -ουσι(ν).
 3. Say each with its meaning.
-

Answer: ἀκούω I hear, ἀκούεις you hear, ἀκούει he/she hears, ἀκούομεν we hear, ἀκούετε you all hear, ἀκούουσι(ν) they hear.

Example 2. Translate *πέμπομεν* into English.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Split off the ending: πεμπ- + -ομεν.
 2. -ομεν means we.
 3. πέμπω means I send, so the stem means sending.
-

Answer: We send (or we are sending); Greek's one form covers both.

Example 3. Translate into Greek: The brothers see.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Subject: the brothers, plural, with its badge: οἱ ἀδελφοί.
 2. Verb: see, with a they-ending to agree: βλέπ- + -ουσι(ν).
 3. Assemble.
-

Answer: οἱ ἀδελφοὶ βλέπουσιν.

PRACTICE

1. **Easy** What person does each ending name? -ει, -ομεν, -ω, -ουσι.

▼ **Show answer**

-ει he, she or it; -ομεν we; -ω I; -ουσι they.

2. **Easy** Translate: γράφω, γράφεις, γράφουσι.

▼ **Show answer**

I write, you write, they write.

3. **Easy** Give the meanings: βλέπω, φέρω, διδάσκω, παύω.

▼ **Show answer**

I see, I carry, I teach, I stop.

4. **Medium** Translate into English: ὁ διδάσκαλος λέγει. οἱ υἱοὶ ἀκούουσιν.

▼ **Show answer**

The teacher speaks (says). The sons hear (listen).

5. **Medium** Translate into Greek: we have; you all hear; they send.

▼ **Show answer**

ἔχομεν; ἀκούετε; πέμπουσι(ν).

6. **Medium** Why can γράφω stand alone as a complete Greek sentence when 'write' cannot stand alone as a complete English statement?

▼ **Show answer**

The -ω ending contains the subject: γράφω means I write, pronoun included. English has to add the pronoun.

7. **Hard** Fix the agreement and translate: οἱ φίλοι γράφει. ὁ ἀδελφὸς ἀκούουσιν.

▼ **Show answer**

Either οἱ φίλοι γράφουσιν (the friends write) or ὁ φίλος γράφει (the friend writes); either ὁ ἀδελφὸς ἀκούει (the brother hears) or οἱ ἀδελφοὶ ἀκούουσιν (the brothers hear). Plural subject needs -ουσι, singular needs -ει.

8. **Challenge** Each English word hides one of your new verbs. Name the verb and connect the meanings: photograph, acoustics, pause, Christopher.

▼ **Show answer**

Photograph from γράφω, light-writing; acoustics from ἀκούω, the science of hearing; pause from παύω, a stopping; Christopher from φέρω (plus Christ), the Christ-carrier, from the old story of the ferryman who carried the child across the river.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Adding pronouns out of habit: writing ἐγὼ γράφω for every I write. Greek saves the pronoun for emphasis; γράφω already says I.
- Forgetting agreement: a plural subject (οἱ φίλοι) needs the plural ending (-ουσι).

- Mixing up -εις (you) and -ει (he/she). One letter of difference; chant until your ear owns it.
- Chanting forms without meanings. Always λύεις, you loose, never just λύεις.

Make it a game • Marathon Messenger. Set a start line and a 'city gate' across the room. A parent whispers an English sentence from the lesson ('We hear!' 'They write!') to the runner, who must RUN to the gate and deliver it as one Greek word (ἀκούομεν! γράφουσιν!). A correct delivery scores the point; a wrong ending means running back for the correction. Six deliveries wins the olive wreath, and the winner may collapse dramatically, once.

Scripture. “How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!” (Isaiah 52:7, KJV)

The runner from Marathon spent himself to carry one word of victory. Isaiah saw lovelier feet on the mountains: the messenger whose one word is peace. The gospel is, literally in Greek, the good message, and it also arrives in won battles already finished.

UNIT 3 • VERBS DO THE WORK • LESSON 3.2 OF 10 • 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

3.2 I AM: THE VERB εἰμί

OBJECTIVES

- Tell the story of the burning bush and the name I AM, and how the Greek Old Testament says it: ἐγώ εἰμι.
- Chant and write the present of εἰμί: εἰμί, εἶ, ἐστί(ν), ἐσμέν, ἐστέ, εἰσί(ν).
- Use ἐστί(ν) and εἰσί(ν) to link subjects with describing words: ὁ θεὸς ἀγαθός ἐστιν.
- Learn five adjectives: ἀγαθός, καλός, μικρός, σοφός, πιστός.
- Recognize Jesus' ἐγώ εἰμι sayings in John's Gospel.

Warm-up. The double chant: badge grid, then the λύω column, out loud with meanings. Then count how many times your family says is, am or are before breakfast ends; you will lose count. To be is the busiest verb in every language, and in Greek, as in English, it refuses to follow the rules. Today you tame it, and discover it is also the holiest verb in the Book.

WATCH

Present Tense Conjugation of the Greek Verb εἰμί / eimi / I am

Learn Biblical Greek · 9:15

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dtXWblu81EU>

WHEN TO WATCH

After the How Greek works paragraph. Chant the εἰμί column along with the teacher; the six forms are the whole assignment.

Note: A seminary-style walkthrough with Koine pronunciation; the small differences from our classroom sounds are normal. Watch as far as the chart is being drilled.

BACKUP VIDEO

10 "I AM" TITLES OF JESUS in GREEK

Greek For All · 13:57

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6dUX340R3gE>

For Session 3, after the practice: hear ἐγώ εἰμι open all ten of Jesus' great I AM sayings, with the Greek on screen. Watch a few or all ten as time allows.

KEY TERMS

irregular verb

A verb that breaks the normal ending patterns. εἰμί (I am) is the most important irregular verb in Greek, just as be, am, is, are is in English.

adjective

A describing word. In Greek it changes endings to match its noun: ὁ ἀγαθός φίλος, the good friend; ἡ ἀγαθὴ καρδιά, the good heart. This year you match the easy cases; grade 6 completes the wardrobe.

linking verb

A verb that works like an equals sign, joining the subject to a description: ὁ θεὸς ἀγαθός ἐστιν, God is good.

Septuagint

The Greek Old Testament (Unit 1). Its Exodus 3:14 is where ἐγώ εἰμι, I AM, stands written.

enclitic

A little word that leans on the word before it, like ἐστί. You need only the name, not the rules: copy the printed forms and all is well.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Erasmian sounds, so every letter stays distinct: α ah, ε eh, η ay, ι ee, ο o, ω oh, υ oo. αι says eye, ει ay, οι oy, αυ ow, ευ ew, ου oo. A rough breathing adds h. Capitals show the written accent.

εἰμί

eimi

ay-MEE

verb · εἰμί, εἶ, ἐστί(ν), ἐσμέν, ἐστέ, εἰσί(ν)

I am

ἀγαθός

agathos

ah-gah-THOS

adjective · ἀγαθός, ἀγαθή, ἀγαθόν

good

ENGLISH Agatha

καλός

kalos

kah-LOS

adjective · καλός, καλή, καλόν

beautiful, good

πιστός

pistos

pis-TOS

adjective · πιστός, πιστή, πιστόν

faithful

κακός

kakos

kah-KOS

adjective · κακός, κακή, κακόν

bad

νέος

neos

NEH-os

adjective · νέος, νέα, νέον

new, young

ENGLISH neo-

δίκαιος

dikaios

DEE-kye-os

adjective · δίκαιος, δικαία, δίκαιον

just, righteous

μακάριος

makarios

mah-KAH-ree-os

adjective · μακάριος, μακαρία, μακάριον

blessed

αἰώνιος

aionios

eye-OH-nee-os

adjective · αἰώνιος, αἰωνία, αἰώνιον

eternal

ἰσχυρός

ischuros

is-khoo-ROS

adjective · ἰσχυρός, ἰσχυρά, ἰσχυρόν

strong

πλούσιος

plousios

PLOO-see-os

adjective · πλούσιος, πλουσία, πλούσιον

rich

CORE IDEAS

The story. In the desert of Midian, a shepherd who had once been a prince of Egypt saw a bush on fire that would not burn up, and turned aside to see. God called to him out of the bush by name: Moses, Moses. Take off your shoes; the ground is holy. And when Moses asked, 'When the children of Israel ask me, What is his name? what shall I say?', God answered with the deepest sentence ever spoken: I AM THAT I AM... say, I AM hath sent me unto you (Exodus 3:14). Every other thing that exists was made and might not have been; God simply IS. When the scholars of Alexandria turned Exodus into Greek for the Septuagint, they reached for the verb you learn today: ἐγώ ειμι (eg-OH ay-MEE), I am. And centuries later Jesus of Nazareth took the phrase deliberately onto his own lips, again and again in John's Gospel: ἐγώ ειμι the bread of life; ἐγώ ειμι the good shepherd; before Abraham was, ἐγώ ειμι. His hearers picked up stones; they knew exactly which bush that fire came from.

How Greek works: the being verb. Like English (am, is, are), Greek's to-be verb breaks the patterns: εἰμί I am, εἶ you are, ἐστί(ν) he, she or it is, ἐσμέν we are, ἐστέ you all are, εἰσί(ν) they are. Look closely and you will still spot family resemblances to your λύω endings: the -μεν of ἐσμέν, the -τε of ἐστέ. Even the rule-breaker keeps some of the rules. Chant it until it rolls: ay-MEE, AY, es-TEE, es-MEN, es-TEH, ay-SEE.

Linking sentences. εἰμί does not act on anything; it links, like an equals sign. ὁ θεὸς ἀγαθός ἐστιν. God is good: God = good. οἱ φίλοι πιστοὶ εἰσιν. The friends are faithful. Your first five adjectives: ἀγαθός good, καλός beautiful, fine, μικρός small, σοφός wise, πιστός faithful. An adjective dresses to match its noun: with a ὁ-team noun it wears -ος (ὁ πιστὸς δοῦλος, the faithful servant), with an ἡ-team noun it wears -η or -α (ἡ καλὴ φωνή, the beautiful voice; ἡ ἀγαθὴ καρδιά? say rather ἡ καρδιά ἀγαθὴ ἐστιν, the heart is good, and you cannot go wrong). Notice where Greek loves to park the linking verb: at the end. ὁ λόγος μικρός ἐστιν. ἡ θάλασσα καλὴ ἐστιν.

Say it out loud. Triple chant now: badges, λύω, εἰμί. Then read these aloud and translate: ὁ θεὸς σοφός ἐστιν. οἱ ἄγγελοι πιστοὶ εἰσιν. ἡ γῆ μικρά ἐστιν; (that semicolon is a Greek question mark, a grade-7 toy, today just read the words: is the earth small?).

μικρός είμι, I am small; one day you will read μικροὶ ἐσμέν, we are small, under God's wide sky, and it will feel exactly right.

Try it. This week you build ἐστίν-sentences from cards on the table, subject + adjective + ἐστίν, and letter the week's treasure, ἐγώ είμι, at the top of a notebook page with the ten I AM sayings listed beneath it in English.

PICTURE STUDY



Moses and the Burning Bush, Illustrators of the 1890 Holman Bible, 1890 · Engraving · From a family Bible published by A. J. Holman & Co., Philadelphia
Image: [Wikimedia Commons](#), public domain

Family Bibles of your great-great-grandparents' day were often illustrated with engravings like this one: Moses, barefoot on holy ground, hiding his face from the bush that burns and is not burned. It was here that Moses asked God's name, and the answer, I AM THAT I AM, stands behind the little Greek verb you chanted this week.

Look closely

- Find Moses' sandals set apart; the engraver remembered the command: put off thy shoes.
- Follow the light. In a black-and-white engraving, brightness is made by leaving the paper empty; the bush is the whitest thing on the page.
- Find the sheep in the shadows. Moses was at his everyday work when God called him by name.
- Look at Moses' hands: one shields his eyes, one is flung open, afraid and ready at once.

