

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 *λόγος* (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 "δαμόνιον" 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. For example

τὰ παιδιά βλέπει τὸ πρόσωπον τοῦ Πέτροῦ. The children see the face of Peter (Peter's face).

Practice - until you can read and translate easily

1. ὁ Παῦλος βλέπει παιδίον. Paul sees a child.
2. παιδίον βλέπει τὸν Παῦλον. A child sees Paul.
3. ὁ Ἰωάννης λέγει παιδίοις ; Is John speaking to children?
4. παιδίον λέγει τῷ Ἰησοῦ. A child speaks to Jesus.
5. παιδιά λέγει αὐτῷ. Children speak to him.
6. ὁ κύριος λέγει παιδίῳ. The Lord speaks to a child.
7. παιδιά λέγει τῷ Ἰησοῦ. Children speak to Jesus.
8. ὁ Λουκᾶς ἀναγινώσκει βιβλίον ; Is Luke reading a book?
9. οἱ πρεσβύτεροι πρόβατον ἔχουσιν. The elders have a sheep.
10. ὁ διάκονος γράφει λόγον ἐν βιβλίῳ. 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.	τὸ ἔργον	τὰ ἔργα
Acc.	τὸ ἔργον	τὰ ἔργα
Gen.	τοῦ ἔργου	τῶν ἔργων
Dat.	τῷ ἔργῳ	τοῖς ἔργοις

Practice - until you can read and translate easily

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. τὸ δαιμόνιον βλέπει τὸν Χριστόν. | The demon sees Christ. |
| 2. τὰ δαιμόνια βλέπει τὸν κύριον ; | Do the demons see the Lord? |
| 3. τὰ δένδρα ἐστὶν ἐν τῷ ἀγρῷ. | The trees are in the field. |
| 4. τὸ ἀργύριον ἦν ἐν τῷ ἱερῷ ; | Was the money in the temple? |
| 5. ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἐκβάλλει τὰ δαιμόνια. | Jesus casts out the demons. |
| 6. τὸ τέκνον ἐν τῷ πλοίῳ οὐκ ἦν. | The child was not in the boat. |
| 7. τὰ τέκνα βλέπει τὰ ἔργα τοῦ θεοῦ. | The children see the works of God. |
| 8. τὸ συνέδριον οὐ λαμβάνει τὰ ποτήρια. | The Sanhedrin does not receive the cups. |
| 9. τὰ δαιμόνια οὐ λαμβάνει τὸ εὐαγγέλιον. | The demons do not accept the gospel. |
| 10. τὸ πρόβατον ἐν τῷ ἱερῷ ἐστίν. | The sheep is in the Temple. |

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

αὐτό uses exactly the same endings as το

	Singular	Plural
Nom.	αὐτό	αὐτά
Acc.	αὐτό	αὐτά
Gen.	αὐτοῦ	αὐτῶν
Dat.	αὐτῷ	αὐτοῖς

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

Practice - until you can read and translate easily

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. ὁ κύριος λέγει τῷ τέκνῳ καὶ αὐτὸ ἀκούει. | The Lord speaks to the child and he listens. |
| 2. Λουκᾶς γράφει τὸ εὐαγγέλιον ἐν τῷ βιβλίῳ
καὶ τὰ παιδιά ἀναγινώσκει αὐτό. | Luke writes the gospel in the book,
and the children read it. |
| 3. τὸ τέκνον λαμβάνει τὸ ἱμάτιον
καὶ βάλλει αὐτὸ εἰς τὸ πλοῖον. | The child gets the garment
and throws it into the boat. |
| 4. ὁ Ἰησοῦς λέγει τοῖς δαιμονίοις
καὶ ἐκβάλλει αὐτὰ ἐκ τοῦ τέκνου. | Jesus speaks to the demons
and casts them out of the child. |
| 5. ὁ Ἰησοῦς λέγει τοῖς παιδίοις
καὶ αὐτὰ ἀκούουσιν αὐτῷ. | Jesus speaks to the children
and they listen to him. |
| 6. οἱ διδάσκαλοι διδάσκουσιν
τὸ μυστήριον τοῦ εὐαγγελίου
ἀλλὰ τὸ συνέδριον οὐ λαμβάνει αὐτό. | The teachers teach
the mystery of the Gospel.
but the Sanhedrin does not accept it. |
| 7. τὰ ποτήρια ἐν τῷ ἱερῷ ἦσαν
ἀλλὰ νῦν αὐτὰ ἐν τῷ οἴκῳ εἰσίν. | The cups were in the temple.
but now they are in the house. |
| 8. τὰ τέκνια ἔχουσι τὰ βιβλία,
ἀλλ' οὐκ ἀναγινώσκουσι αὐτά. | The children have the books
but they don't read them. |
| 9. ὁ υἱὸς λέγει τοῖς παιδίοις
καὶ αὐτὰ ἀκούουσιν αὐτῷ. | The son speaks to the children
and they listen to him. |
| 10. γράφω τὰ ἔργα τοῦ θεοῦ ἐν τῷ βιβλίῳ
ἀλλ' οὐκ ἀναγινώσκετε αὐτό. | I write the works of God in the book
but you do not read it. |

6.6 Sentences for reading and translation

1. αὐτὸς ὁ Χριστὸς 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. λαμβάνομεν 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 διάκονοι ἦσαν ἐν τῷ ἱερῷ, οὐκ ἦσαν ἐν τῷ πλοίῳ.
9. οἱ Φαρισαῖοι διδάσκουσιν τὸν νόμον,
Παῦλος δὲ διδάσκει τὸ εὐαγγέλιον τοῦ κύριου.
10. τὰ πρόβατα ἐν τῷ ἀγρῷ εἰσὶν, οὐκ εἰσὶν ἐν τῷ ἱερῷ.

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

Πάτερ ἡμῶν ὁ ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς,	Our Father, the (one) in the heavens,
ἀγιασθήτω τὸ ὄνομά σου,	let your name be sanctified,
ἐλθέτω ἡ βασιλεία σου,	let your kingdom come,
γενηθήτω τὸ θέλημά σου,	let your will / wish happen (come to pass),

You will now recognize that τὸ ὄνομα and τὸ θέλημα 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	
ἀνέβη	he went up	
εἰς Ἱεροσόλυμα	into Jerusalem	
εὔρεν	he found	
τοῦς πωλοῦντας	the ones selling	(Accusative plural)
βόας	cows	(Accusative plural)
περιστερὰς	doves, pigeons	(Accusative plural)
τοῦς κερματιστάς	the money changers	(Accusative plural)
καθημένους	sitting	(Accusative plural)
ποιήσας	having made = "after he had made"	(from ποιέω - I do, act, make)
φραγέλλιον ἐκ σχοινίων	a little whip of cords	
πάντας ἐξέβαλεν	he threw out all	
τε	and, so	
ἐξέχεεν τὸ κέρμα	he poured out the coin (money) (pronounced ex-ECHK-eh-en)	
τῶν κολλυβιτῶν	of the money-changers	
ἀνέτρεψε	he overturned	
τάς τραπέζας	the tables	(Accusative plural)

6.9 Vocabulary to learn

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