

Chapter 16

Nominal and Abstracts Systems: Third-Declension Neuter Nouns; Adjectives and Numerals

THE BASICS

- ✓ Neuter Stems and Endings
- ✓ Formation of Third-Declension **Neuter Nouns**
- ✓ A Summary of Third-Declension Nouns **Presented in the Text**
- ✓ Adjectives and Numerals
- ✓ Translation Tips for πᾶς, πᾶσα, πᾶν

16.1 Vocabulary

16.1.1 Stems Ending in a Liquid or τ (not -ματ)

οὔς, ὠτός, τό	ear (cf. “otology”)
πῦρ, πυρός, τό	fire (cf. “pyre”)
ὔδωρ, ὕδατος, τό	water (cf. “hydroplane”)
φῶς, φωτός, τό	light (cf. “photograph,” “photosynthesis”)

16.1.2 -μα/-ματος Type Neuter Nouns

αἷμα, αἵματος, τό	blood (cf. “hematoma”)
θέλημα, θελήματος, τό	will
ὄνομα, ὀνόματος, τό	name (cf. “onomatopoeia”)
πνεῦμα, πνεύματος, τό	spirit, breath, wind (cf. “pneumatic”)
ῥῆμα, ῥήματος, τό	word, saying
σπέρμα, σπέρματος, τό	seed, descendant(s) (cf. “sperm”)
στόμα, στόματος, τό	mouth (cf. “stomach”)
σῶμα, σώματος, τό	body (cf. “psychosomatic”)

16.1.3 *-ος/-ους Type Neuter Nouns*

γένος, γένους, τό
 ἔθνος, ἔθνους, τό
 ἔτος, ἔτους, τό
 μέλος, μέλους, τό

μέρος, μέρους, τό
 ὄρος, ὄρους, τό
 πλῆθος, πλήθους, τό
 σκότος, σκότους, τό
 τέλος, τέλους, τό

race, descendants (cf. “genealogy”)
 nation, pl.: nations, Gentiles (cf. “ethnic”)
 year
 member, part, limb (of the body, whether
 literal or figurative)
 part (often geographical or quantitative)
 mountain
 multitude, crowd (cf. “plethora”)
 darkness
 end (cf. “teleology”)

16.1.4 *Adjectives and Numbers*

ἀληθής (M/F), ἀληθές (N)
 ἅπας, ἅπασα, ἅπαν
 δύο
 εἷς, μία, ἓν
 μέγας, μεγάλη, μέγα
 οὐδείς, οὐδεμία, οὐδέν
 πᾶς, πᾶσα, πᾶν
 πολὺς, πολλή, πολύ
 τέσσαρες (M/F),
 τέσσαρα (N)
 τρεῖς (M/F), τρία (N)

true
 whole, all, everybody
 two (cf. “duet”)
 one
 great, large (cf. “megalomania”)
 no, no one, nobody, nothing
 all, every, whole
 much, many (cf. “polygon,” “polychrome”)
 four (cf. “Tetragrammaton”)
 three (cf. “triangle”)

16.2 **Neuter Stems and Endings**16.2.1 *Consonant Stem Endings*

There are three basic types of neuter third-declension nouns: those with stems ending in liquids or *-τ*; those ending in *-ματ*; and those originally ending in *-ες* (*-ος/-ους* type).

16.2.2 *Neuter-Case Endings*

Once the masculine/feminine endings are memorized, the neuter will be easy. Note the following simple rules for the neuter third declension:

1. The neuter genitive and dative endings are the same as the masculine/feminine.
2. The nominative and accusative *singular* have no endings.
3. The nominative and accusative *plural* endings are like their second-declension counterparts: *-α*.

	<i>Singular</i>	<i>Plural</i>
N/V	none	-α
G	-ος	-ων
D	-ι	-σι(ν)
A	none	-α

16.3 Formation of Third-Declension Neuter Nouns

16.3.1 Stems Ending in a Liquid or τ

πῦρ, πυρός (fire) provides the most “regular” paradigm of the neuter third declension in that the stem never changes. In φῶς, φωτός (light), and ὕδωρ, ὕδατος (water), the τ of the stem changes to ς or ρ in the nominative and accusative singular because a Greek word, if ending in a consonant, can end only in ν, ρ, or ς.

