Definite Article

A. Function of the Definite Article
1. The article was originally derived from the demonstrative pronoun ho, he, to, and is clearly akin to the relative pronoun hos, he, ho.
2. It always retained some of the demonstrative force.
3. This fact is evidenced by its frequent use in the papyri purely as a demonstrative pronoun.
4. The function of the article is to point out an object or to draw attention to it.
5. It was used by the Greeks to make a word stand out distinctly.
6. Whenever the article occurs the object is certainly definite.
7. The basal function of the Greek article is to point out individual identity.

B. Dan Wallace lists 3 basic forces of the article (Greek Grammar Beyond the Basics-Exegetical Syntax of the New Testament, pages 210-211):
1. Conceptualize
2. Identify
3. Definitize

C. Wallace states that “all articles that conceptualize also identify; all articles that identify conceptualize” (ibid.).

D. Liddel and Scott divide the definite article’s classical usage under 4 general categories (pages 1192-1195):
1. demonstrative pronoun, that
2. definite article, the, to specify individuals
3. relative pronoun
4. crasis of article

E. The New Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon lists the following 2 basic usages for the article (pages 433-437):
1. As a demonstrative pronoun
   a. In the words of the poet Aratus quoted by Paul Acts 17:28.
   b. In prose, where it makes a partition or distributes into parts
   c. In narration, when either two persons or two parties are alternately placed in opposition to each other and the discourse turns from one to the other
2. As the definite or prepositive article (to be distinguished from the postpositive article)
   a. To substantives that have no modifier
      (1) That that designate a person or a thing that is the only one of its kind; the article thus distinguishes the same from all other persons or things
      (2) Appellative names of persons and things definite enough in themselves, or made so by the context, or sufficiently well-known from history; thus, to the names of virtues or vices
      (3) The article prefixed to the plural often either includes all and every one of those who by the given name are distinguished from other things having a different name
      (4) The article prefixed to the singular sometimes so defines only the class, that all and every one of those who bear the name are brought to mind
      (5) The article is prefixed to the nominative often put for the vocative in addresses
      (6) The Greek employed the article, where we abstain from its use, before nouns denoting things that pertain to him who is the subject of discourse
      (7) Proper names sometimes have the article and sometimes are anarthrous
         i. As respects names of Persons, the person without the article is simply named, but with the article is marked as either well known or as already mentioned
         ii. Proper names of countries nad regions have the article far more frequently than those of cities and towns, for the reason that most names of countries, being derived from adjectives, get the force of substantives only by the addition of the article
         iii. Names or rivers and streams have the article
   b. The article is prefixed to substantives expanded and more precisely defined by modifiers
      (1) To nouns accompanied by a genitive of the pronouns
      (2) The possessive pronouns emos, sos, hemeteros humeteros joined to substantives always take the article
      (3) When the adjectives are added to substantives, either the adjective is placed between the article and the substantive
      (4) What has been said concerning adjective holds true also of all other limitations added to substantives
(5) The noun has the article before it when a demonstrative pronoun (houtos, ekeinos) belonging to it either precedes or follows

c. The neuter article prefixed to adjective changes them into substantives
d. The article with cardinal numerals
e. The article prefixed to participles
   (1) Gives them the force of substantives
   (2) The participle with the article must be resolved into he who
   (3) The article with participle is placed in apposition
f. The neuter to before infinitives
   (1) Gives them the force of substantives
   (2) Much more frequent in the NT than in the earlier and more elegant Greek writings especially in
       the writings of Luke and Paul (nowhere in John’s Gospel and Epistles), is the use of the genitive
       tou with an infinitive
       i. After words which naturally require a genitive (of a noun also) after them
       ii. For the simple expletive or epexegetical infinitive
       iii. After verbs of deciding, entreating, exhorting, commanding
       iv. Verbs of hindering, restraining, removing
       v. Tou with infinitive is added as a somewhat loose epexegesis
       vii. It takes the place of an entire final clause in order that
vi. Used of result, so that

f. The article with adverbs
   (1) Gives them the force of substantives
   (2) Is used when they stand adjectively
   (3) The neuter to is used in the accusative absolute especially in specifications of time; both with
       adverbs of time

h. The article before prepositions with their cases is very often used that hon ontes, onta, must be
   supplied in thought
   (1) The article in all genders when placed before the genitive of substantives indicates kindship,
       affinity or some kind of connection, association or fellowship, or in general that which in some
       way pertains to a person or thing
   (2) The masculine and the feminine article
   (3) To and ta tinos
   i. The neuter to is put
      (1) Before entire sentences and sums them up into one conception
      (2) Before single words which are explained as parts of some discourse or statement