Talk about it

1. Why do you think God answered Moses' question with I AM rather than a name like men give?

2. The bush burned and was not consumed. Why is that a fitting first picture of the God who IS?
3. When Jesus said ἐγώ εἰμι, 'before Abraham was, I am,' his hearers understood him instantly. What had they understood?

ACTIVITY

The equals-sign sentence builder

εἰμί is an equals sign with a voice. Today you build Greek sentences on the table like equations: subject, description, ἐστίν, and read them aloud until linking feels like breathing.

You will need

- About 15 index cards and a pencil
- Your flashcard deck and Greek notebook
- 6 new cards for εἰμί (one big chant card) and the five adjectives

Steps

1. Make the cards: five subject cards (ὁ θεός, ὁ φίλος, ἡ καρδιά, ἡ θάλασσα, οἱ ἀδελφοί), five adjective cards (ἀγαθός, καλός, μικρός, σοφός, πιστός, with -ή/-ά feminine forms written small beneath), one ἐστίν card and one εἰσίν card.
2. Build and read: ὁ θεός + ἀγαθός + ἐστίν. Read aloud, translate: God is good. Build five different sentences, translating each.
3. Go plural: οἱ ἀδελφοί + πιστοί + εἰσίν, the brothers are faithful. Build two more plurals (remember the adjective's plural -οί).
4. English to Greek: a parent calls sentences (The sea is beautiful! The servant is faithful!) and you build them: ἡ θάλασσα καλή ἐστίν. ὁ δοῦλος πιστός ἐστίν.
5. Chant εἰμί through all six forms with meanings, three times.
6. Letter ἐγώ εἰμι at the top of a fresh notebook page and list Jesus' I AM sayings beneath in English (bread of life, light of the world, door, good shepherd, resurrection and the life, way-truth-life, true vine). Add the εἰμί card and five adjective cards to the deck.

Tips

- Park ἐστίν and εἰσίν at the end of the sentence; it is the most Greek-sounding seat for them.
- Match the dress: ἡ-team subject wants the adjective in -η/-α (καλή, μικρά); plural subject wants -οί and εἰσίν.
- Say every sentence aloud before translating; the rhythm (ho the-OSS a-ga-THOSS es-TEEN) helps the meaning land.

Check your work

- ☐ I built and translated five singular and two plural equals-sentences.
- ☐ I can chant εἰμί with meanings, no peeking.
- ☐ My ἐγώ εἰμι page lists at least six I AM sayings.
- ☐ The six new cards are in the deck, and I ran the whole deck.

GREEK NOTEBOOK

1. Write the present of εἰμί with meanings in a column, dated, and decorate the words ἐγώ εἰμι in your best lettering.
2. Write the five adjectives with meanings: ἀγαθός, καλός, μικρός, σοφός, πιστός.
3. Copy and translate: ὁ θεὸς ἀγαθός ἐστιν. οἱ φίλοι πιστοὶ εἰσιν.
4. Copy Exodus 3:14's great words: I AM THAT I AM, and under them: ἐγώ εἰμι.

From history. The Septuagint renders Exodus 3:14 as ἐγώ εἰμι ὁ ὢν, 'I am THE ONE WHO IS.' Greek-speaking Christians put the last two words, ὁ ὢν, into the halo of Christ in their icons, where you can still read them today: three little letters claiming everything this lesson taught.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Translate: ὁ διδάσκαλος σοφός ἐστιν.

▼ Show solution

1. Subject with badge: ὁ διδάσκαλος, the teacher.
2. Adjective matching: σοφός, wise.
3. ἐστιν links them: is.

Answer: The teacher is wise.

Example 2. Translate into Greek: The voices are beautiful.

▼ Show solution

1. Subject plural with badge: αἱ φωναί.
2. Adjective matches the feminine plural: καλαί.
3. Linking verb plural, at the end: εἰσίν.

Answer: αἱ φωναὶ καλαὶ εἰσιν.

Example 3. Who is speaking, and what does it mean: *ἐγώ εἰμι ὁ ποιμὴν ὁ καλός* (John 10:11, ποιμήν = shepherd)?

▼ **Show solution**

1. ἐγώ εἰμι: I am, with the pronoun added for emphasis: I MYSELF am.
2. ὁ ποιμὴν ὁ καλός: the shepherd, the good one.
3. Recall whose sentence-shape this is: the bush's I AM on Jesus' lips.

Answer: Jesus: 'I am the good shepherd.' The emphatic ἐγώ εἰμι deliberately echoes Exodus 3:14.

PRACTICE

1. **Easy** Chant εἰμί with meanings.

▼ **Show answer**

εἰμί I am, εἶ you are, ἐστί(ν) he/she/it is, ἐσμέν we are, ἐστέ you all are, εἰσί(ν) they are.

2. **Easy** Translate: ὁ φίλος πιστός ἐστιν.

▼ **Show answer**

The friend is faithful.

3. **Easy** Give the meanings: ἀγαθός, καλός, μικρός, σοφός, πιστός.

▼ **Show answer**

Good; beautiful (fine); small; wise; faithful.

4. **Medium** Translate into Greek: God is wise. The brothers are good.

▼ **Show answer**

ὁ θεὸς σοφός ἐστιν. οἱ ἀδελφοὶ ἀγαθοὶ εἰσιν.

5. **Medium** Pick the right verb and finish: οἱ δοῦλοι πιστοὶ ____ . ἡ θάλασσα καλὴ ____ .

▼ **Show answer**

εἰσίν (plural subject); ἐστίν (singular subject).

6. **Medium** In John 8:58 Jesus says: Before Abraham was, ἐγώ εἰμι. Why did his hearers reach for stones?

▼ **Show answer**

Because ἐγώ εἰμι is the Septuagint's I AM from the burning bush: Jesus was claiming the name of God for himself, and they knew it.

7. **Hard** Explain the difference in Greek flavor between γράφω and ἐγώ γράφω, and between ἐστίν used of a chair and ἐγώ εἰμι on Jesus' lips.

▼ **Show answer**

γράφω already means I write; adding ἐγώ shouts the I: I MYSELF write. Likewise plain ἐστίν just links (the chair is small), but ἐγώ εἰμι with the emphatic pronoun, in the right mouth, carries the weight of Exodus 3:14: not merely 'I exist' but 'I AM.'

8. **Challenge** Build two truthful Greek sentences about your own family with cards from your deck, one singular and one plural, and translate them.

▼ **Show answer**

Examples: ὁ ἀδελφὸς μικρὸς ἐστίν, the brother is small; οἱ φίλοι πιστοὶ εἰσιν, the friends are faithful. Any grammatical, truthful pair earns full credit, endings and badges checked.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Using ἐστίν with a plural subject. οἱ φίλοι take εἰσίν; match the number.
- Forgetting the adjective's dress: ἡ θάλασσα καλὸς ἐστίν is a uniform violation; the sea wears καλή.
- Reading εἶ (you are) as 'ee.' It is the diphthong AY, one syllable.
- Treating ἐγώ εἰμι as ordinary. In the Gospels it often is ordinary ('it is I'), but in John's great sayings the echo of Exodus is deliberate; context decides, and reverence listens.

Make it a game • The Equals Court. Deal the subject cards and adjective cards face down in two piles. Flip one of each: the student must deliver the verdict aloud as a full Greek sentence with the right linking verb (ἡ καρδία + ἀγαθή → ἡ καρδία ἀγαθή ἐστίν!) and translate it. True-and-grammatical scores two points; grammatical-but-silly (the sea is wise) scores one and a laugh. Ten points closes the court.

Scripture. “And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.” (Exodus 3:14, KJV)

Every being-verb you chant this week is borrowed light from this verse. Creatures become and change; God IS. That is why the busiest little verb in Greek is also the holiest.

UNIT 4

WHO DOES WHAT TO WHOM

Paul walked into Athens alone, and the city of Socrates was wall-to-wall idols. Waiting for his friends, he did what he always did: he read the city, and on one altar he found an inscription that handed him his sermon: ΑΓΝΩΣΤΩ ΘΕΩ, TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. Standing on Mars Hill before the sharpest audience in the world, he began with their own altar and their own poets, and preached the God they confessed they did not know. In this unit your Greek learns to do what Paul's hearers did automatically: tell who does what to whom. The subject of a Greek sentence wears the nominative (ὁ λόγος); the receiver of the action wears the accusative, and its masculine badge-and-ending uniform is easy to spot: τὸν λόγον, with nu at the end of both badge and noun. ὁ ἀπόστολος τὸν κύριον ἀγαπᾷ, no, not yet, we will say it within your toolkit: ὁ ἀπόστολος τὸν λόγον λέγει, the apostle speaks the word.

Then comes the sentence this whole year has been walking toward. The apostle John opened his Gospel with three Greek words a fifth grader can now read: Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος, in the beginning was the Word. You will see how Greek word order is free where English is locked, how the badge faithfully marks the subject even when the sentence flips, and you will read the words themselves from a papyrus page copied around A.D. 200, one of the oldest pieces of John's Gospel in the world. Greek stops being an exercise this week. It starts being the thing it was always for.

PREREQUISITES

- Can chant λύω and εἰμί with meanings, and run the verb list on the λύω pattern (Unit 3)
- Can flip nouns singular/plural with badges and sort them into badge teams (Unit 2)
- Knows all deck vocabulary through Unit 3

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can tell the story of Paul on Mars Hill and the altar to the unknown god.
- ☐ I can explain the two jobs: nominative does the verb, accusative receives it.
- ☐ I can dress a masculine noun for the object job: τὸν λόγον, τοὺς λόγους.
- ☐ I can dress a feminine noun for the object job in the singular: τὴν καρδίαν, τὴν φωνήν.
- ☐ I can build and translate sentences with a subject, a verb and an object, in both directions.
- ☐ I can read John 1:1 in Greek and explain how the badge shows the subject.

OPTIONAL BOOKS AND RESOURCES FOR THIS UNIT

- **Daily Dose of Greek (free site and channel)**: Free. After this unit the two-minute John videos begin to open up; watching the teacher walk John 1:1 repays this unit's work.
- **Famous Men of Greece (free online)**: Free at Project Gutenberg. The chapters on Socrates and the Athenians set the stage for Mars Hill: the city that loved new ideas heard the newest one of all from Paul.
- **The Biggest Story Bible Storybook, by Kevin DeYoung**: The Mars Hill video in this unit comes from this storybook's series; the book itself is a family favorite for tying the whole Bible together.

Not required. Every activity in this unit works with paper, pencil, scissors and the free links below. School Launch has no ties to these authors, publishers or companies.

4.1 Paul on Mars Hill: The Object Wears Nu

3 sessions of 30–40 minutes

4.2 In the Beginning Was the Word

3 sessions of 30–40 minutes

UNIT 4 REVIEW

Answer aloud or on paper. Notebook charts may be used freely; badges and endings must be exactly right. 30 points.

1. **5 pts**

Give the uniform pairs, singular and plural: nominative and accusative of ὁ λόγος; nominative and accusative singular of ἡ καρδία.

2. **5 pts**

Translate into English: ὁ κύριος τοὺς ἀποστόλους πέμπει. οὐκ ἔχομεν τὸν λίθον.

3. **5 pts**

Translate into Greek: The sons see the temple. The teacher hears the voice.

4. **5 pts**

Tell the Mars Hill story in three or four sentences, including the altar and one thing Paul preached.

5. **5 pts**

Write and read John 1:1 in Greek, and translate it.

6. **5 pts**

Explain, with the rule, why the last clause means 'the Word was God' although θεός stands first.

