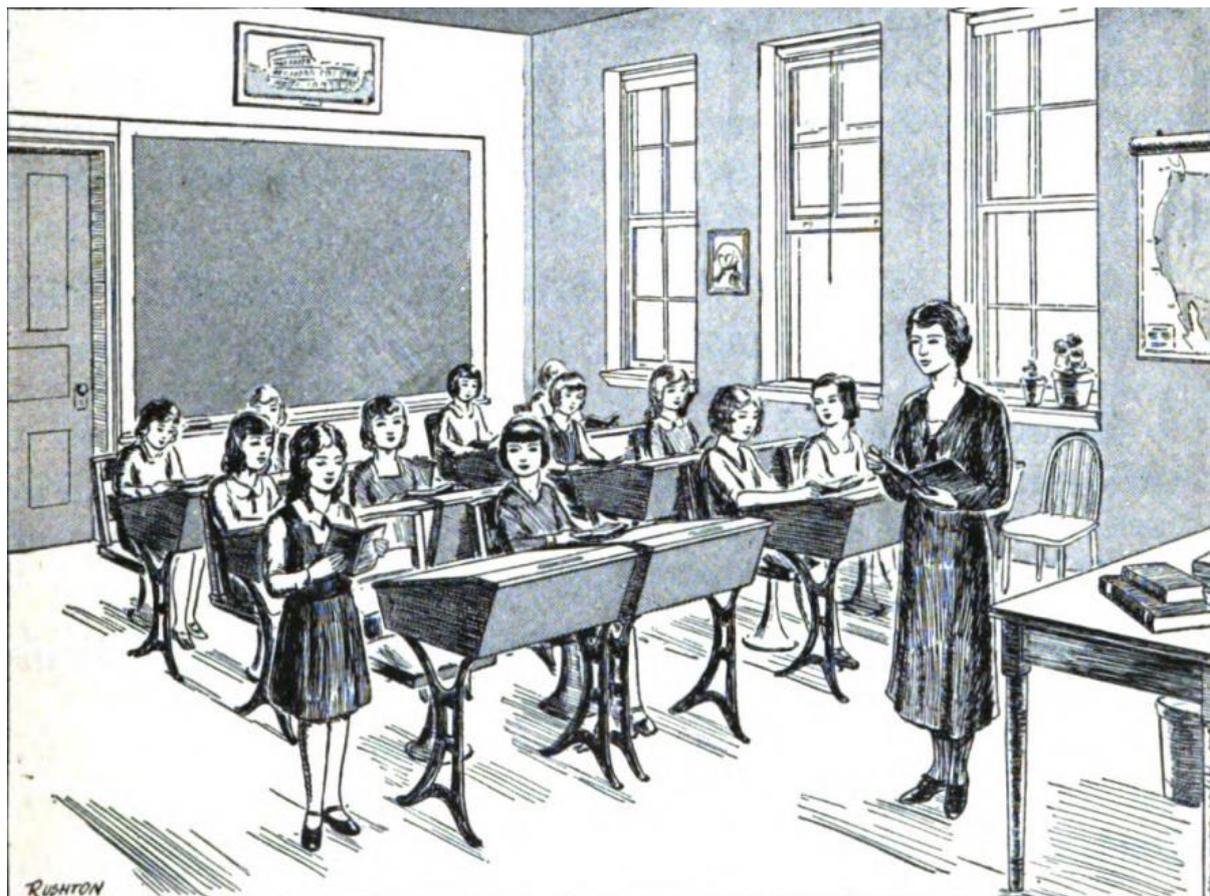


[The following is a sample of a Greekified version of “The Road to Latin” by [Helen Maria Chestnutt, published in 1932](#). I hope to do more chapters and re-do some of the grammar notes to more appropriately reflect the Greek. Translation and notes here by Seumas Macdonald]

Η ΕΙΣ ΤΗΝ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗΝ ΓΛΩΤΤΑΝ ΟΔΟΣ



8. σχολή Ἀμερικᾶνή Α'

σχολή Ἀμερικᾶνή ἐστίν ἡ σχολή. μεγάλη ἐστίν ἡ σχολή. κεκλεισμένη ἐστίν ἡ θύρα. ἡ δὲ θυρίς οὐκ ἔστιν κεκλεισμένη. ἡ γὰρ θυρίς ἀνεωγμένη. ἡ δὲ τράπεζά ἐστι μεγάλη. ἡ δὲ καθέδρα οὐκ ἔστιν μεγάλη. ἡ γὰρ καθέδρα μικρά ἐστίν.

