

Grammatical Concord and the Greek Article As it Relates to Nouns

Grammatical concord (< Latin *concordia*, “of one mind”) relates to the grammatical agreement (or harmony) with respect to gender, number, and case of different parts of speech (*i.e.*, articles, adjectives) modifying nouns.

Because the article inflects to agree with the noun (or any substantive) it modifies in gender, number, and case, this necessitates that there are twenty-four forms in all; a separate form for both singular and plural for each of the four cases and for each of the three genders.

listen	Singular			Plural		
	Masculine	Feminine	Neuter	Masculine	Feminine	Neuter
Nominative	ὁ	ἡ	τό	οἱ	αἱ	τά
Genitive	τοῦ	τῆς	τοῦ	τῶν	τῶν	τῶν
Dative	τῷ	τῇ	τῷ	τοῖς	ταῖς	τοῖς
Accusative	τόν	τήν	τό	τούς	τάς	τά

As can be observed above, there are not twenty-four distinct forms of the article. Several of them are identical for different cases (τό, τά) and genders (τοῦ, τῶν, τῷ, τοῖς), bringing the unique forms to seventeen.


Study the following information carefully concerning these overlaps. Many hours of frustration will be saved by understanding this material.

1. The genitive masculine and neuter singular articles are spelled and pronounced identically (τοῦ), as well as the genitive singular case ending (-ου). The genitive masculine and neuter singular articles modify their respective genders. In these instances, it is impossible to know the noun’s gender from the inflected form of the article or the nouns’ case ending. Therefore, it is very important to learn the lexical gender of every second declension masculine and neuter noun.

Genitive masculine singular nouns with their articles	τοῦ λόγου, τοῦ ἀνθρώπου
	τοῦ ἀποστόλου, τοῦ θεοῦ, τοῦ κυρίου
Genitive neuter singular nouns with their articles	τοῦ ἔργου, τοῦ τέκνου, τοῦ δώρου
	τοῦ σαββάτου, τοῦ ἱεροῦ

Because the genitive masculine and neuter singular articles are identical, parse isolated articles to reflect both genders.

τοῦ - genitive masculine/neuter singular of ὁ, “of the”.

 The lexical form of the genitive masculine/neuter singular article is always the nominative masculine singular, ὁ.

If the article τοῦ modifies a noun, however, it must always be parsed according to the lexical gender of the noun, thus reflecting the grammatical concord (agreement) between the article and the noun it is modifying.

τοῦ λόγου - genitive masculine singular of ὁ, “of the”.

τοῦ ἔργου - genitive neuter singular of ὁ, “of the”.

The masculine and neuter singular nouns above will always maintain their lexical gender irrespective of the case ending.

λόγου - genitive masculine singular of λόγος, n-2a, “word, message, statement”.

ἔργου - genitive neuter singular of ἔργον, n-2c, “word, deed, action”

- The genitive masculine, feminine and neuter plural articles are spelled and pronounced identically (τῶν), as well as the genitive plural case ending (-ων). The genitive masculine, feminine and neuter plural articles modify their respective genders.

Genitive masculine plural nouns with their articles	τῶν λόγων, τῶν ἀνθρώπων
	τῶν ἀποστόλων, τῶν θεῶν, τῶν κυρίων
Genitive feminine plural nouns with their articles	τῶν ὁδῶν, τῶν βίβλων, τῶν διαλέκτων
Genitive neuter plural nouns with their articles	τῶν ἔργων, τῶν τέκνων, τῶν δώρων
	τῶν σαββάτων, τῶν ἱερῶν

Again, it is impossible to recognize the noun's gender from the inflected form of the article or the nouns' case ending. Therefore, it is crucial to learn the lexical gender of every second declension masculine, feminine and neuter noun.

Because the genitive masculine, feminine and neuter plural articles are identical, parse isolated articles to reflect all three genders.

τῶν - genitive masculine/feminine/neuter plural of ὁ, "of the".



