

Adjectives & Adverbs

Chapter 16

Morphology

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Adjectives in English

Describes a quality, characteristic, or state of something.

The **good** man

The **good** command

Morphology

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
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Adjectives in Greek

Agrees with the noun it modifies in gender, case, and number.

ὁ **ἀγαθός** ἄνθρωπος

“The **good** man”

ἡ **ἀγαθὴ** ἐντολή

“The **good** command”

Second Declension Adjectives (Masc)

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Case	Singular	Plural
N.	ἀγαθός	ἀγαθοί
G.	ἀγαθοῦ	ἀγαθῶν
D.	ἀγαθῷ	ἀγαθοῖς
A.	ἀγαθόν	ἀγαθοὺς

First Declension Adjectives (Fem)

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Case	Singular	Plural
N.	ἀγαθὴ	ἀγαθαί
G.	ἀγαθῆς	ἀγαθῶν
D.	ἀγαθῇ	ἀγαθαῖς
A.	ἀγαθήν	ἀγαθάς

Morphology

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Alpha pattern feminine nouns

If the stem of the adjective ends with an epsilon (ε), iota (ι), or rho (ρ), the adjective will follow the alpha (α) pattern:

ἡ **ἀγία** ἐντολή

“the holy command”

The singular forms are as follows: **ἀγία**, **ἀγίας**, **ἀγίᾳ**, **ἀγίαν**.

Second Declension Adjectives (Neut)

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Case	Singular	Plural
N.	ἀγαθόν	ἀγαθά
G.	ἀγαθοῦ	ἀγαθῶν
D.	ἀγαθῷ	ἀγαθοῖς
A.	ἀγαθόν	ἀγαθά

Adjective Variations μέγας & πολὺς

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Case	M/F Sg.	M/F Sg.
N.	μέγας	πολὺς
G.	μεγάλου	πολλοῦ
D.	μεγάλῳ	πολλῷ
A.	μέγαν	πολύν

The plural forms are not given since they are identical to ἀγαθός.

Uses of Adjectives

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Three uses of adjectives

Another gospel	Attributive Adjective
The dead (people)	Substantive Adjective
She is good	Predicate Adjective

Uses of Adjectives

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Attributive Adjectives

The adjective modifies an expressed noun and agrees with that noun in gender, case, and number. It is in the *attributive position* which means that the article (when present) occurs **directly in front** of the adjective.

ὁ ἀγαθός [ὁ] λόγος

ὁ λόγος ὁ ἀγαθός

“the good word”

Uses of Adjectives

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Substantive Adjectives

The adjective modifies an unexpressed noun, functioning like a noun. The article (when present) occurs **directly in front** of the adjective.

ὁ ἀγαθός “the good [man]”

ἡ ἀγαθή “the good [woman]”

τὰ ἀγαθὰ “the good [things]”

Uses of Adjectives

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Predicate Adjectives

The adjective asserts something about the subject and is in the *predicate position* which means that there is **no article** **directly in front** of the adjective.

ὁ λόγος ἀγαθός

ἀγαθός ὁ λόγος

“the word [is] good God”

Third Declension Adjectives: πᾶς (Masc)		
Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος		
Case	Singular	Plural
N.	πᾶς	πάντες
G.	παντός	πάντων
D.	παντί	πᾶσι(ν)
A.	πάντα	πάντας
When the sigma (ς) is added to the masculine nominative singular form, -ντ drops out (παντ + ς = παντς → πᾶς).		

Third Declension Adjectives: πᾶσα (Fem)		
Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος		
Case	Singular	Plural
N.	πᾶσα	πᾶσαι
G.	πάσης	πασῶν
D.	πάσῃ	πάσαις
A.	πᾶσαν	πάσας

Third Declension Adjectives: πᾶν (Neut)		
Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος		
Case	Singular	Plural
N.	πᾶν	πάντα
G.	παντός	πάντων
D.	παντί	πᾶσι(ν)
A.	πᾶν	πάντα
The neuter nominative (and accusative) form has no ending added. Thus, the tau (τ) drops out because it cannot stand as the last letter of a word (παντ + α = παντ → πᾶν).		