Ἀμερικᾶνή ἐστίν ἡ γυνή. καὶ διδάσκαλος ἐστίν ἡ γυνή. ἡ οὖν διδάσκαλος ἔστηκε. ἡ δὲ κόρη ἐστίν Ἀμερικᾶνή. καὶ ἡ κόρη ἔστηκε. Ἰουλιᾶ ἐστίν ἡ κόρη. μαθητρία καλή ἐστίν ἡ Ἰουλιᾶ. ἡ δὲ Κορνελιά ἐστὶ μαθητρία. ἡ Κορνελιά καὶ μαθητρία καλή ἐστίν.

οὐκ ἔστιν μεγάλη ἢ καθέδρᾱ. μῖκρᾱ γάρ ἐστιν ἢ καθέδρᾱ. ἢ δὲ τράπεζα οὐκ ἔστι μῖκρᾱ. μεγάλη γάρ ἢ τράπεζά ἐστιν. ἢ δὲ θυρίς οὐκ ἔστιν κεκλεισμένη. ἀνεωγμένη ἐστὶν ἢ θυρίς. ἢ δὲ θύρᾱ οὐκ ἔστιν ἀνεωγμένη. κεκλεισμένη γάρ ἐστιν ἢ θύρᾱ.

9. ἀποκρίνου Ἑλληνιστί

1. τί ἐστίν; This means What is this ? or What is that ? It may refer to something that has just been spoken of; or it may refer to something that the speaker points to. The teacher should point to the various objects mentioned in the first paragraph, repeating the question τί ἐστίν? for each one.

2. τίς ἐστίν ἢ γυνή; 3. τίς ἔστηκεν; 4. τίς ἐστίν ἢ Ἰουλίᾱ; 5. τίς ἐστὶ ἢ μαθητρίᾱ καλή;

6. ποίᾱ ἐστὶ ἢ καθέδρᾱ? ποίᾱ means Of what kind ? or Like what ? It is used when an adjective or some kind of description is expected in the answer. This question might be translated What is the seat like ?

7. ποίᾱ ἐστὶν ἢ τράπεζα; 8. ποίᾱ ἐστὶν ἢ θυρίς; 9. ποίᾱ ἐστὶν ἢ θύρᾱ; 10. ποίᾱ ἐστὶν ἢ σχολή;

10. Discussion

Find the subject (ὕποκείμενον) of each verb (ῥῆμα) in the first paragraph. With what letter does it end?

Most of the nouns used in the first story end in α (ἄλφα), and η (ἦτα). Some nouns end differently (διδάσκαλος, θυρίς), but they are not our major concern right now. Focus on the α and η noun endings. These here are in the nominative case (ἢ εὐθείᾱ πτώσις).

Similarly, the words that describe the nouns are adjectives. They have the same types of endings, so here we observe them with -α and -η. They agree (συμφέρεται) with the nouns they describe

The verb ἐστί(ν) is often used to connect the subject with a noun or adjective. The noun or adjective is also in the nominative case (εὐθεία πτώσις), and is called in English a predicate.

The verb ἐστίν is found in two main forms, with or without the final ν. In theory, the final νὺ appears when the following word begins with a vowel, or when it stands before punctuation. In practice, ν is often added in other places, although ἐστί without the νὺ occurs more rarely before a vowel.

In the first reading, our nouns refer to one person or thing, and so they are said to be in the singular (ἐνικός).

Nouns ending :

You will notice that sometimes the $\bar{\alpha}$ carries a macron or long-mark on top of it. This is used to indicate that the vowel is long. Greek distinguishes two vowels by length with character distinctions ο / ω, and ε / η, but the other three we distinguish with a macron α / $\bar{\alpha}$, ι / $\bar{\iota}$, υ / $\bar{\upsilon}$. This convention is rarely observed outside learners' texts, but it is useful to learn these vowel length distinctions from the start, especially in pronunciation and speech.

τίς (who?) and τί (what?) are also used as subjects (ὑποκείμενα) and are in the nominative case (εὐθεία πτώσις).

Greek, unlike Latin, has an article which *roughly* corresponds to “the” in English. In our first reading, we find it in the form ἡ, which is nominative and singular.

