

7

Second Declension Nouns (Module B)

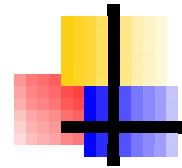
Feminine and Neuter Nouns

Morphology: The Nominal System (Part 2)

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§7.0 Introduction

The acquisition of a new language is difficult. This difficulty is compounded if it is not heard and spoken on a regular basis. Because of these special challenges, it will take repeated exposures to new elements of NTGreek grammar before it is understood. Make no mistake about it; acquiring a new language and the skills required is a daunting task! Any grammar positing anything different is selling something.



Many enthusiastic students soon realize they are swimming—if not perhaps drowning—in information. Out of frustration, they blame themselves and think they are not intelligent enough or too old to tackle Greek. What they do not realize is that this is the natural learning process. Babies are at first engulfed in a sea of meaningless noise before they gradually learn to detect and recognize meaningful sounds as words. Instead of frustration, the proper response is to continue to be enthusiastic and inquisitive about what you are learning, just like a child!

Those studying NTGreek on their own may become unsure what they are learning, especially when there is no authoritative source in their immediate vicinity to ask questions and gain needed reassurance that they are on the right path. This uneasiness may continue until a “language threshold” is achieved. When this will occur depends upon the individual and the amount of time spent studying and practicing of the language. However, if the student does not quit, this threshold will be crossed.

People have different levels of ability and different rates of progress. Be encouraged! The God of creation delights in diversity and variety and perfectionism is not a prerequisite to learn Greek. If perfectionism was a requirement (or to write a Greek grammar), then we all should stop now! Do not compare yourself with someone else’s ability; enjoy what you are learning by keeping in mind the purpose for your language study. Everyone needs God’s grace of perseverance to learn and understand the Greek New Testament, especially this author.

§7.1 Second Declension Feminine Nouns

Lesson Six introduced the Greek nominal system and noted that not all nouns are inflected in the same manner. Those patterns which are alike or nearly alike when inflected are grouped together into one of three declensions, either first, second or third declension. A substantive’s declension is determined by its stem termination, whether with a vowel (first and second declension) or a consonant (third declension).



Any noun may correctly be called a substantive. A substantive is an all-inclusive term for any part of speech that functions as a noun. Other parts of speech other than nouns may also function substantively within a syntactical context, such as adjectives, pronouns, participles, infinitives, and at times the article itself.

Nominal stems ending with the vowel *omikron* belong to the second declension. The great majority of these are masculine or neuter in gender. However, over sixty nouns in the second declension are feminine. The feminine case endings are introduced next before neuter second declension nouns, because they are inflected in the same way as masculine nouns of the same declension.

§7.1.1 Second declension feminine paradigm. The case endings for all (uncontracted) second declension feminine nouns are indicated below in red for easier identification. Summary comments concerning their formation follow which are identical to (uncontracted) masculine nouns of the same declension. The feminine noun, ὁδός serves as the n-2b paradigm. These case endings may be used with any feminine noun in the Vocabulary Study of this lesson.

ὁδός, -οῦ, ἡ (road, way, journey, conduct) ὁδο + case ending [listen](#)

| n-2b | | Singular | | Plural | |
|-------|------------|----------|-------------------|---------|--------------------|
| | | Article | Noun | Article | Noun |
| Cases | Nominative | ἡ | ὁδός ¹ | αἱ | ὁδοί |
| | Genitive | τῆς | ὁδοῦ ² | τῶν | ὁδῶν ³ |
| | Dative | τῇ | ὁδῶ ⁴ | ταῖς | οδοῖς |
| | Accusative | τὴν | ὁδόν ⁵ | τάς | οδοῦς ⁵ |
| | Vocative | | ὁδέ ⁶ | αἱ | οδοί ⁷ |

1. All case endings are appended to the nominative singular stem. The nominative singular form is the lexical form for all forms of the paradigm. This is true for all nouns, regardless of declension.
2. The actual case form ending is *omikron*. However due to the undesired combination with the stem vowel *omikron*, contraction occurs.
3. The stem vowel *omikron* has been irregularly absorbed by the *omega*, and not because of contraction as in the genitive singular.
4. At some time during the morphological development of the dative singular case ending, the stem vowel *omikron* lengthened to *omega*, with the *iota* retained as an *iota* subscript.
5. The actual case ending is *-vς*. However, *nū* drops out when immediately followed by *sigma* because of phonology. The stem vowel *omikron* is lengthened to *ou* to compensate for the loss of the *nū*.
6. The *epsilon* irregularly replaces the stem vowel *omikron*.
7. The vocative and nominative plural share case endings. Context (function), and not form, determines meaning.

It should be carefully observed that the inflectional endings used for second declension masculine nouns are identical to second declension feminine nouns, except that the feminine gender of the noun is indicated by the appropriate feminine article. The determining factor between these two genders is lexical. Gender cannot be predicted in nouns!


The identical case endings of masculine and feminine second declension nouns may be easily seen with a side-by-side comparison.

| | Singular | Singular | Plural | Plural |
|-------------------|----------|----------|-----------|--------|
| Nominative | ἄνθρωπος | ὁδός | ἄνθρωποι | ὁδοί |
| Genitive | ἄνθρώπου | ὁδοῦ | ἄνθρώπων | ὁδῶν |
| Dative | ἄνθρώπῳ | ὁδῶ | ἄνθρώποις | οδοῖς |
| Accusative | ἄνθρωπον | ὁδόν | ἄνθρώπους | οδούς |
| Vocative | ἄνθρωπε | ὁδέ | ἄνθρωποι | οδοί |

§7.1.2 Agreement. When any modifiers, such as an article, modify second declension feminine nouns, they too are feminine. The reason for this is **grammatical concord**. Because of the necessity of grammatical concord, all modifiers must be inflected to correspond to the substantive it modifies grammatically. Therefore, the article is always aligned in case, gender, and number to the case, gender, and number of the substantive.

Grammatical discord like ὁ ὁδός or τοῦ ὁδοῦ will never be encountered in NTGreek, because in both of these examples, the noun's gender is feminine and the article is masculine. Only the masculine article may modify masculine substantives, and the feminine article, feminine substantives. It will become evident as the lessons progress that concord plays a larger role in NTGreek than in English because of its highly developed inflected morphological system.

§7.1.3 Lexical form. The lexical form of second declension feminine nouns, like their masculine counterparts, is the nominative singular form.

