

John 1:1 (20 Answers, Trent Horn)

John 1:1

ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος καὶ ὁ λόγος ἦν πρὸς τὸν θεόν **καὶ θεὸς** ἦν ὁ λόγος
(no article in front of *theos*: *kai theos*)

NWT translation:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word **was a god**.

RSV translation:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word **was God**.

John 1:6

1:6 ἐγένετο ἄνθρωπος ἀπεσταλμένος **παρὰ θεοῦ** ὄνομα αὐτῷ Ἰωάννης
(no article in front of *theos*: *para theos*)

NWT translation:

There came a man who was sent as a representative **of God**; his name was John.

RSV translation:

There was a man sent **from God**, whose name was John.

Response to Jehova's Witnesses:

If John 1:1 had put the article before God, it would be translated “the Word was the God,” which would imply that “the Word” and “the God” are the same entity. This would plunge us headlong into the heresy of modalism, or the belief that God and Jesus—or more precisely, the Father and Jesus—are the same person. Christians believe that the Father and the Son are two separate persons while still being the same God, because God is not one person. God is instead one being who exists as a Trinity of three persons. Indeed, Matthew 28:19 says that we are baptized in the name—not the names—of 18 the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, which implies these three persons are one being.