ANSWER KEY

1. ὁ λόγος / τὸν λόγον; οἱ λόγοι / τοὺς λόγους; ἡ καρδιά / τὴν καρδίαν.
2. The Lord sends the apostles. We do not have the stone.
3. οἱ υἱοὶ τὸν ναὸν βλέπουσιν. ὁ διδάσκαλος τὴν φωνὴν ἀκούει. (Any word order with correct uniforms earns full marks.)
4. Paul, provoked by Athens' idols, reasoned daily in the agora until brought to the Areopagus; he took the altar TO THE UNKNOWN GOD as his text, declared the Maker of all who dwells not in temples, quoted their poets, and preached repentance and the risen Christ; some mocked, some delayed, some believed.
5. Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος, καὶ ὁ λόγος ἦν πρὸς τὸν θεόν, καὶ θεὸς ἦν ὁ λόγος. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
6. In a linking sentence the noun with the article is the subject; ὁ λόγος keeps the badge, so it remains the subject, and the article-less θεός thrown forward is the emphasized description.

UNIT CHALLENGE: MARS HILL RETOLD, JOHN READ

A two-part family presentation. First, the student retells Paul on Mars Hill in his or her own words, two to three minutes, with the drawn altar card (ΑΓΝΩΣΤΩ ΘΕΩ) as the single prop. Second, the student reads John 1:1 aloud in Greek from the hand-lettered papyrus page, translates it, and shows with two badge-flips how Greek holds meaning through any word order. The page then joins the portfolio folder.

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
The retelling	The retelling includes the idols, the altar inscription read in Greek capitals, and the heart of Paul's sermon.
The reading	John 1:1 is read aloud in Greek accurately and without rushing, then translated.
The badge rule	The badge rule for flipped sentences is demonstrated live with cards and explained in the student's own words.
The papyrus page	The papyrus page is complete, legible and correctly copied, and is filed in the portfolio folder.

4.1 PAUL ON MARS HILL: THE OBJECT WEARS NU

OBJECTIVES

- Tell the story of Paul in Athens: the idols, the altar, the sermon on Mars Hill.
- Name the two noun jobs: nominative (the doer) and accusative (the receiver).
- Dress masculine nouns for the object job: τὸν λόγον, τοὺς λόγους; and feminine singulars: τὴν καρδίαν, τὴν φωνήν.
- Learn the new words: ὁ Χριστός, ὁ κύριος, ὁ ἀπόστολος, ὁ διδάσκαλος, ὁ ναός, with καί and οὐ/οὐκ.
- Build subject-verb-object sentences both ways.

Warm-up. The double chant: badges, then λύω. Now solve this English mystery: 'The dog bites the man' and 'The man bites the dog' use exactly the same words. How does English know who got bitten? Order, nothing else. Greek has a better way, and today you learn it: the victim wears a uniform.

WATCH

The God Who Can Be Known: The Story of Paul on Mars Hill (Acts 17)

The Biggest Story · 3:58

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KtYbpYirpBk>

WHEN TO WATCH

After The story paragraph: the Mars Hill account told beautifully for families, altar and all.

Note: From Crossway's Biggest Story series. Read Acts 17:22–31 aloud afterward and let Luke tell it too.

BACKUP VIDEO

Introduction to Greek Cases and Declensions

BiblicalGreek · 15:05

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qpfr7vYzuok>

For Session 3 if you want the deeper tour: a teacher lays out the whole case system. He names cases you will not learn until grades 6 and 7; enjoy the preview and keep only nominative and accusative.

KEY TERMS

nominative

The naming case: the noun doing the verb. ὁ λόγος, οἱ λόγοι. The badge ὁ/οἱ (or ἡ/αἱ) marks it.

direct object

English's name for the receiver: the word in 'the boy sees the HORSE' that gets seen.

accusative

The receiving case: the noun the verb lands on. Masculine: τὸν λόγον, τοὺς λόγους; feminine singular: τὴν καρδίαν.

case

A noun's job-uniform. This year you wear two: nominative for doing, accusative for receiving. (Grades 6 and 7 add the rest.)

Areopagus

Mars Hill, the rocky council hill of Athens where Paul preached Acts 17. You can stand on it today.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Erasmian sounds, so every letter stays distinct: α ah, ε eh, η ay, ι ee, ο o, ω oh, υ oo. αι says eye, ει ay, οι oy, αυ ow, ευ ew, ου oo. A rough breathing adds h. Capitals show the written accent.

ἄγνωστος

agnostos

AG-nohs-tos

adjective · ἄγνωστος, ἄγνωστον

unknown

βωμός

bomos

boh-MOS

noun · ὁ βωμός, οἱ βωμοί

an altar

δημιουργός

demiourgos

day-mee-oor-GOS

noun · ό δημιουργός, οί δημιουργοί

a maker

ENGLISH demiurge

μετάνοια

metanoia

meh-TAH-noy-ah

noun · ή μετάνοια

a change of mind

ανάστασις

anastasis

ah-NAS-tah-sis

noun · ή ανάστασις, αί αναστάσεις

a rising, resurrection

κρίσις

krisis

KREE-sis

noun · ή κρίσις, αί κρίσεις

a judgment

ENGLISH crisis

εὐσέβεια

eusebeia

ew-SEH-bay-ah

noun · ή εὐσέβεια

reverence

θυσία

thusia

thoo-SEE-ah

noun · ή θυσία, αί θυσίαι

a sacrifice

προσκυνέω

proskuneo

pros-koo-NEH-oh

verb

I bow down, I worship

κηρύσσω

kerusso

kay-ROOS-soh

verb

I proclaim

ENGLISH kerygma

πάγος

pagos

PAH-gos

noun · ὁ πάγος, οἱ πάγοι

a crag; the Hill

CORE IDEAS

The story. Paul came to Athens alone, waiting for Silas and Timothy, and Luke says his spirit was stirred in him because the city was full of idols. Athens was the university town of the world, proud of Socrates and Plato, and crowded with altars; the Athenians, said their own writers, were so careful about the gods that they even built altars with the inscription ΑΓΝΩΣΤΩ ΘΕΩ, 'to an unknown god,' insurance against missing one. Paul reasoned in the synagogue and in the agora daily, until the philosophers brought him up to the Areopagus, Mars Hill, the old council rock under the Acropolis, and asked for an account of his strange teaching. He began where they were: 'as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you.' He preached the Maker of the world who needs no temple (the Parthenon stood gleaming above his head as he said it), quoted their own poets, 'for we are also his offspring,' and announced the risen Christ. Some mocked; some said, we will hear thee again; and some believed, among them Dionysius, a judge of that very court.

How Greek works: the receiver's uniform. Paul read the altar because its words wore their jobs. In Greek, the noun DOING the verb wears the nominative, the forms you already know: ὁ ἀπόστολος, the apostle. The noun RECEIVING the verb wears the

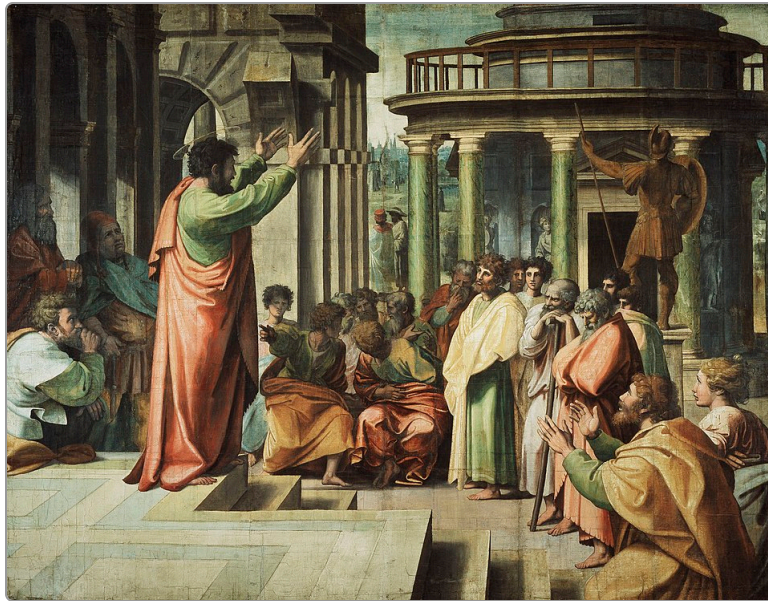
accusative, and for your masculine nouns the change is crisp: badge *ὁ* becomes *τόν*, ending *-ος* becomes *-ον*: *τὸν ἀπόστολον*. Plural: *οἱ* becomes *τούς*, *-οι* becomes *-ους*: *τοὺς ἀποστόλους*. Feminine singulars are just as tidy: *ἡ* becomes *τήν*, and the ending takes nu: *τὴν καρδίαν*, *τὴν φωνήν*. Hear the pattern? In the singular, the receiver wears NU at the end of badge and noun alike: *τὸν λόγον*, *τὴν φωνήν*. The object jingles with nus.

Reading with two uniforms. Now sentences grow a third part: *ὁ ἀπόστολος τὸν λόγον λέγει*. The apostle speaks the word: *ὁ ἀπόστολος* does (nominative badge), *τὸν λόγον* receives (accusative uniform), *λέγει* is the deed. *οἱ υἱοὶ τὸν διδάσκαλον ἀκούουσιν*, the sons hear the teacher; wait, can you catch the receiver? *τὸν διδάσκαλον*, in full nu-uniform. *ὁ θεὸς τὴν καρδίαν βλέπει*, God sees the heart (1 Samuel 16:7 in a Greek nutshell). New words join the deck for these sentences: *ὁ Χριστός*, the Anointed One, Christ; *ὁ κύριος*, the Lord (Kyrie eleison!); *ὁ ἀπόστολος*, the sent one, apostle; *ὁ διδάσκαλος*, the teacher (you met him informally in Unit 3; today he joins the deck); *ναός*, the temple; plus two priceless little words: *καί*, and; *οὐ* (*οὐκ* before a vowel), not. *οὐ βλέπομεν*, we do not see.

Say it out loud. Chant the new uniform pairs down the deck: *ὁ λόγος, τὸν λόγον! οἱ λόγοι, τοὺς λόγους! ἡ φωνή, τὴν φωνήν!* Then read and translate aloud: *ὁ κύριος τοὺς ἀνθρώπους ἀγαθούς*; stop, keep it simple: *ὁ κύριος τοὺς ἀνθρώπους βλέπει*. *οἱ ἄγγελοι τὸν θεὸν ὑμνοῦσι*; not yet!, *οἱ ἄγγελοι τὸν λόγον φέρουσιν*, the messengers carry the word. Yes, the lesson just corrected itself out loud; learn the habit: when a sentence reaches past your toolkit, rebuild it from tools you own.

Try it. This week you build sentence trains from three card types, subject (nominative), verb, object (accusative), shuffle them, and discover the wonderful Greek secret that the train runs in any order: *τὸν λόγον ὁ ἀπόστολος λέγει* means exactly the same thing. That discovery is the door into next lesson, where John stands word order on its head on purpose.

PICTURE STUDY



St Paul Preaching in Athens, Raphael, 1515–1516 · Full-size painted design (a cartoon) for a tapestry · Victoria and Albert Museum, London (Royal Collection)

Image: [Wikimedia Commons](#), public domain

Raphael painted this as a full-size design for a tapestry to hang in the Sistine Chapel: Paul on Mars Hill, mid-sentence. Some listeners lean in, some frown, one pair whispers; a statue of a pagan god watches from its pillar. Raphael read Acts 17 carefully, and the whole chapter's drama is in the hands and faces.

Look closely

- Look at Paul's raised hands, the old orator's gesture. Raphael makes you almost hear the sentence being spoken.
- Walk the circle of faces: find one listener convinced, one doubtful, one scoffing. Acts says Athens split exactly that way.
- Find the statue on its column behind the crowd, the competition, looking on.
- Notice who sits closest to the light at Paul's feet: tradition names the believing judge, Dionysius.