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>ὁδός, οὐ, ἡ (Hom. +; inscr., pap., LXX, En., Ep. Arist., Philo, Joseph., Test. 12 Patr.) way. 1. lit.—a. as a place: way, road, highway Mt 2: 12; 21: 8a, b; Mk 11: 8; Lk 3: 5 (Is 40: 4 v.l.); 19: 36; ἐτέρα</p> | <p>The nominative singular form is the lexical entry, followed by the genitive singular, and then the article.</p> |
| <p>The above lexical citation is from <i>A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature</i> (1979:553).</p> | |
|  | <p>The lexical form for all nouns is their nominative singular form. The Greek-English lexicon lists only one form for each word rather than all the forms of every paradigm. For example, if the form ὁδοῦ is encountered in the Greek text, one would have to know that ὁδοῦ comes from ὁδός in order to look up the word's definition. This is similar for looking up a word in an English dictionary. For example, to look up the definition for "women", one would have to know that this plural noun is from the singular "woman" to find its definition. Therefore, the recommended method to learn the gender of a Greek noun is to memorize always the gender of the definite article which is grammatically associated with its nominative singular form. The gender of any noun should not be assumed.</p> |

§7.1.4 Stems of second declension feminine nouns. Except for one irregular second declension feminine form, all stems of second declension feminine nouns terminate with an *omikron*. Their vocalic stem termination is identical to second declension (uncontracted) masculine nouns. The appropriate case endings are added to the *omikron* stem according to the noun's grammatical function in the sentence.

§7.1.5 Case function. Translation of case function is independent of a substantive's gender. Therefore, the manner in which the different cases are translated will be identical, regardless if the substantive is masculine, feminine, or neuter, or to which declension a substantive belongs (first, second, or third). The masculine and feminine nouns on the next page illustrate the translation of case function. If a substantive is in the nominative, genitive, dative, accusative, or the vocative case, it will be translated the same whether the gender is masculine or feminine.

| | Case | Gender | Word | Translation |
|---------------------------------|------------|-----------|--------------|---------------|
| Only Singular Forms Exemplified | Nominative | Masculine | ὁ ἄνθρωπος | “the man” |
| | | Feminine | ἡ ὁδός | “the road” |
| | Genitive | Masculine | τοῦ ἀνθρώπου | “of the man” |
| | | Feminine | τῆς ὁδοῦ | “of the road” |
| | Dative | Masculine | τῷ ἀνθρώπῳ | “to the man” |
| | | Feminine | τῇ ὁδῷ | “to the road” |
| | Accusative | Masculine | τὸν ἄνθρωπον | “the man” |
| | | Feminine | τὴν ὁδόν | “the road” |
| | Vocative | Masculine | ἄνθρωπε | “(O) man” |
| | | Feminine | ὁδέ | “(O) road” |

§7.1.6 Declension-Paradigm notation. Except for one contracted feminine noun, all second declension feminine nouns are designated as n-2b. This differentiates it from the masculine paradigm of the second declension whose designation is n-2a.

§7.1.7 Second declension feminine paradigms. The following two paradigms are further examples of second declension feminine nouns. The feminine article is properly shown with its inflected noun, agreeing in case, gender, and number, in both the singular and the plural.

βίβλος, -ου, ἡ (scroll, book, record-book) βιβλο + case ending [listen](#)

| n-2b | Singular | Plural |
|-------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Nominative | ἡ βίβλο ς | αἱ βίβλο ι |
| Genitive | τῆς βίβλο υ | τῶν βίβλο $\omega\upsilon$ |
| Dative | τῇ βίβλο ω | ταῖς βίβλο $\iota\varsigma$ |
| Accusative | τὴν βίβλο ν | τὰς βίβλο $\upsilon\varsigma$ |
| Vocative | βίβλε or ἡ βίβλο ς | αἱ βίβλο ι |

διάλεκτος, -ου, ἡ (language, dialect) διαλεκτο + case ending [listen](#)

| n-2b | Singular | Plural |
|-------------------|--|--|
| Nominative | ἡ διάλεκτος ς | αἱ διάλεκτοι ι |
| Genitive | τῆς διαλέκτου υ | τῶν διαλέκτων $\omega\upsilon\upsilon$ |
| Dative | τῇ διαλέκτῳ ω | ταῖς διαλέκτοις $\iota\varsigma$ |
| Accusative | τὴν διάλεκτον ν | τὰς διαλέκτους $\upsilon\varsigma$ |
| Vocative | διάλεκτε ϵ or ἡ διάλεκτος ς | αἱ διάλεκτοι ι |

It will take some mental training to think of these inflectional endings also as feminine forms. In many cases where these nouns occur in NTGreek, the article or another modifier will indicate the gender of these nouns.

From the outset, the best way to avoid becoming confused between the gender of masculine and feminine nouns is to memorize and associate the Greek article with its nominative singular form in the lesson's vocabulary.

A comprehensive list of all second declension feminine nouns is available. For this list, please consult the study aids for this lesson.

§7.2 Second Declension Neuter Nouns

NTGreek vocabulary includes over two hundred neuter second declension nouns. These nouns are approximately thirty percent of all second declension nouns (about sixty percent are masculine).

Like all (uncontracted) masculine and feminine nouns of the second declension, neuter nouns are composed of a stem that terminates with an *omikron*. To this vocalic stem, the case endings are appended. However, unlike the identical case endings which masculine and feminine nouns share, neuter nouns have distinctive case endings in the nominative, accusative, and vocative singular and plural.

§7.2.1 Second declension neuter paradigm. The case endings for all second declension neuter nouns are indicated below in red for easier identification. Summary comments concerning their formation immediately follow the paradigm. The neuter noun, ἔργον serves as the n-2c

paradigm. These case endings may be used for any neuter noun in the Vocabulary Study of this lesson.

