

8

First Declension Nouns (Module A)

Feminine Nouns

Morphology: The Nominal System (Part 3)

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8.0 Introduction

Lessons Six and Seven examined second declension nouns. Second declension nouns encompassed all three genders, masculine, feminine, and neuter nouns, whose nominal stem ended with an *omikron*. Three paradigms were set forth for second declension nouns as they inflected for case, gender and number. These paradigms were designated as n-2a (masculine nouns), n-2b (feminine nouns), and n-2c (neuter nouns).

We now come to a new declension, the first declension. Nouns of this declension will also have different paradigms as they inflect for case, gender and number. Furthermore, the pattern of first declension noun endings will differ from those of the second declension.

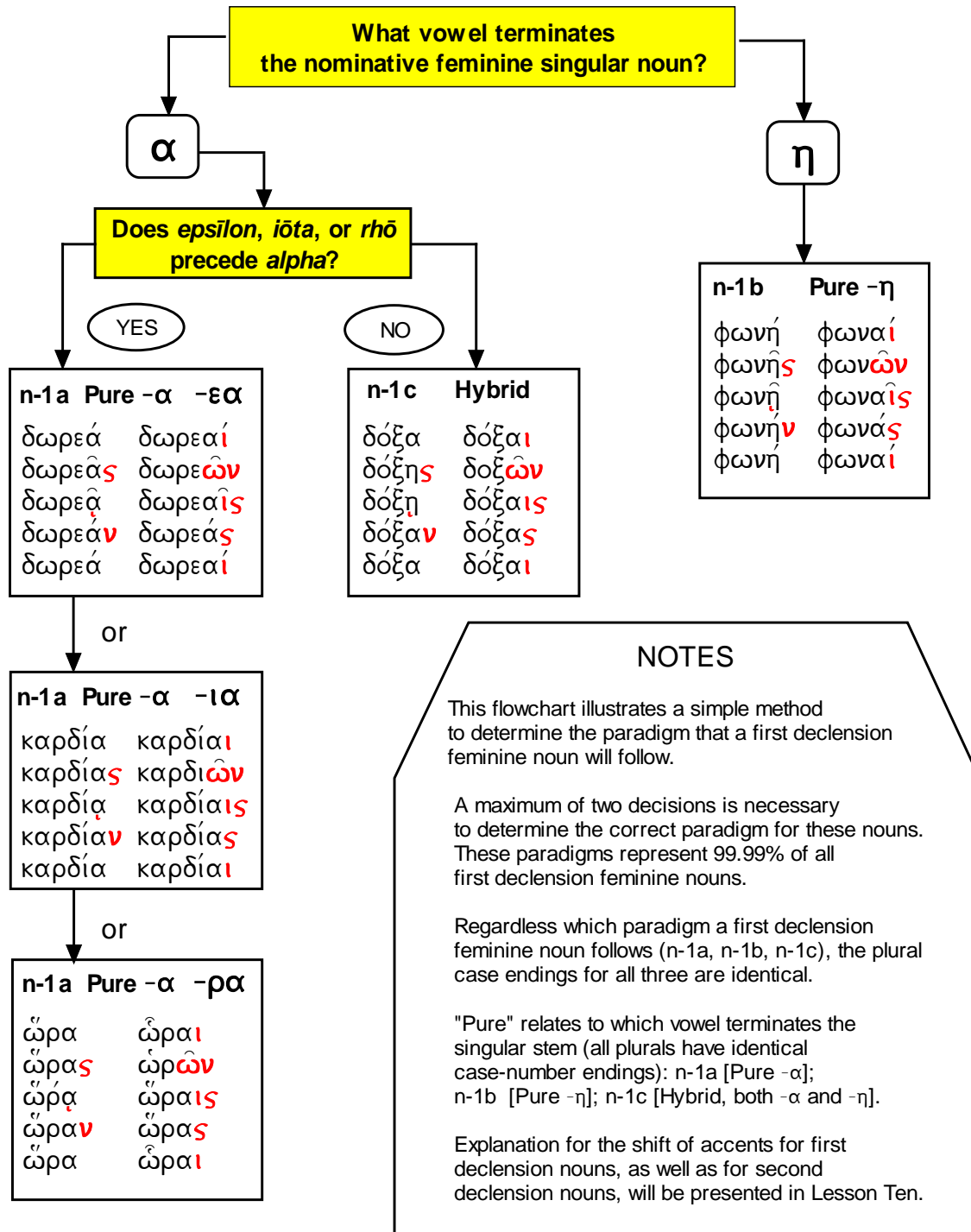
First declension nouns differ from second declension nouns in several respects. First, feminine nouns dominate the declension with masculine nouns in a remote second. Second, there are not any neuter nouns in the first declension. Third, while the *omikron* sound dominated the second declension, the *alpha* or *ēta* sounds control the first declension. Finally, all first declension feminine nouns exhibit identical case-number suffixes.

Eight different noun patterns are in the first declension, reflected in eight different paradigms. However, only three of these eight will be examined in this lesson, with the remaining five studied in Lesson Nine. The essential distinction between these paradigms is due to phonetic changes in the singular inflectional forms. These phonetic changes involve the *alpha* changing to *ēta* throughout the singular, while in a few other nouns the *alpha* becomes *ēta* in the genitive and dative singular only.

8.1 General Observations of First Declension Nouns

1. Nominal stems that belong to the first declension terminate with either the vowel *alpha* or *ēta*. If all the singular forms terminate with *alpha*, it is considered an $-\alpha$ “pure” noun (cf. n-1a). If all the singular forms terminate with *ēta*, then it is considered an $-\eta$ “pure” noun (cf. n-1b). A noun, whose stem is a mixture of both *alpha* and *ēta* in the singular forms, is considered a “hybrid” noun (cf. n-1c).
2. The first declension is often called the ***alpha-declension*** since most nouns belonging to this declension terminate with the vowel *alpha* before the case endings are appended.
3. The first declension is composed mostly of feminine nouns. Masculine nouns are only about thirty percent of all first declension nouns. There are not any neuter nouns in the first declension.
4. The nominative singular is the lexical entry for all first declension nouns, whether feminine or masculine.
5. Eight different paradigms are in the first declension. These are designated as n-1a, n-1b, n-1c, n-1d, n-1e, n-1f, n-1g and n-1h.
6. Regardless of the nominal stem, all feminine nouns are inflected identically according to their number and case. Furthermore, regardless of a first declension noun’s paradigm, all plural case endings are identical.
7. The article inflects to modify both feminine and masculine first declension nouns according to gender, number and case.
8. The nominative and vocative singular forms have no case ending. Their forms are identical to the lexical entry.
9. Vocative plurals are identical to nominative plural case endings.

