

Chapter 6

Second Declension Neuter Nouns

6.1 In chapter 4 we met nouns of the second declension which were grammatically masculine and declined like λογος (word).

Now we meet a smaller, very similar, group of Second Declension nouns which are grammatically neuter.

All Greek nouns ending in -ον are neuter.

The ending -ιον is a diminutive - a δαίμονιον is a "little demon".

6.2 The basic pattern for a Second Declension neuter noun is :

	Singular	Plural
Nominative	STEM-ον	STEM-α
Accusative	STEM-ον	STEM-α
Genitive	STEM-ου	STEM-ων
Dative	STEM-ω	STEM-οις

Note that for neuter nouns, in the singular and the plural, the nominative and accusative forms are identical. This is true of all neuter nouns in Greek.

The nominative/accusative plural -α ending is also found in Latin, and has come into English in such words as media, data, strata, colloquia.

Note the iota-subscript in the dative singular, and the -ων ending of the genitive plural.

Note that the endings for genitive and dative are the same as those of the masculine Second Declension.

For ἔργον (work) this becomes

	Singular	Plural
Nom.	ἔργον	ἔργα
Acc.	ἔργον	ἔργα
Gen.	ἔργου	ἔργων
Dat.	ἔργω	ἔργοις

6.3 Neuter Plurals with verbs

Neuter plural nouns act like English collective nouns - they usually take a singular verb, not a plural.

This is not a strict rule followed by all writers of the New Testament, but it is one which students should remember and watch out for.

τα παιδιά βλέπει το πρόσωπον του Πέτρου. - The children see the face of Peter (Peter's face).

Practice - until you can read and translate easily

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|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1. ὁ Παυλος βλέπει παιδιον. | Paul sees a child. |
| 2. παιδιον βλέπει τον Παυλον. | A child sees Paul. |
| 3. ὁ Ἰωαννης λεγει παιδιοις ; | Is John speaking to children? |
| 4. παιδιον λεγει τῷ Ἰησου. | A child speaks to Jesus. |
| 5. παιδιά λεγει αὐτῷ. | Children speak to him. |
| 6. ὁ κυριος λεγει παιδιῷ. | The Lord speaks to a child. |
| 7. παιδιά λεγει τῷ Ἰησου. | Children speak to Jesus. |
| 8. ὁ Λουκας ἀναγινωσκει βιβλιον ; | Is Luke reading a book? |
| 9. οἱ πρεσβυτεροι προβατον ἔχουσιν. | The elders have a sheep. |
| 10. ὁ διακονος γραφει λογον ἐν βιβλιῳ. | The deacon writes a word in a book. |

6.4 The Neuter forms of the Definite Article : το

The Definite Article "the" uses a set of endings similar to those of ἔργον

	Singular	Plural
Nom.	το ἔργον	τα ἔργα
Acc.	το ἔργον	τα ἔργα
Gen.	του ἔργου	των ἔργων
Dat.	τῷ ἔργῳ	τοῖς ἔργοις

Practice - until you can read and translate easily

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|---|--|
| 1. το δαιμονιον βλεπει τον Χριστον. | The demon sees Christ. |
| 2. τα δαιμονια βλεπει τον κυριον ; | Do the demons see the Lord? |
| 3. τα δενδρα ἐστιν ἐν τῷ ἀγρῳ. | The trees are in the field. |
| 4. το ἀργυριον ἦν ἐν τῷ ἱερῳ ; | Was the money in the temple? |
| 5. ὁ Ἰησους ἐκβαλλει τα δαιμονια. | Jesus casts out the demons. |
| 6. το τεκνον ἐν τῷ πλοιῳ οὐκ ἦν. | The child was not in the boat. |
| 7. τα τεκνα βλεπει τα ἔργα του θεου. | The children see the works of God. |
| 8. το συνεδριον οὐ λαμβανει τα ποτηρια. | The Sanhedrin does not receive the cups. |
| 9. τα δαιμονια οὐ λαμβανει το εὐαγγελιον. | The demons do not accept the gospel. |
| 10. το προβατον ἐν τῷ ἱερῳ ἐστιν. | The sheep is in the Temple. |