ἔργον, -ου, τό (work, deed, action) ἔργο + case ending [listen](#)

| n-2c | | Singular | | Plural | |
|-------|-------------------|----------|----------------------|---------|----------------------|
| | | Article | Noun | Article | Noun |
| Cases | Nominative | τὸ | ἔργον ¹ | τὰ | ἔργα ² |
| | Genitive | τοῦ | ἔργου ^{3,7} | τῶν | ἔργων ^{4,7} |
| | Dative | τῷ | ἔργῳ ^{5,7} | τοῖς | ἔργοις ⁷ |
| | Accusative | τὸ | ἔργον ¹ | τὰ | ἔργα ² |
| | Vocative | | ἔργον ^{1,6} | τὰ | ἔργα ^{2,6} |

1. The neuter nominative, accusative, and vocative singular and plural forms are identical. This is different from n-2a/n-2b second declension vocative singular nouns that normally exhibit a separate form than its nominative singular. The context in which the neuter noun occurs determines its grammatical function.
2. In the nominative, accusative, and vocative plural forms, the *omikron* has been irregularly absorbed by the *alpha* (and not because of contraction). The final alpha is pronounced short in all neuter nominative, vocative, and accusative plural noun forms.
3. As in second declension masculine and feminine nouns, the actual case ending is *omikron*. However due to the undesired combination with the stem vowel *omikron*, contraction occurs.
4. As in second declension masculine and feminine nouns, the stem vowel *omikron* has been irregularly absorbed by the *omega*, and not because of contraction as in the genitive singular.
5. At some time during the morphological development of the dative singular case ending, the stem vowel *omikron* lengthened to *omega*, with the *iota* retained as an *iota* subscript.
6. The neuter vocative singular and plural case forms are identical to the nominative case endings.
7. The neuter second declension nouns are identical with the masculine and feminine case forms in the genitive and dative, in both the singular and the plural. It is important, therefore, to learn the gender of each noun as they are encountered.

Observe that the inflectional endings used for second declension neuter nouns are NOT identical to second declension masculine and feminine nouns. The case endings may be compared between these two groups with a convenient side-by-side comparison.

| | Singular | |
|-------------------|----------------------|--------|
| | Masculine & Feminine | Neuter |
| Nominative | ς | ν |
| Genitive | ου | ου |
| Dative | ω | ω |
| Accusative | ν | ν |
| Vocative | ε or ς | ν |

| | Plural | |
|-------------------|----------------------|--------|
| | Masculine & Feminine | Neuter |
| Nominative | οι | α |
| Genitive | ων | ων |
| Dative | ις | ις |
| Accusative | υς | α |
| Vocative | οι | α |

§7.2.2 Lexical form. The lexical entry for second declension neuter nouns, like the masculine and feminine forms, is the nominative singular form, followed by its genitive singular, and then the article.

§7.2.3 Stems of second declension neuter nouns. The stems of second declension neuter nouns terminate with an *omikron* just like the masculine and feminine second declension nouns. The appropriate case endings are added to the vocalic stem according to the noun's grammatical function in the sentence.

§7.2.4 Case function. Translation of case function is independent of a substantive's gender. Therefore, the manner in which the different cases are translated will be identical, regardless if the substantive is masculine, feminine, or neuter, or to which declension a substantive belongs (first, second, or third). The three genders are compared below to illustrate their translation of case function. If a substantive is in the nominative, genitive, dative, accusative, or the vocative case, it will be translated the same whether the gender is masculine, feminine, or neuter.

| | Case | Gender | Word | Translation |
|---------------------------------|------------|-----------|--------------|---------------|
| Only Singular Forms Exemplified | Nominative | Masculine | ὁ ἄνθρωπος | "the man" |
| | | Feminine | ἡ ὁδός | "the road" |
| | | Neuter | τὸ ἔργον | "the work" |
| | Genitive | Masculine | τοῦ ἀνθρώπου | "of the man" |
| | | Feminine | τῆς ὁδοῦ | "of the road" |
| | | Neuter | τοῦ ἔργου | "of the work" |
| | Dative | Masculine | τῷ ἀνθρώπῳ | "to the man" |
| | | Feminine | τῇ ὁδῷ | "to the road" |
| | | Neuter | τῷ ἔργῳ | "to the work" |
| | Accusative | Masculine | τὸν ἄνθρωπον | "the man" |
| | | Feminine | τὴν ὁδόν | "the road" |
| | | Neuter | τὸ ἔργον | "the work" |
| | Vocative | Masculine | ἄνθρωπε | "(O) man" |
| | | Feminine | ὁδέ | "(O) road" |
| | | Neuter | ἔργον | "(O) work" |

§7.2.5 Declension-Paradigm notation. All second declension neuter nouns are designated as n-2c. This designation differentiates between masculine (n-2a) and feminine (n-2b) nouns of the same declension.

§7.2.6 Agreement. When a modifier, such as a Greek article modifies second declension neuter nouns, it too is neuter. The reason is for grammatical concord, as for masculine and feminine nouns (cf. §7.1.2). Therefore, grammatical discord like ὁ ἔργον or οἱ ἔργοι will never be encountered in NTGreek, since the noun's gender is neuter and the article, masculine. Only the masculine article may modify masculine substantives, and the neuter article, neuter substantives. Note that there is no distinction in the article form in the genitive and dative singular and plural forms.

§7.2.7 Second declension neuter paradigms. The following four paradigms are further examples of second declension neuter nouns. The neuter article is properly shown with its inflected noun, agreeing in gender, number and case, in both the singular and the plural.

τέκνον, -ου, τό (child) τεκνο + case ending [listen](#)

| n-2c | Singular | Plural |
|-------------------|------------|--------------|
| Nominative | τὸ τέκνον | τὰ τέκνα |
| Genitive | τοῦ τέκνου | τῶν τέκνων |
| Dative | τῷ τέκνῳ | τοῖς τέκνοις |
| Accusative | τὸ τέκνον | τὰ τέκνα |
| Vocative | τέκνον | τὰ τέκνα |

δῶρον, -ου, τό (gift) δωρο + case ending [listen](#)

| n-2c | Singular | Plural |
|-------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Nominative | τὸ δῶρον | τὰ δῶρα |
| Genitive | τοῦ δώρου | τῶν δώρων |
| Dative | τῷ δώρῳ | τοῖς δώροις |
| Accusative | τὸ δῶρον | τὰ δῶρα |
| Vocative | δῶρον | (τὰ) δῶρα |

ἱερόν, -ου, τό (temple) ἱερο + case ending [listen](#)

| n-2c | Singular | Plural |
|-------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Nominative | τὸ ἱερόν | τὰ ἱερά |
| Genitive | τοῦ ἱεροῦ | τῶν ἱερῶν |
| Dative | τῷ ἱερῷ | τοῖς ἱεροῖς |
| Accusative | τὸ ἱερόν | τὰ ἱερά |
| Vocative | ἱερόν | τὰ ἱερά |

σάββατον, -ου, τό (Sabbath) σαββατο + case ending [listen](#)

| n-2c | Singular | Plural |
|-------------------|--------------|----------------|
| Nominative | τὸ σάββατον | τὰ σάββατα |
| Genitive | τοῦ σαββάτου | τῶν σαββάτων |
| Dative | τῷ σαββάτῳ | τοῖς σαββάτοις |
| Accusative | τὸ σάββατον | τὰ σάββατα |
| Vocative | σάββατον | τὰ σάββατα |

A comprehensive list of all second declension neuter nouns is available. For this list, please consult the study aids for this lesson.

