

## Accents (So Far)

AGE 01-03

### Nouns and the Persistent Accent:

In the case of most Greek nouns (and adjectives), “persistent accentuation” determines which syllable will receive the accent. The accent of a noun tries to remain upon the same vowel or diphthong in all forms of the word, unless forced to change position or accent type (e.g., from circumflex to acute). There are five general rules:

#### 1. When the accent is on the penult, it stays there.

- If penult is long, the accent is a circumflex with short ultima, acute with long ultima.

e.g.	αἰῶν	αἰῶνες
	αἰῶνος	αἰῶνων
	αἰῶνι	αἰῶσι(ν)
	αἰῶνᾶ	αἰῶνᾶς

e.g.	δῶρον	δῶρα
	δῶρου	δῶρων
	δῶρω	δῶροις
	δῶρον	δῶρα

- If penult is short, the accent retains acute throughout all forms.

e.g.	βιβλίον	βιβλία
	βιβλίου	βιβλίων
	βιβλίω	βιβλίοις
	βιβλίον	βιβλία

#### 2. When the accent is on the antepenult:

- The accent can only be acute on the antepenult
- If ultima becomes long (e.g., genitive plural -ων), the accent moves to the penult.

e.g.	ἄρχων	ἄρχοντες
	ἄρχοντος	ἀρχόντων
	ἄρχοντι	ἀρχουσι
	ἄρχοντα	ἀρχοντας

3. When the accent falls on a monosyllabic nominative singular noun:

- The accent usually moves to the ultima on gen/dat singular and plural.
- Ultima accent is acute over short vowels (e.g. -ός), circumflex over long (e.g. -ῶν).

e.g.	πούς	πόδες
	ποδός	ποδῶν
	ποδί	ποσί(ν)
	πόδα̃	πόδα̃ς

- EXCEPTION:

ὁ παῖς, παιδός, “child,” renders its genitive plural as παίδων. Exceptions to the rules of persistent accents such as this will be noted in any lexicon worth owning.

4. In the 1st and 2nd Declensions:

- If the accent falls on the ultima of polysyllabic word, a circumflex is used on gen/dat singular and plural

e.g.	ἀρετή	ἀρεταί
	ἀρετῆς	ἀρετῶν
	ἀρετῇ	ἀρεταῖς
	ἀρετήν	ἀρετάς

e.g.	ὀδός	ὀδοί
	ὀδοῦ̃	ὀδῶν
	ὀδοῦ̃	ὀδοῖς
	ὀδόν	ὀδούς

5. EXCEPTION:

In the 1st Declension:

- Nouns tend to prefer to have a circumflex on the ultima of the gen plural, regardless of where the original accent falls.

e.g.	δίκη	δίκαι
	δίκης	δικῶν
	δίκη	δικαῖς
	δίκην	δικας