

Well, it looks like we crowded that last page...but I wanted to get it on one page where you could see it together. C'est le guerre! Or something like that. (I can never remember genders in language...what a mess I made of Greek in my day!)

3. Classifications of Nouns

I hope you will see why I brought in the article at this point.

Greek nouns are classified by declensions, as I have noted, and they are arranged this way for inflectional purposes. The declension has only to do with the form of the word, not the meaning. There are three major declensions in Koine Greek as we work with it:

The FIRST DECLENSION is essentially that of the feminine article on page 39.

The SECOND DECLENSION is essentially that of the masculine article on page 39.

The THIRD DECLENSION is a law to itself and has many accumulated forms. But the articles that modify it are those given on page 39. They are the constants in a sea of flux.

And within these defined declension there are some irregularities but the article will remain the same.

And please note that while I do not require you to turn in the exercises such as that on the previous page...you are to do them and we will harrass one another in class concerning their content.

4. MEETING SOME GREEK TOOLS: The Lexicon

Lexicon is the scholarly word for "dictionary". It is a text of suggested definitions for words. The Lexicon is not infallible but don't argue with it until you have completed at least this course. Remember that English is in constant change and that is why we need the fuller understanding of words from other days... newer renderings of them for our time.

All lexicons are alphabetically arranged and that is why you must know the alphabet well...among other reasons. And all have a prefatory section in which the abbreviations, etc., used in them are explained. It is a serious error not to read the prefatory sections.

For our level of work there are two major types of lexicons: the analytical lexicon and the standard lexicon.

The ANALYTICAL GREEK LEXICON will parse and analyze any form in the New Testament and give you the root. Whatever the form is in the text, you look that form up (following proper alphabetic sequence) and this work will identify it. It does not do much in etymology or linguistics but is a helpful tool. It is a bit of a crutch but makes walking a lot easier in a land full of ruts.