THE HANDY GUIDE TO
NEW TESTAMENT GREEK
Grammar, Syntax, and Diagramming

DOUGLAS S. HUFFMAN
Contents

Introduction ................................................................. 5

Part 1 + Greek Grammar Reminder / 7

Greek Alphabet ......................................................... 7
Breathing Marks ....................................................... 8
Accents ................................................................. 8
Nouns ......................................................................... 9
  Introduction / 9
  First Declension / 10
  Second Declension / 12
  Third Declension / 13
    General Contraction Rules / 13
    Vowel Combination / 13
Adjectives ............................................................... 15
Adverbs ................................................................. 18
The Article ............................................................ 19
Pronouns ............................................................... 19
Prepositions ........................................................... 22
Verbs .................................................................... 23
  Introduction / 23
  ω Conjugation / 26
  μι Conjugation / 35
  Contract Verbs / 43
  Liquid Verbs / 48
  Mute Ending Verbs / 48
  Deponent Verbs / 49
  εἰμί Conjugation / 49
  Irregular Verbs / 51
Part 2 • Greek Syntax Summaries / 53

Case Usage Guide .................................................. 53
  Introduction / 53
  Vocative / 53
  Nominative / 53
  Genitive / 54
  Dative / 56
  Accusative / 57
    Case and Time / 58
    Case and Agency / 59
Article Usage Guide ............................................... 59
  Classic Article Rules / 61
Verb Usage Guide .................................................... 61
  Tense-Form / 61
  Voice / 67
  Mood / 68
    “Ὅτι” Clauses in the Indicative Mood / 69
    “Ἅνα” Clauses in the Subjunctive Mood / 71
    Greek Commands Can Be Depicted By / 73
  Infinitives / 73
  Participles / 75
    Participle Usage Identification Guide / 80
Conditional Sentences .............................................. 81

Part 3 • Phrase Diagramming / 83

Diagramming: A Brief Introduction ......................... 83
The Basics of Phrase Diagramming ......................... 84
Step-by-Step Phrase Diagramming ......................... 87
Special & Problem Issues ................................. 99

A Select Bibliography / 107
In a book like this one, the answers to a few basic questions are important: for whom the book was written, what the book is (and is not), why the book was written, where it fits into the larger study of its discipline, how it might best be used, and when the reader would find it useful.

Who: This volume is intended for second-year Greek students (and beyond), pastors, teachers, and preachers. Constant NT Greek users (addicts!) might not need it, but would-be experts should find it useful.

What: When it comes to the study of NT Greek, this book is more of a collection of helpful tools than explanatory tales. It will not replace grammar and syntax textbooks, but it will supplement them nicely. In addition to reviewing grammar and syntax, this volume teaches phrase diagramming as a tool to discover sermon and lesson outlines quickly in the Greek text.

Why: This volume has been created because one year of Greek is dangerous; the language needs review and further study to become truly usable in the study of the Greek NT. The book is designed to be less cumbersome and more readily accessible than carrying around larger grammar and syntax textbooks.

Where: Since it presumes some of the basics of NT Greek, this book fits into the Greek learning sequence after a full year of elementary Greek has been mastered and then during and beyond the second year of NT Greek studies.

How: Intended as a useful tool and ready reference for the continued study of the Greek NT, even the physical dimensions of this volume are set at handbook size so as to fit with the Greek NT—either the United Bible Societies’ 4th edition (the burgundy UBS⁴) or the Nestle-Aland 28th edition (the blue NA²⁸).

When: If kept on hand with the Greek NT, this volume could be in constant use, assisting in the preparation of NT lessons and sermons.

