

Third Declension Nouns

Chapter 14

Gender

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Third Declension Nouns

The third declension is another pattern of endings. These can be masculine, feminine, or neuter. The gender can be determined by the article.

ὁ πατήρ	Masculine
ἡ γυνή	Feminine
τὸ πνεῦμα	Neuter

Case

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Third declension nouns and their cases function identically as 1st and 2nd declension nouns.

τὸ πνεῦμά ἐστιν ἡ ἀλήθεια	“The Spirit is the truth”
ὁ καρπὸς τοῦ πνεύματός ἐστιν ἀγάπη	“the fruit of the Spirit is love”
εἶπεν ἐν τῷ πνεύματι	“He said in the Spirit”
εἶδεν τὸ πνεῦμα	“He saw the Spirit”

Morphology

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Third Declension Nouns

Unlike 1st and 2nd declension nouns, the stem of 3rd declension nouns ends in a consonant. The **basic stem** for the third declension is **not** found in the **nominative singular** form because it has experienced a spelling change.

Often, part of the original noun stem has dropped off or combined in the nominative form.

σὰρξ + ς → σάρξ

Morphology

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
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Third Declension Nouns

The **genitive singular** form usually contains the unaltered noun **stem** along with the case ending.

Consequently, it is crucial to memorize both the lexical (nominative) form and the genitive singular form of 3rd declension nouns.

σὰρξ + ς → σαρκός

Third Declension Nouns—Feminine

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Case	Art.	Singular	Art.	Plural
N.	ἡ	σάρξ	αἱ	σάρκες
G.	τῆς	σαρκός	τῶν	σαρκῶν
D.	τῇ	σαρκί	ταῖς	σαρξί(ν)
A.	τὴν	σάρκα	τάς	σάρκας

Notice: the dative forms have the usual **iota** (ι). The changes to the stem that occur in the **nom sg** also occur in the **dat pl**. The **gen pl** forms are the same as the 1st and 2nd declension forms.

Third Declension Nouns—Neuter

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

	Art.	Singular	Art.	Plural
N.	τὸ	πνεῦμα	τὰ	πνεύματα
G.	τοῦ	πνεύματος	τῶν	πνεύματων
D.	τῷ	πνεύματι	τοῖς	πνεύμασι(ν)
A.	τὸ	πνεῦμα	τὰ	πνεύματα

Notice: the neuter **nom.** and **acc.** forms have the same forms. Also, observe the “moveable nu” on the **dat pl.** Nouns ending in -μα are always neuter (=largest group of 3rd declension nouns).

Third Declension Endings

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Case	Masc & Fem		Neuter	
	Sg	Pl	Sg	Pl
N.	-ς/-	-ες	-ς/-	-α
G.	-ος	-ων	-ος	-ων
D.	-ι	-σι(ν)	-ι	-σι(ν)
A.	-α	-ας	-ς/-	-α

Morphology

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Be careful of the endings

Although they might look the same, they could be very different. Pay attention to the article if it is provided.

ὁ λόγος	→	M, N, Sg
τῆς σαρκός	→	F, G, Sg
τὸ ἔθνος	→	N, N/A, Sg

Square of Stops

	π	β	φ	+ σ	= ψ
Labials	π	β	φ	+ σ	= ψ
Palatals	κ	γ	χ	+ σ	= ξ
Dentals	τ	δ	θ	+ σ	= σ

Vocabulary

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

ἐγγίζω, I approach, draw near
ζάω, I live (zoo)
οἶδα, I know, understand
ὁράω, I see, perceive (panorama)
πείθω, I persuade, convince (faith)

Vocabulary

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

αἷμα, -ατος, τό, blood (hematology, hemoglobin)
γραμματεὺς, -εως, ὁ, scribe (grammar)
δύναμις, -εως, ἡ, power, miracle (dynamic)
πούς, ποδός, ὁ, foot (podiatrist)
πῦρ, -ός, τό, fire (pyre, pyromaniac)

Vocabulary

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

ῥῆμα, -ατος, τό, **word, saying**

στόμα, -ατος, ἡ, **mouth (stomach)**

ὔδωρ, -ατος, τό, **water (hydraulics, hydrogen)**

φῶς, φωτός, τό, **light (photon, photograph)**

χείρ, χειρός, ἡ, **hand**