

## *De*

- A. It is one of the most commonly used Greek particles, used to connect one clause with another when it is felt that there is some contrast between them, though the contrast is often scarcely discernible.
- B. Most common translations:
  - 1. But, when a contrast is clearly implied
  - 2. And, when a simple connective is desired, without contrast;
  - 3. Frequently, it cannot be translated at all.
- C. The particle *de* is the 4th most frequent word in the NT.
- D. As a coordinating conjunction, it is 2nd in frequency behind *kai* and ahead of *hoti* and *gar*.
- E. It is post-positive meaning that it really begins the clause even though it is positioned as the 2nd, 3rd or sometimes even as the 4th word in the clause.
- F. A.T. Robertson states, “The ordinary narrative use (continuative) I conceive to be the original use, the adversative the developed and later construction. The etymology confirms this explanation, though it is largely conjectural.” (*A Greek Grammar of the Greek New Testament in the Light of Historical Research*, pages 1183-1184).
- G. Liddel and Scott list the following (pages 371-372):
  - 1. Answering to *men*
  - 2. Without preceding *men*
    - a. Adversative, expressing dist. Opposition
    - b. Copulative
      - (1) In explanatory clauses
      - (2) In enumerations or transitions
    - c. Answering to *te*
    - d. Implying causal connexion, less direct than *gar*
    - e. In questions, with implied opposition
  - 3. In apodosis
    - a. After hypothetical clauses
    - b. After temporal or relative clauses; with demonstrative pronouns or adverbs answering to a preceding relative
    - c. To resume after an interruption or parenthesis
    - d. To begin a story
    - e. To introduce a proof
- H. Dana and Mantey list the following usages (*A Manual Greek Grammar of the New Testament*, page 244):
  - 1. Adversative particle
  - 2. Transitional or continuative
  - 3. Explanatory
  - 4. Emphatic or intensive
- I. Bauer, Gingrich and Danker list the following (*A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* pages 809-810):
  - 1. To emphasize a contrast
    - a. General
    - b. Correlative use of *men*
    - c. In lists of similar things, to bring about a clearer separation between the things listed; relating one teaching to another
    - d. After a negative *rather*
    - e. Introducing an apodosis after a hypothetical or temporal protasis, and contrasting it with the protasis
  - 2. Very frequently as a transitional particle pure and simple, without any contrast intended *now, then*
  - 3. Resuming a discourse that has been interrupted
  - 4. Used with other particles
    - a. *De kai* but also, but even
    - b. *Kai...de* and also, but also
- J. *The New Thayers Greek-English Lexicon* lists the following (pages 125-126):

1. Universally by way of opposition and distinction; it is added to statements opposed to a preceding statement; it opposes persons to persons or things previously mentioned or thought of, -either with strong emphasis; and often;-with a slight discrimination
  2. *Men...de*
  3. After negative sentences, *but, but rather*
  4. It is joined to terms which are repeated with a certain emphasis, and with such additions as tend to explain and establish them more exactly; in this use of the particle we may supply a suppressed negative clause
  5. It serves to mark a transition to something new (*de* metabatic); by this use of the particle, the new addition is distinguished from and, as it were, opposed to what goes before
  6. It introduces explanations and separates them from the things to be explained;-especially remarks and explanations intercalated into the discourse, or added, as it were, by way of appendix
  7. After a parenthesis or an explanation which had led away from the subject under discussion, it serves to take up the discourse again
  8. It introduces the apodasis and, as it were, opposes it to the protasis; after a participial construction which has the force of a protasis
  9. *Kai...de*, but...also, yea and, moreover, also
  10. *De* never stands as the first word in the sentence, but generally second; and when the words to which it is added cannot be separated, it stands third
- K. K.H. Pridik lists the following usages (*Exegetical Dictionary of the New Testament*, volume 1, pages 278-279):
1. Adversative particle, *but*, designates a contrast-sometimes strong, sometime weak-to a preceding statement or term. It is normally weaker than *alla*.
    - a. Used to contrast concepts and person
    - b. It also functions to contrast statements
    - c. *Men...de*, where the two particles can be translated certainly...but, or, with the correlative use of articles *ho/hos men...ho/hos de*, the one...the other
    - d. With preceding negation (as with *alla*)
    - e. *Mallon de*, without preceding negation, functions as a correction: or rather; more correctly
    - f. With the article *ho de, hoi de*, etc., the meaning is but he, but she, more often as a copula than as an adversative.
    - g. *De kai* means but also, even
  2. Copulative particle, *de*, but, and, in fact, contrasts a preceding thought or term with a further, expanded, explanatory thought or term.
  3. This view of the wider Greek thinking and life-the “antagonistic”.
  4. We can usually translate this sequential *de* with and, since we normally regard the relationship of sequential sentences and terms as purely copulative
    - a. *De* indicates an enumeration
    - b. The particle can show addition
    - c. It is connective also in an explanatory parentheses with a preceding predicate
    - d. *De* also signifies the resumption or continuation of the main idea
    - e. *Ho de*
    - f. *Kai...de*, and also, but also, also, with the expression that is emphasized
    - g. *Eti de kai* means and even
- L. The conjunction *de* can have the following usages depending upon the context:
1. *Adversative*: but, on the contrary, on the other hand
  2. *Epexegetical*: namely, that is
  3. *Emphatic*: in fact, indeed
  4. *Transitional* : and, then, moreover, now
  5. *Disjunctive*: and, also
  6. *Ascensive*: even
  7. *Sequential*: and, but, thus
  8. *Enumerative*: and
  9. *Copulative*: and
  10. *Adjunctive*: also, in addition, as well as