The primary goal of this session is to introduce the basic Greek Noun and to understand the concept of *inflection* in relation to the Greek noun. We will learn about *Noun Declensions* before concentrating on *Second Declension Nouns.*

Inflection and the Greek Noun

Remember what a noun is:

> **Noun**: a person, place, thing or idea.
> > Something you can touch (e.g. a Bible, a person) or
> > Something you can think about (e.g. truth, love, marriage)
> > They are *what* does the moving in the sentence (or what is being moved).

As introduced last week, each Greek word has two parts – a *stem* and *affix*. With the Greek noun the affix is always the ending.

Our example:

stem	*suffix (or ending)*	
λογ	ος	which is the noun meaning 'word'

The noun *stem* contains the root meaning and so in the stem above, λογ can mean 'word', 'statement', 'assertion' etc.

The *suffix* (or ending) carries three pieces of information which are very helpful for translating the word.

- *Case* (of which there are four!)
- *Gender* (of which there are three!)
- *Number* (of which there are two!)

Each are developed below.

Case

In any type of expression, a noun (or pronoun) stands in a particular relationship with the other words around it. This relationship needs to be understood in order to be able to translate any meaning from the sentence.

In English, the relationship is determined by the word order (i.e. the subject noun occurs before the verb and the object noun occurs after). This means that the same word can function in different ways without any change in form.

In Greek, word order has a different function and the grammatical relationship is determined by particular suffixes which are applied to the noun. Each suffix indicates a different *case* and so it is clear how the word functions in the sentence.

Greek has four basic *Cases*:

- The *Nominative* – The **subject** e.g. 'A *people* ($\lambda\alpha\acute{o}\varsigma$) love Jesus'.

- The *Genitive* – The **possessor** e.g. 'The love *of a people* ($\lambda\alpha o\tilde{v}$)'. Often translated by placing an 'of' before the word.

- The *Dative* – The **indirect object** e.g. 'Jesus gave his life *to a people* ($\lambda\alpha\omega$)'. Often translated by placing a 'to', 'for' or 'with' before the word.

- *The Accusative* – The **object**. e.g. 'Jesus loves a *people* ($\lambda\alpha\grave{o}\nu$)'

There is a fifth Greek case called the '*Vocative*' the case of **direct address** (e.g. '*Go out O people!*'($\lambda\alpha\epsilon$)). It is not widely used and is usually in quotation marks.

You should notice above that the word $\lambda\alpha\acute{o}\varsigma$ has a stem ($\lambda\alpha$-) and then the ending changes to determine how the word functions in the sentence ($\acute{o}\varsigma,ov,\omega,\grave{o}\nu$).

Gender

Greek nouns have a gender – *masculine*, *feminine* or *neuter*.

In English, natural gender is observed, so a 'man' is masculine, and a 'girl' is feminine and a 'book' is neuter. If only Greek were so simple!

In Greek, natural gender generally follows for living beings but with other nouns it is a bit of a mix-match. So $\dot{\alpha}\nu\acute{\eta}\rho$ (a man) is masculine and $\gamma v\nu\acute{\eta}$ (a woman) is feminine but words like $\pi o\tau\alpha\mu\acute{o}\varsigma$ (a river) are masculine, $\delta\iota\delta\alpha\chi\acute{\eta}$ (a teaching) is feminine and $\pi\alpha\iota\delta\acute{\iota}o\nu$ (a child) is neuter. Why this is the case is a mystery! That said, the gender of the individual noun is not that difficult to work out as the ending will most often give it away.

Number

As with Greek verbs, each noun is either *singular* or *plural.* These correspond with whether the word is speaking of 'one' (e.g. a man) or 'more than one' (e.g. men). The noun will agree with the verb in number.

Noun Declensions

Nouns with the same pattern of endings are called *declensions*. These declensions make it possible for us to learn and therefore translate Greek nouns. There are three noun families that can be learned by declension. They are:

First Declension
Second Declension
Third Declension

We learn declensions so that we can easily learn the noun groups and understand what happens when inflections change the word form.

Now we try and bring this all together. Each noun belongs to a *Declension* Family and holds a *Gender, Case*, and *Number*.

We will need to learn (in time) each declension family in order to master Greek nouns. As such we will learn paradigms for:

1st Declension Nouns			
Masculine	Feminine		
προφήτης	γράφη	ὥρα	δόξα
prophet	writing	hour	glory

2nd Declension Nouns	
Masculine	Neuter
λόγος	ἔργον
word	work

3rd Declension Nouns				
Masculine/Feminine	Neuter		Masculine	Feminine
ἀστήρ	σῶμα	γένος	βασιλεύς	πόλις
star	body	race, kind	king	city

Each noun family can then be declined in order of *number* and *case* to understand meaning. The convention we will follow will be[1]:

> *Nominative*
> *Genitive*
> *Dative*
> *Accusative*
>
> As *Vocative* is so rare it will be left off.

2nd Declension Nouns

We are now in a position to learn some Greek nouns and the place we are going to start is with the *2nd Declension Masculine* and *Neuter Nouns*. We start here because this form of noun occurs most regularly in the New Testament (in fact of the 595 second declension nouns in the New Testament, 347 are masculine and 196 are neuter). There are no feminine nouns in the 2nd Declension family – but there are feminine nouns which decline like 2nd declension masculine nouns (e.g. **ἔρημος** = 'desert', **ὁδός** = 'way', **παρθένος** = 'virgin').

