

First & Second Noun Declension Paradigm

	Singular			Plural		
	2 Masc	1 Fem	2 Neut	2 Masc	1 Fem	2 Neut
Nom	ς	—	ν	ι	ι	ᾱ ³
Gen	ου ¹	ς	ου ¹	ων	ων	ων
Dat ²	ι	ι	ι	ις	ις	ις
Acc	ν	ν	ν	ους	ς	ᾱ

¹ The actual ending is omicron which contracts with the final stem vowel to ου.

² In the *singular* first and second declensions the iota always subscript.

³ The underlined characters show that the case ending has contracted with the vowel of the stem (ἔργον + α → ἔργα).

Articles

	Singular			Plural			
	2 Masc	1 Fem	2 Neut	2 Masc	1 Fem	2 Neut	
Nom	ὁ	ἡ	τό	οἱ	αἱ	τά	the/a
Gen	τοῦ	τῆς	τοῦ	τῶν	τῶν	τῶν	of the/a
Dat	τῷ	τῇ	τῷ	τοῖς	ταῖς	τοῖς	to or for the/a
Acc	τόν	τήν	τό	τούς	τάς	τά	the/a

First & Second Declension Noun Paradigm Examples

	Singular			Plural		
	2 Masc	1 Fem	2 Neut	2 Masc	1 Fem	2 Neut
Nom	ὁ λογος	ἡ γραφή ἡ ὥρα	τὸ ἔργον	οἱ λόγοι	αἱ γραφαί αἱ ὥραι	τὰ ἔργα
Gen	τοῦ λόγου	τῆς γραφῆς τῆς ὥρας	τοῦ ἔργου	τῶν λόγων	τῶν γραφῶν τῶν ὥρων	τῶν ἔργων
Dat	τῷ λόγῳ	τῇ γραφῇ τῇ ὥρᾳ	τῷ ἔργῳ	τοῖς λόγοις	ταῖς γραφαῖς ταῖς ὥραις	τοῖς ἔργοις
Acc	τόν λόγον	τήν γραφήν τήν ὥραν	τό ἔργον	τούς λόγους	τάς γραφάς τάς ὥρας	τὰ ἔργα

The First Six Noun Rules

These are called “The Basic Rules Governing Case Endings” in the Appendix on Noun system, p. 344.

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.

ἕργον could be either nominative or accusative.

3. Almost all neuter words end in alpha in the nominative and accusative plural.
4. In the dative singular, the iota subscript is possible.
 - This rule explains what happens to the dative singular case endings in the first and second declension. A vowel can subscript only under a long vowel.
5. Vowels often change their length (“ablaut”).
 - “Contraction” occurs when two vowels meet and form a different vowel.
 - “Ablaut” (äb'lout') is the technical term for this. By “change their length” we mean that they can shorten (omega to omicron), lengthen (omicron to omega), or disappear entirely. We see this in the dative singular (where the stem vowel lengthens)
 - Examples:
 - λογο + ι → λόγῳ (dative singular)
 - λογο + ο → λόγου (genitive singular)
 - γραφη + ων → γραφῶν (genitive plural)¹
6. In the genitive and dative, the masculine and neuter will always be identical.
 - This may lead you to think that the masculine and neuter forms are more closely aligned than the masculine and feminine. As we will see later on, the masculine and feminine are actually more similar.

¹ The omega of the genitive plural will absorb any preceding vowel.