Talk about it

1. Paul began from the Athenians' own altar rather than from accusation. What does that teach about speaking truth to people far from God?
2. Which listener in the circle is most like you when hard truth is preached, and why?

3. The tapestry of this scene hung where popes worshiped. Why would the church want Mars Hill always before its eyes?

ACTIVITY

Sentence trains: who does what to whom

Three kinds of cars make a Greek sentence train: a doer in nominative uniform, a deed, and a receiver in accusative uniform. Today you build trains, swap the cars, and prove the meaning rides in the endings, not the order.

You will need

- About 18 index cards in three colors if possible (or marked N, V, A in a corner)
- The flashcard deck and Greek notebook
- 7 new cards for ὁ Χριστός, ὁ κύριος, ὁ ἀπόστολος, ὁ διδάσκαλος, ὁ ναός, καί, οὐ/οὐκ

Steps

1. Make subject cards (nominative, badge on): ὁ ἀπόστολος, ὁ διδάσκαλος, ὁ κύριος, οἱ υἱοί, οἱ ἀδελφοί.
2. Make object cards (accusative uniform): τὸν λόγον, τὸν ναόν, τοὺς λίθους, τὴν καρδίαν, τὴν φωνήν.
3. Make verb cards: λέγει, βλέπει, ἔχει, φέρουσι(ν), ἀκούουσι(ν), πέμπει.
4. Build and read five trains, checking agreement: singular subject with -ει verb, plural with -ουσι. Example: ὁ διδάσκαλος τὴν φωνὴν ἀκούει? No, rebuild: a teacher HEARS a voice, fine: ὁ διδάσκαλος τὴν φωνὴν ἀκούει, the teacher hears the voice. Translate each train.
5. Now the great experiment: take one train and run it in three different orders (ὁ ἀπόστολος τὸν λόγον λέγει / τὸν λόγον λέγει ὁ ἀπόστολος / λέγει ὁ ἀπόστολος τὸν λόγον). Read all three aloud and confirm: same meaning, because the uniforms never changed.
6. English to Greek: a parent calls 'The sons see the temple!' and you assemble: οἱ υἱοὶ τὸν ναὸν βλέπουσιν. Do four.
7. Add the seven new cards to the deck.

Tips

- Check the nus: in the singular, badge and object both end in ν (τὸν λόγον, τὴν καρδίαν).

- τούς wears its uniform in the plural: τοὺς λόγους, with -ους on the noun.
- If a called sentence needs a word you don't own, rebuild it from the deck; that is a skill, not a defeat.

Check your work

- ☐ I built and translated five trains with correct uniforms and agreement.
- ☐ I ran one train in three orders and the meaning held.
- ☐ I assembled four English-to-Greek trains without uniform violations.
- ☐ The seven new cards are in the deck.

GREEK NOTEBOOK

1. Write the two-job rule in your own words, dated: the doer wears the nominative; the receiver wears the accusative.
2. Write the uniform pairs: ὁ λόγος / τὸν λόγον; οἱ λόγοι / τοὺς λόγους; ἡ καρδιά / τὴν καρδίαν; ἡ φωνή / τὴν φωνήν.
3. Copy and translate: ὁ ἀπόστολος τὸν λόγον λέγει. ὁ θεὸς τὴν καρδίαν βλέπει.
4. Copy the altar's inscription in capitals, ΑΓΝΩΣΤΩ ΘΕΩ, and under it Paul's answer in your own words.

From history. You can climb the Areopagus today; a bronze plaque at its foot carries Paul's whole sermon in Greek. Centuries after Paul, Athens made him, the mocked street preacher, the city's patron saint, and Dionysius the Areopagite, the judge who believed, gave his name to a square nearby. The unknown God is well known in Athens now.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Find the doer and the receiver, then translate: οἱ ἀδελφοὶ τὸν ναὸν βλέπουσιν.

▼ Show solution

1. Badges first: οἱ ἀδελφοί wears nominative plural: the brothers do it.
2. τὸν ναὸν wears the nu-uniform: the temple receives.
3. βλέπουσιν: they see; agreement with the plural subject checks out.

Answer: The brothers see the temple.

Example 2. Translate into Greek: The teacher has the stones.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Doer: ὁ διδάσκαλος.
2. Receiver, plural accusative: τοὺς λίθους.
3. Verb agreeing with singular subject: ἔχει.

Answer: ὁ διδάσκαλος τοὺς λίθους ἔχει. (Any order of the three parts is correct.)

Example 3. Same words, different uniforms: what is the difference between ὁ υἱὸς τὸν φίλον ἀκούει and τὸν υἱὸν ὁ φίλος ἀκούει?

▼ **Show solution**

1. Sentence one: ὁ υἱὸς is nominative (doer), τὸν φίλον accusative: the son hears the friend.
2. Sentence two: the uniforms swapped bodies: ὁ φίλος now does, τὸν υἱόν receives.
3. Order changed too, but order is scenery; uniforms are the plot.

Answer: First: the son hears the friend. Second: the friend hears the son. The endings, not the word order, decide who does what to whom.

PRACTICE

1. **Easy** Which case does the doer wear? Which does the receiver wear?

▼ **Show answer**

The doer wears the nominative; the receiver (direct object) wears the accusative.

2. **Easy** Dress for the object job: ὁ λόγος, ὁ ναός, ἡ φωνή.

▼ **Show answer**

τὸν λόγον, τὸν ναόν, τὴν φωνήν.

3. **Easy** Translate: ὁ κύριος τὸν ἀπόστολον πέμπει.

▼ **Show answer**

The Lord sends the apostle.

4. **Medium** Translate into Greek: God sees the heart.

▼ **Show answer**

ὁ θεὸς τὴν καρδίαν βλέπει.

5. **Medium** Translate, watching the little words: οὐκ ἀκούομεν. ὁ διδάσκαλος καὶ οἱ υἱοὶ τὸν λόγον ἀκούουσιν.

▼ **Show answer**

We do not hear. The teacher and the sons hear the word. (καί joins; οὐκ denies; and note the compound subject takes the plural verb.)

6. **Medium** What did the Athenians' altar say, and what did Paul do with it?

▼ **Show answer**

TO AN UNKNOWN GOD (ΑΓΝΩΣΤΩ ΘΕΩ). Paul took their own confession of ignorance as his text and declared to them the God they did not know, Maker of all, who commands repentance and has raised Jesus from the dead.

7. **Hard** Rearrange ὁ ἀπόστολος τὸν λόγον λέγει into two other orders and explain why all three translate identically.

▼ **Show answer**

τὸν λόγον ὁ ἀπόστολος λέγει; λέγει ὁ ἀπόστολος τὸν λόγον (others possible). The case uniforms (nominative ὁ ἀπόστολος, accusative τὸν λόγον) fix the jobs, so order only changes emphasis, not meaning.

8. **Challenge** οἱ ἄνθρωποι ναοὺς ἔχουσιν, ὁ θεὸς τὰς καρδίας βλέπει; a preview sentence with one form you have not learned (τὰς καρδίας). Using badges and the nu-clue, work out the whole meaning and name the new form's job.

▼ **Show answer**

Men have temples; God sees THE HEARTS: τὰς καρδίας is the feminine accusative plural, the receiver's uniform in the plural, which grade 6 teaches properly. The badge τὰς + the sentence's shape give it away.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Trusting word order instead of uniforms. τὸν υἱὸν ὁ φίλος ἀκούει: the friend is the doer, whatever came first.
- Forgetting the badge changes with the noun: τὸν λόγος and ὁ λόγον are both uniform violations; badge and ending change together.

- Writing οὐ before a vowel. It becomes οὐκ: οὐκ ἔχομεν, we do not have.
- Letting the verb disagree: οἱ υἱοὶ βλέπει. Plural subject, plural verb: βλέπουσιν.

Make it a game · Uniform Inspection. A parent builds a three-card train, sometimes correct, sometimes with a deliberate uniform violation (ὁ λόγον! τοὺς ναός!). The student is the inspector: five seconds to shout ΚΑΛΩΣ (fine!) and translate, or to catch the violation, name it and fix it. One point per correct inspection; a missed violation costs one. Eight points earns the inspector's cap (a paper laurel).

Scripture. “For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you.” (Acts 17:23, KJV)

Paul read one dative inscription and preached the sermon of the age. Reading Greek carefully has never been a small skill.

UNIT 4 · WHO DOES WHAT TO WHOM · LESSON 4.2 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

4.2 IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD

OBJECTIVES

- Read John 1:1 in Greek, all three clauses, with every word understood.
- Explain how the article shows the subject even when Greek flips the order.
- Learn the new words: ἡ ἀγάπη, ἡ ἀλήθεια, ἡ δόξα, and the sight words ἦν (was) and ἐν ἀρχῇ (in the beginning).
- Tell the story of Papyrus 66, one of the oldest copies of John.
- Translate flipped sentences correctly by trusting the badges.

Warm-up. Triple chant: badges, λύω, εἰμί. Then a riddle: in English, 'The Word was God' and 'God was the Word' are different sentences. Greek can say it one way and MEAN it with perfect precision either way around, and this morning you will watch the apostle John do exactly that, on purpose, in the most famous opening sentence ever written in this language.

WATCH

John 1:1

Daily Dose of Greek · 3:07

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Amw4UAtO9M>

WHEN TO WATCH

After the How Greek works paragraph. A seminary professor walks John 1:1 word by word in three minutes. You will understand far more of it than you expect; let the terms you don't know (he names tenses from later grades) sail past.

Note: Made for seminary students, but short, warm and clear; previewed and ideal here. His pronunciation differs mildly from our classroom sounds.

BACKUP VIDEO

The Codex Sinaiticus: The Oldest Surviving Christian New Testament - The Beauty of Books - BBC

BBC · 2:09

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U4Xkv2gjzZw>

For Session 2, with the picture study: two minutes inside the great fourth-century Greek Bible, cousin to the papyrus on your page.

KEY TERMS

clause

A sentence-piece with its own verb.
John 1:1 is three clauses joined by καί.

ἐν ἀρχῇ

Sight phrase: 'in the beginning.' The Septuagint's Genesis 1:1 opens with it, and John reaches back and takes it up on purpose.

ἦν

Sight word: 'was,' the past of ἐστί. You will conjugate its family in grade 6; this year, read it whole.

papyrus

Paper made from a Nile reed, the ancient world's writing sheet. Papyrus 66 is a book of John on papyrus, copied about A.D. 200.

word order

English's cage and Greek's playground:
Greek endings carry the jobs, so Greek
can rearrange for emphasis without
changing who does what.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Erasmian sounds, so every letter stays distinct: α ah, ε eh, η ay, ι ee, ο o, ω oh, υ oo. αι says eye, ει ay, οι oy, αυ ow, ευ ew, ου oo. A rough breathing adds h. Capitals show the written accent.

