

6. The article / Το άρθρο

The Greek article is a little declinable word which has three genders: masculine, feminine and neuter. There is a definite and an indefinite article which both agree in gender, number and case with the noun they refer to. The accusative singular masculine and feminine of the definite article and the accusative masculine of the indefinite article are used with the letter (v) when the following word starts with a vowel or the (combination) consonants κ, π, τ, ξ, ψ, γκ, μπ, ντ .

6.1 The definite article / Οριστικό άρθρο

Singular			
Case	Masculine	Feminine	Neuter
nom	ο	η	το
gen	του	της	του
acc	το (v)	τη (v)	το
voc	-	-	-

Plural			
Case	Masculine	Feminine	Neuter
nom	οι	οι	τα
gen	των	των	των
acc	τους	τις	τα
voc	-	-	-

The definite article is used:

- when the speaker refers to a person, animal or object which is known or has been previously introduced, for example:
Διαβάζω **το** βιβλίο που μου έδωσες. – I am reading the book you gave me.
- when the speaker speaks generally and refers to a group of similar things or a whole species, for example:
Το λιοντάρι είναι ο βασιλιάς των ζώων. – The lion is the king of the animals.

Notice that proper nouns in Greek are always preceded by a definite article.

6.2 The indefinite article / Αόριστο άρθρο

Singular			
Case	Masculine	Feminine	Neuter
nom	ένας	μια	ένα
gen	ενός	μιας	ενός
acc	ένα (v)	μια	ένα
voc	-	-	-

The indefinite article is used when the speaker refers to a person, animal or object which is indefinite and unknown or is introduced for the first time, for example: Είδα **μια** αρκούδα στο βουνό. – I saw a bear on the mountain.

Notice that the indefinite article has no plural form, indefinite pronouns can be used instead.