

Mastering NT Greek

2. Accents, Syllables, and English Grammar

By Ted Hildebrandt © 2003

Baker Academic

Syllable Slicing -- 4 Rules

- **1. Consonants goes with the vowel that follows it (unless in a pronounceable consonant cluster, i.e. a consonant cluster which can begin a word: e.g. st, ch,...).**
- **2. Split two consonants if they are the same letter or if they create an unpronounceable combination (i.e., any consonant combination that cannot begin/end a Greek word).**

Syllable Slicing -- 4 Rules

- **3. Split two vowels (except for diphthongs), allowing only one vowel or diphthong per syllable.**
- **4. Split compound words into their original parts before applying the rules of syllable division.**

Rules 1: Consonant goes with what follows

- ἐγώ
 - ἐ / γώ
- λέγω
 - λέ / γω
- προφήτης
 - προ / φή / τής

Rule 2. Split consonants but keep consonant clusters together

- καρδία
 - καρ / δί / α
- Χριστός
 - Χρι / στός

Rule 3. Split vowels but keep diphthongs together

- θεός
 - θε / ός
- φαρισαίος
 - φα / ρι / σαί / ος
- Why not καί

4. Split between words

- συνάγω
 - συν + άγω (2 words)
 - συν ά γω
- άπέρχομαι
 - άπ / έρ / χο / μαι

3 Syllable Names

- ἄνθρωπος -- ἄν / θρω / πος (3 syllables)

- Antepenult Penult Ultima

- ἄν θρω πος

- [Penult = almost last in Latin]

- [Ante-Penult = before the almost last]

3 Accents

- Acute (´) λέγω I say
- Grave (`) ἀδελφὸς brother
- Circumflex (ˆ) αὐτοῦ his

Potential Accent Placement

- Acute— can be placed on any of the last three syllables
- ἄνθρωπος (ἄνθρωπος) - antepenult
- λέγω (λέγω) - penult
- θεός (θεός) - ultima

Potential Accent Placement

- **Circumflex** – can be placed only on last 2 syllables
- φαρισαῖος (φα ρι σαῖ ος) - penult
- αὐτοῦ (αὐ τοῦ) - ultima

Grave only last syllable

- Χριστὸς (Χρι στὸς) - ultima

6 Accent Rules

- 1. Nouns are retentive.
 - ἄγγελος, ἀγγέλω, ἄγγελον
- 2. Verbs are recessive.
 - λέγω (penult), λύομεν (antepenult)
- 3. If the ultima is long, then antepenult cannot be accented.
 - ἄγγελος, ἀγγέλω

6 Accent Rules (cont.)

- 4. If the ultima is long and the penult is accented, then that accent must be an acute.

- ἄγγελος, ἀγγέλω

- 5. If the ultima is short and the penult long and accented, that accent must be a circumflex.

- ἐκεῖνος

6 Accent Rules (cont.)

- 6. If an acute is on the ultima, it becomes a grave when followed by another word without intervening punctuation.
- καὶ θεὸς ἦν

Possible Accent Placement Chart



´

´

´

Acute



ˆ

ˆ

Circumflex



`

Grave

Words with No Accents

- Clitics are words that "lean on" the words preceding or following.
- Proclitic: comes before the word that carries the accent
 - ὁ Χριστός
 - Ἐν ἀρχῇ
 - οὐ κατέλαβεν

Words with no accents

- **Enclitic:** comes after the word that carries the accent
- Ἔγω εἶμι

Breathing Marks

- **Smooth Breathing:** (´)

- ἀδελφός ἐγώ

- **Rough Breathing:** (͵)

- υἱός ῥήμα

- ἑξαγωνον –hexagon

- **Initial υ and ρ always take a rough breathing although it is not pronounced on a ρ**

Punctuation Marks

- **Period** (.) λόγος.
- **Comma** (,) λόγος,
- **Colon** (:) λόγος:
- **Question Mark** (;) λόγος;

