

Greek Notebook on I John

1 John 1:1 ὅς ἦν ἀπ' ἀρχῆς, ὃ ἀκηκόαμεν,

ὃ ἐώρακάμεν τοῖς ὀφθαλμοῖς ἡμῶν, ὃ

ἐθεασάμεθα καὶ αἱ χεῖρες ἡμῶν ἐψηλάφησαν

περὶ τοῦ λόγου τῆς ζωῆς -

Greek Vocabulary For I John

1:1 ὅς, ἡ, ὅ - (relative pronoun) - who, which, what
εἰμί - (verb) – I am (the imperfect 3rd Sing. form would be ἦν)
ἀπό - (preposition with genitive) - from; away from
ἀρχή, -ῆς, ἡ - (noun) - beginning, first; ruler
ἀκούω – (verb) - I hear
ὁράω – (verb) – I see, observe
ὁ, ἡ, τό - (definite article) – the
ὀφθαλμός, -οῦ, ὁ – (noun) – eye
ἐγώ - (1st personal pronoun) – sg., ἐγώ, ἐμοῦ (μου), ἐμοί (μοι), ἐμέ (με) - I, me;
pl. ἡμεῖς, ἡμῶν, ἡμῖν, ἡμᾶς - we, us
θεάομαι – (verb) – I see, look at
καί - (conjunction) - and, also, even
χεῖρ, χειρός, ἡ – (noun) – hand
ψηλαφάω – (verb) – I touch, feel, handle
περί - (preposition with genitive) - about, concerning
λόγος, -ου, ὁ – (noun) - word; saying; message; thought
ζωή, -ῆς, ἡ – (noun) – life

Introduction to Greek Case System

Greek has five “cases” used to identify the function of nouns and adjectives. The term “case” is not some heavy technical term. It is just descriptive of a noticeable difference in function of the word in the sentence or phrase. These functions are indicated by different endings attached to the noun/adjective stem. The five cases are as follows:

1. The Nominative Case – or “naming case” (e.g, I *nominate* so-and-so to run for office.) Words that have this case ending function as the subject in the sentence.
2. The Genitive Case – [From a Latin stem meaning “of generation”, meaning that it was a “generative case”.] Words with this case ending function in a relationship of being the source or “possessor” of the word they modify. For example, in the phrase, “Bob’s book” (or, “the book of Bob”), the ‘s indicates possession to us. The genitive case in Greek is similar to that, and is generally translated with the word “of” added to the definition of the root word.
3. The Dative Case – Words with this case ending function as the indirect object in the sentence. They typically describe where, when, or how the action happens, but they are nouns and adjectives, not adverbs. Datives are translated by adding words such as, “to, in, on, by” to the meaning of the root word. In the sentence, “He hit the ball with the bat” the phrase, “with the bat” would be in the dative case.
4. The Accusative Case – This is the case of the direct object. Words with this case ending are the direct recipients of the action of the verb. For example, in the previous sample sentence, the phrase “the ball” would be in the dative case.
5. The Vocative Case – This is reserved for nouns of direct address. The ending indicates that you are speaking directly to someone or something. In Greek, the word ending would often be specially shortened to indicate this, but often it is identical to the nominative case. For example, in the sentence: “Bill, would you go to the store”, “Bill” is being spoken to directly. In Greek, this would often be indicated by a change in the word ending.

Definite Article Chart – The Greek Word For “The”

<i>Case</i>	<i>Declension Pattern</i>	<i>Masc.</i> 2	<i>Fem.</i> 1	<i>Neut.</i> 2	<i>translation</i>
Nominative Sg.		ὁ	ἡ	τό	the
Genitive Sg.		τοῦ	τῆς	τοῦ	of the
Dative Sg.		τῷ	τῇ	τῷ	to the
Accusative Sg.		τόν	τήν	τό	the
Nominative Pl.		οἱ	αἱ	τά	the
Genitive Pl.		τῶν	τῶν	τῶν	of the
Dative Pl.		τοῖς	ταῖς	τοῖς	to the
Accusative Pl.		τούς	τάς	τά	the