§7.2.8 Parsing neuter nouns. When a neuter nominative, accusative, or vocative singular or plural form is encountered, it is best to parse the noun by citing all possibilities. The importance of this comes into play when determining whether a neuter noun is either functioning as the subject (nominative) or direct object (accusative) of the verb. If an erroneous assumption is made that a neuter form is the subject when in fact it is the direct object, the translation will be in error. However, if you are accustomed to parsing the form as “nominative/vocative/accusative”, you will be less likely to make this mistake. A few parsing examples follow.

δῶρον - neut. nom./acc./voc. sg. of δῶρον, n-2c, “gift”

δῶρα - neut. nom./acc./voc. pl. of δῶρον, n-2c, “gift”

σάββατον - neut. nom./acc./voc. sg. of σάββατον, n-2c, “Sabbath”

σάββατα - neut. nom./acc./voc. pl. of σάββατον, n-2c, “Sabbath”

§7.3 Second Declension Paradigm Overview

Greek nouns fall into one of three declensions that may be subdivided into paradigms within each declension. When the second declension feminine and neuter paradigms from this lesson are added to the masculine paradigm of Lesson Six, we may designate these as three separate paradigms within the same declension for easier notation.

| listen | n-2a | |
|-------------------|---------------|------------|
| | Singular | Plural |
| Nominative | ὁ θεός | οἱ θεοί |
| Genitive | τοῦ θεοῦ | τῶν θεῶν |
| Dative | τῷ θεῷ | τοῖς θεοῖς |
| Accusative | τὸν θεόν | τούς θεούς |
| Vocative | θεέ οὐ ὁ θεός | οἱ θεοί |

| listen | n-2b | |
|-------------------|----------|------------|
| | Singular | Plural |
| Nominative | ἡ ὁδός | αἱ ὁδοί |
| Genitive | τῆς ὁδοῦ | τῶν ὁδῶν |
| Dative | τῇ ὁδῷ | ταῖς ὁδοῖς |
| Accusative | τὴν ὁδόν | τὰς ὁδοὺς |
| Vocative | ὁδέ | αἱ ὁδοί |

| listen | n-2c | |
|-------------------|-----------|-------------|
| | Singular | Plural |
| Nominative | τὸ ἔργον | τὰ ἔργα |
| Genitive | τοῦ ἔργου | τῶν ἔργων |
| Dative | τῷ ἔργῳ | τοῖς ἔργοις |
| Accusative | τὸ ἔργον | τὰ ἔργα |
| Vocative | ἔργον | (τὰ) ἔργα |

n-2a

The abbreviation **n-2a** represents the following:

- n = noun (part of speech)
- 2 = second declension
- a = paradigm "a"

Almost all masculine nouns in the second declension follow the **n-2a** paradigm (cf. §7.3.1).

n-2b

The abbreviation **n-2b** represents the following:

- n = noun (part of speech)
- 2 = second declension
- b = paradigm "b"

Almost all feminine nouns in the second declension follow the **n-2b** paradigm (cf. §7.3.1).

n-2c

The abbreviation **n-2c** represents the following:

- n = noun (part of speech)
- 2 = second declension
- c = paradigm "c"

All neuter nouns declined in the second declension follow the **n-2c** paradigm pattern.

§7.3.1 Irregular second declension forms. Only four NTGreek irregular second declension masculine and feminine nouns do not fall into one of the above classifications. Because of their irregularity and infrequent usage in NTGreek, they are not included in this study of second declension nouns. For an explanation of these paradigms, see [The Morphology of Biblical Greek](#) by Wm. D. Mounce, pages 188-190). These irregular second declension forms are designated in Mounce's work as n-2d (χειμάρρους and ὀστοῦν) and n-2e (Κῶς and Ἀπολλῶς).

§7.4 Review of Second Declension Nouns

We have come to the end of our study of second declension nouns. It would be prudent to review briefly key fundamentals of the declension.

§7.4.1 Second declension stems. Second declension nouns, whether masculine, feminine or neuter, are composed of a stem that terminates with an *omikron*, with case endings appended. As discussed before, in some cases contraction or monophthongization occurs.

| | |
|----------------|----------------------------------|
| masculine noun | θεός = θεο + ς, οῦ, ῶ, ν, etc. |
| feminine noun | ὁδός = ὁδο + ς, οῦ, ῶ, ν, etc. |
| neuter noun | ἔργον = ἔργο + ν, ου, ω, ν, etc. |

Stems of second declension nouns remain constant and are based upon the nominative singular. This is the reason the lexical form of all nouns is their nominative singular. Whereas the case endings determine the noun's function, the stem contains the basic meaning of the word. Therefore, it is essential to recognize the stem of a noun.

| | Singular and Plural Nouns | Stem | Paradigm | Gender |
|-------------------|---|------|----------|-----------|
| Second Declension | θεός, θεοῦ, θεῶ, θεόν, θεέ θεοί, θεῶν, θεοίς, θεοῦς, θεοί | θεο | n-2a | Masculine |
| | ὁδός, ὁδοῦ, ὁδῶ, ὁδόν, ὁδέ ὁδοί, ὁδῶν, ὁδοίς, ὁδοῦς, ὁδοί | ὁδο | n-2b | Feminine |
| | ἔργον, ἔργου, ἔργω, ἔργον, ἔργον ἔργα, ἔργων, ἔργοις, ἔργα, ἔργα | ἔργο | n-2c | Neuter |

§7.4.2 Lexical form. Without exception, the lexical gender determines the gender of a noun in the second declension, as well as in all declensions. If the article is memorized with the noun when it is first encountered in the vocabulary, this will resolve possible future confusion. For instance, it is impossible to know whether θεοῖς, ὁδοῖς or ἔργοις are masculine, feminine or neuter dative plural by form alone. Therefore, the only means to know the gender of any noun, no matter what declension, is to know its lexical gender!