μονογενής

monogenes

mo-no-geh-NAYS

adjective · μονογενής, μονογενές

only-born

πλήρωμα

pleroma

PLAY-roh-mah

noun · τὸ πλήρωμα, τὰ πληρώματα

fullness

μαρτυρέω

martureo

mar-too-REH-oh

verb

I bear witness

σκηνόω

skenoo

skay-NO-oh

verb

I pitch a tent, I dwell

ἐξηγέομαι

exegeomai

eh-ksay-GEH-o-mye

verb

I explain, I tell forth

κόλπος

kolpos

KOL-pos

noun · ὁ κόλπος, οἱ κόλποι

the bosom, the lap

χάρισμα

charisma

KHAH-ris-mah

noun · τὸ χάρισμα, τὰ χαρίσματα

a gift of grace

ENGLISH charisma

φωτίζω

photizo

foh-TEE-zoh

verb

I give light

ἴδιος

idios

EE-dee-os

adjective · ἴδιος, ἰδία, ἴδιον

one's own

ENGLISH idiom

λαμβάνω

lambano

lam-BAH-noh

verb

I take, I receive

δίδωμι

didomi

DEE-doh-mee

verb

I give

The story. The apostle John outlived them all, and when he set down his Gospel, he did not begin at Bethlehem. He began before everything: *Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος, καὶ ὁ λόγος ἦν πρὸς τὸν θεόν, καὶ θεὸς ἦν ὁ λόγος.* In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. Every Greek-reading Jew heard the echo at once: the Septuagint's Genesis opens *Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἐποίησεν ὁ θεός,* in the beginning God MADE; John writes *ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος,* in the beginning the Word already WAS. Before the first thing was made, the Word is not made; he IS. And *ὁ λόγος,* the word you have carried since your very first flashcard, the everyday Greek for word, message, reason, account, John lifts up and crowns: the Word was God, and the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us.

How Greek works: reading the verse. Walk it with your own tools. *Ἐν ἀρχῇ*: sight phrase, in the beginning. *ἦν*: sight word, was, the past of your *ἐστίν*. *ὁ λόγος*: nominative with badge, the Word, the subject. Clause two: *καὶ ὁ λόγος ἦν πρὸς τὸν θεόν,* and the Word was with God; see *τὸν θεόν* wearing the nu-uniform after the little word *πρὸς* (toward, with). Clause three is the masterpiece: *καὶ θεὸς ἦν ὁ λόγος.* Word for word that is 'and God was the Word', but look at the badges: *θεός* stands FIRST yet wears no badge, while *ὁ λόγος* keeps his. In a linking sentence, the noun with the article is the subject; so the subject is still the Word, and the badge-less *θεός* in front is what is being said about him. John flipped the order to throw all the weight forward onto *θεός*: and the Word was GOD. English must lock its order; Greek flips the sentence like a gem to catch light, and loses nothing, because the badges hold.

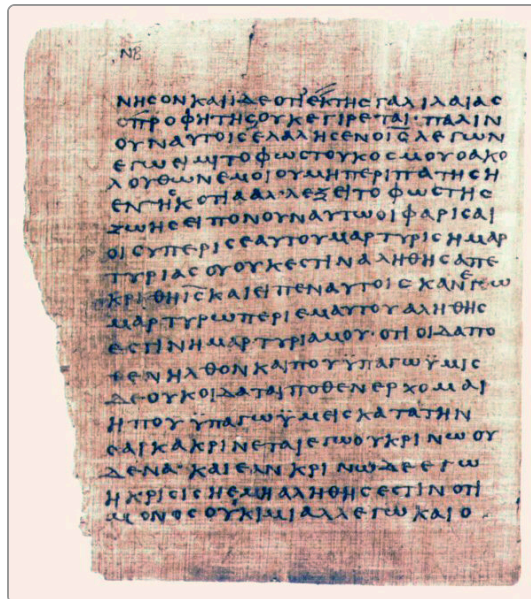
Three treasures for the deck. Three nouns every reader of John meets constantly, all feminine: *ἡ ἀγάπη* (hay a-GA-pay), love, the great New Testament word for God's own kind of love; *ἡ ἀλήθεια* (hay a-LAY-thay-ah), truth, 'grace and truth came by Jesus Christ'; *ἡ δόξα* (hay DOX-ah), glory (doxology, a glory-word!), 'and we beheld his glory.' All three live in John chapter one, waiting a few verses past the ones you read today.

Say it out loud. Read John 1:1 aloud in Greek three times, slowly, then at reading speed: en ar-CHAY ayn ho LO-gos, kai ho LO-gos ayn pross ton the-ON, kai the-OSS ayn ho LO-gos. Then flip-drill with your own sentences: *ὁ διδάσκαλος σοφός ἐστιν* becomes *σοφός ἐστιν ὁ διδάσκαλος*, wise is the teacher, same truth, new emphasis. Feel how the badge keeps you from ever losing the subject.

Try it. This week you letter John 1:1 in Greek as a manuscript page of your own, and you play word-order experiments with sentence cards: flip, read, translate, prove the

meaning held. At the unit's end you will retell Mars Hill for the family, and read John 1:1 to them from your own page.

PICTURE STUDY



Papyrus 66: A Page of John's Gospel, An unknown Christian scribe, About A.D. 200 · Ink on papyrus · Bodmer Library, Cologne, Switzerland
Image: [Wikimedia Commons](#), public domain

This battered page was copied about a century after the apostle John died, by a scribe whose careful capitals you can read with your own alphabet. Papyrus 66 contains most of John's Gospel, and its opening page carries the very verse you learned this week. The page you are looking at has survived seventeen centuries of empires, floods and bookworms.

Look closely

- Pick any line and read three letters aloud; they are the same alphabet on your flashcards.
- Notice there are no spaces between words, no small letters, few marks: readers were expected to know the rhythm.
- Find the holes and torn edges, then notice how much text still stands clear.
- Look for the line endings: the scribe kept his column edges almost perfectly straight, by eye.

Talk about it

1. The scribe corrected his own mistakes in hundreds of places. Why is that carefulness precious to us?
2. Papyrus is river reed. What does it say about the gospel that it traveled on the cheapest paper of its day?

3. If this page could speak, it was copied when being a Christian was dangerous. Who do you suppose paid for it, and why?

ACTIVITY

Your own papyrus page

A scribe around A.D. 200 copied John's opening onto papyrus with a reed pen, and his page survives. Today you make yours: John 1:1 in Greek, lettered the old way.

You will need

- A sheet of paper 'aged' as you like: strong cold tea stain (dried), or crumpled and flattened kraft paper
- A fine marker or dip pen if you have one
- Your notebook open to the verse, and a ruler for faint guide lines

Steps

1. Rule faint lines. Ancient scribes wrote John 1:1 in capitals without spaces; you may choose: capitals run together for the ancient look (ENAPXHHNOΛΟΓΟΣ...) or small letters with spaces for the readable look. Brave scribes make one of each.
2. Letter the verse: Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος, καὶ ὁ λόγος ἦν πρὸς τὸν θεόν, καὶ θεὸς ἦν ὁ λόγος.
3. Beneath it, letter the English of John 1:1 from your Bible (KJV): In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
4. Add a scribe's colophon (a little closing note) with your name in Greek letters and the date.
5. Read your page aloud to someone, Greek then English, pointing word by word.
6. Make the three new flashcards (ἡ ἀγάπη, ἡ ἀλήθεια, ἡ δόξα) and add them to the deck.

Tips

- Copy letter by letter from your notebook, checking breathings and accents like a careful scribe; P66's copyist made corrections too, and you may neatly fix slips the same way.
- Say each word as you letter it. Scribes often wrote to their own murmur.

- Keep the page; it goes up at the family presentation and into the portfolio folder.

Check your work

- ☐ My page carries the whole verse in Greek, correctly copied.
- ☐ The English stands beneath it.
- ☐ I read the page aloud, pointing, to a listener.
- ☐ The three new cards are in the deck.

GREEK NOTEBOOK

1. Copy John 1:1 in Greek, dated, with the translation interlined word by word.
2. Write the badge rule for flipped sentences in your own words: in a linking sentence, the noun wearing the article is the subject.
3. Write the three new nouns with meanings and one English derivative each (ἀγάπη: agape feast; ἀλήθεια: name Alethea; δόξα: doxology).
4. Copy ἐν ἀρχῇ and under it the Genesis 1:1 echo in English.

From history. Papyrus 66 was copied around A.D. 200, perhaps a century after John wrote, and its very first page carries this verse. The scribe made mistakes and corrected them, hundreds across the book, which is itself precious: it shows real people copying carefully, checking their work against their exemplar, exactly as you checked your page. God's Word came down the centuries through faithful, correctable human hands.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. In *καὶ θεὸς ἦν ὁ λόγος*, which noun is the subject, and how do you know?

▼ Show solution

1. Both θεός and λόγος are nominative in form.
2. In a linking sentence, the noun WITH the article is the subject: ὁ λόγος.
3. θεός, article-less and thrown forward, is the emphasized description.

Answer: ὁ λόγος is the subject: 'and the Word was God,' with GOD blazing in front for emphasis.

Example 2. Flip ἡ ἀλήθεια καλὴ ἐστὶν for emphasis and translate both versions.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Original: the truth is beautiful.
2. Throw the description forward: καλὴ ἐστὶν ἡ ἀλήθεια.
3. The badge ἡ still marks the subject.

Answer: ἡ ἀλήθεια καλὴ ἐστὶν / καλὴ ἐστὶν ἡ ἀλήθεια: both 'the truth is beautiful'; the second leans on BEAUTIFUL.

Example 3. Using sight words and your deck, translate: ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ἡ ἀγάπη τοῦ θεοῦ? One form is from grade 6 (τοῦ θεοῦ). Translate what you can and name the stranger.

▼ **Show solution**

1. ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν: in the beginning was.
2. ἡ ἀγάπη: the love (badge marks the subject).
3. τοῦ θεοῦ: an unfamiliar uniform; by position it describes the love.

Answer: In the beginning was the love OF GOD: τοῦ θεοῦ is the genitive, the of-case, waiting for you in grade 6. Reading past your toolkit with honest guesses is exactly how readers grow.

PRACTICE

1. **Easy** Translate the sight pieces: ἦν; ἐν ἀρχῇ; καί; οὐ.

▼ **Show answer**

Was; in the beginning; and; not.

2. **Easy** Read John 1:1 aloud in Greek and give the English from memory.

▼ **Show answer**

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος, καὶ ὁ λόγος ἦν πρὸς τὸν θεόν, καὶ θεὸς ἦν ὁ λόγος: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

3. **Easy** Translate: ἡ ἀγάπη, ἡ ἀλήθεια, ἡ δόξα.

▼ **Show answer**

Love, truth, glory.

4. **Medium** What does the badge do for a reader when Greek flips a linking sentence?

▼ **Show answer**

It marks the subject: the noun wearing the article stays the subject wherever it stands, so flipping the order changes emphasis, never the meaning.

5. **Medium** Why does John's ἐν ἀρχῇ deliberately echo Genesis, and what is the difference between ἐποίησεν (made) and ἦν (was) at the two beginnings?

▼ **Show answer**

John opens with the Septuagint's own first words so the reader hears creation; but where Genesis says God MADE, John says the Word already WAS: the Word is not a creature but the Creator's eternal Word.

6. **Medium** Translate into Greek, then flip it for emphasis: The glory is great. (Use μικρός's opposite from your English wits: use καλή or ἀγαθή if 'great' stretches past the deck.)

▼ **Show answer**

ἡ δόξα καλή ἐστίν / καλή ἐστίν ἡ δόξα (accepting ἀγαθή; 'great' itself, μεγάλη, arrives in grade 6; rebuilding within the toolkit is the skill being graded).

7. **Hard** A friend reads 'καὶ θεὸς ἦν ὁ λόγος' and says Greek puts God first, so it must mean 'God was the Word.' Correct the friend kindly, with the rule.

▼ **Show answer**

In linking sentences the articulated noun is the subject: ὁ λόγος, θεός stands first without the article as the emphasized description: 'and the Word was GOD.' Greek order shows emphasis; the badge shows the subject.

8. **Challenge** You now own every word of John 1:1. Write the verse from memory in Greek, badges, breathings and all, then check yourself letter by letter against your page.

▼ **Show answer**

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος, καὶ ὁ λόγος ἦν πρὸς τὸν θεόν, καὶ θεὸς ἦν ὁ λόγος. Full credit for a self-check that finds and fixes its own slips, scribe-style.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Translating by word order instead of by badge: 'God was the Word' misses John's grammar; the articulated ὁ λόγος is the subject.