Apostrophe

● διά + αὐτοῦ == δι' αὐτοῦ

Coronis contraction

- και + ἐγώ == κἀγώ
- ἀλλά + ἵνα == ἀλλ' ἵνα

Diaeresis (¨)

--the diphthong buster

- Placed over second of two vowels in a row to keep the sounds separate -- not letting them become a diphthong.
- Ἡσαΐας Ἡ σα ῖ ας
- Μωϋσῆς Μω ῦ σῆς

English Grammar Review: parts of speech

- **Noun:** person, place or thing: book
- **Adjective:** noun modifier -- big red book
- **Definite Article:** the (indefinite=a)
- **Pronoun:** I, we, you, he, she, it, they
- **Preposition:** in, by, because, out
- **Verb:** swam, ran, studied
- **Adverb:** modifies verb – quickly, swiftly

Sentence Parts (syntax)

- 1) **Subject:** about which something is said
● Terry went to the store.
- 2) **Predicate:** that which is said about the subject: He drove the car.
- **Predicate Nominative:** It is I.
- **Phrases:** group of words with no verb but used as a single part of speech:
● The book on the table is mine.

Sentence Parts (syntax)

- **Clauses:** group of words that has a verb
- The student who studied Greek by the ocean is relaxed.
- **SVOM -- Subject, Verb, Object, Modifier**
- The girl climbed the tree in the yard.
S V O M

Vanquishing Verbs: Tense

- **Present:** Zach plays basketball.
- **Past:** Zach played basketball.
- **Future:** Zach will play basketball.
- **Perfect:** Zach has played basketball.

Vanquishing Verbs: Aktionsart: How

- Continuous action: I was studying Greek.
- Undefined: I studied for the test.
- Perfect: I have studied for the test.

Vanquishing Verbs: Voice

- **Active:** subject does the action
Tanya took the car.
- **Middle:** subject involved/interested/
participating or rarely reflexive
action on or for itself
Tanya took herself (reflexive).
- **Passive:** the subject receives the action
Tanya was taken by the car.

Vanquishing Verbs: Verb Moods

- **Indicative:** statement of fact
He stood.
- **Subjunctive:** desire or possibility
He may stand.
- **Imperative:** command
Stand!
- **Optative:** wish
Oh that he would stand.

Nouns

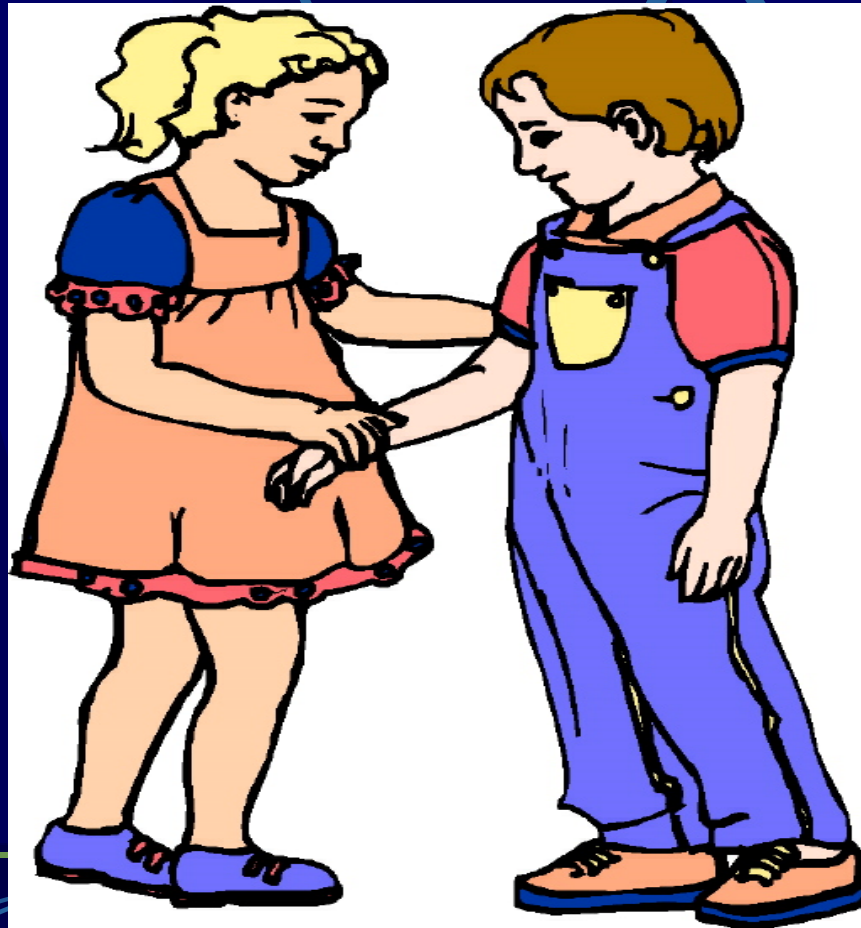
- **Gender:** masculine, feminine, neuter
- **Number:** singular / plural -- skate/skates
- **Case:** Role the noun plays in the sentence
 - **Nominative:** subject of sentence
(She received the award.)
 - **Accusative:** object of the sentence
(The car hit her.)
 - **Genitive:** possessive
(The car was hers.)