Usage of πᾶς	
1) Predicate position = all	
πάντες οἱ ἄνθρωποι	“all the men”
πᾶσα ἡ πόλις	“all the city”
πᾶν τὸ σῶμα	“all the body”

Usage of πᾶς	
Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος	
2) Attributive position = whole	
ὁ πᾶς ἄνθρωπος	“the whole man”
ἡ πᾶσα πόλις	“the whole city”
τὸ πᾶν σῶμα	“the whole body”

Usage of πᾶς	
Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος	
3) No article = every	
πᾶς ἄνθρωπος	“every man”
πᾶσα πόλις	“every city”
πᾶν σῶμα	“every body”

Usage of **πᾶς**

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

4) Substantive (no noun) = all

οἱ πάντες	“all men”
αἱ πᾶσαι	“all women”
τὰ πάντα	“all things”

Comparative Degree

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Degrees in English

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
small	smaller	smallest
young	younger	youngest
good	better	best

Comparative Degree

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Two ways of forming the comparative degree

1) Third declension ending on comparative noun.

The adjectives **μείζων** (“greater”; comparative of μέγας, “great”) and **πλείων** (“more”; the comparative of πολύς, “much”) account for nearly half of the comparative adjectives in the New Testament.

Two other forms are **χείρων** (“worse”; the comparison of κακός, “bad”) and **κρείσσον** or **κρείττων** (“better”; comparison of ἀγαθός/καλός, “good”).

Comparative Degree **μείζων** (M/F)

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Case	Masc. Sg.	Neuter Sg.
N.	μείζων	μείζονες
G.	μείζονος	μειζόνων
D.	μείζονι	μειζοσι(ν)
A.	μείζονα	μειζονας

Notice: follows the third declension pattern (same with the neuter).

Comparative Degree

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Two ways of forming the comparative degree

2) -τερος, -τερα, or -τερον to the positive degree form

ισχυρός strong	ισχυρότερος, stronger
μικρός, small	μικρότερος, smaller
πρέσβυς, old	πρεσβύτερος, older
σοφός, wise	σοφώτερος, wiser

Comparative Degree

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Two ways to make a comparison

1) Use of the term ἢ (“than”)

μείζων ἐστὶν ὁ ἐν ὑμῖν ἢ ὁ ἐν τῷ κόσμῳ

“the one in you is greater **than** the one in the world”

The thing compared (ὁ ἐν ὑμῖν) is put into the same case as the comparative adjective/noun (ὁ ἐν τῷ κόσμῳ).

Comparative Degree

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Two ways to make a comparison

2) Use of the Genitive Case

ὁ πατὴρ μείζων **μου** ἐστίν

“the father is greater **than I**”

In this case, don't translate the genitive with “of” but with “than.”

Superlative Degree

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Two ways of forming the superlative degree

1) -ιστος ending

μέγας, great

μέγιστος, greatest

πολύς, much

πλεῖστος, most

μικρός, small

ἐλάχιστος, smallest

ὑψος, high

ὑψιστος, highest

Superlative Degree

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Two ways of forming the superlative degree

2) -τατος ending

ἅγιος, holy

ἁγιώτατος, holiest

τίμιος, valuable

τιμιώτατος, most valuable

ἀκριβής, strict

ἀκριβέστατος, strictest

Superlative Degree

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Elativ Degree

A superlative (or comparative) adjective is used to convey the idea of “very” or “exceedingly” instead of “most.”

“a **very large** (πλεῖστος) crowd gathered to him.”

In context it is clear that the author is not intending a superlative nuance (the *largest* crowd in comparison to others).

Adverbs

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Adverbs Modify Verbs

Adverbs do not decline and the most common ending found on adverbs is -ως. This ending is similar to the -ly ending in English (e.g., quick → quickly). Accusative adjectives can function adverbially (known as an “adverbial accusative”).

“Aquila and Priscilla **warmly** (πολλά) greet you in the Lord.”

Vocabulary

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

εὐαγγελίζω, I announce good news, preach (evangelist)

θεωρέω, I gaze, behold, look at

κάθημαι, I sit (cathedral—where the “seat” of the bishop is)

κηρύσσω, I herald, proclaim, preach (kerygma)

ὑπάρχω, I exist, am

Vocabulary

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

αἰώνιος, -α, -ον, **eternal (aeon)**

ἕκαστος, -η, -ον, **each**

οὐδείς, οὐδεμία, οὐδέν, **no one, nothing (subst)**

πρεσβύτερος, -α, -ον, **elder, older**
(Presbyterian)

ἀμήν, **amen, truly, so be it (Amen)**

Vocabulary

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

ἔξω, **outside (exoskeleton)**

ἕως, **until, while**

οὐδέ, **and not, neither, nor**

οὔτε, **and not, neither, nor**

τότε, **then**