The lexical form of the genitive plural article is always the nominative masculine singular, ὁ. The article does not belong to any one declension; therefore, no declension should be given for the article under any circumstances.

If the article τῶν modifies a noun, you must always parse it according to the lexical gender of the noun. Grammatical concord (agreement) between the article and the noun must be maintained.

τῶν λόγων - genitive masculine plural of ὁ, "of the".

τῶν ὁδῶν - genitive feminine plural of ὁ, "of the".

τῶν ἔργων - genitive neuter plural of ὁ, "of the".

The masculine, feminine, and neuter plural nouns above always will maintain their lexical gender irrespective of their case ending.

λόγων - genitive masculine plural of λόγος, n-2a, "word, message, statement".

ὁδῶν - genitive feminine plural of ὁδός, n-2b, "road, way, journey"

ἔργων - genitive neuter plural of ἔργον, n-2c, "work, deed, action".


3. The dative masculine and neuter singular articles are spelled and pronounced identically (τῶ), as well as the dative case ending (-ω). The dative masculine and neuter singular articles modify their respective genders.

Dative masculine singular nouns with their articles	τῶ λόγῳ, τῶ ἀνθρώπῳ
	τῶ ἀποστόλῳ, τῶ θεῶ, τῶ κυρίῳ
Dative neuter singular nouns with their articles	τῶ ἔργῳ, τῶ τέκνῳ, τῶ δώρῳ
	τῶ σαββάτῳ, τῶ ἱερῶ

Once again, it is impossible to recognize the gender of the second declension masculine and neuter nouns from the inflected form of the article. Therefore, always memorize a noun's lexical gender.

Because the dative masculine and neuter singular articles are identical, parse isolated articles to reflect both genders.

τῶ - dative masculine/neuter singular of ὁ, "to/for/by the"

	The lexical form of the dative masculine/neuter singular article is always the nominative masculine singular, ὁ. The key words, "to"/"for"/"by" may be inserted as part of its meaning. Context will dictate which one is correct.
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If the article modifies a noun, the article is parsed according to the lexical gender of the noun. Grammatical concord (agreement) between the article and the noun must be maintained.

τῶ λόγῳ - dative masculine singular of ὁ, "to/for/by the".

τῷ ἔργῳ - dative neuter singular of ὁ, "to/for/by the".

The masculine and neuter dative singular nouns above will always maintain their lexical gender irrespective of their case ending.

λόγῳ - dative masculine singular of λόγος, n-2a, “to/for/by word, message, statement”.

ἔργῳ - dative neuter singular of ἔργον, n-2c, “to/for/by work, deed, action”.

4. The dative masculine and neuter plural articles are spelled and pronounced identically (τοῖς), as well as the dative plural case (-ις).

Dative masculine plural nouns with their articles	τοῖς λόγοις, τοῖς ἀνθρώποις
	τοῖς ἀποστόλοις, τοῖς θεοῖς
Dative neuter plural nouns with their articles	τοῖς ἔργοις, τοῖς τέκνοις
	τοῖς σαββάτοις, τοῖς ἱεροῖς

Because the dative masculine and neuter singular articles are identical, parse isolated articles to reflect both genders.

τοῖς - dative masculine/neuter plural of ὁ, “to/for/by the”



The lexical form of the dative masculine/neuter plural article is always the nominative masculine singular, ὁ. The key words, “to”/“for”/“by” may be inserted as part of its meaning. Context will dictate which one is correct.

If the article τοῖς modifies a noun, however, you must always parse it according to the lexical gender of the noun. Grammatical concord (agreement) between the article and the noun is never violated.

τοῖς λόγοις - dative masculine plural of ὁ, “to/for/by the”.

τοῖς ἔργοις - dative neuter plural of ὁ, “to/for/by the”.

The masculine and neuter dative plural nouns above will always maintain their lexical gender irrespective of the case ending.

λόγοις - dative masculine plural of λόγος, n-2a, “to/for/by word, message, statement”.


