

16. First & Second Person Pronouns

Lesson in a Nutshell

In Greek, first and second person pronouns do not have gender so there are only eight forms.

		1st Person		2nd Person		
Singular	Nom	ἐγώ	I	Nom	σύ	you
	Gen	μου	ἐμοῦ my	Gen	σου	σοῦ your
	Dat	μοι	ἐμοί to me	Dat	σοι	σοί to you
	Acc	με	ἐμέ me	Acc	σε	σέ you
Plural	Nom	ἡμεῖς	we	Nom	ὑμεῖς	you
	Gen	ἡμῶν	our	Gen	ὑμῶν	your
	Dat	ἡμῖν	to us	Dat	ὑμῖν	to you
	Acc	ἡμᾶς	us	Acc	ὑμᾶς	you

Pronouns are everywhere! There are not very many of **them**, but you will see them splattered on every page. Even in English **they** are extremely common. **I** have highlighted **them** in **these** first few paragraphs so **you** can see that **it** is true.

It is critical to recognize pronouns in **their** various forms. **They** are so important that on **your** Master Chart **I** have spelled out eleven of the most common pronouns in every possible form and translated **them** for **you**.

We have seen all of **these** variations before. Most pronouns follow the nice, simple 2-1-2 pattern of declension.

Please keep in mind that the pronouns on the Master Chart represent **only eleven words**. Do not fear! Each box represents a single word in all of **its** forms. **We** have already met the forms. There is no need to fear.

Syntax

Pronouns are the little words that “stand in” for nouns in all kinds of interesting ways. There are different varieties of pronouns: personal, relative, interrogative, indefinite, demonstrative and reflexive. Each has its own function, as we will see.

Morphology

Pronouns must be able to “stand in” for all kinds of subjects: masculine, feminine and neuter. Therefore, they will be like adjectives. There will be up to 24 forms of each pronoun, depending on which pattern of declension it follows.

The Concept of “Person”

Before examining the personal pronouns, we must pause to understand what is meant by “person.” Here is a chart of personal pronouns in English.

	Singular	Plural
First Person I We	N: I G: mine D: to me A: me	N: we G: our D: to us A: us
Second Person You You	N: you G: your D: to you A: you	N: you G: your D: to you A: you
Third Person He-She-It They	N: he-she-it G: his-hers-its D: to him-her-it A: him-her-it	N: they G: theirs D: to them A: them

Notice three odd things about English personal pronouns.

1. Unlike most English words, they decline a lot and in ways that follow no clear pattern. It's positively barbaric!
2. The second person pronoun is the same in the singular and plural (unless you are from the South, in which case you say “y'all” for the second person plural).
3. In the third person singular only, English pronouns have gender. This is why there are three forms (“he-she-it”).

Greek pronouns are much more civilized. Here are the Greek first and second person pronouns.

		1st Person		2nd Person		
Singular	Nom	ἐγώ	I	Nom	σύ	you
	Gen	μου	ἐμοῦ my	Gen	σου	σοῦ your
	Dat	μοι	ἐμοί to me	Dat	σοι	σοί to you
	Acc	με	ἐμέ me	Acc	σε	σέ you
Plural	Nom	ἡμεῖς	we	Nom	ὕμεῖς	you
	Gen	ἡμῶν	our	Gen	ὕμῶν	your
	Dat	ἡμῖν	to us	Dat	ὕμῖν	to you
	Acc	ἡμᾶς	us	Acc	ὕμᾶς	you

Please notice that there are only eight forms of the first person pronoun, and eight forms of the second person pronoun.

Do you see why? What is missing?

There are only eight forms because in Greek, first and second pronouns

do not have gender!

The first and second person personal pronouns follow a slightly odd third declension pattern. It is best just to memorize them. You will see them on every page so do yourself a favor and make friends with them.

Notice how similar the first and second person pronouns are to each other. There is just a letter's difference between them in most cases.

The forms in small print are emphatic forms. For example, μου means "my" but ἐμοῦ means "my!"

In the English translations, notice that English pronouns change form ("decline") quite a bit in the first person but not in the second person.