§7.4.3 Second declension case endings. The case endings for second declension nouns are exemplified in the following master charts.

| | Singular | n-2a masculine | n-2b feminine | n-2c neuter |
|-------|------------|-------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Cases | Nominative | ς | ς | ν |
| | Genitive | ου | ου | ου |
| | Dative | ω | ω | ω |
| | Accusative | ν | ν | ν |
| | Vocative | ε or ς | ε or ς | ν |

| | Plural | n-2a masculine | n-2b feminine | n-2c neuter |
|-------|------------|-------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Cases | Nominative | ι | ι | α |
| | Genitive | ων | ων | ων |
| | Dative | ις | ις | ις |
| | Accusative | υς | υς | α |
| | Vocative | ι | ι | α |

The above case endings for second declension nouns must be thoroughly learned and committed to memory. The study aids accompanying this lesson augment and will help to reinforce the learning process.

§7.4.4 Case Formation. The following notes concerning case formation are germane to second declension nouns.

§7.4.41 The nominative singular stem is the base stem to which all other case forms are appended. This is the reason why it is the lexical form for all nouns. The vocalic nominative stem for second declension nouns is *omikron*.

| Second Declension Masculine Nouns | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | Singular | Plural |
| Nominative | ἄνθρωπο + ς | ἄνθρωποι + ι |
| Genitive | ἄνθρωπο + ο = ου (contraction) | ἄνθρωπ + ων (absorption) |
| Dative | ἄνθρωπο + ι = ωι (contraction) | ἄνθρωποι + ις |
| Accusative | ἄνθρωπο + ν | ἄνθρωποι + νς = υς (compensation) |
| Vocative | ἄνθρωπ + ε (replacement) | ἄνθρωποι + ι |

Feminine nouns are analogous to their masculine counterparts.

| Second Declension Feminine Nouns | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | Singular | Plural |
| Nominative | ὄδο + ς | ὄδοι + ι |
| Genitive | ὄδο + ο = ου (contraction) | ὄδ + ων (absorption) |
| Dative | ὄδο + ι = ωι (contraction) | ὄδοι + ις |
| Accusative | ὄδο + ν | ὄδοι + νς = υς (compensation) |
| Vocative | ὄδ + ε (replacement) | ὄδοι + ι |

Neuter second declension noun case endings do not share the masculine and feminine case endings in all instances.

| Second Declension Neuter Nouns | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| | Singular | Plural |
| Nominative | ἔργο + ν | ἔργ + α (absorption) |
| Genitive | ἔργο + ο = ου (contraction) | ἔργ + ων (absorption) |
| Dative | ἔργο + ι = ω (contraction) | ἔργο + ις |
| Accusative | ἔργο + ν | ἔργ + α (absorption) |
| Vocative | ἔργο + ν | ἔργ + α (absorption) |

§7.4.42 The second declension genitive singular is actually *omikron*. However, the stem vowel and the genitive singular case in all three genders contracts to form ου. This is the reason the genitive singular is not cited as simply υ (as in most Greek grammars). It is better to learn the correct formation now, than to unlearn something wrong later!

In the charts below, all three genders are represented in the genitive singular in the right-hand column. The first three columns represent the progression of the genitive's formation, beginning with the noun's stem and progressing through the stem's vowel contraction with the case ending.

| Genitive Masculine Singular Second Declension Nouns | | | |
|---|-------------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| Stem | Genitive Singular | Combination | Contracted Final Form |
| θεο | θεο + ο | θεοο | θεοῦ |
| οἰκο | οἰκο + ο | οἰκοο | οἴκου |
| Πετρο | Πετρο + ο | Πετροο | Πέτρου |

| Genitive Feminine Singular Second Declension Nouns | | | |
|--|-------------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| Stem | Genitive Singular | Combination | Contracted Final Form |
| ὄδο | ὄδο + ο | ὄδοο | ὄδοῦ |
| βιβλο | βιβλο + ο | βιβλοο | βίβλου |
| ἄβυσσο | ἄβυσσο + ο | ἄβυσσοο | ἄβύσου |

| Genitive Neuter Singular Second Declension Nouns | | | |
|--|-------------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| Stem | Genitive Singular | Combination | Contracted Final Form |
| ἔργο | ἔργο + ο | ἔργοο | ἔργου |
| δωρο | δωρο + ο | δωροο | δώρου |
| ἱερο | ἱερο + ο | ἱεροο | ἱεροῦ |

§7.4.43 The dative masculine and neuter singular is actually the stem + *iōta*, the case ending. In every instance in NTGreek, the stem vowel and case ending (οι) becomes the improper diphthong, ω. At some time during the morphological development of this case ending, the stem vowel, *omikron*, lengthened to *omega*, with the *iōta* was retained as an *iōta* subscript. The process is called “monophthongization”. This term comes from μόνος (“only” or “single”) + φθόγγος (“sound”).

| Dative Masculine Singular Second Declension Nouns | | | |
|---|-------------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| Stem | Genitive Singular | Combination | Contracted Final Form |
| θεο | θεο + ι | θεοι | θεῶ |
| οἶκο | οἶκο + ι | οἶκοι | οἴκῳ |
| Πετρο | Πετρο + ι | Πετροι | Πέτρῳ |

| Dative Neuter Singular Second Declension Nouns | | | |
|--|-------------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| Stem | Genitive Singular | Combination | Contracted Final Form |
| ἔργο | ἔργο + ι | ἔργοι | ἔργῳ |
| δωρο | δωρο + ι | δωροι | δώρῳ |
| ἱερο | ἱερο + ι | ἱεροι | ἱερῳ |

§7.4.44 The vocative masculine and feminine singular may either be a separate case form or identical to the nominative masculine and feminine singular form with the article. The nominative and vocative masculine and feminine plural case endings are always identical. There is not a different vocative form for the neuter nominative and vocative singular or plural.

| Nominative and Vocative Masculine Second Declension Forms | | | |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Nominative Singular | Nominative Plural | Vocative Singular | Vocative Plural |
| λόγος | λόγοι | λόγε or ὁ λόγος | λόγοι |
| κύριος | κύριοι | κύριε or ὁ κύριος | κύριοι |
| θεός | θεοί | θεέ or ὁ θεός | θεοί |

| Nominative and Vocative Feminine Second Declension Forms | | | |
|--|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Nominative Singular | Nominative Plural | Vocative Singular | Vocative Plural |
| ὁδός | ὁδοί | ὁδέ or ἡ ὁδός | ὁδοί |
| βίβλος | βίβλοι | βίβλε or ἡ βίβλος | βίβλοι |
| ἄβυσσος | ἄβυσσοι | ἄβυσσε or ἡ ἄβυσσος | ἄβυσσοι |

| Nominative and Vocative Neuter Second Declension Forms | | | |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Nominative Singular | Nominative Plural | Vocative Singular | Vocative Plural |
| ἔργον | ἔργα | ἔργον | ἔργα |
| τέκνον | τέκνα | τέκνον | τέκνα |
| δῶρον | δῶρα | δῶρον | δῶρα |

