

Adjectival Positions

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Attributive Position

KEY: The adjective is always immediately preceded by the article. The first attributive position puts a slight emphasis on the adjective; the second position puts a slight emphasis on the noun.

ὁ ἀγαθὸς ἄνθρωπος “the good man”

ὁ ἄνθρωπος ὁ ἀγαθός “the good man”

Predicate Position

KEY: The adjective is *not* immediately preceded by the article but the noun is.

ὁ ἄνθρωπος ἀγαθός “The man is good.”

ἀγαθὸς ὁ ἄνθρωπος “The man is good.”

Ambiguous Position

KEY: Because the article is lacking in such constructions, context is the key to determining which meaning is being communicated.

ἀγαθὸς ἄνθρωπος “a good man” OR “Man is good.”

ἄνθρωπος ἀγαθός “a good man” OR “Man is good.”

Substantival Position

KEY: In some ways this is different from the positions included above which speak of the structural relationship between an adjective and a noun which are put together in a sentence. When an adjective is functioning substantivally, an adjective is present but a noun is not. The adjective is therefore standing as a noun and thus is substantival.

ὁ ἀγαθός “the good one/man”

αἱ ἀγαθαί “the good women”