	<i>Singular</i>					
N/V	τὸ	πῦρ	τὸ	φῶς	τὸ	ὑδωρ
G	τοῦ	πυρός	τοῦ	φωτός	τοῦ	ὑδατος
D	τῷ	πυρί	τῷ	φωτί	τῷ	ὑδατι
A	τὸ	πῦρ	τὸ	φῶς	τὸ	ὑδωρ
	<i>Plural</i>					
N/V	τὰ	πυρά	τὰ	φῶτα	τὰ	ὑδατα
G	τῶν	πυρῶν	τῶν	φῶτων	τῶν	ὑδάτων
D	τοῖς	πυρσί	τοῖς	φωσί	τοῖς	ὑδασι(ν)
A	τὰ	πυρά	τὰ	φῶτα	τὰ	ὑδατα

16.3.2 -μα/-ματος Subtype

A common form of neuter third-declension noun has a stem ending in -ματ-. With these words, the τ simply drops out in the nominative and accusative singular (again because Greek words cannot end in τ). The resulting σπέρμα is not to be confused with the plural σπέρματα.

τὸ σπέρμα, τοῦ σπέρματος, *seed*

	<i>Singular</i>		<i>Plural</i>	
N/V	τὸ	σπέρμα	τὰ	σπέρματα
G	τοῦ	σπέρματος	τῶν	σπερμάτων
D	τῷ	σπέρματι	τοῖς	σπέρμασι(ν)
A	τὸ	σπέρμα	τὰ	σπέρματα

16.3.3 -ος/-ους Type

A significant group of neuter nouns originally had stems that ended in -εσ. In most cases, the σ has dropped out and the stem and suffix vowels have contracted. The exceptions are the nominative/accusative singular, where the second -ε- of the stem has changed to an -ο-, and the dative plural, where the original stem -ε- remains. The uncontracted forms are included in parentheses so that you may see how neuter endings are still being employed. You need learn only the resulting forms.

τὸ μέρος, τοῦ μέρους, *part*

	<i>Singular</i>		<i>Plural</i>	
N/V	τὸ	μέρος	τὰ	μέρη (μερεσα)
G	τοῦ	μέρους (μερεσος)	τῶν	μερῶν (μερεσων)
D	τῷ	μέρει (μερεσι)	τοῖς	μέρεσι (μερεσσι)
A	τὸ	μέρος	τὰ	μέρη (μερεσα)

These nouns are notorious for confusing the beginner because of obvious likenesses to the masculine and feminine nouns of the first and second declensions.¹ Give careful attention to clues provided in the context by the article and/or other modifiers.

16.4 A Summary of Third-Declension Nouns Presented in the Text

CONSONANT STEMS				VOWEL STEMS		NEUTER NOUNS			
<i>Masculine</i>		<i>Feminine</i>		<i>Feminine Masculine</i>		<i>Neuter</i>			
		<i>Singular</i>		<i>Singular</i>		<i>Singular</i>			
N/V	ἄρχων	νύξ	ἐλπίς	χάρις	πόλις	βασιλεύς	ὄνομα	γένος	ὕδωρ
G	ἄρχοντος ²	νυκτός	ἐλπίδος	χάριτος	πόλεως	βασιλέως	ὀνόματος	γένους	ὑδατος
D	ἄρχοντι	νυκτί	ελπίδι	χάριτι	πόλει	βασίλει	ὀνόματι	γένει	ὑδατι
A	ἄρχοντα	νύκτα	ἐλπίδα	χάριν	πόλιν	βασιλέα	ὄνομα	γένος	ὕδωρ
<i>Plural</i>				<i>Plural</i>		<i>Plural</i>			
N/V	ἄρχοντες	νύκτες	ἐλπίδες	χάριτες	πόλεις	βασίλεις	ὀνόματα	γένη	ὑδατα
G	ἄρχόντων	νυκτῶν	ἐλπίδων	χαρίτων	πόλεων	βασιλέων	ὀνομάτων	γενῶν	ὑδάτων
D	ἄρχουσι	νυξί	ἐλπίσι	χάρισι	πόλεσι	βασιλεῦσι	ὀνόμασι	γένεσι	ὑδασι
A	ἄρχοντας	νύκτας	ἐλπίδας	χάριτας	πόλεις	βασίλεις	ὀνόματα	γένη	ὑδατα

¹E.g., μέρος is neuter nominative or accusative singular, not masculine nominative singular (as in λόγος); μέρους is neuter genitive singular, not masculine accusative plural (as in λόγους); and μέρη is neuter nominative or accusative plural, not feminine nominative singular (as in φωνή).

²The boldfaced endings are uniform. There are other third-declension forms that occur infrequently, but seldom will these so diverge from the patterns presented in this text as to stymie the student.

16.5 Adjectives and Numbers

In chs. 5 and 6, you were introduced to first- and second-declension adjectives that had three distinct sets of forms for the masculine, feminine, and neuter genders (e.g., ἀγαθός, ἀγαθή, ἀγαθόν). What follows are adjectives and numerals of the third declension alone or of a mix of the third and other declensions.

