

## THE ULTIMATE PRACTICE ON PREDICATE ACCUSATIVES!

We start with the simplest structure: S – linking verb – Predicate nominative:

ὁ πόνος ἐστὶ χαλεπός. *The task is harsh.*  
 S            V        PN

Let us change the statement of fact to one where we consider the task harsh, using the verb *νομίζω*. If we say “We deem the task ...” task will have to be a D O in the accusative.

νομίζομεν τὸν πόνον  
 S + V                    DO

Whatever we consider the task, in this case “harsh,” will be also in the accusative. Just as “harsh” was in the nominal sentence a predicate nominative, now we will call it “predicate accusative.”

νομίζομεν τὸν πόνον χαλεπόν  
 S + V                    DO            **predicate accusative**

Note the following, in English and in Greek:

- a) English verbs such as call, consider, deem, name, make, appoint, choose, and similar tend to be used with a direct object and a predicate accusative. The latter is not part of the Direct Object before the action of the verb occurs, but it is (to put it graphically) “thrown” upon the D O through the action of calling, considering, etc.
- b) In Greek comparable verbs also take this construction. Note that the adjective or noun that we mark as predicate accusative is, of course, in the predicative position with respect to the DO. (Without an article the position is sometimes difficult to perceive, but the meaning shows it anyway.)
- c) Both in English and in Greek the verbs thus accompanied may be turned to the passive. “He was chosen //as// class valedictorian.” In Greek then, obviously, the DO becomes a S, and the predicate accusative becomes a predicate nominative.

Read carefully these examples in Greek and try to understand them; then check the translations given. Finally, click on [exercises](#) and submit them. No key is uploaded, I will send corrections to those who fax or email the exercises to me.

I) μήτε τοὺς κακοὺς χρηστοὺς<sup>1</sup> μήτε τοὺς χρηστοὺς κακοὺς νόμιζε.  
 DO pred accusative DO pred accus V

Deem (you sg) neither bad men good nor good men bad!

2) σὺ Ἔρωτα<sup>2</sup> οὐ θεὸν νομίζεις.  
 S DO pred acc V

You (sg) do not consider Eros a god.

This could be expressed in English also as:

You (sg) do not consider Eros //to be// a god. or You (sg) do not consider that Eros //is// a god.

3) ἀλλὰ διὰ τί υἱὸν με ὠνομάζετο<sup>3</sup>;  
 διά+ acc pred acc DO V

But why did he call me //his// son?

4) κρίνομεν<sup>4</sup> σὲ πρῶτον<sup>5</sup> ἀνθρώπων  
 V DO pred acc gen

We deem you the first of men.

<sup>1</sup> χρηστός, ή, όν

<sup>2</sup> This is the accusative of a noun of the third declension, Ἔρωσ , the god of love.

<sup>3</sup> ὀνομάζω = to name. It is used here in the middle voice to indicate that the father called him his own son.

<sup>4</sup> κρίνω = to judge

<sup>5</sup> πρῶτος, η, ον = first. You will probably remember the neuter of this adjective, used as an adverb. This is the adjective in the accusative.

Analyze the syntax and translate. If necessary, look up the total vocabularies for the first semester: **Greek to English** and **English to Greek**. New words are footnoted.

1) They considered poets friends of the Muses.

2) The philosopher's<sup>1</sup> disciples were considered enemies<sup>2</sup> of democracy.

3) Who will call toil a gift?

4) *καὶ μικρὸν δῶρον δεῖ καλὸν νομίζειν.*

5) *εἰ σοφοὶ ἔσονται, ποιήσουσι τοὺς φιλοσόφους τυράννους<sup>3</sup>.*

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<sup>1</sup> φιλόσοφος, ου, ὁ

<sup>2</sup> ἐχθρός, οῦ, ὁ

<sup>3</sup> τύραννος, ου, ὁ = ruler, king (not necessarily a “tyrant”)