6.5 The Neuter forms of the Third Personal Pronoun "it" : αὐτο

αὐτο uses exactly the same endings as το

	Singular	Plural
Nom.	αὐτο	αὐτα
Acc.	αὐτο	αὐτα
Gen.	αὐτου	αὐτων
Dat.	αὐτῳ	αὐτοις

Note when translating αὐτο, that it may refer to a child or other person, for whom English would use "he" rather than "it".

Practice - until you can read and translate easily

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|--|---|
| 1. ὁ κυριος λεγει τῷ τεκνῳ και αὐτο ἀκουει. | The Lord speaks to the child and he listens. |
| 2. Λουκας γραφει το εὐαγγελιον ἐν τῷ βιβλιῳ
και τα παιδια ἀναγινωσκει αὐτο. | Luke writes the gospel in the book,
and the children read it. |
| 3. το τεκνον λαμβανει το ἱματιον
και βαλλει αὐτο εἰς το πλοιον. | The child gets the garment
and throws it into the boat. |
| 4. ὁ Ἰησους λεγει τοις δαιμονιοις
και ἐκβαλλει αὐτα ἐκ του τέκνου. | Jesus speaks to the demons
and casts them out of the child. |
| 5. ὁ Ἰησους λεγει τοις παιδιοις
και αὐτα ἀκουουσιν αὐτῳ. | Jesus speaks to the children
and they listen to him. |
| 6. οἱ διδασκαλοι διδασκουσιν
το μυστηριον του εὐαγγελιου
ἀλλα το συνεδριον οὐ λαμβανει αὐτο. | The teachers teach
the mystery of the Gospel.
but the Sanhedrin does not accept it. |
| 7. τα ποτηρια ἐν τῷ ἱερῳ ἦσαν
ἀλλα νυν αὐτα ἐν τῷ οἴκῳ εἰσιν. | The cups were in the temple.
but now they are in the house. |
| 8. τα τεκνια ἐχουσι τα βιβλια,
ἀλλ' οὐκ ἀναγινωσκουσι αὐτα. | The children have the books
but they don't read them. |
| 9. ὁ υἱος λεγει τοις παιδιοις
και αὐτα ἀκουουσιν αὐτῳ. | The son speaks to the children
and they listen to him. |
| 10. γραφω τα ἔργα του θεου ἐν τῷ βιβλιῳ
ἀλλ' οὐκ ἀναγινωσκετε αὐτο. | I write the works of God in the book
but you do not read it. |

6.6 Sentences for reading and translation

1. αὐτός ὁ Χριστός λαμβάνει τὰ παιδιά καὶ διδάσκει αὐτά.
2. ὁ κύριος διδάσκει τὰ μυστήρια τοῦ εὐαγγελίου ἐν τῷ ἱερῷ ἐν τῷ σαββάτῳ.
3. τὰ δαιμόνια οὐ βλέπουσιν τὸ πρόσωπον τοῦ θεοῦ.
4. βλέπει τὸ συνέδριον τὰ σημεῖα τοῦ Χριστοῦ ;
5. λαμβανόμεν τὰ παιδιά ἀλλ' οἱ Φαρισαῖοι οὐ λαμβάνουσιν αὐτά.
6. τὸ μνημεῖον τοῦ Δαυὶδ οὐκ ἦν ἐν τῷ ἱερῷ.
7. οἱ Ἰουδαῖοι βλέπουσιν τὰ μνημεῖα τῶν πρεσβυτέρων ἀλλ' οὐ βλέπομεν αὐτά.
8. οἱ διακονοὶ ἦσαν ἐν τῷ ἱερῷ, οὐκ ἦσαν ἐν τῷ πλοίῳ.
9. οἱ Φαρισαῖοι διδάσκουσιν τὸν νόμον,
Παῦλος δὲ διδάσκει τὸ εὐαγγέλιον τοῦ κυρίου.
10. τὰ πρόβατα ἐν τῷ ἄγρῳ εἰσὶν, οὐκ εἰσὶν ἐν τῷ ἱερῷ.