8.2 Flow Chart for First Declension Feminine Nouns



8.3 First Declension Feminine *Alpha* Pure Nouns (n-1a)

Except for three contracted noun stems, all feminine nouns in the first declension that terminate with the α -pure stem are uncontracted. These stems represent the bulk of first declension nouns; for this reason, the first declension is usually identified as the *alpha*-declension.

Most first declension feminine noun stems, whose last letter before the stem vowel is either a vowel or *rhō*, and have the abbreviated genitive singular $-\alpha\varsigma$ terminate with a long *alpha*. However, forty-seven vocalic stems terminate with a short *alpha*. No phonological explanation exists why the long *alpha* sometimes becomes short. In these instances, the *alpha* is short in the nominative, accusative, and vocative singular, and the noun is accented with the acute on the antepenult lexical form (e.g. ἄλῆθεια). Whether the *alpha* is long or short, all first declension feminine α -pure nouns are designated as n-1a.

A vowel comparison between feminine singular stems with their respective case-number endings, terminating with a long or short *alpha*, may be represented in the chart below. The actual singular case-number inflected endings are represented in red. The macron above the vowel represents a long *alpha* and the “v”, a short *alpha*.

n-1a	Singular	
	Long Stem <i>Alpha</i>	Short Stem <i>Alpha</i>
Nominative	$\bar{\alpha}$	$\check{\alpha}$
Genitive	$\bar{\alpha}\varsigma$	$\bar{\alpha}\varsigma$
Dative	$\bar{\alpha}$ (<i>iōta</i> subscript)	$\bar{\alpha}$ (<i>iōta</i> subscript)
Accusative	$\bar{\alpha}\nu$	$\check{\alpha}\nu$
Vocative	$\bar{\alpha}$	$\check{\alpha}$

Regardless of the vocalic quality of the *alpha* in the singular form, all first declension plural nouns are inflected identically in their respective case-number endings.

Some nouns of foreign origin whose stems do not terminate with a vowel or *rhō* also use the α -pure inflected case-number endings (cf. §8.3.4).

8.3.1 Case formation. The case endings for α-pure first declension feminine nouns are also identical to n-1b and n-1c first declension feminine nouns. The case endings are indicated below in red. Comments about their formation follow. The feminine noun ὥρα serves for the n-1a paradigm.

ὥρα, -ας, ἡ (hour) ὥρα + case ending

n-1a	Singular	Plural
Nominative	ὥρα ^{1,2}	ὥραι ⁶
Genitive	ὥρας ³	ὥρων ⁷
Dative	ὥραι ⁴	ὥραις
Accusative	ὥρα ^v	ὥρας ³
Vocative	ὥρα ^{1,5}	ὥραι ⁶

1. The stems of first declension uncontracted feminine nouns terminating with *alpha* (long or short) are identical both in their nominative and vocative singular forms. The nominative and vocative singular forms do not exhibit any inflected case-number endings. The *alpha* which terminates these nouns is actually the stem vowel. A few introductory NTGreek grammars posit that the case ending for first declension nominative and vocative ending terminates with -α. They do this with the hope it will help the beginning student, but in the end, it actually hinders.
2. The accented nominative singular form is the lexical entry for all first declension feminine nouns. In a Greek-English lexicon, its abbreviated genitive singular follows to indicate its declension-paradigm pattern, then an article to specify its grammatical gender.
3. The feminine genitive singular and accusative plural case endings are inflected identically. Normally context or modifying words will help determine its proper case function. Furthermore, when first declension nouns are accented on the ultima in the nominative singular, they regularly have the circumflex on the genitive singular and the acute accent on the accusative plural (δωρεᾶς / δωρεάς).

4. The feminine dative singular is actually the stem + ι. The *iōta* regularly monophthongizes and is written under the long *alpha* as an *iōta* subscript.

Dative Singular: $\hat{\omega}\rho\alpha + \iota > \hat{\omega}\rho\alpha\iota > \hat{\omega}\rho\alpha_{\iota}$

The stem vowel, *alpha*, first combines with the dative feminine singular case ending, *iōta*, to create a diphthong.

The diphthong becomes a single vowel sound by the formation of the improper diphthong, $\alpha\iota$.

5. First declension feminine vocative singular nouns are ALWAYS identical in case-number to the nominative singular. Context will determine whether the noun is functioning as a nominative or vocative.
6. First declension feminine nominative and vocative plural case-numbers are inflected identically. Context will determine whether the noun is functioning as a nominative or vocative.
7. The genitive plural is $-\hat{\omega}\nu$ because of vowel contraction and not because of absorption as in second declension nouns. The circumflex accent is evidence of this contraction.

The above morphological comments may be summarized in the following chart for all α -pure first declension feminine nouns. The case endings below are also identical to n-1b and n-1c first declension feminine nouns.

	Singular Case Endings	Plural Case Endings
Nominative	--- (no case ending)	ι (identical to vocative plural)
Genitive	ς (identical to accusative plural)	$\hat{\omega}\nu$ (contraction)
Dative	ι (subscript) (contraction)	$\iota\varsigma$
Accusative	ν	ς (identical to genitive singular)
Vocative	--- (no case ending)	ι (identical to nominative plural)

8.3.2 Paradigm. A representative n-1a paradigm follows. Regardless if the stem terminates with a vowel or *rhō*, they are declined identically.

ὥρα, -ας, ἡ (hour) ὥρα + case ending [Listen](#)

n-1a		Singular		Plural	
		Article	Noun	Article	Noun
CASE	Nominative	ἡ	ὥρα	αἱ	ὥραι
	Genitive	τῆς	ὥρας	τῶν	ὥρῶν
	Dative	τῇ	ὥραῖ	ταῖς	ὥραις
	Accusative	τὴν	ὥραν	τάς	ὥρας
	Vocative		ὥρα		ὥραι

The morphological observations concerning δωρεά (§8.3.1) are also true for first declension feminine noun stems terminating in -ια.