- Reading ἦν as a form of λύω. It is the past of the being-verb, a sight word this year; its family arrives in grade 6.
- Forgetting πρὸς takes the nu-uniform: πρὸς τὸν θεόν, with God.
- Rushing the Greek aloud. This verse is read slowly in churches for a reason; let every word stand.

Make it a game • Flip and Hold. Build a linking sentence from cards (ἡ ἀλήθεια / καλή / ἐστίν). Players take turns flipping the card order any way they like; each flipper must read the new arrangement aloud and translate it, PROVING the meaning held by pointing at the badge. Anyone who translates by order instead of badge loses the round. Five clean flips each, then the holder of the most points reads John 1:1 aloud to close the game.

Scripture. “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” (John 1:1, KJV)

The verse you can now read in its own language. λόγος was your first flashcard; it was always going to lead here.

UNIT 5

READING GREECE

Every skill in this course has been pointing at one morning: the morning you read Greek, not word lists, not drills, but a story, start to finish, in Greek. This unit opens in the ἀγορά, the marketplace of Athens, at dawn: bread stalls and olive sellers, a teacher and his students, a runaway horse, and a crowd that reacts exactly the way crowds have always reacted. Every word of it is built from your own deck: the badges tell you who is one and who is many, the nu-uniforms tell you who receives, the verb endings tell you who acts. You will read it aloud, mark it up like a scholar, perform it with a translator, and discover the quiet triumph every reader of a new language remembers forever: I just read that, and nobody helped me.

Then the course turns you loose on your own world. Greek is hiding in plain sight all around you: in church words you have sung all your life, in the names of sciences and machines, in the galaxy over your head, which is simply the Greek for milk, and in the family word you will letter on a plaque for the Greek evening that ends the quarter. The student who walked in at Unit 1 knowing an alphabet walks out reading John 1:1,

telling Mars Hill, and hosting a Greek evening with bread, olives, cheese and honey. Fabricando fit faber: by making, one becomes a maker, and by reading, a reader.

PREREQUISITES

- Can build and translate subject-verb-object sentences with correct uniforms (Unit 4)
- Can chant λύω and εἰμί and run the verb list (Unit 3)
- Knows the whole deck through Unit 4; can read John 1:1 aloud

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can read the agora story aloud in Greek with correct sounds and stresses.
- ☐ I can translate the whole story, sentence by sentence, using my own markup.
- ☐ I can answer who-does-what questions about any sentence in it by pointing at badges and endings.
- ☐ I can name the agora words: ἡ ἀγορά, ὁ ἄρτος, ἡ ἐλαία, ὁ τυρός, and the sight words ἰχθύς and μέλι.
- ☐ I can find five Greek words hiding in my own house and church life and explain them.
- ☐ I hosted the family Greek evening: story read, three words taught, plaque unveiled.

OPTIONAL BOOKS AND RESOURCES FOR THIS UNIT

- **Classics Library (free, from the School Launch family)**: Free. Our sister site for the great books; its Greek shelf shows where this road leads, from Aesop to Homer in translation, for family read-alouds.
- **The Children's Homer, by Padraic Colum (free online)**: Free at Project Gutenberg. The Iliad and Odyssey retold nobly for children; the perfect next read-aloud after this course, and the grade 7 course will meet Homer properly.
- **Daily Dose of Greek (free site and channel)**: Free. Keep the Greek habit alive after the quarter: two minutes a day, straight into John's Gospel.

Not required. Every activity in this unit works with paper, pencil, scissors and the free links below. School Launch has no ties to these authors, publishers or companies.

5.1 A Morning in the Agora

3 sessions of 30–40 minutes

5.2 Greek All Around You

3 sessions of 30–40 minutes

UNIT 5 REVIEW

The final review. Answer aloud or on paper; the notebook may be consulted once per question. 30 points, and the Greek evening afterward is the true graduation.

1. **5 pts**

Read the agora story aloud in Greek (parent follows the text; two stumbles allowed), then translate lines 3, 5 and 8.

2. **5 pts**

Chant the badge grid, λύω and εἰμί, all with meanings.

3. **5 pts**

Translate into Greek: The friends hear the word. The sea is beautiful.

4. **5 pts**

Translate into English: ὁ κύριος τὴν καρδίαν βλέπει. οἱ ἄνθρωποι ἄρτον καὶ τυρὸν ἔχουσιν.

5. **5 pts**

Write John 1:1 in Greek and English, and state the badge rule that guards its last clause.

6. **5 pts**

Unmask five English words using deck words: galaxy, economy, doxology, apostle, telephone.

ANSWER KEY

1. Fluent-enough reading; the teacher teaches the sons; do you all see the horse? the horse sees the bread!; the servant stops the horse.
2. ὁ, οἱ, ἡ, αἱ; λύω through λύουσι(ν); εἰμί through εἰσί(ν), meanings attached throughout.
3. οἱ φίλοι τὸν λόγον ἀκούουσιν. ἡ θάλασσα καλὴ ἐστίν.
4. The Lord sees the heart. The men have bread and cheese.
5. Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος, καὶ ὁ λόγος ἦν πρὸς τὸν θεόν, καὶ θεὸς ἦν ὁ λόγος. In the beginning was the Word... In a linking sentence the articulated noun (ὁ λόγος) is the subject, so the clause means 'the Word was God.'
6. γάλα, milk-river sky; οἶκος + νόμος, house-law; δόξα + λόγος, glory-word; ἀπόστολος, sent one; τῆλε + φωνή, far-voice.

UNIT CHALLENGE: THE FAMILY GREEK EVENING

The quarter's capstone, described in Lesson 5.2: the full program performed for the family, chants, John 1:1 from the papyrus page, the agora story in two voices, three words taught to every guest, the plaque unveiled, the market feast served, with the portfolio folder presented at the end as the quarter's record.

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
The program	Every recitation-list item was performed: alphabet, badges, both verb chants, John 1:1, the agora story.
The teaching	Each family member learned and repeated three Greek words.
The plaque	The plaque is correct (breathings, accents, meaning) and hangs where the family chose.
The portfolio folder	The portfolio folder contains the marked-up story, the papyrus page, the wall pieces or photos of them, and all five unit reviews.

UNIT 5 • READING GREECE • LESSON 5.1 OF 10 • 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

5.1 A MORNING IN THE AGORA

OBJECTIVES

- Read a connected Greek story aloud with correct pronunciation.

- Translate the story using the three-pass method: sounds, endings, meaning.
- Learn the agora words: ἡ ἀγορά, ὁ ἄρτος, ἡ ἐλαία, ὁ τυρός, plus sight words ἰχθύς and μέλι.
- Mark up a Greek text like a scholar: subjects, objects, verbs.
- Answer comprehension questions in who-does-what form.

Warm-up. Triple chant: badges, λύω, εἰμί, the last time these are a warm-up; from today they are tools in a working reader's hand. Then look at the story below only long enough to count its sentences. That many sentences stand between you and the words 'I read a Greek story today.' Breakfast first, though: we are going to the market.

WATCH

A day in the life of an ancient Athenian - Robert Garland

TED-Ed · 5:02

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ar8S6virCwM>

WHEN TO WATCH

After The story paragraph, to walk the streets your story happens in: the agora, the stalls, the crowds.

Note: Made for a slightly older audience; it touches honestly on hard parts of Athenian life, including slavery. Previewed; parents of sensitive students may prefer to watch first and retell.

BACKUP VIDEO

A day in the life of an ancient Greek architect - Mark Robinson

TED-Ed · 5:34

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tuZcS2Flabw>

A second stroll through the working city, this time with the builders; good for Session 2.

KEY TERMS

agora

ἡ ἀγορά: the open marketplace and meeting square at the heart of every Greek city, where buying, selling, teaching and debating all happened at once.

markup

A reader's pencil-code on a text: underline subjects, box objects, circle verbs. Your eyes learn to do it invisibly forever after.

three-pass reading

The scholar's method: pass one, read aloud for sounds; pass two, mark endings and badges; pass three, translate.

comprehension

Proving you understood by answering from the text: who did it? what received it? how do you know?

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Erasmian sounds, so every letter stays distinct: α ah, ε eh, η ay, ι ee, ο o, ω oh, υ oo. αι says eye, ει ay, οι oy, αυ ow, ευ ew, ου oo. A rough breathing adds h. Capitals show the written accent.

τυρός

turos

too-ROS

noun · ὁ τυρός, οἱ τυροί

cheese

μέλι

meli

MEH-lee

noun · τὸ μέλι

honey

ἔμπορος

emporos

EHM-po-ros

noun · ὁ ἔμπορος, οἱ ἔμποροι

a merchant

σταθμός

stathmos

stath-MOS

noun · ό σταθμός, οί σταθμοί

a balance; a station

ἱμάτιον

imation

ee-MAH-tee-on

noun · τὸ ἱμάτιον, τὰ ἱμάτια

a cloak

κάπηλος

kapelos

KAH-pay-los

noun · ό κάπηλος, οί κάπηλοι

a shopkeeper

φορτίον

phortion

for-TEE-on

noun · τὸ φορτίον, τὰ φορτία

a load

τράπεζα

trapeza

TRAH-peh-zah

noun · ή τράπεζα, αί τράπεζαι

a table

ENGLISH trapeze

κρέας

kreas

KREH-as

noun · τὸ κρέας, τὰ κρέα

meat

ὀψάριον

opsarion

o-PSAH-ree-on

noun · τὸ ὀψάριον, τὰ ὀψάρια

a little fish

ἀγοράζω

agorazo

ah-go-RAH-zoh

verb

I buy in the market

CORE IDEAS

The story. The ἀγορά of Athens woke before the sun. Farmers walked in from the hills with olives and cheese; fishermen cried their catch; the bread stalls sent their smell down every street. Socrates had asked his questions here; Paul would one day reason here daily. Between the stalls, teachers walked with their students, and everyone, slave and citizen, poet and farmer, talked, because talking was the agora's true business. Herodotus tells us a Persian king once sneered that he could never fear men who kept a place in the middle of their city for the purpose of cheating each other with oaths; he had seen the haggling and missed the miracle: free speech in an open square. Into that square, on the morning of your story, trots one horse who has had quite enough of standing still.

How Greek works: the story itself. Here is your text. Read it aloud once for sound before you translate anything.

1. ἡ ἀγορὰ καλὴ ἐστίν.
2. οἱ ἄνθρωποι ἄρτον καὶ τυρὸν ἔχουσιν.
3. ὁ διδάσκαλος τοὺς υἱοὺς διδάσκει.
4. οἱ υἱοὶ τὸν διδάσκαλον ἀκούουσιν.
5. βλέπετε τὸν ἵππον; ὁ ἵππος τὸν ἄρτον βλέπει!
6. ὁ ἵππος οὐ μικρὸς ἐστίν.
7. οἱ ἄνθρωποι τὰς φωνὰς? *no, simply: αἱ φωναὶ καλαὶ οὐκ εἰσιν!*
8. ὁ δοῦλος τὸν ἵππον παύει.
9. ὁ ἵππος τὸν ἄρτον ἔχει.
10. οἱ ἄνθρωποι τὸν δοῦλον καὶ τὸν ἵππον βλέπουσιν.

Line 7 just showed you the course's own method one last time: when a shape reaches past the toolkit (τὰς φωνάς is grade 6's feminine accusative plural), rebuild with what you own: αἱ φωναὶ καλὰ οὐκ εἰσιν, the voices are not beautiful, which, with a horse in the bread stall, they certainly were not.

The market words. Four tasty nouns and two sight words set the scene: ἡ ἀγορά (hay a-go-RAH), the marketplace; ὁ ἄρτος (ho AR-toss), the bread, the word in 'give us this day our daily bread'; ἡ ἐλαία (hay el-EYE-ah), the olive, tree and fruit alike, Athens' own gift; ὁ τυρός (ho tü-ROSS), the cheese; and on sight, ἰχθύς (ich-THOOS), fish, the believers' acrostic from of old, and μέλι (MEH-lee), honey, sweet as the psalmist's description of God's words.

