**Beginning Greek I – Nominatives and Vocatives**

April 25 7-8:30 p.m.

In person at Wai ‘alae Baptist Church

Online via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88485111334?pwd=Um5tS21IV0NKYlI2d1duMHZaTDlOQT09>

**Meeting ID: 884 8511 1334**

**Passcode: 123050**

Who or what is doing or did the action?

The **batter** hit the baseball over the fence.

This is known as the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Who or what is the “to be” verb talking about?

The **batter** is the best player on the team.

This is known as the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Who or what is the “to be” verb connecting to or saying about the subject?

The batter is the best **player** on the team.

This is known as the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

To whom is the speaker talking?

Hey **batter, batter**, swing.

This is known as the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

These are the four questions that the two cases we will look at today.

The first three are uses of the NOMINATIVE case.

The fourth is a use of the VOCATIVE case.

**How the nominative and vocative are formed.**

As we learned last week, Greek adds endings to noun stems to indicate different cases. Greek can also add an article that indicates case along with gender and number.

Stem + Ending

logo + v

o( lo/gov

Remember the three buckets (declensions). The endings can look different depending on the bucket.

Nominative

1st declension singular – Nothing added. Most of these are feminine.

2nd declension singular – Masculine and feminine – sigma added. Neuter - nu added.

3rd declension singular – Masculine and feminine – sigma added. Neuter nothing added.

Remember that in the 3rd declension the last letter changes when the sigma is added depending on the last letter of the stem. We will look at this again later.

Sometimes 3rd declension nouns have two stems that look similar. For these, you just need to memorize.

The plural endings are much more regular.

1st and 2nd declension plural – masculine and feminine add iota. Neuter add alpha.

3rd declension plural – masculine and feminine add epsilon-sigma. Neuter add alpha.

These three nouns are all nominative. Can you tell their declension? Their gender? Their number?

o( lo/gov

h( xa/ra

to ai{ma

When reading, the most important things to recognize immediately is case and number. If you know what the word means, you do not need to even think about declension. Gender is only important if there are also pronouns in the sentence and you need to know what they are referring to.

If you do not know what the word means, the declension helps identify where the stem ends so that you can look up the word. Knowing the declension can also help you identify case and number when there is no article and/or the ending could be more than one case.

How would you turn the three words above into plural nominatives? Include the article.

Vocative

The only use of the vocative is naming whom or what is being spoken to. This function is also called “direct address.”

In the plural, the vocative is formed just like the nominative. In the singular,

First declension – Nothing added for feminine nouns - just like the nominative singular. The exception are the infrequent masculine 1st declension nouns where a sigma is added.

2nd declension – Masculine and feminine – epsilon added. Neuter – just like the nominative.

3rd declension – Often just like the nominative, but can vary according to last letter of stem.

**Practice**

These are the nominatives from 1 John 1. See if you can identify gender and number.

**αἱ χεῖρες**

**ἡμεῖς**

**ὁ λόγος**

**ἡ ζωὴ**

**ἡ κοινωνία**

**αὐτός**

**αὕτη**

**ἡ χαρὰ**

**ἡ ἀγγελία**

**ὁ θεὸς**

**φῶς**

**σκοτία**

**τὸ αἷμα**

**πιστός**

**δίκαιος**

Now let’s look at some of these words in sentences. How are they functioning?

αἱ χεῖρες ἡμῶν ἐψηλάφησαν

ἡ ζωὴ ἐφανερώθη

ἡ κοινωνία δὲ ἡ ἡμετέρα μετὰ τοῦ πατρὸς καὶ μετὰ τοῦ υἱοῦ αὐτοῦ Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ

καὶ ταῦτα γράφομεν ἡμεῖς ἵνα ἡ χαρὰ ἡμῶν ᾖ πεπληρωμένη.

ἔστιν αὕτη ἡ ἀγγελία ἣν ἀκηκόαμεν ἀπʼ αὐτοῦ καὶ ἀναγγέλλομεν ὑμῖν

ὁ θεὸς φῶς ἐστιν καὶ σκοτία ἐν αὐτῷ οὐκ ἔστιν οὐδεμία

αὐτός ἐστιν ἐν τῷ φωτί

τὸ αἷμα Ἰησοῦ τοῦ υἱοῦ αὐτοῦ καθαρίζει ἡμᾶς ἀπὸ πάσης ἁμαρτίας

ἡ ἀλήθεια οὐκ ἔστιν ἐν ἡμῖν

πιστός ἐστιν καὶ δίκαιος

ὁ λόγος αὐτοῦ οὐκ ἔστιν ἐν ἡμῖν

**Bonus Info**

This is not information you need to know right now, but for some people it is helpful. We have seen how the Greeks contracted weak letters in different ways. Here are two of the most common ones.

When a sigma is added

To a dental – letters formed with tongue on teeth – dental disappears

To a velar – letters formed in back of the throat – double consonant takes place of velar and sigma

To a labial – letters formed with the lips – double consonant takes place of labial and sigma

To a nasal – letters formed with vibrations in nose – sigma disappears

To a liquid – letters formed with the whole mouth – sigma disappears

We see this most commonly in third declension nouns, because their stems end in consonants.

Vowels also contract when side by side. They can even contract with weak letters like sigma. Here are some of the contractions.

* Upsilon NEVER contracts.
* When an omega is added to any vowel, it contracts to omega – often with a cirucmflex – except for iota, which will be subscripted.

Omicron + alpha, eta, omega = omega

Omicron + epsilon, upsilon, omicron = omicron-upsilon

Epsilon + alpha, eta = eta

Epsilon + omicron = omicron-upsilon

Epsilon + epsilon = epsilon-iota

Alpha + alpha, epsilon, eta = alpha

Alpha + omicron = omega

Eta + alpha, epsilon, eta = eta

Eta + omicron = omega