8.3.3 Vocabulary paradigms. For illustration, many of the lesson's vocabulary words whose vocalic stem terminates in α-pure are declined below. As with second declension paradigms, do NOT memorize these paradigms. It is unnecessary to do so! These paradigms are cited for illustration, and not for memory work! It is imperative, however, to recognize and know the inflectional forms for first declension n-1a nouns as they relate to case, gender and number.

Because the nominative and vocative singular and plural are declined identically, the vocative is omitted in these examples.

ἀλήθεια, -ας, ἡ (truth) ἀληθεια + case ending (short final *alpha*)

n-1a	Singular	Plural
Nominative	ἡ ἀλήθεια	αἱ ἀλήθεια
Genitive	τῆς ἀληθείας	τῶν ἀληθειῶν
Dative	τῇ ἀληθείᾳ	ταῖς ἀληθείαις
Accusative	τὴν ἀλήθειαν	τάς ἀληθείας

ἁμαρτία, -ας, ἡ (sin) ἁμαρτια + case ending

n-1a	Singular	Plural
Nominative	ἡ ἁμαρτία	αἱ ἁμαρτίαι
Genitive	τῆς ἁμαρτίας	τῶν ἁμαρτιῶν
Dative	τῇ ἁμαρτίᾳ	ταῖς ἁμαρτίαις
Accusative	τὴν ἁμαρτίαν	τὰς ἁμαρτίας

βασιλεία, -ας, ἡ (kingdom) βασιλεια + case ending

n-1a	Singular	Plural
Nominative	ἡ βασιλεία	αἱ βασιλείαι
Genitive	τῆς βασιλείας	τῶν βασιλειῶν
Dative	τῇ βασιλείᾳ	ταῖς βασιλείαις
Accusative	τὴν βασιλείαν	τὰς βασιλείας

Γαλιλαία, -ας, ἡ (Galilee) Γαλιλαια + case ending

n-1a	Singular	Plural
Nominative	ἡ Γαλιλαία	Γαλιλαία is a proper name. Plural forms should not be expected for proper names. All proper names begin with a capital letter to follow modern convention.
Genitive	τῆς Γαλιλαίας	
Dative	τῇ Γαλιλαίᾳ	
Accusative	τὴν Γαλιλαίαν	

δωρεά, -ᾶς, ἡ (gift) δωρεα + case ending

n-1a	Singular	Plural
Nominative	ἡ δωρεά	αἱ δωρεαί
Genitive	τῆς δωρεᾶς	τῶν δωρεῶν
Dative	τῇ δωρεᾷ	ταῖς δωρεαῖς
Accusative	τὴν δωρεάν	τὰς δωρεάς

ἐκκλησία, -ας, ἡ (Church, assembly) ἐκκλησια + case ending

n-1a	Singular	Plural
Nominative	ἡ ἐκκλησία	αἱ ἐκκλησίαι
Genitive	τῆς ἐκκλησίας	τῶν ἐκκλησιῶν
Dative	τῇ ἐκκλησίᾳ	ταῖς ἐκκλησίαις
Accusative	τὴν ἐκκλησίαν	τὰς ἐκκλησίας

ἡμέρα, -ας, ἡ (day) ἡμερα + case ending

n-1a	Singular	Plural
Nominative	ἡ ἡμέρα	αἱ ἡμέραι
Genitive	τῆς ἡμέρας	τῶν ἡμερῶν
Dative	τῇ ἡμέρᾳ	ταῖς ἡμέραις
Accusative	τὴν ἡμέραν	τὰς ἡμέρας

καρδία, -ας, ἡ (heart) καρδια + case ending

n-1a	Singular	Plural
Nominative	ἡ καρδία	αἱ καρδίαι
Genitive	τῆς καρδίας	τῶν καρδιῶν
Dative	τῇ καρδίᾳ	ταῖς καρδίαις
Accusative	τὴν καρδίαν	τὰς καρδίας

σοφία, -ας, ἡ (wisdom) σοφια + case ending

n-1a	Singular	Plural
Nominative	ἡ σοφία	αἱ σοφίαι
Genitive	τῆς σοφίας	τῶν σοφιῶν
Dative	τῇ σοφίᾳ	ταῖς σοφίαις
Accusative	τὴν σοφίαν	τὰς σοφίας

χαρά, -ᾶς, ἡ (joy) χαρά + case ending

n-1a	Singular	Plural
Nominative	ἡ χαρά	αἱ χαραί
Genitive	τῆς χαρᾶς	τῶν χαρῶν
Dative	τῇ χαρᾷ	ταῖς χαραῖς
Accusative	τὴν χαράν	τὰς χαράς

8.3.4 Exceptions. There are nine nouns also classified as n-1a nouns that do not end in -εα, -ια or -ρα, but are declined according to the n-1a paradigm. Only one of these is not a proper name (στοά).

	Noun	Translation
1.	Ἄννα, -ας	Hanna (sometimes improperly translated as "Anna" in the NT).
2.	Εὐα, -ας	Eve
3.	Ἱεροσόλυμα	Jerusalem (indeclinable)
4.	Ἰωάννα, -ας	Joanna (alternate spelling for Ἰωάννα).
5.	Ἰωάννα, -ας	Joanna
6.	Μάρθα, -ας	Martha
7.	Νύμφα, -ας	Nympha
8.	Ῥεβέκκα, -ας	Rebecca (or Rebekka)
9.	στοά, -ας	(roofed) colonnade or cloister, portico

The lesson's vocabulary study will not include these nouns. However, they may be used in the exercises in conjunction with this lesson. The student should not have any difficulty identifying these proper names since they will be capitalized and most of them transliterate well into English.

8.4 First Declension *Ēta* Pure Nouns (n-1b)

Most first declension feminine noun stems terminate with *alpha*. However, two hundred and thirty-eight feminine vocalic stems in NTGreek terminate with *ēta*. Phonologically, whenever a first declension feminine stem terminates with a letter other than a vowel (*epsilon*, *iōta*, or *omikron*), *rhō*, or a sibilant before the stem vowel, the stem vowel *alpha* becomes *ēta* in the nominative singular which is retained throughout all singular forms. The plural case-number forms for all first declension nouns are identical.