I would like to acknowledge here the many helpful resources that have been mine over the years of my study of New Testament Greek. These have included my Greek professors, my former colleagues at Northwestern College, particularly the ancient and classical languages professors who have offered helpful input, and my several generations of Greek students (both at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School and at
Northwestern College) who have endured my practicing on them over the years. I owe a special debt of thanks to my first group of NT Greek students at Biola University, especially those who helped proofread this little volume, and to my friend Jay E. Smith (professor of New Testament Studies at Dallas Theological Seminary) who did the same. With large gratitude, I dedicate this small volume to my Greek instructors (in the order of my taking their Greek courses): Professors Wayne Benedict (Elementary Greek), Walter Dunnett (Intermediate Greek), Walter Elwell (Greek Exegesis), and D. A. Carson (Advanced Greek Grammar). Soli Deo gloria.
**Third Declension: Consonant Declension**

1. This declension has more quirks than the other two combined.

2. The final letter in the noun stem (usually a consonant) is the basis for distinguishing the declension’s various types.

3. Some consonants fall into particular groups. Liquid consonants include λ, μ, ν, and ρ. Mute consonants include π, β, φ (labials), τ, δ, θ (dentals), and κ, γ, χ (palatals /velars).

4. The noun stem is typically visible in the genitive singular form but not the nominative singular (i.e., lexical) form.

5. Forming the case endings of third declension nouns often appeals to the rules for contraction (see chart below).

6. Accents are consistent and follow the lexical form unless the stem is monosyllabic, in which case all the genitive and dative case forms will be accented on the ultima.

### General Contraction Rules

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Consonantal “Square of Stops”</th>
<th>+ σ</th>
<th>+ κ</th>
<th>+ θ</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Labials: π, β, φ</td>
<td>ψ</td>
<td>φ</td>
<td>φθ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palatals (a.k.a. Velars): κ, γ, χ</td>
<td>ζχ</td>
<td>ζχ</td>
<td>ζχθ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dentals: τ, δ, θ*</td>
<td>σκ</td>
<td>κσθ</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*ν tends to contract like a dental and simply drop out, particularly when with τ:

- αντ + σι = ασι / εντ + σι = εισι / οντ + σι = ουσι

### Vowel Combinations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>+</th>
<th>α</th>
<th>ε</th>
<th>η</th>
<th>ι</th>
<th>ο</th>
<th>υ</th>
<th>ω</th>
<th>αι</th>
<th>ει</th>
<th>ηι</th>
<th>οι</th>
<th>ου</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>α</td>
<td>α</td>
<td>α</td>
<td>α</td>
<td>αι</td>
<td>ω</td>
<td>αυ</td>
<td>ω</td>
<td>αι</td>
<td>ει</td>
<td>ηι</td>
<td>οι</td>
<td>ου</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ε</td>
<td>η</td>
<td>ει</td>
<td>ηι</td>
<td>ει</td>
<td>ου</td>
<td>ευ</td>
<td>ω</td>
<td>η</td>
<td>ηι</td>
<td>οι</td>
<td>ου</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ο</td>
<td>ω</td>
<td>ου</td>
<td>ω*</td>
<td>οι</td>
<td>ου</td>
<td>ου</td>
<td>ω</td>
<td>ω</td>
<td>ου</td>
<td>ου</td>
<td>ου</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*α and ω in some words with -ειν infinitives; ω* in subjunctive of μι verbs.
# THIRD DECLENSION: Consonant Declension Nouns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Mute Type</th>
<th>Liquid Type</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Regular</td>
<td>Regular</td>
<td>Syncopated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masc.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fem.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neu.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M./F.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M./F.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Stem**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>ἄρχοντ–</th>
<th>σαρκ–</th>
<th>ὄνομα</th>
<th>χείρ–</th>
<th>πατερ–</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nom.</td>
<td>ἄρχων</td>
<td>σάρξ</td>
<td>ὄνομα</td>
<td>χείρ</td>
<td>πατήρ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gen.</td>
<td>ἄρχοντος</td>
<td>σαρκός</td>
<td>ὄνοματος</td>
<td>χειρός</td>
<td>πατρός</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dat.</td>
<td>ἄρχοντι</td>
<td>σαρκί</td>
<td>ὄνοματι</td>
<td>χειρί</td>
<td>πατρί</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acc.</td>
<td>ἄρχοντα</td>
<td>σάρκα</td>
<td>ὄνομα</td>
<td>χείρα</td>
<td>πατέρα</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Regular Types**

