

§ 1. THE ARTICLE.

1. There is no word in Greek for *a* or *an*; it is simply omitted. *A woman* is γυνή. But when a particular person or thing is meant, though not named, *a* or *an* (Lat. quidam, *a certain*), is expressed by the indefinite τις: as,

A certain man came,

ἄνθρωπός τις ἦλθεν.

NOTE. The indefinite τις usually follows the word to which it refers, and must be distinguished from the interrogative τίς which is nearly always the first word in the sentence.

2. *A* or *an*, denoting a class, is expressed by ὁ, ἡ, τό: as,

An ox is a very useful animal,

ὁ βοῦς ζῷον ἐστὶ χρησιμώτατον.

3. The distributive *a* or *an* (*each, per*) is expressed by the genitive of ὁ, ἡ, τό, or by κατὰ with the accusative—either construction with or without ἕκαστος: as,

He used to receive a drachma a day (i.e. each day),
δραχμὴν ἐλάμβανε τῆς ἡμέρας (or τῆς ἡμέρας ἕκαστης).

Three half-darics a man, τρία ἡμιδαρειαὶ κατ' ἄνδρα.

4. The article *the* in Greek is ὁ, ἡ, τό. It marks objects, whether *classes* or *individuals*, as known and definite. As the English *the* is but a weaker form of *that*, the French *le* of Lat. *ille*, so the Attic article ὁ, ἡ, τό, is a weakened demonstrative, and had in older Greek the power of *this, that*: as,

This girl I will not release, τὴν ἐγὼ οὐ λύσω.

This thy courage will destroy thee, φθίσει σε τὸ σὸν μένος.