The declension-paradigm notation for this classification of nouns is n-1b. Including proper names, two hundred and thirty-eight nouns are n-1b nouns in NTGreek.

The n-1b paradigm case endings are identical to those of n-1a. The only distinction is that the nominal stem terminates with *ēta* instead of *alpha*. To the nominal stem, the inflected case endings are added.

8.4.1 Case formation. The case endings for all n-1b first declension feminine nouns follow. Comments about their formation follow. The feminine noun, φωνή, serves as the n-1b paradigm.

φωνή, -ῆς, ἡ (sound, noise, voice) φωνη + case ending

n-1b	Singular	Plural
Nominative	φωνή ^{1,2}	φωναί ⁶
Genitive	φωνῆς ³	φωνῶν ⁷
Dative	φωνῇ ⁴	φωναίς
Accusative	φωνήν ⁵	φωναίς ³
Vocative	φωνη ^{1,5}	φωναί ⁶

1. The stems of first declension feminine nouns terminating with *ēta* are identical both in the nominative and vocative singular forms. The nominative and vocative singular forms do not exhibit any inflected case-number endings. The *ēta* which terminates these nouns is actually the stem vowel. A few introductory NTGreek grammars posit that the case ending for first declension nominative and vocative ending

terminates with -η. They do this with the hope it will help the beginning student, but in the end, it actually hinders.

2. The accented nominative singular form is the lexical entry for all first declension feminine nouns. In a Greek-English lexicon, its abbreviated genitive singular follows to indicate its declension-paradigm pattern, then an article to specify its grammatical gender.
3. N-1b feminine genitive singular and accusative plural case endings are inflected identically. Apart from context, a modifying word, or difference of accent, ambiguity exists between these forms. This ambiguity, however, does not exist with η-pure noun stems (φωνῆς / φωνάς).
4. The feminine dative singular is actually the stem + ι. The *iōta* regularly monophthongizes and written under the *ēta* as an *iōta* subscript.

Dative Singular: φωνη + ι > φωνηι > φωνῆ

The stem vowel, *ēta*, first combines with the dative feminine singular case ending, *iota*, to create a diphthong.

The diphthong becomes a single vowel sound by the formation of the improper diphthong, η.



Monophthongization also occurs in second declension dative masculine, feminine, and neuter singular nouns.

5. First declension feminine vocative singular nouns are ALWAYS identical in case-number to the nominative singular. Context will determine whether the noun is functioning as a nominative or vocative.
6. First declension feminine nominative and vocative plural case-numbers are inflected identically. Context will determine whether the noun is functioning as a nominative or vocative.
7. The genitive plural is -ῶν because of vowel contraction and not because of absorption as in second declension nouns. The circumflex accent is evidence of this contraction.

The above morphological comments may be summarized in the following chart for all η-pure first declension feminine nouns. The case endings below are also identical to n-1a and n-1c first declension feminine nouns.

	Singular Case Endings	Plural Case Endings
Nominative	--- (no case ending)	Ι (identical to vocative plural)
Genitive	Σ (identical to accusative plural)	ΩΝ (contraction)
Dative	Ι (subscript) (contraction)	ΙΣ
Accusative	Υ	Σ (identical to genitive singular)
Vocative	--- (no case ending)	Ι (identical to nominative plural)

8.4.2 Paradigm. A representative n-1b paradigm follows. Plurals are identical to those of n-1a nouns.

φωνη, -ῆς, ἡ (sound, noise, voice) φωνη + case ending [Listen](#)

n-1b		Singular		Plural	
		Article	Noun	Article	Noun
CASE	Nominative	ἡ	φωνή	αί	φωναί
	Genitive	τῆς	φωνῆς	τῶν	φωνῶν
	Dative	τῇ	φωνῇ	ταῖς	φωναῖς
	Accusative	τὴν	φωνήν	τάς	φωναίς
	Vocative		φωνή		φωναί

8.4.3 Vocabulary paradigms. For illustration, several of the lesson's vocabulary words whose noun stem terminates in *ēta* are declined below. As with the other paradigms in this lesson, do NOT memorize them. Because the nominative and vocative singular and plural are declined identically, the vocative is omitted in these examples.

ἀγάπη, -ης, ἡ (love) ἀγαπη + case ending

n-1b	Singular	Plural
Nominative	ἡ ἀγάπη	αἱ ἀγάπαι
Genitive	τῆς ἀγάπης	τῶν ἀγαπῶν
Dative	τῇ ἀγάπῃ	ταῖς ἀγάπαις
Accusative	τὴν ἀγάπην	τὰς ἀγάπας

γραφὴ, -ῆς, ἡ (writing, Scripture) γραφή + case ending

n-1b	Singular	Plural
Nominative	ἡ γραφή	αἱ γραφαί
Genitive	τῆς γραφῆς	τῶν γραφῶν
Dative	τῇ γραφῇ	ταῖς γραφαῖς
Accusative	τὴν γραφήν	τὰς γραφάς

ζωή, -ῆς, ἡ (life) ζωη + case ending

n-1b	Singular	Plural
Nominative	ἡ ζωή	αἱ ζωαί
Genitive	τῆς ζωῆς	τῶν ζωῶν
Dative	τῇ ζωῇ	ταῖς ζωαῖς
Accusative	τὴν ζωήν	τὰς ζωάς

ψυχὴ, -ῆς, ἡ (soul, life, being) ψυχη + case ending

n-1b	Singular	Plural
Nominative	ἡ ψυχή	αἱ ψυχαί
Genitive	τῆς ψυχῆς	τῶν ψυχῶν
Dative	τῇ ψυχῇ	ταῖς ψυχαῖς
Accusative	τὴν ψυχήν	τὰς ψυχάς

8.5 First Declension Hybrid Nouns (n-1c)

The final group of first declension nouns considered in this lesson is nouns whose paradigm is a mixture of n-1a and n-1b singular case endings.