6.7 Writing Practice : Write the Greek several times, while saying aloud (Matt. 6:9-10)

πατερ ἡμῶν ὁ ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς,	Our Father, the (one) in the heavens,
ἁγιασθῆτω τὸ ὄνομα σου,	let your name be sanctified,
ἔλθετω ἡ βασιλεία σου,	let your kingdom come,
γενῆθῆτω τὸ θελημα σου,	let your will / wish happen (come to pass),

You will now recognize that **τὸ ὄνομα** and **τὸ θελημα** are neuter. They belong to the Third Declension which we will meet later.

6.8 New Testament Passage for reading aloud and translation : John 2:13-15

In your Greek New Testament, read the passage aloud several times until you can read it without long pauses or stumbling. Then use the helps to translate it.

τὸ πάσχα	the Passover	
ἀνεβῆ	he went up	
εἰς Ἱερουσόλυμα	into Jerusalem	
εὗρεν	he found	
τοὺς πωλοῦντας	the ones selling	(Accusative plural)
βοῶν	cows	(Accusative plural)
περιστερᾶς	doves, pigeons	(Accusative plural)
τοὺς κερματιστάς	the money changers	(Accusative plural)
καθήμενους	sitting	(Accusative plural)
ποίησας	having made = "after he had made"	(from ΠΟΙΕΩ - I do, act, make)
φραγγέλιον ἐκ σχοινίων	a little whip of cords	
πάντας ἐξεβαλεν	he threw out all	
τε	and, so	
ἐξέχεεν τὸ κερμα	he poured out the coin (money) (pronounced ex-ECHK-eh-en)	
τῶν κολλυβιτῶν	of the money-changers	
ἀνετρεψεν	he overturned	
τάς τραπεζάς	the tables	(Accusative plural)

6.9 Vocabulary to learn

το ἀργύριον	silver, money	
το βιβλίον	book	(βιβλίον is a diminutive of βιβλος)
ἡ βίβλος	book	(βιβλίον and βίβλος are used interchangeably in the GNT)
το δαιμόνιον	demon	
το δένδρον	tree	
το ἔργον	work	
το εὐαγγέλιον	good news, gospel	(the prefix εὐ- means good or well)
το ἱερόν	temple	(pronounced heer-ON)
το ἱμάτιον	garment	
το μνημεῖον	tomb, memorial	(pronounced mm-nay-MAY-on) (μνημεῖον is related to the verb μνημονεύω - I remember)
το μυστήριον	mystery	
το παιδίον	child	(παιδίον is a diminutive of παις - lad, lass; hence pedagogy)
το πλοῖον	boat	(pronounced PLOY-on)
το ποτήριον	cup	
το πρόβατον	sheep	(think pro-BAAH-ton - though the accent really goes on the PRO)
το πρόσωπον	face	
το σάββατον	Sabbath	(due to Aramaic influence, the plural may be used for just one Sabbath)
το σημεῖον	sign	
το συνέδριον	Sanhedrin, council	
το τεκνίον	little child	
το τέκνον	child	(τεκνον is derived from τικτω - I give birth to, I bear)
το θέλημα	will, wish	(Nominative singular. Do not attempt to use other cases yet)
το ὄνομα	name	(Nominative singular. Do not attempt to use other cases yet)
αὐτο	it	
ἐγγύς	near	
εἰς	into	(takes Accusative)
περί	around, about	(takes Genitive) (hence perimeter, perambulate)
το	the	(Neuter)