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# Ancient Greek

Morphology – Part 3: Declension



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# Roadmap

- Declension
  - General topics: Categories, Gender, Noun vs. Adjective
  - Special case: three often-confused nominal paradigms

## Categories and Declension Types

- **Categories** in AGr. declension system:
  - Three genders (m. f. n.)
  - Three numbers (sg. du. pl.)
  - Four cases (nom. acc. gen. dat.) + vocative
  
- **3 types of declension** with separate fusional case endings:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> declension: a-stems
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> declension: o-stems
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> declension: mixed (stems in consonant or *-i-*, *-u-*)

## Gender and Declension

- Correlation between **gender and declension**:
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> declension stems can be m., f. or n.
  - *o*-stems with nom. -ος are mostly m. (sometimes f., e.g. ἡ ὁδός)
  - *o*-stems with nom. = acc. -ον are n.
  
  - *a*-stems with non-sigmatic nom. -ᾶ, -ᾷ, -ῆ are f.
  - *a*-stems with sigmatic nom. -ᾶς, -ῆς are m. (type ὁ πολίτης)
  - *a*-stems cannot be n.

## Noun or Adjective?

- Noun and adjective declension have identical endings
- Unmarked substantivization of adjectives is very common
- Nouns may occur as attributes to another noun (**apposition**)
  - e.g. ταῦρος ἀγελάρχης ‘bull that leads the herd’
- Some words have only one gender and are technically nouns, but they function as adjectives:
  - μηκάς -άδος *f. adj.* in Hom. μηκάδες αἴγες ‘bleating goats’

## Gender Assignment

- Words denoting **animate beings** follow natural gender:
  - e.g. ὁ βοῦς ‘ox’ vs. ἡ βοῦς ‘cow’
  - ὁ θεός ‘god’ vs. ἡ θεός ‘goddess’
  
- **Mass nouns** are often n.: τὸ ὕδωρ ‘water’, τὸ σκῶρ ‘dung’
  - But contrast e.g. ὁ ψάμαθος ‘sand’, ὁ πηλός ‘mud, clay’
  
- **Abstracts/concepts** are often f.: ἡ φιλότις ‘love’, ἡ σοφία ‘wisdom’
  - But contrast e.g. τὸ τάχος ‘speed’

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Declension: the Endings

	Singular		Plural	
	m./f.	n.	m./f.	n.
Nom.	-ς, -∅	-∅	-ες	-α
Acc.	-α, -ν	-∅	-ας, *-ns	-α
Gen.		-ος		-ων
Dat.		-ι		-σι
Voc.		-∅	-ες	-α

## 3<sup>rd</sup> declension: adjectives in \*-es-

- Mostly in compounds, including personal names:

	Singular		Plural	
	m./f.	n.	m./f.	n.
Nom.	εὐμενής	εὐμενές	εὐμενεῖς < -έες	εὐμενῆ < -έα
Acc.	εὐμενῆ < -έα	εὐμενές	εὐμενεῖς << -έας	εὐμενῆ < -έα
Gen.	εὐμενοῦς < -έος		εὐμενῶν < -έων	
Dat.	εὐμενεῖ < -έι		εὐμενέσι < -έσσι	
Voc.	εὐμενές		= nom.	



## 3<sup>rd</sup> declension: adjectives in \*-es-

- Lenition and loss of intervocalic \*s > h, followed by contractions

	Singular		Plural	
	m./f.	n.	m./f.	n.
Nom.	εὐμενής	εὐμενές	εὐμενεῖς < -έες	εὐμενῆ < -έα
Acc.	εὐμενῆ < -έα	εὐμενές	εὐμενεῖς << -έας	εὐμενῆ < -έα
Gen.	εὐμενοῦς < -έος		εὐμενῶν < -έων	
Dat.	εὐμενεῖ < -εῖ		εὐμενέσι < -έσσι	
Voc.	εὐμενές		= nom.	

## 1<sup>st</sup> declension: masculine nouns in *\*-ā-*

- *\*-ā-* > Attic η (subtype πολίτης) unless ε, ι, ρ precedes  
 (subtype νεανιάς)

	Singular		Plural	
	m.		m.	
Nom.	πολίτης	νεανιάς	πολίται	νεανίαι
Acc.	πολίτην	νεανιάν	πολίτας	νεανίας
Gen.	πολίτου	νεανίου	πολιτῶν	νεανιῶν
Dat.	πολίτῃ	νεανία	πολίταις	νεανίαις
Voc.	πολίτη	νεανιά	πολίται	νεανίαι

## 1<sup>st</sup> declension: masculine nouns in \*-ā-

- Identical to the type εὐμενής only in nom. sg. πολίτης

	Singular		Plural	
	m.		m.	
Nom.	πολίτης	νεανιάς	πολίται	νεανίαι
Acc.	πολίτην	νεανιά <u>ν</u>	πολίτας	νεανίας
Gen.	πολί <u>του</u>	νεαν <u>ίου</u>	πολιτῶν	νεανιῶν
Dat.	πολίτη	νεανία	πολίταις	νεανίαις
Voc.	πολίτη	νεανιά	πολίται	νεανίαι

## 3<sup>rd</sup> declension: stems in -εύς

- masculine personal names or occupations (χαλκεύς 'smith')

	sg.		pl.	
	Hom.	earlier	Hom.	earlier
■ Nom.	χαλκεύς	*- <i>ēus</i>	χαλκῆες	*- <i>ēues</i>
■ Acc.	χαλκῆα	*- <i>ēua</i>	χαλκῆας	*- <i>ēuas</i>
■ Gen.	χαλκῆος	*- <i>ēmos</i>	χαλκῆων	*- <i>ēōn</i>
■ Dat.	χαλκῆϊ	*- <i>ēui</i>	χαλκεῦσι	*- <i>ēusi</i>
■ Voc.	χαλκεῦ	*- <i>ēu</i>		= nom.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> declension: stems in -εύς

- masculine personal names or occupations (χαλκεύς 'smith')

	sg.		pl.	
	Hom.	Att.	Hom.	Att.
■ Nom.	χαλκεύς	> χαλκεύς	χαλκῆες	> χαλκῆς, >> χαλκεῖς
■ Acc.	χαλκῆα	> χαλκέα	χαλκῆας	> χαλκῆς, >> χαλκεῖς
■ Gen.	χαλκῆος	> χαλκέως	χαλκῆων	> χαλκέων
■ Dat.	χαλκῆϊ	>> χαλκεῖ	χαλκεῦσι	= χαλκεῦσι
■ Voc.	χαλκεῦ	χαλκεῦ		= nom.

## Three frequent types of men's names

- Σωκράτης, **gen. -ους** type εὐμενής (3<sup>rd</sup> decl. compounded adj.)
  - From ntr. in -ος (Σωκράτης = whose κράτος 'might' is σῶς 'sound')
- Ἀλκιβιάδης, **gen. -ου** type πολίτης (1<sup>st</sup> decl. compound/simplex)
  - Frequently in patronymics (Ἀλκιβι-άδης = son of Ἀλκίβιος)
- Ἀχιλλεύς, **gen. -έως** (3<sup>rd</sup> decl., *simplicia*)
  - Usually hypocoristics (shortened name forms)