Apart from five exceptions cited later in §8.5.4, first declension feminine vocalic stems follow a “hybrid” pattern whose last letter before its stem vowel is a consonant other than *rhō*. The vocalic stem vowel *alpha* of the nominative singular lengthens to *-ης* and *-η* in the genitive and dative singular. The declension-paradigm notation for this classification of nouns is n-1c. Including proper names, thirty-eight nouns follow this paradigm in NTGreek.

Phonologically, this hybrid pattern occurs thirty-four times in NTGreek when a sibilant phoneme (*zēta*, *sigma* or a compound consonant) precedes the vocalic stem vowel *alpha*. As with all other first declension nouns, the plural case-number forms are identical.

		Stem Preceded by a Sibilant or Compound Consonant	
N-1C Singular	Nominative	ᾱ	
	Genitive	ης	
	Dative	η̄ (<i>iōta</i> subscript)	
	Accusative	ᾱν	
	Vocative	ᾱ	

As illustrated above, the final *alpha* in the nominative, accusative, and vocative singulars are always short.

8.5.1 Case formation. The case endings for all n-1c first declension feminine nouns are identical to those of n-1a and n-1b first declension nouns. Comments about their formation follow. The feminine noun, δόξα, serves as the n-1c paradigm.

δόξα, -ης, ἡ (glory) δοξα + case ending

n-1c	Singular	Plural
Nominative	δόξα ^{1,2}	δόξα ⁶
Genitive	δόξης ³	δοξῶν ⁷
Dative	δόξει ⁴	δόξαις ⁵
Accusative	δόξαν ⁴	δόξας ³
Vocative	δόξα ^{1,5}	δόξα ⁶

1. The stems of first declension feminine hybrid nouns terminating with a short *alpha* are identical both in the nominative and vocative singular forms. The nominative and vocative singular forms do not exhibit any inflected case-number endings. The short *alpha* which terminates these is actually the stem vowel. A few introductory NTGreek grammars posit that the case ending for first declension nominative and vocative ending terminates with -α. They do this with the hope it will help the beginning student, but in the end, it actually hinders.
2. The accented nominative singular form is the lexical entry for all first declension feminine nouns. In a Greek-English lexicon, its abbreviated genitive singular follows to indicate its declension-paradigm pattern, then an article to specify its grammatical gender.
3. N-1c feminine genitive singular and accusative plural case endings are inflected identically. Apart from context, a modifying word, or difference of accent, ambiguity exists between these forms. This ambiguity, however, does not exist with hybrid noun stems (δόξης / δόξάς).
4. The feminine dative singular is actually the stem + ι. The *iōta* regularly monophthongizes and is written under the long *alpha* as an *iōta* subscript.
5. First declension feminine vocative singular nouns are ALWAYS identical in case-number to the nominative singular. Context will determine whether the noun is functioning as a nominative or vocative.

6. First declension feminine nominative and vocative plural case-numbers are inflected identically. Context will determine whether the noun is functioning as a nominative or vocative.
7. The genitive plural is $-\hat{\omega}\nu$ because of vowel contraction and not because of absorption as in second declension nouns. The circumflex accent is evidence of this contraction.

The above morphological comments may be summarized in the following chart for all hybrid first declension feminine nouns. The case endings below are also identical to n-1a and n-1b first declension feminine nouns.

	Singular Case Endings	Plural Case Endings
Nominative	--- (no case ending)	ι (identical to vocative plural)
Genitive	ς (identical to accusative plural)	$\hat{\omega}\nu$ (contraction)
Dative	ι (subscript) (contraction)	ις
Accusative	ν	ς (identical to genitive singular)
Vocative	--- (no case ending)	ι (identical to nominative plural)

8.5.2 Paradigm. A representative n-1c paradigm follows.

δόξα, -ης, ἡ (glory) δοξα + case ending [Listen](#)

n-1c		Singular		Plural	
		Article	Noun	Article	Noun
CASE	Nominative	ἡ	δόξα	αί	δόξαι
	Genitive	τῆς	δόξης	τῶν	δοξῶν
	Dative	τῇ	δόξηι	ταῖς	δόξαις
	Accusative	τὴν	δόξαν	τὰς	δόξας
	Vocative		δόξα		δόξαι

8.5.3 Vocabulary paradigms. For illustration, several of the lesson's vocabulary words whose noun stem terminates with a short alpha and whose genitive singular is -ης are declined below. Since the vocative singular and plural forms are identical to the corresponding number in the nominative, they have been omitted in these examples.

Γέεννα, -ης, ἡ (Gehenna) Γεεννα + case ending

n-1c	Singular	Plural
Nominative	ἡ Γέεννα	Γέεννα is a proper noun. Therefore, as one should expect, there are not any plural forms. The word is capitalized here although not capitalized in most Greek editions.
Genitive	τῆς Γεέννης	
Dative	τῇ Γεέννῃ	
Accusative	τὴν Γέενναν	

γλῶσσα, -ης, ἡ (tongue, language) γλωσσα + case ending

n-1c	Singular	Plural
Nominative	ἡ γλῶσσα	αἱ γλῶσσαι
Genitive	τῆς γλώσσης	τῶν γλωσσῶν
Dative	τῇ γλώσσῃ	ταῖς γλώσσαις
Accusative	τὴν γλῶσσαν	τὰς γλῶσσας

θάλασσα, -ης, ἡ (sea, lake) θαλασσα + case ending

n-1c	Singular	Plural
Nominative	ἡ θάλασσα	αἱ θάλασσαι
Genitive	τῆς θαλάσσης	τῶν θαλασσῶν
Dative	τῇ θαλάσῃ	ταῖς θαλάσσαις
Accusative	τὴν θάλασσαν	τὰς θάλασσας

ρίζα, -ης, ἡ (root, branch) ρίζα + case ending

n-1c	Singular	Plural
Nominative	ἡ ρίζα	αἱ ρίζαι
Genitive	τῆς ρίζης	τῶν ριζῶν
Dative	τῇ ρίζῃ	ταῖς ρίζαις
Accusative	τὴν ρίζαν	τὰς ρίζας

8.5.4 Exceptions. The following five first declension feminine nouns occur in NTGreek. Although these nouns end with -ρα, they are declined like n-1c nouns (genitive singular, -ης) instead of n-1a. These nouns fall into this paradigm because the final *alpha* is short.

