

Chapter Two

Plural Nouns

Congratulations on developing a fifty-four-phrase vocabulary so quickly. Excellent progress! ... But enough celebrating. It's time to return to the march.

Concepts

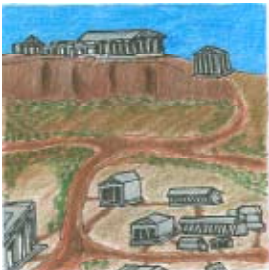
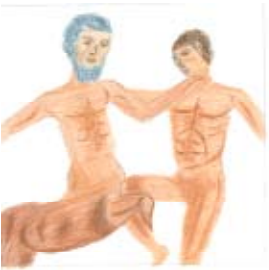
There are no new concepts to learn in this chapter—just more drill and memorization that will provide you the requisite data for observing some fundamental concepts of Greek morphology. In this chapter you will learn the plural equivalents of each of the singular noun phrases you learned in *Chapter One*. There you learned, for example, the phrase for “this the table.” Here you will learn “these the tables.”

Plural Practice Phrases

By the end of this chapter we will assume (a) that you can both read aloud and write all fifty-four singular and plural phrases; and (b) that you will have memorized all fifty-four Greek pattern nouns, their meanings, and their genders.

Remember, this is a forced march. *Chapter Three* will be rough going for some of you even if you are up to speed when you begin it. The difficulty will be much greater for you if you're still struggling with the things you should have drilled into your memory in the first two chapters. Mastering *Chapter Two* will make *Chapter Three* much easier.

Chapter 2. Plural Nouns

English Plural	the Athens	those the heads	these the battles
Row 1			
Singular	ἡ Ἀθήνη	ἐκείνη ἡ κεφαλή	αὕτη ἡ μάχη
Plural	αἱ Ἀθῆναι	ἐκεῖναι αἱ κεφαλαί	αὗται αἱ μάχαι
English Plural	those the citharas	doors	these the injustices
Row 2			
Singular	ἐκείνη ἡ κιθάρη	θύρη	αὕτη ἡ ἀδικίη
Plural	ἐκεῖναι αἱ κιθάραι	θύραι	αὗται αἱ ἀδικίαι
English Plural	wagons	the tables	these the Muses
Row 3			
Singular	ἄμαξα	ἡ τράπεζα	αὕτη ἡ Μοῦσα
Plural	ἄμαξαι	αἱ τράπεζαι	αὗται αἱ Μοῦσαι

Greek Before Christmas

English Plural	those the sailors	the soldiers	these the young men
Row 4			
Singular	ἐκεῖνος ὁ ναύτης	ὁ στρατιώτης	οὗτος ὁ νεανίης
Plural	ἐκεῖνοι οἱ ναῦται	οἱ στρατιῶται	οὗτοι οἱ νεανῖαι
English Plural	these the gods	the men	slaves
Row 5			
Singular	οὗτος ὁ θεός	ὁ ἄνθρωπος	δοῦλος
Plural	οὗτοι οἱ θεοί	οἱ ἄνθρωποι	δοῦλοι
English Plural	the goddesses	those the roads	these the entrances
Row 6			
Singular	ἡ θεός	ἐκείνη ἡ ὁδός	αὕτη ἡ ἔσοδος
Plural	αἱ θεοί	ἐκεῖναι αἱ ὁδοί	αὗται αἱ ἔσοδοι

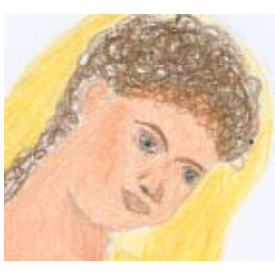
Chapter 2. Plural Nouns

English Plural	gifts	those the stadiums	the faces
Row 7			
Singular	δῶρον	ἐκεῖνο τὸ στάδιον	τὸ πρόσωπον
Plural	δῶρα	ἐκεῖνα τὰ στάδια	τὰ πρόσωπα
English Plural	these the loves	those the boys	these the birds
Row 8			
Singular	οὗτος ὁ ἔρως	ἐκεῖνος ὁ παῖς	αὕτη ἡ ὄρνις
Plural	οὗτοι οἱ ἔρωτες	ἐκεῖνοι οἱ παῖδες	αὗται αἱ ὄρνιθες
English Plural	those the bodies	the letters	the statues
Row 9			
Singular	ἐκεῖνο τὸ σῶμα	τὸ γράμμα	τὸ ἄγαλμα
Plural	ἐκεῖνα τὰ σώματα	τὰ γράμματα	τὰ ἀγάλματα

Greek Before Christmas

English Plural	these the cups	those the sphinxes	these the hairs
Row 10			
Singular	αὕτη ἡ κύλιξ	ἐκείνη ἡ σφίγξ	αὕτη ἡ θρίξ
Plural	αὗται αἱ κύλικες	ἐκεῖναι αἱ σφίγγες	αὗται αἱ τρίχες
English Plural	these the Cyclopes	those the vultures	these the handwashes
Row 11			
Singular	οὗτος ὁ κύκλωψ	ἐκεῖνος ὁ γύψ	αὕτη ἡ χέρνιψ
Plural	οὗτοι οἱ κύκλωπες	ἐκεῖνοι οἱ γύπες	αὗται αἱ χέρνιβες
English Plural	these the orators	those the mothers	these the fires
Row 12			
Singular	οὗτος ὁ ῥήτωρ	ἐκείνη ἡ μήτηρ	τοῦτο τὸ πῦρ
Plural	οὗτοι οἱ ῥήτορες	ἐκεῖναι αἱ μήτερες	ταῦτα τὰ πῦρα

