

Intermission ??: αὐτός

The pronoun and adjective αὐτό/ changes its meaning based on its immediate context and its position in relation to the noun it modifies and the article for that noun. The following categories will help you recognize the force of αὐτό/ in each position that you will come across it:

- 1) Standing by itself (without a noun) in any case other than the nominative (i.e. the “oblique” cases), αὐτό/ is the 3rd person personal pronoun.

αὐτόν, αὐτήν, αὐτό, αὐτούς, κτλ. = him, her, it, them...

- 2) As an adjective, standing immediately following the definite article, αὐτό/ means “the same.” Note that in English, too, we generally need the definite article immediately before the adjective “same.”

ὁ αὐτὸς ἀνὴρ -OR- ὁ ἀνὴρ ὁ αὐτός = “the same man”

- 3) As an adjective in any position **not** immediately following the definite article *or* standing on its own in the nominative case, αὐτό/ is the intensive adjective or pronoun: “-self” or “-selves.”

ὁ ἀνὴρ αὐτός -OR- αὐτὸς ὁ ἀνὴρ = “the man himself”

αὐτός, αὐτή, αὐτοί, κτλ. = he himself, she herself, they themselves, κτλ.

Helpful tip: To help you distinguish between uses 2 and 3 above, note that the English word order is identical to that of the Greek: “the same man” but “the man himself.”

Exercise: Translate each of these sentences, paying close attention to the position and meaning of αὐτό/:

1. ὁ αὐτὸς βασιλεὺς λέγει.
2. ὁ βασιλεὺς ὁ αὐτὸς λέγει.
3. αὐτὸς ὁ βασιλεὺς λέγει.
4. αὐτή λέγει.
5. ἡ αὐτή μήτηρ λέγει.
6. ἡ μήτηρ αὐτή τὸν αὐτὸν λόγον εἶπε.

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Forming: αὐτό/, αὐτά/, αὐτό/

αὐτό/ forms as a mostly regular 1st and 2nd declension adjective using the –ό and –ά forms of the base for the masculine/neuter and feminine genders, respectively. The only thing to note in this formation, however, is that αὐτό/ (like most pronouns) forms the neuter nom./acc. singular with a ZERO case marker (αὐτό/Ø), yielding αὐτό for the nom./acc. sing. neuter forms of this word. Fill out the charts on the following page for the forms of αὐτό/ in all genders, numbers, and cases.

SINGULAR

	Masc.	Fem.	Neut.
Nom.			
Acc.			
Gen.			
Dat.			

PLURAL

	Masc.	Fem.	Neut.
Nom.			
Acc.			
Gen.			
Dat.			