	Noun	Translation
1.	μάχαιρα	sword
2.	πλήμυρα	high water, flood
3.	πρῶρα	bow, prow of a ship
4.	Σάπφισ	Sapphira
5.	σπεῖρα	cohort (tenth part of a legion)

8.6 Summary of First Declension Feminine Nouns

We have come to the end of our study of first declension feminine nouns. Masculine nouns belonging to this declension will be studied together in Lesson Nine, along with first declension contracted nouns.

The following principles concerning first declension feminine nouns must be clearly understood before learning the paradigms of first declension masculine nouns. These condensed points are for further study purposes, and not meant to replace the fuller explanations concerning these paradigms in the lesson.

8.6.1 General Observations. Noun stems terminating in a long or short *alpha* or *eta* are first declension feminine nouns. All singular and plural case forms for first declension feminine nouns are identical (cf. §8.1[6]).

8.6.2 Alpha-Termination. Two first declension feminine noun patterns terminate with *alpha*, the n-1a and n-1c paradigms.

8.6.21 If the feminine nominative singular ends with *alpha* (n-1a), and its genitive singular is $-\alpha\varsigma$, *alpha* appears in all the cases of the singular. In this pattern, the letter before *alpha* is a vowel (ϵ or ι) or ρ (*rhō*). However, nine nouns are also classified as n-1a nouns which do not end in $-\epsilon\alpha$, $-\iota\alpha$ or $-\rho\alpha$, but declined according to this paradigm (cf. §8.3.4).

8.6.22 Most first declension feminine nouns that end with *alpha* and have the genitive singular as $-\alpha\varsigma$. Furthermore, the final *alpha* in the nominative, vocative, and accusative singular cases is generally long.

Long <i>alpha</i> in the nominative singular form.	n-1a	
	Singular	Plural
Nominative	ὥρα	ὥραι
Genitive	ὥρα ς	ὥρῶν
Dative	ὥρα $\grave{\alpha}$	ὥραι ς
Accusative	ὥρα ν	ὥρα ς
Vocative	ὥρα	ὥραι

8.6.23 The final *alpha* in the nominative, vocative, and accusative forms is short in a few instances, while the final *alpha* in the genitive and dative singular forms is long. The vowel length (whether long or short *alpha*) will generally be indicated by the accent shift between the nominative singular (*alpha* is short) and the genitive singular (*alpha* is long).

Short <i>alpha</i> in the nominative singular form.	n-1a	
	Singular	Plural
Nominative	ἀλήθεια	ἀλήθειαι
Genitive	ἀληθεία ς	ἀληθειῶν
Dative	ἀληθείᾳ $\grave{\alpha}$	ἀληθείαι ς
Accusative	ἀλήθειαν ν	ἀληθεία ς
Vocative	ἀλήθεια	ἀλήθειαι

8.6.24 If the feminine nominative singular ends with *alpha*, and the preceding letter is NOT ε, ι, or ρ, and the genitive singular is -ης, the final *alpha* in the nominative, accusative, and vocative singular is always short. The *ēta* replaces the *alpha* in the genitive and dative singular cases, but not in the nominative, accusative, and vocative forms. These nouns are designated as n-1c, hybrids of n-1a and n-1b patterns.

Short <i>alpha</i> in the nominative singular form.	n-1c	
	Singular	Plural
Nominative	δόξα (short <i>alpha</i>)	δόξαι
Genitive	δόξης	δοξῶν
Dative	δόξηι	δόξαις
Accusative	δόξα (short <i>alpha</i>)	δόξας
Vocative	δόξα (short <i>alpha</i>)	δόξαι

The *alpha* changes to *ēta* in the genitive and dative singular because of internal phonetic conditions. Whenever the continuant consonants (§4.1) *mū*, *nū*, *sigma*, *zēta*, *xsī*, *psī*, or double-*lambda* (λλ) precede the final *alpha*, the case ending undergoes this predictable phonetic change.

Five first declension feminine nouns terminate with -ρα, but decline as n-1c nouns (genitive singular, -ης) instead of n-1a (§8.5.4).

8.6.3 Eta-Termination. If a feminine noun has a final *ēta* in its nominative singular form, all singular forms will terminate with *ēta* before the case ending instead of *alpha*. The designation for these nouns is n-1b.

	n-1b	
	Singular	Plural
Nominative	φωνή	φωναί
Genitive	φωνῆς	φωνῶν
Dative	φωνῆι	φωναίς
Accusative	φωνήν	φωναίς
Vocative	φωνή	φωναί

8.7 Declension-Paradigm Notation

The three paradigms for first declension feminine nouns studied in this lesson are presented in tandem below for the purpose of comparing and contrasting the singular inflected forms. Plurals of all forms are inflected identically.

Listen	n-1a	
	Singular	Plural
Nominative	ἡ δωρεά	αἱ δωρεαί
Genitive	τῆς δωρεᾶς	τῶν δωρεῶν
Dative	τῇ δωρεᾷ	ταῖς δωρεαῖς
Accusative	τὴν δωρεάν	τὰς δωρεάς
Vocative	δωρεά	δωρεαί

Listen	n-1b	
	Singular	Plural
Nominative	ἡ φωνή	αἱ φωναί
Genitive	τῆς φωνῆς	τῶν φωνῶν
Dative	τῇ φωνῇ	ταῖς φωναῖς
Accusative	τὴν φωνήν	τὰς φωνάς
Vocative	φωνή	φωναί

Listen	n-1c	
	Singular	Plural
Nominative	ἡ δόξα	αἱ δόξαι
Genitive	τῆς δόξης	τῶν δοξῶν
Dative	τῇ δόξει	ταῖς δόξαις
Accusative	τὴν δόξαν	τὰς δόξας
Vocative	δόξα	δόξαι

n-1a

The abbreviation **n-1a** represents the following:

- n = noun (part of speech)
- 1 = first declension
- a = paradigm "a"

Feminine nouns whose noun stem ends with -εα, -ια or -ρα belong to this paradigm.

n-1b

The abbreviation **n-1b** represents the following:

- n = noun (part of speech)
- 1 = first declension
- b = paradigm "b"

Feminine nouns ending in *ῆτα* in the nominative singular follow the **n-1b** paradigm.

n-1c

The abbreviation **n-1c** represents the following:

- n = noun (part of speech)
- 1 = first declension
- c = paradigm "c"

Feminine nouns ending with -α and genitive singular -ης follow the **n-1c** paradigm.