16.5.1 Third-Declension Adjectives and Numerals

δύο, δυοί(ν). The number “two” has only two forms (plural forms, of course!): δύο functions for the nominative, genitive, or accusative; δυοί(ν) for the dative.

τρεις, τρία. “Three” has a vowel stem-ending and declines like πόλις. The neuter nominative and accusative is formed with the expected -α ending. Note again the common genitive and dative forms.

	Plural		
	M/F	M/F/N	N
N	τρεις		τρία
G		τριῶν	
D		τρισί(ν)	
A	τρεις		τρία

τέσσαρες, τέσσαρα. “Four” has a liquid stem ending and declines like πῦρ, πυρός (with masculine/feminine endings -ες and -ας for the nominative and accusative).

	Plural		
	M/F	M/F/N	N
N	τέσσαρες		τέσσαρα
G		τεσσάρων	
D		τέσσαρσι(ν)	
A	τέσσαρας		τέσσαρα

ἀληθής, ἀληθές. Adjectives such as “true” are numerous, but none occurs more than twenty-seven times in the GNT. Nevertheless, the student should be familiar with their pattern. There are two points to consider:

1. The neuter declines like γένος, γένους (except that the nominative/accusative singular has the original -ες stem).
2. The masculine/feminine nominative and accusative forms reflect the loss of the stem -ς and the resulting vowel contraction.

	Singular			Plural		
M/F	M/F/N	N	M/F	M/F/N	N	
N	ἀληθής		ἀληθές	ἀληθεῖς		ἀληθῆ
G		ἀληθοῦς			ἀληθῶν	
D		ἀληθεῖ			ἀληθέσι(ν)	
A	ἀληθῆ		ἀληθές	ἀληθεῖς		ἀληθῆ

16.5.2 First- and Third-Declension Type

εἷς, μία, ἓν. The number “one” in Greek calls to mind the prepositions εἰς (into) and ἐν (in), but the number is accented and has a rough breathing mark. Naturally, the Greek for “one” declines only in the singular. The masculine and neuter forms are third declension. The feminine gender, however, declines like a καρδιά-type first-declension adjective.

	M	F	N
N	εἷς	μία	ἓν
G	ένός	μιᾶς	ένός
D	ένί	μιᾶ	ένί
A	ἓνα	μίαν	ἓν

The adjective οὐδείς, οὐδεμία, οὐδέν, *no one, nothing*, also declines in this way.

πᾶς, πᾶσα, πᾶν. This adjective and its derivative ἅπας are the only words of this type occurring more than thirty times. It is significant in its own right, occurring 1,226 times in the GNT. It gains significance, however, in that it is analogous to the paradigm for the first aorist active and passive participles for all three genders. In other words, if the paradigm for πᾶς, πᾶσα, πᾶν (and ἄρχων, ἄρχοντος) is memorized, the lessons of ch. 19 will be greatly simplified.

The following observations will help you master the declension:

1. The masculine declines like ἄρχων, ἄρχοντος except in the nominative singular, where -ντ- (stem: παντ-) is replaced with -ς.
2. The feminine πᾶσα is a first-declension δόξα type.
3. The neuter declines like a neuter third-declension noun ending in -ντ, with the τ dropping from the stem in the nominative and accusative singular.

	<i>Singular</i>			<i>Plural</i>		
	M	F	N	M	F	N
N/V	πᾶς	πᾶσα	πᾶν	πάντες	πᾶσαι	πάντα
G	παντός	πάσης	παντός	πάντων	πασῶν	πάντων
D	παντί	πάση	παντί	πᾶσι(ν)	πάσαις	πᾶσι(ν)
A	πάντα	πᾶσαν	πᾶν	πάντας	πάσας	πάντα

Note that the feminine is everywhere accented on the penult except the genitive plural, where the ultima receives the circumflex.

16.5.3 Mixed-Declension Types

πολύς, πολλή, πολύ; μέγας, μεγάλη, μέγα. Carefully study the following paradigms together with the subsequent comments. Except for the peculiarities noted in boldface type, these adjectives decline like the second-/first-declension ἄλλος, ἄλλη, ἄλλο.

