

DECLENSIONS OF  
VARIOUS 3<sup>RD</sup> DECLENSION NOUN TYPES

There are various types of nouns declined in the 3<sup>RD</sup> Declension, also called the “Consonant Declension.” These types derive their names based on the final letter(s) of their respective stems. Stems in this declension are not readily identifiable by referring to their *Nominative singular* (lexical) forms, but rather (usually) from their *Genitive singular* forms. It is helpful, therefore, for the student to **memorize the *Genitive singular* stems** of these types of “irregular” Greek nouns.

	I. MUTE		II. LIQUID	III. SYNCOPATED LIQUID
	<i>σάρξ, ό—flesh</i>	<i>όνομα, τό—name</i>	<i>ποιμήν, ό—shepherd</i>	<i>πατήρ, ό—father</i>
<b>Singular</b>				
NOMINATIVE	<b>σάρξ</b> (σαρκ + ς)	<b>ονομα</b> * —	ποιμήν* —	πατήρ —
GEN./ABL.	σαρκ ος	ονοματ ος	ποιμεν ος	πατρ ος (πατερ + ος)
L.I.D.	σαρκ ι	ονοματ ι	ποιμεν ι	πατρ ι (πατερ + ι)
ACCUSATIVE	σαρκ α	<b>ονομα</b> * —	ποιμεν α	<b>πατερ</b> α
<b>Plural</b>				
NOMINATIVE	σαρκ ες	ονοματ α	ποιμεν ες	πατρ ες
GEN./ABL.	σαρκ ων	ονοματ ων	ποιμεν ων	πατερ ων
L.I.D.	<b>σαρξι</b> (σαρκ + σι)	<b>ονομα</b> σι	<b>ποιμε</b> σι	<b>πατρα</b> σι (πατερ + σι)
ACCUSATIVE	σαρκ ας	ονοματ α	ποιμεν ας	πατρ ας
	<p>The rules governing <i>mute stem</i> formation when mutes join an “σ” are applicable here, e.g.:</p> <p>κ, γ, or, χ + σ = ξ</p> <p>Note: affected cases (NOM. <i>sing.</i> and L.I.D. <i>plural</i>) high-lighted in yellow.</p>	<p>From a category of Greek nouns whose stems end in <i>-ματ-</i>. The “τ” of the stem is dropped from this neuter noun, since “τ” cannot stand as the final letter of a Greek word. The “τ” in the <i>L.I.D. plural</i> drops under rules for “Mutes” joining with “σ.”</p> <p>τ, δ, or θ + σ = σ</p>	<p>Liquids (stems ending with λ, (μ), ν, or ρ) reject an “σ” (as in the <i>Nom. sing.</i> of this masculine noun. Plus, if the thematic stem vowel is not already long, it lengthens. Note, in the L.I.D. plural that the “ν” drops when adding “σ”.</p>	<p>Called the <i>syncopated liquid</i> type because the short vowel between two consonants (-τερ-) drops out in the <i>Genitive sing.</i> and in the <i>L.I.D. sing.</i> and <i>plural</i>. Also, in the <i>L.I.D. plural</i>, an “α” is inserted following the liquid consonant before adding the ending. Otherwise, this type is like other “liquids” (i.e., it rejects “σ”) as in the <i>Nom. sing.</i></p>

	IV. ζ–TYPE	V. VOWEL			VI. DIPHTHONG
	κρέας, τό—meat	πόλις, ἡ—city	ἰχθύς, ὄ—fish	σκότος, τό—darkness	βασιλεύς, ὄ—king
<i>Singular</i>					
NOMINATIVE	κρέας —	πόλις	ἰχθύς	σκότος —	βασιλεύς
GEN./ABL.	κρέως (κρεα[ς] + ος)	πόλεως	ἰχθύος	σκότους (σκοτε + ος)	βασιλέως (βασιλευ + ος)
L.I.D.	κρέα ι (κρεα(s) + ι)	πόλε ι	ἰχθύ ι	σκότε ι	βασιλε ἰ
ACCUSATIVE	κρέας —	πόλι ν	ἰχθύ ν	σκότος —	βασιλέα
<i>Plural</i>					
NOM.	κρέα (κρεα[ς] + α)	πόλεις	ἰχθύεις	σκότη (σκότε + α)	βασιλεῖς (-ε[υ] + ες)
GEN./ABL.	κρεῶν (κρεα[ς] + ων)	πόλεων	ἰχθύων	σκοτέων	βασιλέων
L.I.D.	κρέα σι	πόλε σι	ἰχθύ σι	σκότε σι	βασιλεύ σι
ACCUSATIVE	κρέα (κρεα[ς] + α)	πόλεις	ἰχθῦ (α)ς	σκότη (σκότε + α)	βασιλεῖς (-ε[υ] + ες)
	<p>This <i>Neuter</i> noun type drops its stem’s “σ” in all cases except the <i>Nominative</i> and the <i>Accusative Singular</i>. In cases where the “σ” is dropped, normal “contraction” occurs between the stem and ending.</p>	<p>Most “ι”- stems show the pure stem vowel only in the <i>Nominative</i> and <i>Accusative singular</i>. In all other cases they show an “ε.” In the <i>Genitive Singular</i> of “ι”- stem nouns (πόλις), the “σ” of the ending becomes a longer “ω” and uncontracted with the stem’s “ε-.” Also, no contraction occurs in the <i>Genitive Plural</i>.</p> <p>With “υ”-stem nouns (ἰχθύς), the “σ” of the ending is retained with no contraction with the stem vowel. In the <i>Masculine</i> and <i>Feminine Accusative Singulars</i>, the normal “α” ending is replaced with a “ν”. The <i>Nominative</i> and <i>Accusative Plurals</i> of “ι”- stems have a contracted ending “-εις.” No contraction with the stem’s vowel occurs in the <i>Genitive Plural</i>. Also, the “υ”-stem noun sometimes drops the “α” in the <i>Accusative Plural</i>, leaving “-υς.”</p> <p>Note the contractions with “ε”-stems (σκότος) in the <i>Genitive Singular</i> and <i>Nominative</i> and <i>Accusative Plural</i>, according to normal rules.</p>	<p>The “Diphthong” type will have “υ” as its final stem letter. When the case ending begins with a vowel, the stem’s “υ” is dropped. In the <i>Genitive Singular</i>, the “σ” of the ending is changed to a longer “ω” and remains uncontracted. In the <i>Dative Singular</i> and <i>Nominative Plural</i>, normal vowel contractions occur.</p>		