

### 11.5: “Type 2a adjectives”: *adjectives of the third declension with nasal stems*

I adopt a classification of Greek adjectives in two types for the sole purpose of identifying them in this course. Earlier we called adjectives that follow the 2nd, 1st, and 2nd declension in the masc, fem, and neuter, respectively, “Type 1 adjectives.” We now begin the study of adjectives that follow, at least partially, the 3rd declension. I call them “Type 2” and identify the different subgroups of this type on the basis of the stem sounds. In this lesson we study “Type 2a” adjectives, which have nasal stems. As an introduction, we return to the nouns with nasal stems in the third declension that we studied in [11.3](#):

	<i>Stem</i>	<i>Nominative</i>	<i>Mark of the nominative</i>	<i>Citation</i>
<i>nouns ending in the dental nasal ν</i>	<b>αἰων-</b>	<b>αἰών</b>	<i>no mark: the vowel is long throughout</i>	<b>ὁ αἰών, αἰῶνος</b>
	<b>δαιμον-</b>	<b>δαίμων</b>	<i>long vowel</i>	<b>ὁ δαίμων, δαίμονος</b>

Note that I refer to nouns whose *general stem* ends in ν, not in ντ like, for instance, ὁ γέρων, γέροντος. This noun and similar ones have a nominative ending in ν, but only because the final t was dropped.

The noun that interests us here is δαίμων, δαίμονος. It shows a long/short contrast between the nom stem and the general stem. So do the adjectives of the type εὐδαίμων, εὐδαιμον. The citation form of adjectives, as we know, does not include nom/gen but the nom in all its genders. The citation of this adjective has two forms: the first, εὐδαίμων, is used for masc and fem, and the second, εὐδαιμον, is the neuter.

In ancient Greek δαίμων meant "divinity, spirit," not necessarily malevolous; later, however, it acquired the connotation of "devil, evil spirit." The adjective εὐδαίμων, εὐδαιμον was an ancient Greek compound of δαίμων and, since the adverb εὖ means "well," it meant "fortunate, prosperous."

The long vowel will appear only in the masc / fem nominative. The neuter nom/acc and all the other forms of any gender in the declension have the short vowel ο. Here is a chart:

*singular*

	<i>masc and fem</i>	<i>neuter</i>	<i>Observations</i>
<i>nom</i>	εὐδαίμων	εὐδαιμον	When the adjective has three syllables, in the neuter the accent recedes one syllable, against the general rule.
<i>gen</i>	εὐδαίμων-ος		Gen and dat have the same forms in all three genders
<i>dat</i>	εὐδαίμων-ι		
<i>acc</i>	εὐδαίμων-α	εὐδαιμον	Masc/fem acc = neuter plural

*plural*

	<i>masc and fem</i>	<i>neuter</i>	<i>Observations</i>
<i>nom</i>	εὐδαίμον-ες	εὐδαίμον-α	Neuter plural = masc/fem acc
<i>gen</i>	εὐδαιμόν-ων		Gen and dat have the same forms in all three genders
<i>dat</i>	εὐδαίμο-σι(ν)		The dental <b>ν</b> drops before <b>σ</b>
<i>acc</i>	εὐδαίμον-ας	εὐδαίμον-α	Neuter plural = masc/fem acc