

# First Declension Nouns

## Chapter 2

### Number

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

#### Singular and Plural

**English:** add as “s” or “es”

“boy” → “boys”

“box” → “boxes”

**Greek:** through different endings

φωνή (“voice”) → φωναί (“voices”)

καρδιά (“heart”) → καρδίαι (“hearts”)

### Gender

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

#### Gender in English

host (masculine) → host<sup>ess</sup> (feminine)  
steward (masculine) → steward<sup>ess</sup> (feminine)

#### Gender in Greek

Masculine

Feminine

Neuter

### Case

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

#### Case in English

Mostly determined by **word order**.

“The apostle rebuked the demon.”

The word order indicates that “the apostle” is the subject of the verb and “the demon” is the direct object. Compare:  
“The demon rebuked the apostle.”

### Case

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

#### Case in English

Sometimes determined by case: **personal pronouns**

Case	Singular	Plural	Use/Function
<b>Nominative</b>	I	we	<b>subject</b>
<b>Genitive</b>	my	our	<b>possession</b>
<b>Dative</b>	(to/for) me	(to/for) us	<b>indirect object</b>
<b>Accusative</b>	me	us	<b>direct object</b>

### Case

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

#### Case in Greek

The case endings indicate how the noun functions in a sentence.

Nominative

Genitive

Dative

Accusative

Case

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

**Nominative Case**

Used as the **subject** of the verb.

ἡ φωνή → “the voice”  
καρδίαι → “hearts”

Answers “who?”: “The **Son** of God gave the gift to the man.”

Case

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

**Genitive Case**

Used for **possession** or family relations.

τῆς φωνῆς → “of the voice”  
καρδιῶν → “of hearts”

Answers “whose?”: “The Son **of** God gave the gift to the man.”  
The English preposition “**of**” is added in the translation.

Case

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

**Dative Case**

Used to indicate the **indirect object**.

τῇ φωνῇ → “to/for the voice”  
καρδίαις → “to/for hearts”

Answers “to/for whom?”: “The Son of God gave the gift **to** the man.”  
The English preposition “**to**” or “**for**” is added in the translation.

Case

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

**Accusative Case**

Used for the **direct object** of the verb.

τὴν φωνήν → “the voice”  
καρδίαν → “hearts”

Answers “what?”: “The Son of God gave **the** gift to the man.”

Morphology

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

Unlike English, word order is not significant in Greek.

Greek nouns will have different “**case**” endings depending on their **function** in a sentence.

The case of a noun determines whether it is the subject, the direct object, etc.

Morphology

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

Stem → φωνή ← Ending  
**Eta Pattern**

Stem → καρδία ← Ending  
**Alpha Pattern**

## Morphology

'Εν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

**Alpha endings are found on those nouns whose stem ends in:**

ι

καρδία  
ἐκκλησία

ρ

ἡμέρα

Alpha endings are also found on verbs ending with ε. This is also known as the “alpha pie” (ριε).

## First Declension Eta Pattern

'Εν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

Case	Art.	Singular	Art.	Plural
N.	ἡ	φωνή	αἱ	φωναί
G.	τῆς	φωνῆς	τῶν	φωνῶν
D.	τῇ	φωνῇ	ταῖς	φωναῖς
A.	τὴν	φωνήν	τάς	φωναίς

The **dative singular** forms often have an **iota subscript**.

## First Declension Alpha Pattern

'Εν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

Case	Art.	Singular	Art.	Plural
N.	ἡ	καρδία	αἱ	καρδίαι
G.	τῆς	καρδίας	τῶν	καρδιῶν
D.	τῇ	καρδίᾳ	ταῖς	καρδίαις
A.	τὴν	καρδίαν	τάς	καρδίας

The **genitive plural** forms of second declension nouns also end in **ων**.

## Morphology

'Εν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

Case	Plural	Plural
N.	φωναί	καρδίαι
G.	φωνῶν	καρδιῶν
D.	φωναῖς	καρδίαις
A.	φωναίς	καρδίας

Both first declension paradigms are identical in the **plural**.

## Morphology

'Εν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

Case	Art.	Singular	Art.	Plural
N.	ἡ	καρδία	αἱ	καρδίαι
G.	τῆς	καρδίας	τῶν	καρδιῶν
D.	τῇ	καρδίᾳ	ταῖς	καρδίαις
A.	τὴν	καρδίαν	τάς	καρδίας

The **genitive singular** and **accusative plural** have the same forms.

## Morphology

'Εν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

How do we determine which is correct?

καρδίας

Genitive Singular  
 Accusative Plural

?

1. Context

2. Article

τῆς καρδίας

τάς καρδίας

## The Article

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

### Indefinite Article

English has **two** indefinite articles: “a” and “an”

“a boy”

“an apple”

Greek has **no** indefinite article

φωνήν → “a voice”

ώρα → “an hour”

A Greek noun that has no definite article is called “**anarthrous**.”

## The Article

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

### The Greek Article

English has only **one** definite article: “the boy”

Greek has **three** articles

ὁ (masc)

ἡ (fem)

τό (neut)

The Greeks used articles with abstract nouns: ἡ σοφία, “wisdom”

## The Article

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

Case	Art.	Singular	Art.	Plural
N.	ἡ	φωνή	αἱ	φωναί
G.	τῆς	φωνῆς	τῶν	φωνῶν
D.	τῇ	φωνῇ	ταῖς	φωναῖς
A.	τὴν	φωνήν	τάς	φωνάς

The article follows the **eta** pattern and not the alpha pattern.

## Accents

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

The accent on 1<sup>st</sup> declension nouns tends to stay on the same syllable as the lexical form.

If the ultima is long the accent will move to the penult.

ἀ-λή-θει-α → ἀ-λη-θεί-α

The genitive plural is always accented with a circumflex on the ultima (**καρδιῶν**).

## Conjunctions

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

Conjunctions are indeclinable words used to link words, phrases, clauses, and larger discourse units.

δέ, καί, and μέν are all coordinating conjunctions: they communicate a parallel relationship between the words, phrases, or clauses that they link.

δέ is a **postpositive** conjunction: it never will occur as the first word in a clause (though when translated into English, it should be put first).

## Parsing

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

To **parse** a word means to tell everything you know about it.

Lexical Form Gender Case Number Translation

καρδία F A Sg “a heart”

καρδίαν

## Vocabulary

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ  
λόγος

ἀδελφός, ὁ, brother (Philadelphia)  
ἄνθρωπος, ὁ, man, human being,  
husband (anthropology)  
θεός, ὁ, God (theology)  
κόσμος, ὁ, world, universe; adornment  
(cosmos, cosmology, cosmetics)  
κύριος, ὁ, Lord, master, sir

## Vocabulary

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ  
λόγος

λόγος, ὁ, word, message, account  
(logic, theology, psychology)  
νόμος, ὁ, law, principle (theonomists)  
οὐρανός, ὁ, heaven, sky (Uranus)  
υἱός, ὁ, son, descendant  
Χριστός, ὁ, Christ, Messiah, Anointed  
One (Christ)

## Vocabulary

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ  
λόγος

ἔργον, τό, work, deed (ergonomic)  
εὐαγγέλιον, τό, good news, gospel  
(evangelistic, evangelical)  
ἱερόν, τό, temple, sanctuary  
σημεῖον, τό, sign (semiotics)  
τέκνον, τό, child, son, descendant