Say it out loud, then mark it up. Pass one: the whole story aloud, slowly, stresses and breathings honored. Pass two: pencil out, underline every subject (badge-bearing nominative), box every receiver (nu-uniforms and τούς-uniforms), circle every verb and write its person over it (he? they? you all?). Pass three: translate sentence by sentence into your notebook, out loud first, then in writing. This is how scholars read everything from Homer to the papyri; from today it is how you read.

Try it. This week's activity IS the reading, three passes across two sessions, and then the performance rehearsal: you will read the story aloud in Greek while a family member reads your English translation line by line, ready for the Greek evening. Comprehension court closes each session: a parent asks who-does-what questions (Who stops the horse? What does the horse end up with?), and you answer by pointing at the Greek.

PICTURE STUDY



The Ancient Agora of Athens, Photograph by Georgios Liakopoulos, The site: in use from the 6th century B.C. · Photograph of the excavated marketplace · Athens, below the Acropolis

Photo: Georgios Liakopoulos, via [Wikimedia Commons](#), CC BY-SA 3.0

This quiet field of stones was once the noisiest place in Greece: the agora of Athens, where your story's bread stalls, teachers, servants and runaway horse all belong. Socrates asked his questions here; the potsherd votes were cast here; Paul reasoned here daily with whoever would stop. Every path in the photograph was once a street.

Look closely

- Find the long straight line of stones, the Panathenaic Way, the road processions took up to the Acropolis.
- Pick out column stumps and wall footings: each was once a stoa, a shop row or a public office.
- See modern Athens pressing in at the edges: the city never left; it only grew around its old heart.
- Imagine the sound: haggling, chanting schoolboys, a herald's bell, and one horse's hooves.

Talk about it

1. Why did Greek cities put their market, courts and temples all in one open square?

2. Paul went daily to the agora (Acts 17:17). What is the nearest thing to an agora in your town, and who speaks there?
3. If a digger uncovered your town square in 4,000 years, what would the stones say about what your people loved?

ACTIVITY

The three-pass reading and the two-voice rehearsal

Today the deck, the chants and the uniforms all go to work at once. Three passes, one story, and at the end you will have read Greek the way readers read it.

You will need

- The story copied out (or the screen), a pencil and your notebook
- The flashcard deck for emergencies
- 4 new cards: ἡ ἀγορά, ὁ ἄρτος, ἡ ἐλαία, ὁ τυρός (plus sight cards for ἰχθύς and μέλι if you like)

Steps

1. Pass one, sound: read all ten sentences aloud in Greek, no translating allowed. Stumble, laugh, repeat the hard ones.
2. Pass two, markup: underline subjects, box objects, circle verbs, and write the person (I/you/he/we/you all/they) over each verb.
3. Pass three, meaning: translate the story sentence by sentence into the notebook. Check against your markup: every box should land as an English object.
4. Comprehension court: a parent asks five who-does-what questions; answer each by reading the proving Greek words aloud.
5. Two-voice rehearsal: you read the Greek, a partner reads your English, alternating lines, twice through.
6. Add the four new cards to the deck, and run the whole deck one glorious time, start to finish.

Tips

- When a sentence tangles, read the uniforms first: find the verb, find the badge-wearer, find the nu-wearer, and the sentence unties itself.
- Line 5's semicolon after βλέπετε τὸν ἵππον is the Greek question mark: 'Do you all see the horse?' Let your voice rise.
- Keep the marked-up story; it is the proudest page in the notebook.

Check your work

- ☐ All three passes are complete; the markup covers every sentence.

- ☐ My written translation matches the markup, boxes to objects.
- ☐ I answered five comprehension questions by pointing at the Greek.
- ☐ The two-voice rehearsal ran twice; the new cards are in the deck.

GREEK NOTEBOOK

1. Copy the story's first five sentences in Greek, dated, with your translation interlined.
2. Write the four market words with meanings, plus *ἰχθύς* and *μέλι* with their stories (the acrostic; the psalmist's honey).
3. Write one sentence of your own about reading it: how it felt the first time a whole Greek sentence opened by itself.
4. Run the deck and record the score; compare with Unit 1's first score.

From history. The Athenian agora has been excavated for nearly a century, and among its finds are the potsherds of Unit 2, a child's feeding bottle, and simple inscribed weights a buyer could check his cheese against: ΔΗΜΟΣΙΟΝ, 'public property,' says the stamp, honest scales guaranteed by the city. Proverbs 11:1 had said it longer ago: a false balance is abomination to the LORD, but a just weight is his delight.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Mark up and translate line 3: *ὁ διδάσκαλος τοὺς υἱοὺς διδάσκει.*

▼ Show solution

1. Underline the badge-wearer: *ὁ διδάσκαλος*, nominative, the doer.
2. Box the uniform: *τοὺς υἱοὺς*, accusative plural, the receivers.
3. Circle the verb: *διδάσκει*, -ει, he. Agreement with the singular subject checks.

Answer: The teacher teaches the sons.

Example 2. Line 5 asks: βλέπετε τὸν ἵππον; Who is being addressed, and what is the answer in the story's next breath?

▼ **Show solution**

1. βλέπετε: -ετε, you all: the crowd (and the reader!) are addressed.
2. The semicolon is Greek's question mark: Do you all see the horse?
3. The narrator answers himself: ὁ ἵππος τὸν ἄρτον βλέπει, the horse sees the BREAD.

Answer: 'Do you all see the horse?' And the joke lands in the uniforms: we see the horse; the horse sees the bread.

Example 3. Prove from endings alone who saves the morning in lines 8–9.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Line 8: ὁ δοῦλος wears the nominative badge; τὸν ἵππον wears the nu-uniform; παύει says he.
2. So the servant stops the horse.
3. Line 9: ὁ ἵππος now does the having; τὸν ἄρτον is still the thing had.

Answer: The servant stops the horse (ὁ δοῦλος τὸν ἵππον παύει), but the horse keeps his prize: the horse has the bread. Heroism and dignity, both preserved.

PRACTICE

1. **Easy** Translate the market words: ἡ ἀγορά, ὁ ἄρτος, ἡ ἐλαία, ὁ τυρός.

▼ **Show answer**

The marketplace, the bread, the olive, the cheese.

2. **Easy** From the story: translate line 1 and line 6.

▼ **Show answer**

The agora is beautiful. The horse is not small.

3. **Easy** What do the five letters of ΙΧΘΥΣ stand for, from your earliest Greek grades?

▼ **Show answer**

Jesus Christ, God's Son, Savior (Ἰησοῦς Χριστὸς Θεοῦ Υἱὸς Σωτήρ), the old believers' fish acrostic.

4. **Medium** Answer from the Greek, quoting the proving words: who listens to the teacher, and who stops the horse?

▼ **Show answer**

οἱ υἱοὶ τὸν διδάσκαλον ἀκούουσιν, the sons listen; ὁ δοῦλος τὸν ἵππον παύει, the servant stops the horse.

5. **Medium** Translate into Greek: The men see the horse. The bread is good.

▼ **Show answer**

οἱ ἄνθρωποι τὸν ἵππον βλέπουσιν. ὁ ἄρτος ἀγαθός ἐστιν.

6. **Medium** Why does the story say αἱ φωναὶ καλαὶ οὐκ εἰσιν instead of using τὰς φωνάς, and what lesson about reading does that teach?

▼ **Show answer**

τὰς φωνάς is a grade-6 uniform (feminine accusative plural); the story rebuilt the thought with owned tools: the voices are not beautiful. A reader works within the toolkit and grows it honestly, rather than guessing uniforms not yet learned.

7. **Hard** Rewrite line 10 with the two nouns' uniforms swapped, read it aloud, and explain what horror results.

▼ **Show answer**

ὁ δοῦλος καὶ ὁ ἵππος τοὺς ἀνθρώπους βλέπουσιν: now the servant and the horse see the men, the watchers became the watched, and the verb had to go plural for its new double subject. Uniforms rule the world.

8. **Challenge** Compose one new sentence of your own that could slot into the story anywhere, using only deck words and taught uniforms; read it aloud and defend every ending.

▼ **Show answer**

Examples: ὁ φίλος τὴν ἐλαίαν ἔχει (the friend has the olive); οἱ υἱοὶ τὸν ἵππον βλέπουσιν (the sons see the horse). Full credit for correct badge, uniform and agreement, defended aloud.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Translating before sounding. Pass one exists because the ear catches patterns the eye misses; never skip it.

- Ignoring the markup when translating. If you boxed τὸν ἄρτον, your English sentence must have the bread receiving.
- Reading the Greek question mark (;) as a semicolon pause instead of a rising question.
- Panicking at an unknown shape. The story planted one on purpose; readers meet strangers politely and keep reading.

Make it a game · Agora Snatch. Lay the market cards (ἄρτος, τυρός, ἐλαία, plus ἵππος and δοῦλος) in the middle: the agora. The parent reads any story line aloud in Greek; the student snatches every card named in that sentence and must say its role: subject or object, proven by its uniform in the sentence. Correct snatch and proof: keep the card. Wrong proof: back to market. Clear the agora to win; then swap roles and let the student read while the parent snatches.

Scripture. “How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!” (Psalm 119:103, KJV)

μέλι, honey, from the market stalls, and the psalmist reaching for it to describe Scripture. You tasted a little of that sweetness this week: words opening themselves to a reader who worked for them.

UNIT 5 · READING GREECE · LESSON 5.2 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

5.2 GREEK ALL AROUND YOU

OBJECTIVES

- Find and explain Greek hiding in daily life: church, science, sky.
- Tell why the galaxy is called the Milky Way in Greek.
- Review the whole course: badges, uniforms, both verb chants, John 1:1.
- Letter the family word plaque in Greek.
- Host the family Greek evening.

Warm-up. Last triple chant of the course, and make it ring: badges, λύω, εἰμί. Then step outside tonight, if the sky is clear, and find the faint white river of stars overhead. The Greeks called it γάλα, milk: the galaxy. You have been living inside Greek words all your life. This week you learn to see them, and then you throw a feast.

WATCH

How the Milky Way Got Its Name

Today I Found Out · 5:34

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1pFTdEApM0s>

WHEN TO WATCH

After the How Greek works paragraph: the Greek milk-road story behind both 'galaxy' and 'Milky Way.'

Note: A general-audience channel; this episode was previewed and is clean. It retells the pagan myth of the milk as the story the Greeks told, which is exactly how this course reads such tales.

BACKUP VIDEO

Satisfying Greek alphabet fact. How did I not know??

RobWords · 1:00

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7QkUStxLryA>

A one-minute treat anytime this week: a delighted word-lover discovering what you learned in grade 3.

KEY TERMS

galaxy

From γάλα, milk: the Greeks saw a river of milk across the night sky. Galaxy and Milky Way are the same name in two languages.

church words

The Greek skeleton of churchly English: baptize (βαπτίζω, dip), angel (ἄγγελος, messenger), apostle (ἀπόστολος, sent one), Christ (Χριστός, Anointed), Bible (βιβλία, books).

doxology

A glory-word: δόξα (glory) + λόγος. When you sing 'Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,' you are singing a Greek compound.

motto

A short saying a family lives by. Yours goes on the plaque in Greek this week.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Erasmian sounds, so every letter stays distinct: α ah, ε eh, η ay, ι ee, ο o, ω oh, υ oo. αι says eye, ει ay, οι oy, αυ ow, ευ ew, ου oo. A rough breathing adds h. Capitals show the written accent.