§7.4.45 The neuter nominative, vocative, and accusative singular forms in the second declension are identical. When parsing these forms without a context, include all three possibilities.

| Neuter Nominative | Neuter Vocative | Neuter Accusative |
|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| ἔργον | ἔργον | ἔργον |
| τέκνον | τέκνον | τέκνον |
| σάββατον | σάββατον | σάββατον |

§7.4.46 The neuter nominative and accusative plural forms are identical in the second declension. When parsing these forms without a context, include both possibilities. The *alpha* irregularly absorbs the stem vowel. The pronunciation of the *alpha* is ALWAYS short.

| Neuter Nominative Plural | Neuter Accusative Plural |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| ἔργα | ἔργα |
| τέκνα | τέκνα |
| σάββατα | σάββατα |

§7.4.47 Second declension masculine, feminine, and neuter nouns have the same case endings in the genitive, dative and accusative singular.

| | Masculine | Feminine | Neuter |
|------------|-----------|----------|--------|
| Genitive | ἀνθρώπου | ὁδοῦ | ἔργου |
| Dative | ἀνθρώπῳ | ὁδῷ | ἔργῳ |
| Accusative | ἄνθρωπον | ὁδόν | ἔργον |

§7.4.48 Second declension masculine, feminine and neuter nouns have the same case endings in the genitive and dative plural.

| | Masculine | Feminine | Neuter |
|----------|-----------|----------|--------|
| Genitive | ἀνθρώπων | ὁδῶν | ἔργων |
| Dative | ἀνθρώποις | ὁδοῖς | ἔργοις |

§7.4.49 Whether by monophthongization in the dative singular form (ῶ), or by adding the dative plural form (ις) to the noun's stem, the *iōta* is always present in masculine, feminine and neuter case endings in second declension nouns.

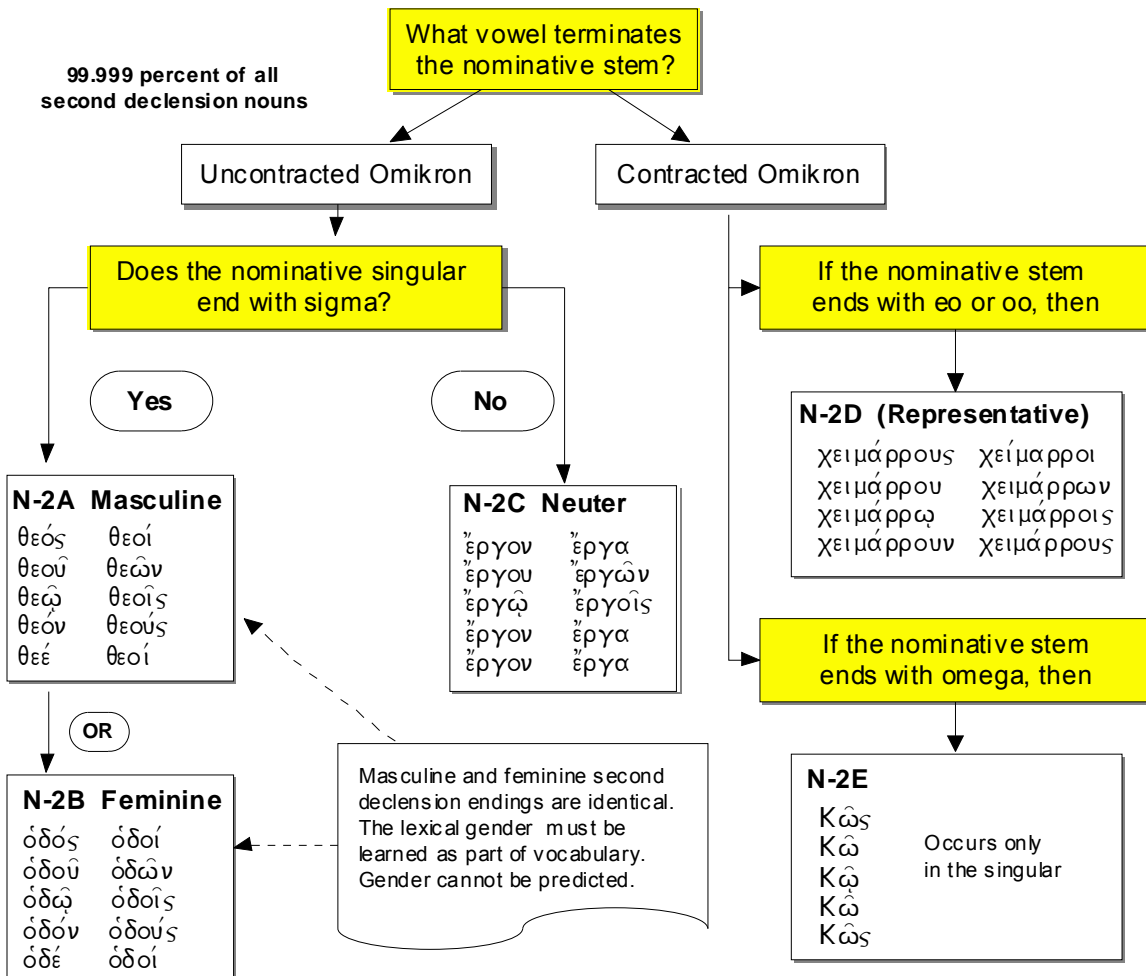
| | Dative Singular | Dative Plural |
|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Masculine Nouns | θεῷ, λόγῳ, κυρίῳ | θεοῖς, λόγοις, κυρίοις |
| Feminine Nouns | ὁδῷ, βίβλῳ | ὁδοῖς, βίβλοισις |
| Neuter Nouns | ἔργῳ, τέκνῳ, δώρῳ | ἔργοις, τέκνοις, δώροισις |

§7.5 Flow Chart For Second Declension Nouns

Before learning NTGreek, most students had never heard about declensions, paradigms, cases, and inflection—much less study them! All new fields of study require learning special, and sometimes, technical terms in order to communicate ideas within that discipline. Language study is no different.