- **Stem**
  - Masc.: κρεα·ς, γενε·ς, πολι–, ἰχθυ–, βασιλευ–
  - Fem.: κρέας, γένος, πόλις, ἰχθύς, βασιλέως

- **Nom.**
  - κρέας
  - γένος
  - πόλις
  - ἰχθύς
  - βασιλέως

- **Gen.**
  - κρέως
  - γένους
  - πόλεως
  - ἰχθύος
  - βασιλέως

- **Dat.**
  - κρέαι
  - γένει
  - πόλει
  - ἰχθύε
  - βασιλεῖ

- **Acc.**
  - κρέας
  - γένος
  - πόλιν
  - ἰχθύν
  - βασιλέα

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Vowel Types</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-α·ς</td>
<td>-ε·ς</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes:** Words can’t end in τ so it drops off in sg. nom./acc. of neu. –ως nouns and from the end of –ντ nouns in sg. nom. Liquid types have lengthened stem vowel in sg. nom., and a short stem vowel drops out in dats. and sg. gen.

- **-ς Types**
  - κρεας: γενες: πολι: ἰχθυ: βασιλευ:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>Masc.</th>
<th>Masc.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nom.</td>
<td>κρέας</td>
<td>γένης</td>
<td>πόλεις</td>
<td>ἰχθύες</td>
<td>βασιλείς</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gen.</td>
<td>κρέων</td>
<td>γενών</td>
<td>πόλεων</td>
<td>ἰχθύων</td>
<td>βασιλέων</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dat.</td>
<td>κρέασι(ν)</td>
<td>γένεσι(ν)</td>
<td>πόλεσι(ν)</td>
<td>ἰχθύσι(ν)</td>
<td>βασιλεῦσι(ν)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acc.</td>
<td>κρέας</td>
<td>γένης</td>
<td>πόλεις</td>
<td>ἰχθύας</td>
<td>βασιλεῖς</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes:** ς stays in sg. nom./acc., but –ες nouns have –ς in sg. nom./acc. τ stays only in sg. nom./acc. and is ε elsewhere in -ι nouns. ι remains for –νι nouns, but in -ευ nouns drops before endings with initial vowels. No contracting in gen.; ως in sg. gen. for -ι and -ευ nouns. The usual α is not in acc. for -ι and –ν nouns.
ADJECTIVES: Spelled Like the Nouns They Describe

An adjective matches the noun it describes in gender, number, and case (a.k.a. G-N-C agreement). An adjective can be in written in several different positions relative to the noun it describes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Structure*</th>
<th>Translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ATTRIBUTIVE</td>
<td>1. ὁ ἀγαθὸς ἄνθρωπος</td>
<td>TAN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. ὁ ἄνθρωπος ὁ ἀγαθὸς</td>
<td>TNTA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. ἄνθρωπος ὁ ἀγαθὸς</td>
<td>NTA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4. ἄνθρωπος ἀγαθὸς</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PREDICATE</td>
<td>1. ἀγαθὸς [ἐστίν] ὁ ἄνθρωπος</td>
<td>ATN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. ὁ ἄνθρωπος [ἐστίν] ἀγαθὸς</td>
<td>TNA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Key: T = article, A = adjective, N = noun

AAA Rule = Adjective preceded by an Article is Attributive.

An adjective can be used alone (or with its own article) as a noun (a.k.a. substantival use); e.g., τὰ ἀγαθά (“the good things”).

