

THE PECULIARITIES OF THE DEFINITE ARTICLE IN GREEK

There are three genders in the Greek language: masculine, feminine and neuter. Declension of the definite article, which corresponds with the English *the*, appears in these three genders, and the gender as well as the number and case of the definite article must agree with that of the noun to which it applies.

The definite article in Greek is declined in all three genders the same as Greek nouns are declined. So the Greek definite article has cases in its declension.

In Greek there are five cases: nominative, genitive, dative, accusative and vocative. However, the definite article does not have a vocative case. But when, in addressing a person or thing, the nominative case is used instead of the vocative, then the nominative case of the definite article may be used along with it, as, for example, in John 20:28.

Below we set out the declension of the definite article:

SINGULAR NUMBER

<u>CASE</u>	<u>MASCULINE</u>	<u>FEMININE</u>	<u>NEUTER</u>	<u>IN ENGLISH</u>
Nominative	ὁ	ἡ	τό	the
Genitive	τοῦ	τῆς	τοῦ	of the
Dative	τῷ	τῇ	τῷ	to the
Accusative	τόν	τήν	τό	the

PLURAL NUMBER

<u>CASE</u>	<u>MASCULINE</u>	<u>FEMININE</u>	<u>NEUTER</u>	<u>IN ENGLISH</u>
Nominative	οἱ	αἱ	τά	the
Genitive	τῶν	τῶν	τῶν	of the
Dative	τοῖς	ταῖς	τοῖς	to the
Accusative	τούς	τάς	τά	the