8.8 Vocabulary Study

As you study your vocabulary, try to utilize it in daily activities as often as you can. Think of places where you may verbally use it. For example, whenever you are in your house, think of yourself in your οἶκος. On the other hand, if you have a brother or sister, think of them as your ἀδελφός or ἀδελφή. The more you engross yourself in your vocabulary, the quicker the language threshold will be crossed.

Vocabulary Word	Meaning	Part of Speech
ἀγάπη, -ης, ἡ Stem: ἀγαπη	love ἀ-γά-πη (a-gá-pē) n-1b	noun
ἀδελφή, -ῆς, ἡ Stem: ἀδελφη	sister ἀ-δελ-φή (a-del-phē) n-1b	noun
ἀλήθεια, -ας, ἡ Stem: ἀληθεια Final <i>alpha</i> is short.	truth ἀ-λή-θει-α (a-lé-thei-a) n-1a	noun
ἁμαρτία, -ας, ἡ Stem: ἁμαρτια	sin ἁ-μαρ-τί-α (ha-mar-tí-a) n-1a	noun
ἀρχή, -ῆς, ἡ Stem: ἀρχη	beginning, ruler ἀρ-χή (ar-chē) n-1b	noun
βασιλεία, -ας, ἡ Stem: βασιλεια	kingdom βα-σι-λεί-α (ba-si-leí-a) n-1a	noun
Γαλιλαία, -ας, ἡ Stem: Γαλιλαια	Galilee Γα-λι-λαί-α (Ga-li-laí-a) n-1a	noun
Γέεννα, -ης, ἡ Stem: γεεννα Final <i>alpha</i> is short.	Gehenna Γέ-εν-να (Gé-en-na) n-1c This grammar will NOT follow the English translations which render this proper name as "hell/Hell". Instead, this proper noun of place will properly be translated as "Gehenna". Gehenna is not to be confused with "Hades", which is another word, or with the "Lake of Fire".	proper noun

Vocabulary Word	Meaning	Part of Speech
γλῶσσα , -ης, ἡ Stem: γλωσσα	tongue, language	noun
	γλῶσ-σα (glōs-sa) n-1c Final <i>alpha</i> is short.	
γραφή , -ῆς, ἡ Stem: γραφη	writing, Scripture	noun
	γρα-φή (gra-phé) n-1b	
δαίμονιον , -ου, τό Stem: δαιμονιο	demon	noun
	δαι-μό-νι-ον (dai-mó-ni-on) n-2c	
δόξα , -ης, ἡ Stem: δοξα	glory	noun
	δό-ξα (dó-xa) n-1c Final <i>alpha</i> is short.	
δωρεά , -ᾶς, ἡ Stem: δωρεα	gift	noun
	δω-ρε-ᾶ (dō-re-á) n-1a	
εἰρήνη , -ης, ἡ Stem: εἰρηνη	peace	noun
	εἰ-ρή-νη (ei-ré-nē) n-1b	
ἐκκλησία , -ας, ἡ Stem: ἐκκλησια	Church, assembly	noun
	ἐκ-κλη-σί-α (ek-klē-sí-a) n-1a	
ἐντολή , -ῆς, ἡ Stem: ἐντολη	commandment	noun
	ἐν-το-λή (en-to-lé) n-1b	
ἐξουσία , -ας, ἡ Stem: ἐξουσια	authority, power	noun
	ἐξ-ου-σί-α (ex-ou-sí-a) n-1a Ἐξουσία is a compound word composed of the preposition, ἐκ (the <i>kappa</i> changes to an <i>xsī</i> before a vowel), and the participle form of εἶμι.	
ζωή , -ῆς, ἡ Stem: ζωη	life	noun
	ζω-ή (zō-é) n-1b	
ἡμέρα , -ας, ἡ Stem: ἡμερα	day	noun
	ἡ-μέ-ρα (hē-mé-ra) n-1a	
θάλασσα , -ης, ἡ Stem: θαλασσα	sea, lake	noun
	θά-λασ-σα (thá-las-sa) n-1c Final <i>alpha</i> is short.	

Vocabulary Word	Meaning	Part of Speech
καρδία , -ας, ἡ Stem: καρδία	heart καρ-δί-α (kar-dí-a) n-1a	noun
κεφαλή , -ῆς, ἡ Stem: κεφαλή	head κε-φα-λή (ke-pha-lé) n-1b	noun
παραβολή , -ῆς, ἡ Stem: παραβολή	parable πα-ρα-βο-λή (pa-ra-bo-lé) n-1b A compound word composed of the preposition, παρά, and the verb βάλλω.	noun
Παῦλος , -ου, ὁ Stem: Παυλο	Paul Παῦ-λος (Paû-los) n-2a Παῦλος is always a surname, never employed as a first name in Greek literature (BAGD, p. 637).	proper noun
ρίζα , -ης, ἡ Stem: ρίζα	root, shoot ρί-ζα (rhí-za) n-1c Final <i>alpha</i> is short.	noun
σοφία , -ας, ἡ Stem: σοφία	wisdom σο-φί-α (so-phí-a) n-1a	noun
συναγωγή , -ῆς, ἡ Stem: συναγωγή	synagogue, meeting συ-να-γω-γή (sy-na-gō-gé) n-1b This noun is a compound word composed of the preposition, σύν and the verb ἄγω.	noun
φωνή , -ῆς, ἡ Stem: φωνή	sound, noise, voice φω-νή (phō-né) n-1b	noun
χαρά , -ᾶς, ἡ Stem: χαρά	joy, delight χα-ρά (cha-rá) n-1a	noun
ψυχή , -ῆς, ἡ Stem: ψυχή	soul, life, being ψυ-χή (psu-ché) n-1b	noun
ώρα , -ας, ἡ Stem: ώρα	hour ώ-ρα (hó-ra) n-1a	noun

8

Study Guide

First Declension Nouns (Module A) Morphology: The Nominal System (Part 3)

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

1. First declension feminine nouns are inflected differently in the plural.
True False
2. First declension nouns are characterized by the vowels *alpha* or *ēta* occurring at the end or near the end of the noun. True False
3. The elementary distinction between first declension paradigms (n-1a, n-1b, n-1c) is due to phonetic changes in the singular inflectional forms.
True False
4. The first declension is composed of masculine, feminine, and neuter nouns. True False
5. The lexical form of ὥρα is the same as its noun stem except for the accent (ὠρα). True False
6. The vocative singular and plural are identical to their nominative forms for first declension feminine nouns. True False
7. The first declension feminine genitive singular and accusative plural case forms are inflected identically alike for nouns like ὥρα.
True False
8. Almost all first declension feminine nouns that end with -εα, -ια or -ρα have the same singular declension endings. True False
9. Monophthongization does not occur in first declension feminine dative singular nouns. True False
10. It is more important to learn every first declension paradigm rather than to memorize the case endings. True False

Exercise Two: Multiple choice. Choose the best answer.