Declension of Normal Vowel (2-1-2) Adjectives
(like Second Decl. in masc. and neu., First Decl. in fem.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ἀγαθός = “good”</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Masculine</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nom.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gen.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dat.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Plural</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nom.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gen.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dat.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acc.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Declension of “Old MacDonald” Adjectives

(2-1-2 adjectives with stems ending in ε, ι, or ρ “with α” in fem.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Masculine</th>
<th>Feminine</th>
<th>Neuter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SINGULAR</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nom.</td>
<td>μικρός</td>
<td>μικρά</td>
<td>μικρόν</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gen.</td>
<td>μικροῦ</td>
<td>μικρᾶς</td>
<td>μικροῦ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dat.</td>
<td>μικρῷ</td>
<td>μικρᾶ</td>
<td>μικρῷ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acc.</td>
<td>μικρόν</td>
<td>μικρᾶν</td>
<td>μικρόν</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLURAL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nom.</td>
<td>μικροὶ</td>
<td>μικραί</td>
<td>μικρά</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gen.</td>
<td>μικρῶν</td>
<td>μικρῶν</td>
<td>μικρῶν</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dat.</td>
<td>μικροῖς</td>
<td>μικραῖς</td>
<td>μικροῖς</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acc.</td>
<td>μικροὺς</td>
<td>μικρᾶς</td>
<td>μικρά</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Declension of Consonant Ending (3-3) Adjectives

(like Third Decl. in masc./fem. and Third Decl. in neu.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Liquid Type</th>
<th>-ς Types</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Masc./Fem.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nom.</td>
<td>πλείων</td>
<td>ἀληθῆς</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gen.</td>
<td>πλείονος</td>
<td>ἀληθοῦς</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dat.</td>
<td>πλείονι</td>
<td>ἀληθεῖ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acc.</td>
<td>πλείονα</td>
<td>ἀληθῆ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLURAL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nom.</td>
<td>πλείονες</td>
<td>ἀληθεῖς</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gen.</td>
<td>πλείονον</td>
<td>ἀληθῶν</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dat.</td>
<td>πλείοσι(ν)</td>
<td>ἀληθέσι(ν)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acc.</td>
<td>πλείονας</td>
<td>ἀληθεῖς</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Declension of -ντ Stem (3-1-3) Adjectives
(like Third Decl. in masc. and neu., First Decl. in fem.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Masculine</th>
<th>Feminine</th>
<th>Neuter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SINGULAR</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nom.</td>
<td>πᾶς</td>
<td>πᾶσα</td>
<td>πᾶν</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gen.</td>
<td>παντός</td>
<td>πάσης</td>
<td>παντός</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dat.</td>
<td>παντί</td>
<td>πάση</td>
<td>παντί</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acc.</td>
<td>πάντα</td>
<td>πᾶσαν</td>
<td>πᾶν</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PLURAL</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nom.</td>
<td>πάντες</td>
<td>πάσαι</td>
<td>πάντα</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gen.</td>
<td>πάντων</td>
<td>πασῶν</td>
<td>πάντων</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dat.</td>
<td>πᾶσι</td>
<td>πάσας</td>
<td>πᾶσι</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acc.</td>
<td>πάντας</td>
<td>πάσας</td>
<td>πάντα</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: πᾶς (“all, every”) and ὅλος (“whole”) are the two adjectives that are always in predicate position but translated as if in attributive position.*

### Adjectival Comparisons *

**Example One**
- **Positive (declined as above)**: σοφός (wise)
- **Comparative** (-τερος, -τερα, -τερον): σοφώτερος (wiser)
- **Superlative** (-τατος, -τατη, -τατον): σοφώτατος (most wise)

**Example Two**
- **Positive (declined as above)**: κακός (evil, wicked)
- **Comparative** (-ιων): κακίων (more evil)
- **Superlative** (-ιστος): κάκιστος (most evil)

