



Lesson 5

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Ch 10: Third Declension Nouns

- **The Noun Rules** (Before you begin ch. 10, review the noun rules that you already learned; pp. 37, 82):
 1. Stems ending in alpha or eta are in the first declension, stems ending in omicron are in the second, and **consonantal stems are in the third**.
 2. Every neuter word has the same form in the nominative and accusative.
 3. Almost all neuter words end in alpha in the nominative and accusative plural.
 4. In the dative singular, the iota subscripts if possible.
 5. Vowels often change their length (“ablaut”).

6. In the genitive and dative, the masculine and neuter will always be identical.

Now for some new material. If you can pronounce this nonsense phrase and drill it into your head, you've got most of what you need to know for 3d declension nouns:

Saucy a, S own sin os

Repeat it enough times to make it second nature. It may sound like an "applesauce" recipe, but it works.

Now let's make the leap to Greek. The nonsense phrase above is simply a mnemonic device to help you remember the basic 3d declension endings:

Σ ΟΣ Ι Α, ΕΣ ΩΝ ΟΝ ΑΣ

Master Case Ending Chart

Don't worry—you're not going to memorize it in this form. It looks more complicated than the noun ending chart you worked with earlier, but follow the color-coding and you'll be OK.

Declension:	2	1		2	3	
Gender:	M	F		N	M/F	
N S	ος	(α/η)		-	ς	-
G S	ου	(ας/ης)		ς	ος	ος
D S	(ω) ι	(α/η)		ι	ι	ι
A S	ου	(αν/ην)		ν	α/ν	-
N P	οι	αι		α	ες	α
G P	ων	ων		ων	ων	ων
D P	οις	αις		οις	σι(ν)	σι(ν)
A P	ους	ας		α	ας	α

- Note the familiar columns on the left; the technical endings are displayed in red. (You learned them with the connecting vowel included to make it easier to pronounce and hence easier to memorize.)

- Start with the 3d declension M/F column and apply the noun rules to figure out the neuter forms.
- Compare the endings in the left columns for similarities; if you focus on the **technical endings**, there will be more obvious similarities than if you think in terms of the entire ending.
- Notice that there are no connecting vowels used with 3d declension endings!
- These endings are, indeed, slightly different than the first and second declension, but if you learn the nonsense, “applesauce” phrase above, you will have the basic endings in good shape. Just remember that there are some variations in the neuter as well as some of the masculine and feminine words as well.

Now we need to add two new noun rules (7 & 8) to explain some peculiarities that you will encounter in third declension nouns.

7. "Square of stops"

Name:				+ σ =
<i>Labials</i>	π	β	φ	ψ
<i>Velars</i>	κ	γ	χ	ξ
<i>Dentals</i>	τ	δ	θ	σ

This rule is a bit different than the previous ones. The rule consists of the title (*square of stops*) **and** the chart. (On a quiz you would be expected to produce both pieces—and by the way, if the rows or columns are out of order, it is wrong; this is because there is a logic to the sequence both vertically and horizontally.) The terms on the left are the names for the consonants in the 3-letter groups that follow on that line. (There are also names for the vertical columns, but we don't need to worry about them at this point.) A "stop" is the collective name for this entire group of 9 letters.

The point of the chart—**which we will use and reuse all year** for several different things—is that certain kinds of letters act in a certain, predictable way.

- ◆ When a σ is added to a **labial**, the result is a combination/compound letter, **ψ**.

Here's an example of how this works. The lexical form for the Greek equivalent of our English word *storm* is **λαιλαψ, λαιλαπος, ἤ, storm**. The **stem*** for this word is **λαιλαπ**. Note that the last letter is a labial. Remember that since the stem ends with a consonant, it is a 3d declension word, so the case ending for nominative, feminine, singular is **σ**. But the square of stops rule tells us that when a labial (in this case **π**), is followed by a **σ**, the result is the compound letter **ψ**, thus **λαιλαψ** is the nominative, feminine, singular form of the word (not **λαιλαπς**). But in the genitive, the **σ** does not come next to the labial because the ending is **ος**—the **ο** keeps the two letters apart—so the form is **λαιλαπος**.

***Stem**—Do you remember how to find the stem of a noun? If not (or if I forgot to tell you before!), here's the rule: **to determine the stem of any noun** (or adjective), **start with the genitive singular form** [that's one reason why the genitive form is listed in the lexicon!] **and drop the ending** [with 3d declension, that's usually **ος**]; what's left is the stem. This does not work consistently with any other case; you **must** use the genitive singular form. (If I were to ask you on a quiz (hint!) how to determine the stem of a noun, the **bold text** above is an adequate answer.)

Without the detailed explanation (which is fairly obvious if you follow the same pattern as above), here is what happens in other instances:

◆ **Velars + σ > ξ**

σαρξ, σαρκος, ἡ (*flesh*)

stem = σαρκ + σ = σαρξ

◆ **Dentals + σ > σ**

ἐλπις, ἐλπίδος, ἡ (*hope*)

stem = ἐλπιδ + σ = ἐλπις

• **Double change:** νυξ, νυκτος, ἡ (*night*)

stem = νυκτ + σ = σ (νυκς), but then κ + σ = ξ > νυξ

Other things you should know:

◆ **ν drops out when followed by σ.**

λογος, ου, ό, to form the MPA:

λογο + νς > λογους (ο abauts/lengthens to ου to compensate for ν dropping.)