2nd Declension Nouns			
Num	Case	Masculine	Neuter
Sing	Nom	λόγος	ἔργον
	Gen	λόγου	ἔργου
	Dat	λόγῳ	ἔργῳ
	Acc	λόγον	ἔργον
Plu	Nom	λόγοι	ἔργα
	Gen	λόγων	ἔργων
	Dat	λόγοις	ἔργοις
	Acc	λόγους	ἔργα
English		word	work

What do you notice? Similarities?

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[1] This convention is also the convention Moore College uses so there will not be a need to relearn each declension.

Some tips:

- Every plural *genitive* (of any declension and gender) ends in $\omega\nu$.
- Every *neuter* word has the same form in the *nominative* and *accusative*.
- Almost all *neuter* plural *nominatives* and *accusatives* end in α.
- In *genitive* and *dative* (of any declension and gender) the *masculine* and *neuter* will always be identical.

Let's do some exercises to put this into practice.

Exercises

1. Decline the *2ⁿᵈ Declension Masculine Noun* paradigm for ἄνθρωπος

2ⁿᵈ Declension Nouns		
Num	**Case**	**Masculine**
Sing	Nom	
	Gen	
	Dat	
	Acc	
Plu	Nom	
	Gen	
	Dat	
	Acc	
English		

2. Decline the *2ⁿᵈ Declension Neuter Noun* paradigm for εὐαγγέλιον

2ⁿᵈ Declension Nouns		
Num	**Case**	**Neuter**
Sing	Nom	
	Gen	
	Dat	
	Acc	
Plu	Nom	
	Gen	
	Dat	
	Acc	
English		

Vocab List 3 – **Nouns - Masculine**

ἄγγελος   angel, messenger (Mk 1:2)[2]

ἀδελφός   brother (Mk 1:16)

ἀπόστολος   apostle, messenger (Mk 3:14)

ἁμαρτωλός   sinner (Lk 7:37)

ἄνθρωπος   person, man (Mk 1:23)

ἥλιος   sun (Mk 1:32)

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[2]   The Bible reference represents one of the many possible uses of the word in the Bible – but note the words may not appear in their lexical form as they do in this vocab list.

καθαρισμός	cleansing, purification (Mk 1:44)
καιρός	time, season (Mk 1:15)
κάμηλος	camel (Mk 1:6)
κύριος	lord, master (Mk 1:3)
λεπρός	leper (Mk 1:40)
λόγος	word (Mk 1:45)
οἶκος	house, temple (Mk 2:1)
οὐρανός	heaven (Mk 1:11)
ὄχλος	crowd (Mk 2:4)
πυρετός	fever (Mk 1:31)
ποταμός	river (Mk 1:5)
τόπος	place, location (Mk 1:35)
υἱός	son (Mk 1:1)

Nouns - Neuter

δαιμόνιον	demon (Mk 1:34)
ἔργον	work (Mk 13:34)
εὐαγγέλιον	gospel (Mk 1:1)
θηρίον	animal, wild beast (Mk 1:13)
ἱμάτιον	garment, clothes (Mk 2:21)
μαρτύριον	testimony, witness (Mk 1:44)
παιδίον	child (Mk 5:39)
πλοῖον	boat (Mk 1:19)
πρόσωπον	face (Mk 1:2)
σάββατον	sabbath (Mk 1:21)

τέκνον   child (in the vocative) (Mk 2:5)

Exercise

3. Using the appendix from week 3, find and mark all the words listed below that occur in Mark 1 (the lexical form of each word appears in Vocab list 3). By comparing to the λόγος (for masculine) or ἔργον (for neuter) declensions, parse each word to work out its *case, number, gender, lexical form* and *meaning*.

Reference	Greek word as it appears in the text of Mark 1	Case	Number	Gender	Lexical Form	English Meaning
Mark 1:1	εὐαγγελίου	Gen	Sing	Neut	εὐαγγέλιον	of gospel
1:1	υἱοῦ					
1:2	ἄγγελόν					
1:2	προσώπου					
1:3	κυρίου					
1:5	ποταμῶ					
1:6	καμήλου					
1:10	οὐρανοὺς					
1:11	οὐρανῶν					
1:11	υἱός					
1:13	θηρίων					
1:13	ἄγγελοι					
1:14	εὐαγγέλιον					
1:15	καιρὸς					
1:15	εὐαγγελίῳ					
1:16, 19	ἀδελφὸν					
1:17	ἀνθρώπων					
1:19, 20	πλοίῳ					
1:23	ἄνθρωπος					
1:24	θεοῦ					
1:31	πυρετός					

Reference	Greek word as it appears in the text of Mark 1	Case	Number	Gender	Lexical Form	English Meaning
1:32	ἥλιος					
1:34 (x2), 39	δαιμόνια	Acc				
1:35	τόπον					
1:40	λεπρὸς					
1:44	καθαρισμοῦ					
1:44	μαρτύριον					
1:45	λόγον					
1:45	τόποις					

What do you notice? What is important to remember?

For next week:

1. Commit to memory the *2ⁿᵈ declension masculine* (λόγος) and *neuter (*ἔργον*) paradigms*.

2. Learn the Vocab from list 3 (and develop flash cards).

3. Revise the *Present Active Indicative* verb paradigm and previous vocab.

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Note to leader: Bring highlighters and interlinear Bible