

Tips on making noun/adjective agreement

As you know, an adjective must agree with the noun to which it refers in gender, number, and case. It will not have necessarily the same ending! Through lesson three, I presented adjectives and nouns that did have the same endings, to make it easier as we started. But when adjectives and nouns belong to different declensions, they have different endings.

Whenever you have to make such an agreement, follow these steps.

1. Recognize the gender of the noun you are working with, since with very few exceptions, nouns have only one gender;
2. Choose that gender column of the adjective you intend to use;
3. Focus on the number you need, then choose the case.

Example: “long road” (ὁδός, ὁδοῦ, ἡ μακρός, μακρά, μακρόν)

ὁδός is an exception, declined like the masculine nouns in the 2nd declension, but feminine.

If we have this noun in the genitive and we want to say “of the long road,” we start by choosing the feminine form of the adjective, which is μακρά. So, looking at the chart, we stay in the feminine column, focus on the singular, and we look for the genitive: μακρᾶς.

We obtain τῆς μακρᾶς ὁδοῦ.