

## Master Case Ending Chart For Nouns and Adjectives

	<i>masc</i>	<i>fem</i>	<i>neut</i>	<i>masc/fem</i>	<i>neut</i>
<i>nom sg</i>	ς	—	ν	ς —	— <sup>1</sup>
<i>gen sg</i>	υ <sup>2</sup>	ς	υ <sup>1</sup>	ος	ος
<i>dat sg</i>	ι <sup>3</sup>	ι	ι	ι <sup>4</sup>	ι
<i>acc sg</i>	ν	ν	ν	α/ν <sup>5</sup>	—
<i>nom pl</i>	ι	ι	α	ες	α <sup>6</sup>
<i>gen pl</i>	ων	ων	ων	ων	ων
<i>dat pl</i>	ις	ις	ις	σι (ν) <sup>7</sup>	σι (ν)
<i>acc pl</i>	υς <sup>8</sup>	ς	α	ας <sup>9</sup>	α

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- <sup>1</sup> Be prepared for the final stem letter to undergo changes (rule 8)
- <sup>2</sup> The ending is actually omicron, which contracts with the final stem vowel and forms ου (rule 5).
- <sup>3</sup> The vowel lengthens (rule 5) and the iota subscript (rule 4).
- <sup>4</sup> Because third declension stems end in a consonant, the iota cannot subscript as iota does in the first and second declensions; so it remains on the line.
- <sup>5</sup> The case ending alternates between alpha and nu.
- <sup>6</sup> As opposed to the first and second declensions, this alpha is an actual case ending and not a changed stem vowel. This is also true of the accusative plural.
- <sup>7</sup> The nu is a movable nu. Notice that the ending σι is a flipped version of ις found in the first and second declensions.
- <sup>8</sup> The actual case ending for the first and second declension is νς, but the nu drops out because of the following sigma. In the first declension the alpha simply joins with the sigma (ωρα + νς → ὥρας), but in the second declension the final stem omicron lengthens to ου (rule 5: λογονς → λογος → λόγους).
- <sup>9</sup> As opposed to the first declension (e.g., ὥρα), the alpha here is part of the case ending.

## The Basic Rules Governing Case Endings

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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.
  - In the second declension the alpha is the changed stem vowel; in the third it is the case ending.
4. In the dative singular, the iota subscript if possible.
  - Because an iota can subscript only under a vowel (in which case the vowel lengthens), it subscripts only in the first and second declensions.
5. Vowels often change their length (“ablaut”).
  - “Contraction” occurs when two vowels meet and form a different vowel or diphthong.

λογο + ι → λόγῳ (dative singular)

λογο + ο → λόγου (genitive singular)

γραφή + ων → γραφῶν (genitive plural)<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The omega of the genitive plural will absorb any preceding vowel.

- “Compensatory lengthening” occurs when a vowel is lengthened to compensate for the loss of another letter.

λογο + νς → λόγος → λόγους (accusative singular)

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.
7. In Square of Stops

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

- Labials + sigma form psi; velars plus sigma form xsi; dentals plus sigma form sigma.
  - The ντ combination drops out when followed by sigma (παντ + ς → πᾶς).
  - Whatever happens in the nominative singular third declension also happens in the dative plural. σαρκ + σ → σαρξ. σαρκ + σι → σάρξι.
8. A tau cannot stand at the end of a word and will drop off.
    - No case ending is used in stems ending in -ματ. The tau then drops out, ὄνοματ + — → ὄνοματ → ὄνομα.

## How to Memorize

ς	—	ν	ς/—	—
υ	ς	υ	ος	ος
ι	ι	ι	ι	ι
ν	ν	ν	α/ν	—
ι	ι	α	ες	α
ων	ων	ων	ων	ων
ις	ις	ις	σ ι (ν)	σ ι (ν)
υς	ς	α	ας	α

1. 1<sup>st</sup> = α, η  
 2<sup>nd</sup> = ο  
 3<sup>rd</sup> = consonant
2. N, N = A
3. N pl, N & A = α
4. 1 & 2, ι subscripts in D
5. Vowels often change (“ablaut”).
6. G & D, M = N
7. Square of Stops

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

8. τ drops  
 (ντ + ς → ς)