- ◆ Dentals drop out when followed by σ .

[Since this *always* happens in 2d declen. MPA, we learn the ending as **ους**.]

- ◆ $\nu\tau$ also drops out when followed by σ (ν is the “stop”).

($\pi\alpha\nu\tau + \sigma = \pi\alpha\sigma$)

- ◆ Whatever happens in the nominative singular of a 3d declension noun also happens in the dative plural. (This is because the dative plural ending also begins with σ , just as the nominative singular.)

$\sigma\alpha\rho\kappa + \sigma\iota = \sigma\alpha\rho\xi\iota$

Noun rule #8:

A τ (tau) cannot stand at the end of a word and will drop off.

The most common word that does this is $\pi\alpha\sigma$ (which is actually a 3d declension *adjective*, but it serves the purpose of illustrating this *noun* rule!).

To form the nominative singular neuter of **πας** (MSG = **παντος**), start with the stem, **παντ**, and add the case ending **-** (= zero or blank ending); this results in **παντ**, BUT, **τ** drops off at the end of a word, so the final form is **παν**.

Supplement to the textbook: Other kinds of 3d declen. nouns

◆ Liquid nouns:

A liquid noun is any noun whose stem ends with either **λ**, **μ**, **ν**, or **ρ**.

- **σ** will not stand after a liquid (one or the other will drop out; if **σ/ς** is the last letter, it usually drops).
- Short vowels between final consonants of a stem usually drop out or lengthen [Remember rule #5, "Vowels often change their length (ablaut)."]

- ποιμην, -ενος, ὁ, shepherd, pastor

To find the stem:

- Start with the singular genitive form, ποιμενος.
- Drop the case ending (ος), which tells you that the stem is ποιμεν-.
- In the singular nominative, the ending σ drops after the ν,
- and the ε lengthens to η.

- πατηρ, πατρος, ὁ, father [p. 338]

To find the stem:

- Start with the singular genitive form, πατρος.
- Drop the case ending (ος), which tells you that the stem is πατρ- [πατ(ε)ρ].
- In the singular nominative, the ending σ drops after ρ.
- and the ε drops between consonants (The ε only shows up in the singular accusative form and most plural forms—see the chart on p. 338.)

There are a number of such things that happen to third declension words, mostly due to the fact that the stem ends with a consonant and there is no connecting vowel. Consonants do not get along well together, as a result, there is some “fussing in the back of the bus.” One of the best ways to identify the gender, number, and case of a third declension noun (or adjective)—assuming that the article isn’t present (if it is, there is no question what form it is,

since the article will always match the chart that you learned at the beginning of the semester—is to study several representative words that illustrate the most common changes.

- **6 KEY representative paradigms** (see pp. 336–8)

σαρξ, ὄνομα, ἄρχων, γένος, βασιλεὺς, πόλις

Study these carefully and watch how each word changes. You may want to highlight these to facilitate quick reference to them.

- Other frequent 3d declension words (used more than 50 × in the NT)

γυνή, χάρις, ἐλπίς, ὕδωρ, φῶς, αἰὼν, ἀνὴρ, πατήρ, μητήρ

● A “Third Declension” Adjective

If you apply the rules you have learned, you could fill in the following forms if I gave you just the root. (You don’t have to do it that way; my point is simply that you know enough to identify all these forms—a few of which we already saw.)

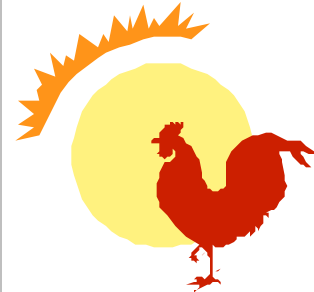
"all"	3	1*	3
	Masc.	Fem.	Neut.
N S	πας	πασα	παν
G S	παντος	πασης	παντος
D S	παντι	παση	παντι
A S	παντα	πασαν	παν
N P	παντες	πασαι	παντα
G P	παντων	πασων	πατων
D P	πασιν	πασαις	πασιν
A P	παντας	πασας	παντα

*πας uses 3d declension endings in masculine and neuter, but 1st declension endings in the feminine.

The number **one** is also a third declension adjective (at least in its masculine and neuter forms; it uses first declension endings in the feminine):

"one"	3	1	3
	Masc.	Fem.	Neut.
N S	εἷς	μία	έν
G S	ένος	μίας	ένος
D S	ένι	μια	ένι
A S	ένα	μιαν	έν

If you want a mnemonic for remembering this word, try this silly phrase: "Go steal me a chicken!" (Or perhaps, "Go steal me *one* chicken!"—but the first is closer to the lexical form: εἷς, μία, έν.) I know, εἷς is not exactly **heist**, but its close enough for a mnemonic device.



Workbook exercises, pp. 36–39

I suggest that you tackle the exercises in this order of difficulty/progression of material:

##2, 4, 5, 9

11, 12, 13, 3

7, 10, 6, 15

1, 8, 14, 18, 19

16–17