11. σχολή Ἀμερικᾶνῃ Β'

ἡ Ἰουλίᾱ μαθητριᾱ ἐστίν. ἡ δὲ Κορνελίᾱ ἐστὶ μαθητριᾱ. μαθητρίαι εἰσὶν ἡ Ἰουλίᾱ καὶ ἡ Κορνελίᾱ. εἰσὶν μαθητρίαι καλαί. αἱ μαθητρίαι ἐστᾶσιν. καὶ ἡ διδάσκαλος ἔστηκεν.

αἱ σχολαὶ αἱ Ἀμερικᾶναί εἰσι μεγάλοι. μεγάλοι αἱ θυρίδες εἰσὶ καὶ μικραὶ αἱ θύραι εἰσίν. αἱ θύραι κεκλεισμέναι εἰσὶν ἀλλὰ ἀνεωγμέναι εἰσὶν αἱ θυρίδες.

12. ἀποκρίνου Ἑλληνιστί

1. τίς ἐστὶν ἡ Ἰουλίᾱ; 2. τίς ἐστὶν ἡ Κορνελίᾱ; 3. ποῖαι εἰσὶν ἡ Ἰουλίᾱ καὶ ἡ Κορνελίᾱ; 4. τίς ἔστηκεν; 5. ποῖαι εἰσὶν αἱ σχολαὶ αἱ Ἀμερικᾶναί; 6. ποῖαι εἰσὶν αἱ θυρίδες; 7. ποῖαι εἰσὶν αἱ θύραι;

13. Discussion

Here we introduce the nominative (εὐθεία) plural (πληθυντικός) ending for the first declension, αἱ. The plural is used to refer to two or more entities.¹

The singular verb ἐστὶν likewise changes to εἰσὶν in the plural.

14. Rules

The subject of a verb is in the nominative case. A predicate noun or predicate adjective is also in the nominative case.

Vocabulary 1

ἀλλὰ	but
Ἀμερικᾶνή	American
ἀνεωγμένη	open
γὰρ	for
γυνή	woman
δὲ	[contrast or change of focus]
διδάσκαλος	teacher (masc. or fem.)
ἔστηκε, ἐστήσαν	stands
ἐστὶ(ν), εἰσί(ν)	is, are

¹ Greek also has a *dual* which is used to refer to things that come in, or are treated as, a set of two. Those forms are not especially common, tend to be archaic, and won't be treated in the main part of this text.

θυρίς	window
Ἰουλίᾱ	Julia
καθέδρᾱ	chair (with arms)
καὶ	(1) and; (2) also, too
καλή	good
κεκλεισμένη	closed
κόρη	girl
Κορνελίᾱ	Cornelia
μαθητρίᾱ	student, pupil (fem.)
μεγάλη	big
μικρά	small
οὐ, οὐκ, οὐχ	not
οὖν	so, then
σχολή	school
τράπεζα	table

15. Greek in daily life

Pick out the Greek words with which the following English words are associated: *cathedral*, *mega-*, *micro-*, *school*, *trapezium*.

Drill

πλήρου τὸ τέλος.

1. ἡ τράπεζά ἐστι μεγάλ__ : αἱ καθέδραι εἰσὶ μικρ__.
2. αἱ σχολ__ εἰσιν μεγά__.
3. αἱ θύρ__ εἰσιν ἀνεωγμέν__.
4. ἡ θυρίς ἐστὶν ἀνεωγμέν__.
5. ἡ μαθητρί__ καλ__ ἔστηκεν.

6. τί ἐστίν; καθέδρ__ μῖκρ__ ἐστίν.
7. ἡ Ἰουλίᾱ καὶ ἡ Κορνελίᾱ εἰσὶ κόρ__ μῖκρ__.
8. ποίᾱ μαθητρί__ ἡ Ἰουλίᾱ ἐστίν; ἡ Ἰουλίᾱ καλ__ μαθητρί__ ἐστίν.
9. ἡ μαθητρί__ ἐστὶ κόρ__ Ἀμερικᾶν__.
10. τίς ἔστηκεν; __ διδάσκαλος ἔστηκεν· αἱ μαθητρί__ οὐχ ἔστησαν.

Exercise 1

γράψον Ἑλληνιστί (Write in Greek):

1. American schools are large.
2. The windows are open.
3. The doors are closed.
4. The chairs are small; the table is also small.
5. The teacher is an American woman.
6. The girls are not standing up.
7. A good pupil stands up.
8. Julia and Cornelia are good pupils.