ἔργοις - dative neuter plural of ἔργον, n-2c, “to/for/by work, deed, action”.

5. The neuter nominative and accusative singular articles are spelled and pronounced identically (τό).

Neuter nominative singular nouns with their articles	τὸ ἔργον, τὸ τέκνον, τὸ δῶρον
	τὸ σάββατον, τὸ ἱερόν
Neuter accusative singular nouns with their articles	τὸ ἔργον, τὸ τέκνον, τὸ δῶρον
	τὸ σάββατον, τὸ ἱερόν

Because neuter nominative and accusative singular articles are identical, parse isolated articles to reflect both cases.

τό - nominative/accusative neuter singular of ὁ, “the”

	The lexical form of nominative and accusative neuter singular articles is always the nominative masculine singular, ὁ. Only context can determine when the article should be parsed nominative or accusative singular.
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If the article modifies a noun, the article is parsed to agree with the case of the noun. Grammatical concord (agreement) between the article and the noun’s case must be maintained.

In isolated circumstances, neuter nominative and accusative singular nouns should also be parsed identically to reflect all possibilities.

ἔργον - nominative/accusative neuter singular of ἔργον, n-2c, “work, deed, action”.

δῶρον - nominative/accusative neuter singular of δῶρον, n-2c, “gift”.

6. The nominative and accusative neuter plural articles are spelled and pronounced identically (τά). The *alpha* is always pronounced long. Articles modify their respective cases.

Neuter nominative plural nouns with their articles	τὰ ἔργα, τὰ τέκνα, τὰ δῶρα
	τὰ σάββατα, τὰ ἱερά
Neuter accusative plural nouns with their articles	τὰ ἔργα, τὰ τέκνα, τὰ δῶρα
	τὰ σάββατα, τὰ ἱερά

Because neuter nominative and accusative plural articles are identical, parse isolated articles to reflect both cases.

τά - nominative/accusative neuter plural of ὁ, “the”



The lexical form of nominative and accusative neuter plural articles is always the nominative masculine singular, ὁ. Only context can dictate when the article should be parsed nominative or accusative plural.

In isolated circumstances, neuter nominative and accusative plural nouns should also be parsed identically to reflect all possibilities.

ἔργα - nominative/accusative neuter plural of ἔργον, n-2c, “work, deed, action”.

δῶρα - nominative/accusative neuter plural of δῶρον, n-2c, “gift”.

7. There are no vocative forms of the Greek article. Many times the nominative singular and plural case forms in the second declension, however, are used in direct address like the vocative. In such cases, the nominative normally has the article when functioning as a vocative, whereas the vocative never has the article.

The Parsing of the Greek Article

On the next page, the Greek article is parsed according to each of its seventeen distinctive forms. As these examples indicate, whenever a form has several possible ways to be parsed, it is important to cite these possibilities.

Article	Case	Gender	Number	Lexical Form	Definition
ὁ	nominative	masculine	singular	ὁ	the
ἡ	nominative	feminine	singular	ἡ	the
τό	nominative/accusative	neuter	singular	τό	the
τοῦ	genitive	masculine/neuter	singular	τοῦ	of the
τῆς	genitive	feminine	singular	τῆς	of the
τῷ	dative	masculine/neuter	singular	τῷ	to/for/by the
τῇ	dative	feminine	singular	τῇ	to/for/by the
τόν	accusative	masculine	singular	τόν	the
τήν	accusative	feminine	singular	τήν	the
οἱ	nominative	masculine	plural	οἱ	the
αἱ	nominative	feminine	plural	αἱ	the
τά	nominative/accusative	neuter	plural	τά	the
τῶν	genitive	masculine/feminine/neuter	plural	τῶν	of the
τοῖς	dative	masculine/neuter	plural	τοῖς	to/for/by the
ταῖς	dative	feminine	plural	ταῖς	to/for/by the
τούς	accusative	masculine	plural	τούς	the
τάς	accusative	feminine	plural	τάς	the