3. We find the unusual expression he ouai (apparently because the interjection was to the writer a substitute
   for the term he plege or he thlipsis

F. Bauer, Gingrich and Danker divide the word’s usage and meaning under 2 basic categories as well (A Greek-
   English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature pages 549-552):
   1. the article as a demonstrative pronoun, this one, that one
   2. as the definite article, the

G. The following is a list of usages of the article under the latter category since this usage applies to our passage:
   1. with nouns
      a. specific or individualizing it focuses attention on a single thing or single concept, as already known or
         otherwise more definitely limited: things and persons that are unique in kind: generic it singles out an
         individual who is typical of his class, rather than the class itself
      b. with personal names
      c. with names of countries
      d. before nouns that are accompanied by the genitive of a pronoun (mou, sou, hemon, humon, autou,
         heautou, auton).
      e. when accompanied by the possessive pronoun emos, sos, hemeteros, humeteros the noun always has
         the article and the pronoun stands mostly between the article and noun
      f. adjectives (or participles) when they modify nouns that have the article also come either between the
         article and noun
      g. as in the case of the possessive pronoun and adjective, so it is with other expressions that can modify a
         noun
h. the noun has the article preceding it when a demonstrative pronoun (outos, ekeinos) belonging with it comes before it or after it
i. when placed before the nominative of a noun, the article makes it a vocative
j. adjectives become substantives by the addition of the article
2. the participle with the article receives:
a. the meaning of a substantive
b. the meaning of a relative clause
c. the infinitive with neuter article
3. for a noun
a. the genitive of the infinitive with the article without a preposition is especially frequent
b. the article is used with prepositional expressions
c. with an adverb or adverbial expression
d. the article with the genitive following denotes a relation of kinship, ownership, or dependence
e. the neuter of the article stands
f. before whole sentences or clauses
g. before single words which are taken from what precedes and hence are quoted as it were
4. other notable uses:
a. elliptical use which leaves a part of a sentence accompanied by the article to be completed from the context
b. Saulos, ho kai Paulos Ac. 13:9;
c. the feminine article is found in a quite singular usage
d. one article can refer to several nouns connected by kai
e. when various words, sing. or pl. are brought close together by a common article
f. when one and the same person has more than one attribute applied to him
g. the article is repeated when two different persons are named
h. in a fixed expression, when a noun in the genitive is dependent on another noun, it is customary to have the article either twice or not at all
H. The Complete Biblical Library lists the following usages of the definite article (Greek Grammar pages 174-183):
1. Denoting individuals.
3. Taking on a characteristic of a substantive when used with:
a. adjectives
b. numbers
c. infinitives
d. subordinate clauses
e. participles
f. prepositional phrases
g. adverbs
h. sentences.
4. Distributing equal emphasis between the noun and adjective when the former precedes the latter.
5. Functioning as a demonstrative pronoun.
6. Identifying a change of speakers or reference when used with men and de.
7. Indicating a quotation.
8. Functioning under the Granville Sharpe Rule.
9. Distinguishing a series of nouns by preceding each one.
10. Occuring with words which are by nature already definite.
   a. proper names
   b. word such as “sun, moon, heaven earth”
   c. names of countries, cities, seas, etc.
   d. abstract nouns
11. Used with a noun to represent a class or a group.
12. Identifying the subject in a predicate nominative construction.
13. Functioning as a personal pronoun.
14. Functioning as a possessive pronoun.
15. It may appear alone in a sentence for the following reasons:
a. implying reference to a noun in a previous verse.
b. it may be functioning as a pronoun

I. A.T. Robertson lists 3 ways the article points out and distinguishes (A Grammar of the Greek New Testament in the Light of Historical Research pages 756-758):
1. Individuals from individuals
2. Classes from other classes
3. Qualities from other qualities

