

The Three Uses of the Greek Adjective

1. ATTRIBUTIVE ADJECTIVES:

Attributive adjectives give a quality (or attribute) to the noun it modifies.

- Example: ὁ ἀγαθός λόγος (the good word)

Recognizing the Attributive: (2 options)

1st Attributive formation: article + adjective + noun

- ὁ ἀγαθὸς ἄνθρωπος (“the good man”)

2nd Attributive formation: article + noun + article + adjective

- ὁ ἄνθρωπος ὁ ἀγαθὸς (“the man the good”)

Both examples translate as – The good man

2. SUBSTANTIVAL ADJECTIVES:

Substantival adjectives stand alone as if they were a noun.

Example: ὁ ἀγαθός (the good)

Recognizing the Substantival: The article is present and *no noun* to modify

3. PREDICATE ADJECTIVES:

Predicate adjectives modify the subject of the sentence with the help of a being verb (is, am, were, was, etc.).

Example1: ὁ ἄνθρωπος ἀγαθός (the man is good)

Example2: ἀγαθός ὁ ἄνθρωπος (the man is good)

Often the “being” verb is *implied* in the Greek.

Recognizing the Predicate Adjective: The noun will have its article, but the adjective *won't*