Nouns

- **Greek Adds two more cases**
 - **Dative: Indirect object**
(I told the story to the teacher.)
 - **Vocative: direct address**
(O Lord, save me.)
- **Learn these 5 cases cold as they are crucial in Greek.**

Chapter 2 Vocabulary

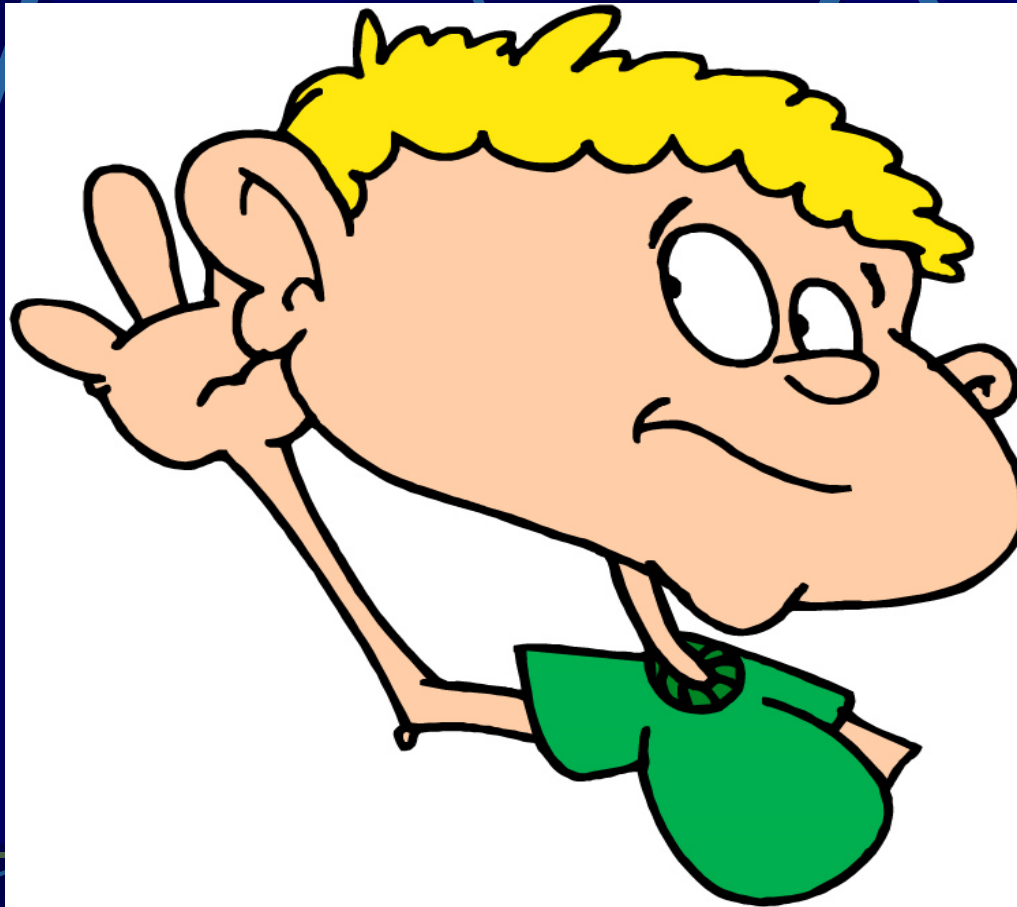
- αδελφός, -οῦ, ὁ



brother

Chapter 2 Vocabulary

● ἀκούω



I hear, obey

Chapter 2 Vocabulary

- δόξα, -ας, ἡ



glory, fame

Chapter 2 Vocabulary

• ἔχω



I have

Chapter 2 Vocabulary