Sometimes, a person can consult a dictionary to learn about new terms. Illustrations on the other hand are more suited to show relationships and overviews. The flowchart below illustrates the simplicity for determining the paradigm a second declension noun will follow. These paradigms represent 100% of all second declension nouns. Explanation for the shift of accents will be studied in Lesson Ten.



§ 7.6 NTGreek Study Tools

It is necessary to acquire several NTGreek language study tools. The primary language tool is the Greek New Testament. There are several editions available. Secondly, you need to purchase a Greek-English lexicon for the New Testament. Neither of these tools is inexpensive, however, they are mandatory to read the Greek New Testament.



The Greek New Testament

Format: Hardcover, 4th ed., 918pp.

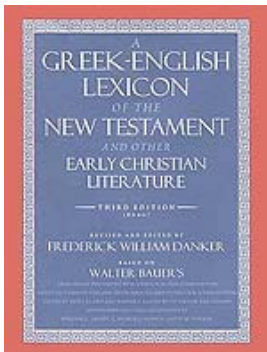
ISBN: 3438051109

Publisher: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft

Publication Date: July 2001

To drink directly from the source, this is the perfect text for reading the Greek New Testament.

Order from [Barnes & Noble](https://www.barnesandnoble.com/).



Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament

Format: Hardcover, 1108 pages

Edited and revised by Frederick William Danker, 2000

Based upon Walter Bauer's lexicon.

Perhaps the single most important lexical innovation of this edition is its inclusion of extended definitions for Greek terms. Such extended definitions give a fuller sense of the word in question, which will help avoid both anachronisms and confusion.

Enhancements to the print edition are exploited in the digital version to provide even greater benefits to students of NTGreek. The software extra adds unprecedented functionality to this already invaluable reference tool. A specialized search dialog enables the user to refine a lexical search by limiting it to specific fields within the text. This has the effect of narrowing the results that are returned, allowing the user to get better information more quickly.

Order from [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/).

§7.7 Vocabulary Study

The special mark (√) before a Greek word, denotes that the word appeared in a previous vocabulary study, and that the new vocabulary word is a compound form of it. The Greek language expresses a freedom in forming words by composition. As a jest, the comedian Aristophanes composed a compound word with seventy-eight syllables (Aristophanes. Eccl. 1160). In addition, syllabification, transliteration, and declension-paradigm notation is supplied where applicable, as well as special notes.

| Vocabulary Word | Meaning | Part of Speech |
|--|--|----------------|
| ἄβυσσος, -ου, ἡ Stem: ἄβυσσο | abyss | noun |
| | ἄ-βυσ-σος (a-bys-sos) n-2b | |
| ἀρχάγγελος, -ου, ὁ Stem: ἀρχαγγελο | archangel | noun |
| √ ἄγγελος, ὁ | ἀρ-χάγ-γε-λος (ar-chan-ge-los) n-2a This noun is a compound of ἀρχή and ἄγγελος. An archangel is perhaps a spiritual being of the highest-ranking angelic order. Michael is one of them (Jude 9). | |
| βίβλος, -ου, ἡ Stem: βιβλο | scroll, book, record-book | noun |
| | βί-βλος (bi-blos) n-2b For centuries, the Torah was designated as ἡ βίβλος, and is the basis for the English term, "Bible". | |
| διάλεκτος, -ου, ἡ Stem: διαλεκτο | dialect, language | noun |
| | δι-ά-λε-κτος (di-a-le-ktos) n-2b | |
| δῶρον, -ου, τό Stem: δωρο | gift | noun |
| | δῶ-ρον (dō-ron) n-2c | |
| ἔργον, -ου, τό Stem: ἔργο | work, deed, action | noun |
| | ἔρ-γον (er-gon) n-2c | |
| εὐαγγέλιον, -ου, τό Stem: εὐαγγελιο | good news, gospel | noun |
| | εὐ-αγ-γέ-λι-ον (eu-an-ge-li-on) n-2c | |
| θάνατος, -ου, ὁ Stem: θανατο | death | noun |
| | θά-να-τος (tha-na-tos) n-2a | |

| Vocabulary Word | Meaning | Part of Speech |
|--|--|----------------|
| θηρίον , -ου, τό Stem: θηριο | (wild) animal, beast | noun |
| | θη-ρί-ον (thē-rí-on) n-2c | |
| ἱερόν , -οῦ, τό Stem: ἱερο | temple | noun |
| | ἱ-ε-ρόν (hi-e-ron) n-2c | |
| ὁδός , -οῦ, ἡ Stem: ὁδο | road, way, journey, conduct | noun |
| | ὁ-δός (ho-dos) n-2b | |
| οὐρανός , -οῦ, ὁ Stem: οὐρανο | heaven | noun |
| | οὐ-ρα-νός (ou-ra-nos) n-2a Be sure always to translate the noun as a singular when it is a singular, and a plural when it is a plural. To assert that an author used the plural in an idiomatic manner (as many posit), and therefore should be translated as a singular in English is, putting it kindly, hyperbole. | |
| ὄχλος , -ου, ὁ Stem: ὄχλο | crowd, throng | noun |
| | ὄ-χλος (o-chlos) n-2a | |
| σάββατον , -ου, τό Stem: σαββατο | Sabbath, week | noun |
| | σάβ-βα-τον (sab-ba-ton) n-2c | |
| τέκνον , -ου, τό Stem: τεκνο | child | noun |
| | τέ-κνον (te-knon) n-2c Noun is in relation to father and mother. The sex of the child can only be made clear by context. When used in the vocative, it is an affectionate address. | |
| ὦ | O! | interjection |
| | ὦ (ō) The interjection may occur before the nominative when it substitutes for the vocative, and before the vocative form. It is never used when calling upon God as in ὦ θεέ. | |

7

Study Guide

The Second Declension (Module B)
Feminine and Neuter Nouns
Morphology: The Nominal System (Part 2)

Exercise One: True or False. Select the correct answer. Be careful because all of the answer has to be correct in order for it to be true.