πολύς, πολλή, πολύ, much, many

	<i>Singular</i>			<i>Plural</i>		
	M	F	N	M	F	N
N	πολύς	πολλή	πολύ	πολλοί	πολλαί	πολλά
G	πολλοῦ	πολλῆς	πολλοῦ	πολλῶν	πολλῶν	πολλῶν
D	πολλῷ	πολλῇ	πολλῷ	πολλοῖς	πολλαῖς	πολλοῖς
A	πολύν	πολλήν	πολύ	πολλούς	πολλάς	πολλα

μέγας, μεγάλη, μέγα, great, large

	<i>Singular</i>			<i>Plural</i>		
	M	F	N	M	F	N
N	μέγας	μεγάλη	μέγα	μεγάλοι	μεγάλαι	μεγάλα
G	μεγάλου	μεγάλης	μεγάλου	μεγάλων	μεγάλων	μεγάλων
D	μεγάλῳ	μεγάλῃ	μεγάλῳ	μεγάλοις	μεγάλαις	μεγάλοις
A	μέγαν	μεγάλην	μέγα	μεγάλους	μεγάλας	μεγάλα
V	μεγάλε	μεγάλη	μέγα	μεγάλοι	μεγάλαι	μεγάλα

The masculine and neuter nominative and accusative singular forms are third declension.

1. These forms have lost a λ from the stem, replaced by masculine/feminine third-declension endings (ς and ν) or no ending at all (neuter).
2. Along with this loss, an expected second -o in πολύς , πολύ is an -υ instead.

16.6 Translation Tips for πᾶς , πᾶσα , πᾶν

With the article:

Attributive position Gal 5:14	δ πᾶς νόμος the whole law
Predicate position Matt 1:17	πᾶσαι αἱ γενεαί all the generations

Without the article: “any or all conceivable kinds of things”

Matt 5:11	πᾶν πονηρόν every kind of evil
Matt 19:3	πᾶσαν αἰτίαν any cause

EXERCISES

A. Translate the following sentences into English:

1. ἀλλὰ κεκηρύκαμεν τὸ εὐαγγέλιον ὃ οὐδεὶς τῶν ἀρχόντων τοῦ αἰῶνος τούτου ἔγνωκεν, εἰ γὰρ ἔγνωσαν, οὐκ ἂν τὸν κύριον τῆς δόξης ἐσταύρωσαν.*
2. καὶ ἡμεῖς ἐσμεν μάρτυρες τῶν ῥημάτων τούτων, καὶ τὸ πνεῦμα τὸ ἅγιον.
3. ἀλλ' εἰσὶν ἐξ ὑμῶν τινες οἱ οὐ πιστεύουσιν.
4. ὁ³ δὲ εἶπεν αὐτοῖς, Οἱ βασιλεῖς τῶν ἐθνῶν ἔλαβον τούτους τοὺς ἄνδρας ἐκ τοῦ ἔθνους τῶν Ἰουδαίων.
5. σὺ δὲ ὁ αὐτὸς εἰ καὶ τὰ ἔτη σου οὐκ ἐκλείψουσιν.*
6. ἤδεισαν γὰρ ἅπαντες ὅτι Ἑλλην* ὁ πατὴρ αὐτοῦ ὑπῆρχεν.
7. πάντες γὰρ ὑμεῖς εἰς ἐστε ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ.
8. ὅσοι γὰρ εἰς Χριστὸν ἐβαπτίσθητε, Χριστὸν ἐνεδύσασθε.*
9. οὐκ οἶδατε ὅτι τὰ σώματα ὑμῶν μέλη Χριστοῦ ἐστίν;

³This is the article used as a demonstrative pronoun. Translate as “this one” or “he,” as in “But this one . . .”

10. ἡ γὰρ ἀγάπη τοῦ Χριστοῦ συνέχει* ἡμᾶς, ὅτι γινώσκομεν τοῦτο ὅτι εἰς ὑπὲρ πάντων ἀπέθανεν· ἄρα οἱ πάντες ἀπέθανον.
11. ὥσπερ* γὰρ τὸ σῶμα χωρὶς* πνεύματος νεκρὸν ἐστίν, οὕτως καὶ ἡ πίστις χωρὶς ἔργων νεκρά ἐστίν.
12. οὐκ οἶδατε ὅτι τὸ σῶμα ὑμῶν ναὸς* τοῦ ἐν ὑμῖν ἁγίου πνεύματός ἐστιν, οὗ ἔχετε ἀπὸ θεοῦ, καὶ οὐκ ἐστὲ ἐαυτῶν;
13. ἡγοράσθητε γὰρ τιμῆς* δοξάσετε δὴ* τὸν θεὸν ἐν τῷ σώματι ὑμῶν.
14. ἐν ἐκείνῃ τῇ ἡμέρᾳ γνώσεσθε ὑμεῖς ὅτι ἐγὼ ἐν τῷ πατρὶ μου καὶ ὑμεῖς ἐν ἐμοὶ καὶ ἐν ὑμῖν.

B. Translate the following sentences into Greek:

1. She said to him, "I know that the Anointed One is coming."
2. But Jesus said to the woman, "I am that one."
3. The disciple bought three loaves and prepared them.
4. Your (sg.) brother's blood is crying out from the ground.
5. The words of the teacher were like (as) water on the desert.