δόξα

doxa

DO-ksah

noun · ή δόξα, αί δόξαι

glory

ENGLISH doxology

ἄστρον

astron

AST-ron

noun · τὸ ἄστρον, τὰ ἄστρα

a star

ENGLISH astronomy

γαλαξίας

galaxias

gah-lah-KSEE-as

noun · ὁ γαλαξίας

the Milky Way

ENGLISH galaxy

ἀστρονομία

astronomia

ast-ro-no-MEE-ah

noun · ή ἀστρονομία

star-law

ENGLISH astronomy

γεωγραφία

geographia

geh-oh-grah-FEE-ah

noun · ή γεωγραφία

earth-drawing

ENGLISH geography

φιλοσοφία

philosophia

fee-lo-so-FEE-ah

noun · ή φιλοσοφία

love of wisdom

ENGLISH philosophy

θεολογία

theologia

theh-o-lo-GEE-ah

noun · ή θεολογία

speech about God

ENGLISH theology

δημοκρατία

demokratia

day-mo-krah-TEE-ah

noun · ή δημοκρατία

rule by the people

ENGLISH democracy

φιланθρωπία

philanthropia

fee-lanth-roh-PEE-ah

noun · ή φιланθρωπία

love of human beings

ENGLISH philanthropy

τραγωδία

tragodia

trah-goh-DEE-ah

noun · ή τραγωδία, αί τραγωδίαί

tragedy

ENGLISH tragedy

κωμωδία

komodia

koh-moh-DEE-ah

noun · ἡ κωμωδία, αἱ κωμωδίαι

comedy

ENGLISH comedy

CORE IDEAS

The story. A boy looks through a telescope (far-looker) at the galaxy (milk-river), while his sister puts a photograph (light-writing) in an album and their father reads about the economy (house-law, οἶκος + νόμος, the management of the household!). On Sunday they hear an angel (messenger) mentioned in the sermon on Christ (the Anointed One), sing the doxology (glory-word), and put something in the offering for the apostles' (sent ones') successors in mission work. Not one of those sentences left English, and not one escaped Greek. The quarter's last discovery is that you were never learning a foreign language at all; you were learning the other half of your own.

How Greek works: the sky's own word. Take the night sky. The Greeks looked at the pale band across it and called it γάλα, milk, the milky circle. Rome translated it: via lactea, the Milky Way. English kept both: Milky Way from the Latin side, galaxy straight from the Greek. Planet is Greek too: πλανήτης, wanderer, because five 'stars' refused to stay put. So is astronomy (star-law, from ἄστρον + νόμος) and cosmos, your old friend κόσμος, the ordered world. When God 'telleteth the number of the stars' (Psalm 147:4), English needs Greek, Latin and Saxon words together just to talk about what He made with a word.

The great review. This week, every tool comes off the wall for inspection, woven into the hunt: badges (ὁ, οἱ, ἡ, αἱ) and uniforms (τόν, τούς, τήν) recited and demonstrated; λύω and εἰμί chanted entire; the eight practice categories run one last time; John 1:1 read from your papyrus page; the agora story performed. Nothing new enters the deck this lesson, because the lesson IS the deck, all ~55 words, reviewed in one glorious final run with the family keeping score and cheering.

Say it out loud. The week's recitation list, for the Greek evening: 1) the alphabet, chanted; 2) the badge grid and one uniform pair; 3) λύω and εἰμί with meanings; 4) John 1:1 in Greek and English; 5) the agora story, two voices; 6) the family word, unveiled and explained. Practice each aloud once a day; by Friday the program runs itself.

Try it. Choose the family word: one Greek word from the deck that your family wants over its door, ἡ ἀγάπη, ἡ ἀλήθεια, ἡ εἰρήνη, ἡ σοφία, πιστός, or a linking motto like ὁ θεὸς ἀγαθὸς ἐστίν. Letter it large on the plaque, decorate the border with the quarter's treasures (an owl, a fish, a scroll, a horse with bread), and keep it covered until the unveiling. Then host the Greek evening and finish the quarter the way Greeks finished everything important: together, out loud, with food.

PICTURE STUDY



The Milky Way over the Southern Sky, ESO / S. Brunier, 2009 · Panoramic photograph of the night sky · Photographed from the European Southern Observatory sites, Chile
Photo: ESO / S. Brunier, via [Wikimedia Commons](#), CC BY 4.0

Here is the γάλα itself: the river of milk the Greeks named, photographed from one of the darkest skies on earth. Every point of light is a sun, and the glowing band is the edge-on view of our own galaxy, a word that is simply Greek for milkiness. The student who began this course with an alphabet ends it reading the night sky's own Greek name.

Look closely

- Follow the band from edge to edge: that is the plane of the galaxy, seen from inside it.
- Find the dark rifts in the glow, lanes of dust between us and the far stars.
- Notice how the band brightens toward its center: you are looking toward the galaxy's crowded heart.
- Count nothing. The stars of this one photograph outnumber every person who has ever lived.

Talk about it

1. The Greeks named the sky's river after milk; the psalmist said the heavens declare the glory of God. Which response goes deeper, and why?
2. Why do you think God made so much more than we can count?

3. Psalm 147:4 says God ‘telleteth the number of the stars; he calleth them all by their names.’ What does that promise about how He knows you?

ACTIVITY

The family word plaque and the Greek evening

Every Greek city carved its best words where everyone could read them. This week your family gets its own inscription, and the course gets its feast.

You will need

- Poster board, heavy paper or a wooden board for the plaque; pencil, markers or paint
- The papyrus page, the verb banner, the badge chart, the gear poster and the one-world map, gathered for display
- Bread, olives, cheese and honey, with a cloth for the market stall table

Steps

1. Hold the family vote: which Greek word (or short linking sentence) from the deck goes over the door? The student presents three candidates with meanings; the family chooses.
2. Pencil the word large and letter it boldly; check every breathing and accent against the deck card before inking.
3. Decorate the border with small drawings from the quarter's stories and add the English meaning in small letters beneath.
4. Plan the evening's program from the recitation list, and set the market table: bread, olives, cheese, honey, the ἰχθύς card standing like a shop sign.
5. Host the Greek evening: chants, John 1:1 from the papyrus page, the agora story in two voices, three Greek words taught to the family (each guest must say them back), the plaque unveiled and explained, and the feast eaten.
6. Afterward, file the quarter's work, marked-up story, papyrus page, test pages, in the portfolio folder, and hang the plaque.

Tips

- Keep the program short and merry: twenty minutes of performance, then food. Leave them wanting more Greek, not less.
- Let every family member hold a card and 'win' a word; teaching the family IS the final exam.

- If nerves wobble during John 1:1, slow down. That verse has been read aloud for nineteen centuries; it knows how to carry a reader.

Check your work

- ☐ The plaque is lettered correctly, breathings and accents checked, and unveiled at the evening.
- ☐ Every item on the recitation list was performed.
- ☐ Each family member said three Greek words back to me.
- ☐ The portfolio folder holds the quarter's work.

GREEK NOTEBOOK

1. Write the date and the family word with its meaning, and why your family chose it.
2. List ten English words you now see the Greek inside, with their pieces.
3. Write the final deck score and set one Greek goal for next year (grade 6: the whole map of the noun).
4. Copy John 1:1 one last time from memory, then check it like a scribe.

From history. Greek families really did carve words over their doors; one favorite, found at Pompeii's Greek-speaking neighbors and in Christian homes for centuries after, was a simple blessing on all who entered. The church father John Chrysostom, 'the golden-mouthed,' urged families to make their homes little churches, with Scripture on the lips at table. A plaque is a small pulpit that preaches every time someone walks in.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Unmask the Greek in: economy.

▼ Show solution

1. Chop: eco-nomy.
2. Eco: οἶκος, house (flashcard from Unit 1!).
3. Nomy: νόμος, law, management (Unit 2).

Answer: House-law: the management of the household, which is still exactly what economy means when it behaves itself.

Example 2. Your aunt asks what doxology means. Answer like a Greek student, using two deck words.

▼ **Show solution**

1. δόξα: glory (Unit 4).
2. λόγος: word (Unit 1).
3. Assemble and explain.

Answer: A glory-word: δόξα + λόγος, a short hymn giving glory to God, like 'Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.'

Example 3. Design a correct plaque line meaning 'God is faithful,' and prove its endings.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Subject with badge: ὁ θεός.
2. Adjective matching masculine singular: πιστός.
3. Linking verb parked at the end: ἐστίν.

Answer: ὁ θεὸς πιστὸς ἐστίν, God is faithful (1 Corinthians 1:9's very claim); badge, agreement and verb all in uniform.

PRACTICE

1. **Easy** Why is the galaxy called that? Give the Greek word inside it.

▼ **Show answer**

From γάλα, milk: the Greeks saw the band of stars as a river of milk. Milky Way is the same name via Latin.

2. **Easy** Unmask the Greek: angel, Bible, Christ.

▼ **Show answer**

ἄγγελος, messenger; βιβλία, books; Χριστός, Anointed One.

3. **Easy** Chant λύω and εἰμί one final time with meanings.

▼ **Show answer**

λύω, λύεις, λύει, λύομεν, λύετε, λύουσι(ν); εἰμί, εἶ, ἐστί(ν), ἐσμέν, ἐστέ, εἰσί(ν), with meanings I loose...they are.

4. **Medium** Translate both ways: οἱ ἀπόστολοι τὸν λόγον φέρουσιν. / The teacher is wise.

▼ **Show answer**

The apostles carry the word. / ὁ διδάσκαλος σοφός ἐστιν.

5. **Medium** Unmask: telescope, economy, astronomy, doxology, and name which deck words appear in them.

▼ **Show answer**

Far-looker; house-law (οἶκος, νόμος); star-law (νόμος again); glory-word (δόξα, λόγος).

6. **Medium** Write John 1:1 in Greek from memory and translate.

▼ **Show answer**

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος, καὶ ὁ λόγος ἦν πρὸς τὸν θεόν, καὶ θεὸς ἦν ὁ λόγος. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

7. **Hard** Compose a correct plaque line meaning 'the truth is beautiful,' then flip it for emphasis and explain what stayed fixed.

▼ **Show answer**

ἡ ἀλήθεια καλή ἐστιν; flipped: καλή ἐστιν ἡ ἀλήθεια. The badge ἡ kept ἡ ἀλήθεια as subject through the flip; only the emphasis moved.

8. **Challenge** The course claims you were 'learning the other half of your own language.' Make the case in three sentences, with at least four Greek words as evidence.

▼ **Show answer**

Church English runs on Greek: Christ, angel, apostle, baptize, Bible. School English runs on Greek: alphabet, geography, biology, mathematics' cousins. Sky English runs on Greek: galaxy, planet, cosmos, telescope; so learning Greek is learning where half of English keeps its meanings. (Any well-evidenced version earns full credit.)

COMMON MISTAKES

- Letting the plaque go to ink before the breathing-and-accent check. Carve twice, measure once is no motto; check the card first.
- Performing AT the family instead of teaching them. The evening's crown is a sibling saying ἡ ἀγάπη correctly, not a flawless solo.

- Treating review as reruns. The final deck run with the family scoring is the quarter's actual harvest; run it with ceremony.
- Stopping Greek cold after the feast. Two minutes of Daily Dose, or one flashcard run a week, keeps the quarter alive until grade 6.

Make it a game • The Greek Evening Gauntlet (finale). At the feast, the family runs the gauntlet: each member draws three cards from the deck and must read one, translate one, and use one in an English sentence revealing its meaning (I showed real AGAPE when I shared the olives). The student is judge and may award style points. When the deck has been passed, everyone shouts the course's hidden motto together: νενικήκαμεν, we have won!

Scripture. “And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.” (Deuteronomy 6:9, KJV)

God's own command is the oldest family-plaque tradition in the world. Israel lettered His words at the door; your family's Greek word over the door stands in that long, good line.