1. First declension nouns are of what gender?
 - a. masculine and neuter
 - b. masculine and feminine
 - c. masculine, feminine, and neuter
 - d. feminine and neuter

2. The feminine article agrees in number and case with what other nouns in the first declension?
 - a. masculine and feminine nouns
 - b. only feminine nouns
 - c. only masculine nouns
 - d. none of the above

3. Which of the following is correct because of grammatical concord?
 - a. ἡ ἀδελφῆς
 - b. τῆ ἀδελφῆ
 - c. τῆς ἀδελφῆν
 - d. αἱ ἀδελφῶν

4. Which of the following forms would you expect as the lexical form of a feminine noun belonging to the first declension?
 - a. ζωή
 - b. ὄρα
 - c. καρδία
 - d. all of the above

5. Which of the following cases of first declension feminine nouns are identical with each other?
 - a. nominative and vocative
 - b. accusative and nominative
 - c. genitive and nominative
 - d. genitive and dative

6. The lexical form exhibits what important information?
 - a. nominative singular
 - b. lexical gender
 - c. genitive singular
 - d. all of the above

7. What determines a first declension 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 or vowels typify the stem vowel for first declension feminine nouns?
- a. *omikron*
 - b. *ēta* and *alpha*
 - c. *ōmega*
 - d. *alpha* and *epsilon*
10. Which gender of nouns is not found in the first declension?
- a. masculine
 - b. feminine
 - c. neuter
 - d. masculine and neuter
11. The first declension is often called the _____-declension?
- a. *omikron*
 - b. *ēta*
 - c. *ōmega*
 - d. *alpha*
12. The proper declension-paradigm notation for $\phi\omega\nu\acute{\eta}$ is
- a. n-1a
 - b. n-1b
 - c. n-1c
 - d. none of the above

Exercise Three: Fill in the blanks.

1. Supply the appropriate article and case endings for the following words.

a. καρδία (heart)

n-1a		Singular		Plural	
		Article	Noun	Article	Noun
Cases	Nominative		καρδία		καρδία__
	Genitive		καρδία__		καρδι__
	Dative		καρδί <u>α</u>		καρδία__
	Accusative		καρδία__		καρδία__
	Vocative		καρδία		καρδία__

b. ἀγάπη (love)

n-1b		Singular		Plural	
		Article	Noun	Article	Noun
Cases	Nominative		ἀγάπη		ἀγάπα__
	Genitive		ἀγάπη__		ἀγαπ__
	Dative		ἀγάπ <u>η</u>		ἀγάπα__
	Accusative		ἀγάπη__		ἀγάπα__
	Vocative		ἀγάπη		ἀγάπα__

c. δόξα (glory) (the final *alpha* in the nominative singular is short)

n-1c		Singular		Plural	
		Article	Noun	Article	Noun
Cases	Nominative		δόξα		δόξα__
	Genitive		δόξη__		δοξ__
	Dative		δόξη <u>η</u>		δόξα__
	Accusative		δόξα__		δόξα__
	Vocative		δόξα		δόξα__

2. Grammatical Parsing. Parse the following forms.

Word	Case	Gender	Num	Decl	Lexical Form	Definition
ὥρα	nom/voc	feminine	singular	n-1a	ὥρα	hour
φωνῆς						
καρδιῶν						
ψυχᾶς						
συναγωγῆ						
παραβολᾶς						
κεφαλαί						
εἰρήνην						
ἐντολαῖς						
γραφῆς						
ἡμέρας						
Γαλιλαία						
καρδία						
ἐξουσία						
σοφίαν						
ἀλήθεια						
ἀμαρτίαι						
βασιλείας						

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.		Γαλιλαίαν	16.		ρίζη
2.		σαββάτου	17.		δῶρον
3.		ώρων	18.		ἀληθείαις
4.		ῦμνος	19.		οὐρανοῖς
5.		κυρίω	20.		καρδίαν
6.		ἀληθεία	21.		σοφία
7.		ἐξουσίας	22.		βασιλεία
8.		ἐντολῇ	23.		ζωάς
9.		κεφαλῆν	24.		ἔργον
10.		όδούς	25.		Γέενναν
11.		δόξαν	26.		θάλασσαι
12.		ἀλήθειαν	27.		εὐαγγελίω
13.		οδοί	28.		βίβλοισ
14.		κυρίοις	29.		δῶρα
15.		θηρίον	30.		Χριστιανοί

5. Supply the correct lexical form for the following inflected words.

	Inflected Form	Lexical Form		Inflected Form	Lexical Form
1.	θεοί		16.	λόγον	
2.	ψυχῶν		17.	δούλω	
3.	υἱῶ		18.	χαρᾶς	
4.	οἶκος		19.	θρόνον	
5.	χαρᾶ		20.	σοφία	
6.	κεφαλῆς		21.	εἰρήνην	
7.	ἀγάπη		22.	ἀγάπην	
8.	ἀλήθειαν		23.	φωναῖς	
9.	παραβολῆ		24.	όδούς	
10.	ἀνθρώπους		25.	εὐαγγελίῳ	
11.	δωρεᾶ		26.	καρδιῶν	
12.	ἀληθείας		27.	σοφία	
13.	ἡμέραι		28.	ῥας	
14.	ἀδελφαῖς		29.	ἐντολῆ	
15.	Γεέννης		30.	θάλασσας	