### Other Irregularities

<p>| | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ἀγαθός</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>κρείσσων</td>
<td>better</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>κακός</td>
<td>evil, wicked</td>
<td>χείρων</td>
<td>worse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>μέγας</td>
<td>great</td>
<td>μείζων</td>
<td>greater</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>πολύς</td>
<td>much, many</td>
<td>πλείων</td>
<td>more</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The comparative and superlative forms are declined like the positive form of the adjective following the appropriate 2-1-2, 3-3, or 3-1-3 declension. Sometimes comparative and superlative forms are used with elative meaning (e.g., "very small").
Step 6 (Semantic Labels) for 1 Peter 1:3-9

* EXCLAMATION

94  Εὐλογητὸς ὁ θεὸς καὶ πατὴρ τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν ᾿Ιησοῦ Χριστοῦ,

[why—explanation]  ὁ ... ἀναγεννήσας ἡμᾶς

[how—measure]  κατὰ τὸ πολὺ αὐτοῦ ἔλεος

[what—result]  εἰς ἐλπίδα ζῶσαν

[how—means]  δι’ ἀναστάσεως ᾿Ιησοῦ Χριστοῦ

4  τοὺς ἀφθαρτον

[what—result]  εἰς κληρονομίαν

[what kind—description]  καὶ ἀμίαντον, καὶ ἀμάραντον,

[where—place]  ἐν οὐρανοῖς

[for whom—advantage]  εἰς ὑμᾶς

5  ἐν δυνάμει θεοῦ

[how—means]  διὰ πίστεως εἰς σωτηρίαν

[what—result]  ἐν δυνάμει θεοῦ

[how—means]  διὰ πίστεως εἰς σωτηρίαν

[what—result]  ἐν δυνάμει θεοῦ

[how—means]  διὰ πίστεως εἰς σωτηρίαν

6  ἐν ᾧ ἀγαλλιᾶσθε,

[why—cause]  ὁ ... ἀγαπᾶτε,

[concession]  οὐκ ἰδόντες

[what—restatement]  δὲ ἀγαλλιᾶσθε χαρᾷ ἀνεκλαλήτῳ καὶ δεδοξασμένῃ,


[what—apposition]  [why—cause]  ὃν ... ἀγαπᾶτε,

[concession]  οὐκ ἰδόντες

[what—restatement]  δὲ ἀγαλλιᾶσθε χαρᾷ ἀνεκλαλήτῳ καὶ δεδοξασμένῃ,
Step 7 (English Diagram) for 1 Peter 1:3–9

*3  Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!  
[why—explanation]  
[how—measure]  
^ In his great mercy  
[what—result]  
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ  
[why—cause]  
[what—result]  
and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil, or fade—  
[what kind—description]  
kept  
[where—place]  
in heaven  
[for whom—advantage]  
for you

4  ... he has given us new birth  
[how—measure]  
^ In his great mercy  
[what—result]  
into a living hope  
[separation]  
from the dead  
[what—result]  
and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil, or fade—  
[what kind—description]  
kept  
[where—place]  
in heaven  
[for whom—advantage]  
for you

5  who … are shielded  
[for whom—identification]  
[how—means]  
^ by God’s power  
[how—means]  
through faith  
[what—result]  
until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed  
[what kind—description]  
in the last time.

6  In this  
[why—cause]  
*  
you greatly rejoice  
[assertion]  
[when—time]  
^ now for a little while  
[concession]  
though … you may have had to suffer grief  
[in what—circumstances]  
in all kinds of trials. These have come  
[for what purpose]  
so that your faith … may be proved genuine  
^1  of greater worth than gold  
[comparison]  
^2  which perishes though refined by fire,  
[description]  
and may result in praise, glory, and honor  
[what—result]  
when Jesus Christ is revealed  
[when—time]  
Though you have not seen him  
[concession]  
and even though you do not see him now  
[how—means]  
you believe in him  
[who—identification]  
you love him;  
[concession]  
and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy,  
[why—cause]  
for you are receiving the goal of your faith  
the salvation of your souls.  
[what—apposition]