Prepositions With the Genitive

OBJECTIVE: To begin learning how prepositional phrases are formed in Greek.
For the past several weeks you have been learning the commandment that Jesus says is the greatest commandment: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.” He goes on to say that the second greatest commandment is, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” As you can see, that is the verse you will be working on for the next few weeks.

day 1: Review past Memory verses.

Vocabulary:

- ἀπό (with the genitive) from
- διά (with the genitive) through
- ἐκ/ἐξ (with the genitive) out of
- μετά (with the genitive) with
- κατά (with the genitive) against

The word ἐκ changes its form to ἐξ when the next word begins with a vowel. These words are all prepositions. This week we will be learning what prepositions are and how they are used in Greek.

Copy this week’s verse.

’Αγαπήσεις τὸν πλησίον σου
day 2: Conjugate πιστεύω and εἰμί.
Remember that εἰμί is an irregular verb.

A preposition is a word that connects a noun to a sentence. Here is a sentence:

Mary sat.

Here is a noun:

chair

If I want to connect chair to the sentence I gave you, I will use a preposition.

Mary sat on the chair.
Mary sat under the chair.
Mary sat beside the chair.

There are many, many prepositions. Perhaps you have memorized a list of them for your English lessons. In a sentence, prepositions always have a noun that comes after them. That noun is called the object of the preposition. In Greek, the object of the preposition must be in a certain case. Some prepositions must have their object in the genitive case, and some have objects in the accusative and dative cases. Sometimes a preposition takes more than one case for its object, but then its meaning changes depending on the case used. All of the prepositions you are learning right now take the genitive case. When you are learning the prepositions, you must learn the case that their object takes along with the preposition itself. So do not think that it is enough to know that μετά means with. You must know that μετά-with-the-genitive means with. Right now, this may seem silly to you, since all of your prepositions are with-the-genitive. But when you begin learning additional prepositions, you will be glad that you memorized these in this way.

Here is a sentence:

The man is with the apostle.

‘Man’ will be in the nominative case because it is the subject of the sentence.
(Who is the sentence about? Man.)
‘Is’ is the verb.
‘With’ is the preposition.
‘Apostle’, the object of the preposition, is in the genitive case.

ο ἄνθρωπος ἔστι μετὰ τοῦ ἀποστόλου.
The man is with the apostle.

day 3: Write the declensions for ἄνθρωπος, δῶρον, and ἀλήθεια.

Today you will translate prepositional phrases from English to Greek. Remember that the object of the preposition must be translated with the case ending that goes with that particular preposition. All of our prepositions so far use the genitive case, so you will give your objects genitive endings.

day 4: Read aloud the 12 forms of adjectives and the word ‘the’.

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