1. A substantive's declension is determined by its stem termination, whether with a vowel (first and second declension) or a consonant (third declension). True False
2. All word stems ending with the vowel *alpha* belong to the second declension. True False
3. The great majority of second declension nouns are masculine and feminine. True False
4. Feminine nouns are inflected in the same way that masculine nouns are in the second declension. True False
5. The lexical form of second declension feminine nouns is the genitive singular form. True False
6. When the article modifies second declension feminine nouns, they can be either feminine or masculine. True False
7. The neuter nominative and accusative plurals are identical in their inflection. True False
8. It is possible to know the case of ἔργον apart from knowing any context. True False
9. The stem of a noun remains constant and what remains after any case endings are removed. True False
10. The genitive singular in all three genders of second declension nouns is actually *omikron* that contracts with the stem vowel *omikron* to form the genitive case ending ου. True False

Exercise Two: Multiple choice. Choose the best answer.

- The second declension contains nouns of what gender?
 - masculine and neuter
 - masculine and feminine
 - masculine, feminine, and neuter
 - feminine and neuter
- The neuter article agrees in case, gender, and number with what nouns in the second declension?
 - masculine and feminine nouns
 - masculine and neuter nouns
 - only masculine nouns
 - none of the above
- Which of the following is correct because of grammatical concord?
 - ἡ ὁδοί
 - τῆ ὁδοίς
 - τῆς ὁδοῦ
 - ὁ ὁδός
- Which of the following forms would you expect to be the lexical form of a feminine noun belonging to the second declension?
 - ὁδός
 - ὁδόν
 - ὁδοῦ
 - ὁδοί
- Which cases of second declension neuter nouns are identical with masculine forms in both the singular and the plural?
 - nominative and vocative
 - accusative and nominative
 - genitive and nominative
 - genitive and dative
- The lexical entry exhibits what important information?
 - nominative singular
 - lexical gender
 - genitive singular
 - all of the above

7. What determines a noun's function?
- a. sentence order
 - b. lexical form
 - c. case endings and context
 - d. grammatical concord
8. In which case does monophthongization occur?
- a. nominative plural
 - b. dative singular
 - c. genitive plural
 - d. accusative singular
9. Which vowel is the stem vowel for second declension feminine nouns?
- a. *omīkron*
 - b. *ēta*
 - c. *ōmega*
 - d. *alpha*
10. Which vowel is the stem vowel for second declension masculine nouns?
- a. *omīkron*
 - b. *ēta*
 - c. *ōmega*
 - d. *alpha*
11. Which vowel is the stem vowel for second declension neuter nouns?
- a. *omīkron*
 - b. *ēta*
 - c. *ōmega*
 - d. *alpha*
12. The proper declension-paradigm notation for ὀδός is
- a. n-2a
 - b. n-2b
 - c. n-2c
 - d. n-2d

Exercise Three: Fill in the blank.

1. Supply the case endings and articles for the second declension nouns.

a. κύριος (Lord, lord, master)

| | | Singular | | Plural | |
|-------|------------|----------|---------|---------|---------|
| | | Article | Noun | Article | Noun |
| Cases | Nominative | | κύριο__ | | κύριο__ |
| | Genitive | | κυρί__ | | κυρί__ |
| | Dative | | κυρί__ | | κυρίο__ |
| | Accusative | | κύριο__ | | κυρίο__ |
| | Vocative | | κύρι__ | | κύριο__ |

b. ὁδός (road, way, journey, conduct)

| | | Singular | | Plural | |
|-------|------------|----------|-------|---------|-------|
| | | Article | Noun | Article | Noun |
| Cases | Nominative | | ὁδό__ | | ὁδο__ |
| | Genitive | | ὁδ__ | | ὁδ__ |
| | Dative | | ὁδ__ | | ὁδο__ |
| | Accusative | | ὁδό__ | | ὁδο__ |
| | Vocative | | ὁδ__ | | ὁδο__ |

c. ἔργον (work, deed, action)

| | | Singular | | Plural | |
|-------|------------|----------|--------|---------|--------|
| | | Article | Noun | Article | Noun |
| Cases | Nominative | | ἔργο__ | | ἔργ__ |
| | Genitive | | ἔργ__ | | ἔργ__ |
| | Dative | | ἔργ__ | | ἔργο__ |
| | Accusative | | ἔργο__ | | ἔργ__ |
| | Vocative | | ἔργο__ | | ἔργ__ |

2. Parse the following forms. Include all possibilities in your parsing.

| Word | Case | Gender | Num | Decl | Lexical Form | Definition |
|-----------|---------|----------|----------|------|--------------|--------------------|
| ὁδός | nom/voc | feminine | singular | n-2b | ὁδός | road, way, journey |
| ἔργω | | | | | | |
| σάββατα | | | | | | |
| κύριε | | | | | | |
| εὐαγγελίῳ | | | | | | |
| ἱεροῖς | | | | | | |
| ἱερῶν | | | | | | |
| τῇ | | | | | | |
| ὁδοῦς | | | | | | |
| θεοῦ | | | | | | |
| ἔργα | | | | | | |
| τά | | | | | | |
| ὅδε | | | | | | |
| λόγῳ | | | | | | |
| βίβλοισ | | | | | | |
| διαλέκτῳ | | | | | | |
| τῆν | | | | | | |
| ταῖς | | | | | | |

3. Fill in the blanks with the appropriate form of the Greek article.

| | Singular | | | Plural | | |
|------------|-----------|----------|--------|-----------|----------|--------|
| | Masculine | Feminine | Neuter | Masculine | Feminine | Neuter |
| Nominative | | | | | | |
| Genitive | | | | | | |
| Dative | | | | | | |
| Accusative | | | | | | |

4. Supply the correct Greek article before each of the following nouns.

| | Article | Noun | | Article | Noun |
|-----|---------|----------|-----|---------|------------|
| 1. | | Πέτρος | 16. | | οὐρανοῖς |
| 2. | | ἄβυσσος | 17. | | θηρίον |
| 3. | | βίβλω | 18. | | ὄχλους |
| 4. | | δῶρα | 19. | | ἄγγελος |
| 5. | | ἱεροῖς | 20. | | ὁδοί |
| 6. | | σαββάτου | 21. | | λόγοι |
| 7. | | τέκνον | 22. | | ἔργα |
| 8. | | βίβλων | 23. | | ὁδούς |
| 9. | | δούλου | 24. | | βίβλε |
| 10. | | ῥῆμος | 25. | | ἀρχάγγελος |
| 11. | | κόσμον | 26. | | δῶρον |
| 12. | | θεούς | 27. | | εὐαγγελίου |
| 13. | | θεέ | 28. | | εὐαγγέλιον |
| 14. | | ἔργω | 29. | | ἔργα |
| 15. | | θηρίω | 30. | | θηρίων |