Chapter 2. Plural Nouns

English Plural	these the Amazons	those the harbors	these the noses
Row 13			
Singular	αὕτη ἡ Ἀμαζών	ἐκεῖνος ὁ λιμὴν	αὕτη ἡ ῥίς
Plural	αὗται αἱ Ἀμαζόνες	ἐκεῖνοι οἱ λιμένες	αὗται αἱ ῥῖνες
English Plural	these the old men	the elephants	those the fitting things
Row 14			
Singular	οὗτος ὁ γέρων	ὁ ἐλέφας	ἐκεῖνο τὸ πρέπον
Plural	οὗτοι οἱ γέροντες	οἱ ἐλέφαντες	ἐκεῖνα τὰ πρέποντα
English Plural	the acropolises	those the bases	these the looks
Row 15			
Singular	ἡ ἀκρόπολις	ἐκείνη ἡ βάση	αὕτη ἡ ὄψις
Plural	αἱ ἀκροπόλεις	ἐκεναι αἱ βάσεις	αὗται αἱ ὄψεις

Greek Before Christmas

English Plural	these the corpses	the axes	these the towns
Row 16			
Singular	οὗτος ὁ νέκυς	ὁ πέλεκυς	τοῦτο τὸ ἄστυ
Plural	οὗτοι οἱ νέκυες	οἱ πελέκεες	ταῦτα τὰ ἄστεα
English Plural	these the kings	those the ships	these the cows
Row 17			
Singular	οὗτος ὁ βασιλεὺς	ἐκεῖνη ἡ νηὺς	ἐκεῖνη ἡ βοῦς
Plural	οὗτοι οἱ βασιλεῖς	ἐκεῖναι αἱ νῆες	ἐκεῖναι αἱ βόες
English Plural	these the Socrates-es	those the warships	these the swords
Row 18			
Singular	οὗτος ὁ Σωκράτης	ἐκεῖνη ἡ τριήρης	τοῦτο τὸ ξίφος
Plural	οὗτοι οἱ Σωκράτεις	ἐκεῖναι αἱ τριήρεις	ταῦτα τὰ ξίφη

Questions concerning the plural pattern phrases

1. Why are the Greek words for “this the” in the plural phrases different from those in the singular phrases?

Greek adjectives (including “this” and “the”) have plural as well as singular forms. This should not surprise you if you think back to Spanish (or any other foreign language you are likely to have studied): *el hombre gordo* (*the fat man*), but *los hombres gordos* (*the fat men*).

2. Why are there plural forms of gods’ and people’s names?

There are few occasions for pluralizing names (in either Greek or English). One can speak of the various Athena-s represented in local cults or tell how many Socrates-es lived in Athens in the fifth century, but such usages are rare. I have included these plural forms because I think they will help you form a more complete and regular sense of Greek morphology.

3. Why does the plural of “Athena” mean “Athens”?

The names of Greek cities are often plural. I doubt that anyone knows for sure just why that is, but classicists generally assume that the people who gave the city its name viewed it as a place distinguished by many sites sacred to or overseen by Athena.

4. Why do the shapes of some accents change in the plural?

The accent does not move from one syllable to another in forming these plurals, but in a few words the *kind* of accent changes: Ἀθήνη, Ἀθῆναι, σῶμα, σώματα. Here are two principles that affect accents.

a) The accent always occurs on one of the final 3 syllables of a word.

The *final syllable* of word is called the **ultima** (which is Latin for “final.”). It can be accented with an **acute** (´), a **grave** (`), or a **circumflex** (˘).

The *next-to-the last syllable* is called the **penult** or **penultima** (which is Latin for “next-to-final.”) It can be accented with either an acute or a **circumflex**, but never a grave.

The *syllable before the penultima* is called the **antepenult** or **antepenultima** (which is Latin for “prior to the next-to-final.”). When it is accented, the accent must be an acute.

So, the circumflex on σῶμα changes to an acute on σώματα because the plural marker adds an additional syllable to the word, pushing the accented syllable (σω) back from the penultimate to the antepenultimate *position*. The kind of accent changes from circumflex to acute because the only accent that the antepenultima can take is the acute.

b. The kind of accent on the penultima depends on the length of the vowels in the ultima and the penultima.

If the accented penultima is long either because its vowel is long (generally η, ω, or ου) or because its short vowel is followed by two consonants, *and* the ultima contains a short vowel sound (generally anything except η, ω, or ου), the accent on the penultima is a circumflex. Otherwise, it is an acute.

So, the long penultima (η) is accented with an *acute* in the singular Ἀθήνη because the ultima is long. The long penultima is accented with a *circumflex* in the plural Ἀθῆναι because the ultima (αι) is short.

You can find more detailed information about accents in *Appendix 5*.

What now?

Do the same thing with the plurals that you did with the singulars. Use all the resources available to you (electronic exercises, flash cards, friends, study groups) to develop the following skills.

- Sharpen your familiarity with the Greek alphabet and pronunciation by reading all the phrases aloud until you are very comfortable with the process of reading aloud.
- Make sure you have memorized both the singular and plural forms of all the nouns, along with the appropriate singular and plural forms of the words for *this*, *that*, and *the*.
- Make sure you can *write* all the noun phrases (both singular and plural).
- Make a list of questions to ask in class or to answer in your study group.