• κόσμος, -ου, ὁ

•



world

Chapter 2 Vocabulary

● κύριος, -ου, ὁ

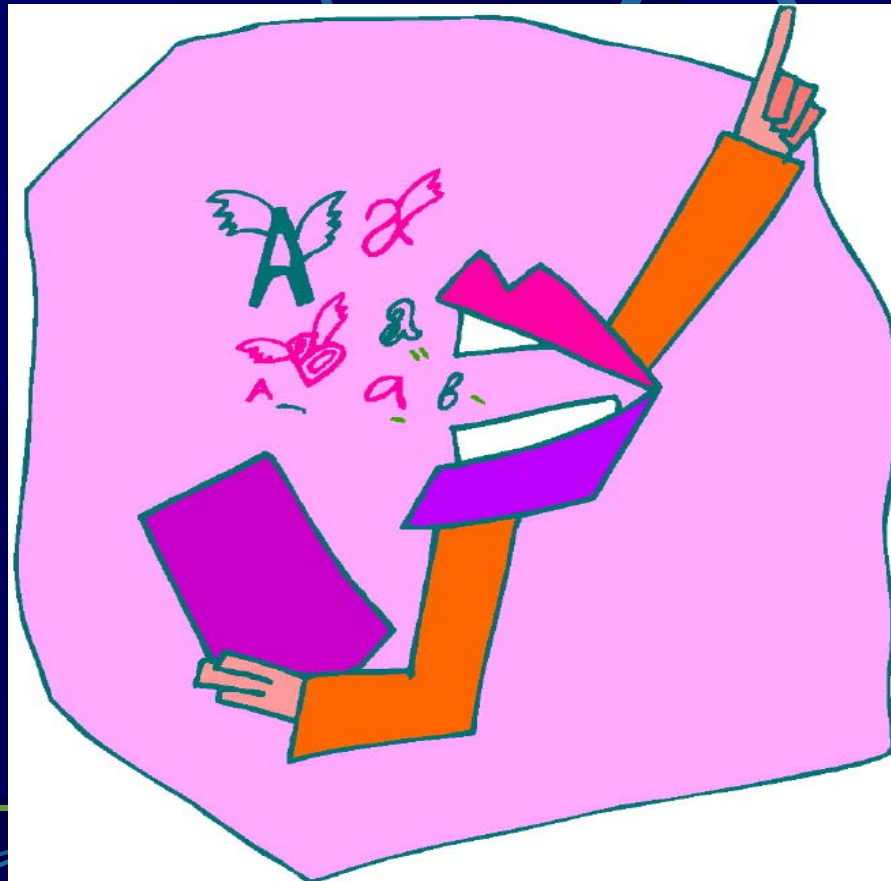


lord, Lord,
sir

Chapter 2 Vocabulary

- λόγος, -ου, ὁ

-



word

Chapter 2 Vocabulary

- Πέτρος, -ου, ὁ

-



Peter

Chapter 2 Vocabulary

• υἱός, -οῦ, ὁ

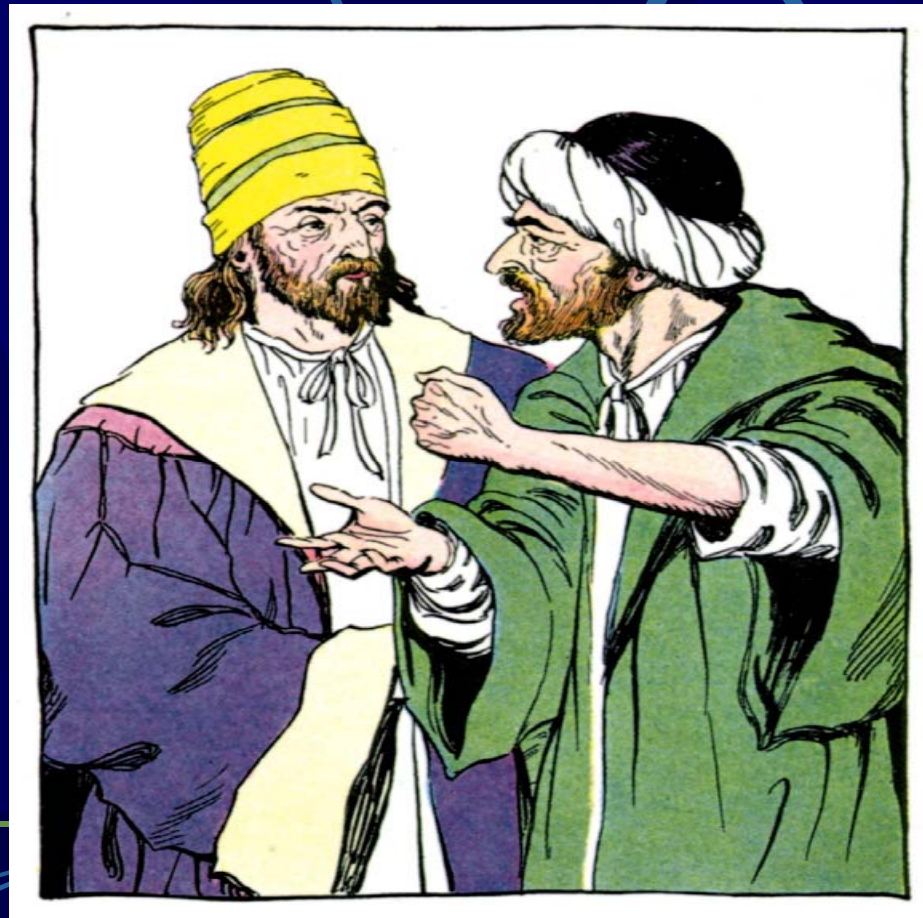
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son

Chapter 2 Vocabulary

- Φαρισαῖος, -ου, ὁ



Pharisee

Chapter 2 Vocabulary

- ἀδελφός brother
- ἀκούω I hear, obey
- δόξα glory, fame
- ἔχω I have
- κόσμος world

Chapter 2 Vocabulary

- κύριος Lord, sir
- λόγος word
- Πέτρος Peter
- υἱός son
- Φαρισαῖος Pharisee

Chapter 2 Vocabulary

- ἀδελφός
 - brother
- ἀκούω
 - I hear, obey
- δόξα
 - glory, fame
- ἔχω
 - I have

Chapter 2 Vocabulary

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 - world
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- Πέτρος
 - Peter
- υἱός
 - son
- Φαρισαῖος
 - Pharisee