J. He then lists the following usages of the article distinguishes (A Grammar of the Greek New Testament in the Light of Historical Research pages 758-776):
1. With substantives
2. Context: Whether the substantive is pointed out as an individual, class or quality, the context makes clear.
3. Gender of the article: It will be that of the substantive.
4. With proper names: for previous mention, for contrast, to distinguish rivers, countries, cities and persons.
5. Second mention (anaphoric)
6. With adjectives
7. Resumptive: repeats the noun in order to add the qualifying word.
8. With the adjective alone
9. The article not necessary with the adjective: adjective expresses class
10. With numerals: points out a certain number now brought forward
11. With participles: equivalent to a relative clause
12. With the infinitive:
13. With adverbs
14. With prepositional phrases
15. With single words or whole sentences: makes clearer the substantival idea of the indirect question and its relation to the principal clause
16. With genitive alone
17. Nouns in the predicate: previous mention of the noun and to identify the fact that the subject and predicate are identical
18. Distributive
19. Nominative with the article: vocative
20. As the equivalent of a possessive pronoun
21. With possessive pronouns
22. With autos
23. With demonstratives with olos, pas, apas
24. With polus
25. Akrous, hemisus, eschatos, mesos
26. With allos and heteros
27. Monos

K. Dana and Mantey list the following regular uses of the definite article (A Manual Grammar of the Greek New Testament pages 141-146):
1. To denote individuals to point out a particular object
2. To denote previous reference to point out an object of which is defined by some previous reference made to it in the context.
3. With abstract nouns to enhance the sense in some special and distinct way
4. With proper names whose identity is made clear by the context
5. The generic use representing a class or group
6. With pronouns for the force of identification
7. With other parts of speech when seeking a sense of individuality as with adverbs, participles, infinitives, prepositional phrases, clauses and even entire sentences.

L. They then list what they classify as the special uses of the article:
1. With nouns connected by kai in relation to the Granville Sharpe Rule.
2. As a pronoun
3. The article may sometimes have the full force of a demonstrative pronoun.
4. The article may be used with men and de as an alternative pronoun.
5. The article is frequently used practically as a possessive pronoun.
6. The repetition of the article with some word or phrase which modifies the noun is a device employed for emphasis, in which the article functions with more than its ordinary force, and appears as a mild relative pronoun.

7. With the subject in a copulative sentence distinguishing the subject from the predicate in a copulative sentence.

M. Wallace lists the following regular uses for the article (Greek Grammar Beyond the Basics-Exegetical Syntax of the New Testament, pages 211-256).

1. As a pronoun ([partially] independent use)
   a. Personal pronoun, he, she, it
   b. Alternative pronoun, the one, the other
   c. Relative pronoun, who, which
   d. Possessive pronoun, his, her

2. With substantives (Dependent or modifying use)
   a. Individualizing the article
      (1) Simple identification: Distinguishing one individual from another
      (2) Anaphoric (previous reference): Denoting previous reference
      (3) Kataphoric (following reference): Points out something in the context that immediately follows
      (4) Deictic (Pointing article): points out an object or person which/who is present at the moment of speaking
      (5) Par excellence: point out a substantive that is, in a sense, “in a class by itself.”
      (6) Monadic (Unique or one of a kind): Identifies monadic or one-of-a-kind nouns
      (7) Well-known (celebrity article): Refers to a well-known object that has not been mentioned in the preceding context (anaphoric), nor is considered to be the best of its class (par excellence), nor is one of a kind (monadic).
      (8) Abstract (i.e., article with abstract nouns): Abstract quality of noun modified is defined more closely
   b. Generic article (categorical article [as a class])

3. As a substantiver (with certain parts of speech)

4. As a function marker
   a. To denote adjectival positions
   b. With possessive pronouns
   c. In genitive phrases
   d. With indeclinable nouns
   e. With participles
   f. With demonstratives
   g. With nominative nouns (to denote the subject)
   h. To distinguish subject from predicate nominative and object from complement
   i. With infinitive to denote various functions

N. He lists the following special uses of the article (Greek Grammar Beyond the Basics-Exegetical Syntax of the New Testament, pages 257-291):

1. Colwell’s rule
2. Granville Sharpe Rule