

Nominative / Accusative Cases & the Article
Mounce Ch. 6

1 Constituent Parts of Greek Nouns: stem + case endings

1.1 Stem: nouns have a stem that commonly end in -ο, -α, or -η (some end in consonants--more about that later).

λόγος (word):	Stem = *λόγο	Case ending = ς
λόγοι (words):	Stem = *λόγο	Case ending = ι
ἄνθρωπος (man):	Stem = *ἄνθρωπο	Case ending = ς
ἄνθρωποι (men):	Stem = *ἄνθρωπο	Case ending = ι

1.1.1 Note: The asterisk in *λόγο simply means that “λόγο” is a theoretical form that doesn’t occur in precisely this form; it always occurs with a “case ending” attached to it.

1.1.2 The stem of a noun is the part of the word that communicates the *semantic meaning/content* of the word.

1.2 Case Endings: Greek has 4 main “cases” (a 5th one is not so common) whose inflectional endings serve to indicate grammatical information about the noun: its *function* within the sentence (subject, direct object) and its *number* (sing. v. pl.).

Ex. λόγος (word) v. λόγοι (words)

The stem λόγο- tells you this is the concept “word.” The ending -ς tells you it can be the subject of a sentence, and that the noun is singular. The ending -ι also tells you it can be the subject of a sentence, but the noun is plural.

1.3 Nominative and Accusative Case Functions

Nominative Case: generally marks a noun as the Subject of a sentence.

Accusative Case: generally marks a noun as the Direct Object of a sentence.

ὁ ἄνθρωπος	ἀγαπᾷ	τὸν ἄνθρωπον.
The man (S)	loves	the man (DO).
nom case		acc case

2 Declension Patterns: all nouns follow one of 3 inflectional patterns called *declensions*. We learn these three declensions in Mounce chapters 6, 7, and 10.

2.1 First declension: nouns with stems ending in α/η follow the first declension. Usually feminine (ἡ γραφή, ἡ ζωή)

2.2 Second declension: nouns with stems ending in ο follow the second declension. Usually masculine (ὁ λόγος, ὁ ἄνθρωπος) or neuter (τὸ ἔργον, τὸ σάββατον)

2.3 Third declension: nouns with stems ending in a consonant follow the third declension. These can be any gender--we'll not deal with these presently.

2.4 Exx.

2.4.1 The nominative sing. case ending in the 1st declension is zero-ending.

ἡ γραφή	διδάσκει	τὸν ἄνθρωπον.
The Scripture(S)	teaches	the man (DO).
nom case		acc case

2.4.2 The nominative masc. sing. case ending in the 2nd declension is -ς.

ὁ ἄνθρωπος	διδάσκει	τὴν γραφήν.
The man (S)	teaches	the Scripture(DO).
nom case		acc case

2.4.3 Can you guess what the case ending is for the accusative sing. 1st and 2nd declensions?

2.5 Note: Nouns will follow only *one declension pattern* since their actual declension pattern is determined by what the noun stem ends with.

2.6 Finally, some nouns are *indeclinable*, which simply means that they do not change their endings to mark differences of case function. The form of Ἰσραήλ does not change; it is written the same when it's the subject or the d.o. of a verb. [Usually indeclinable nouns are borrowings from other languages.]