Plurals

Letting Nominals Multi-task
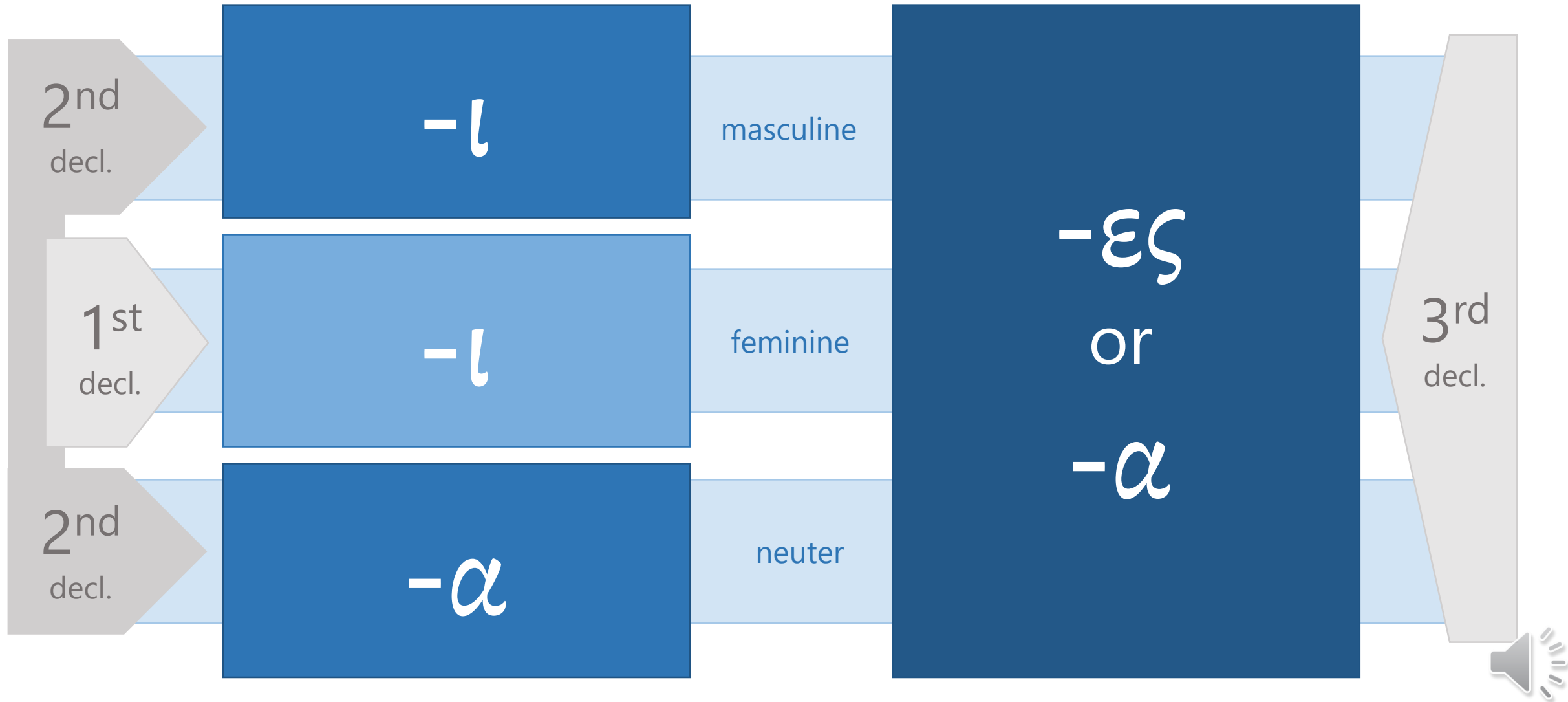
A lesson for the *Paideia* web-app
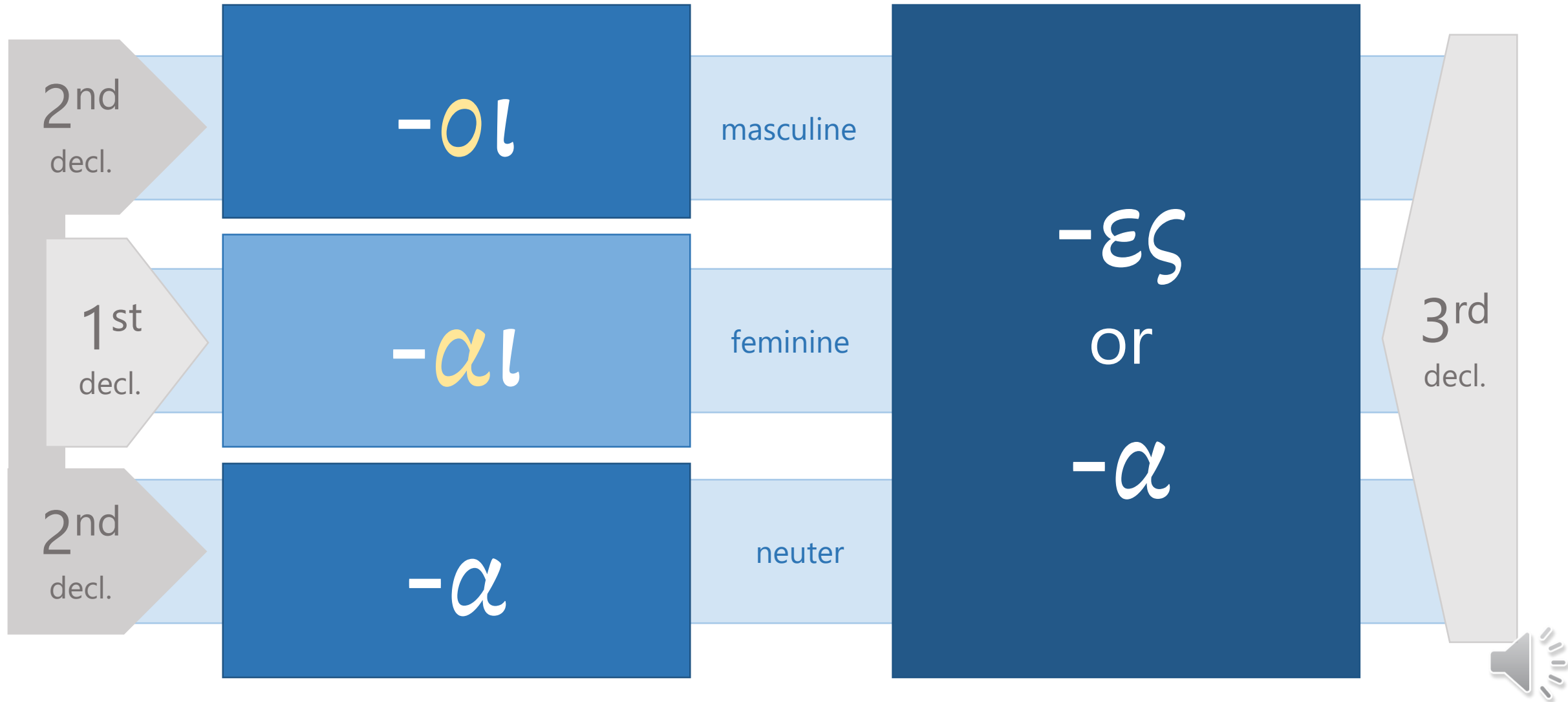
Plural Forms of Nominals

- So far we have only talked about one thing at a time
  - How would we talk about Maria's "children"?
- We need to learn how to make nominals plural
  - In English we usually add -s on the end
    - parent -> parent**s**
    - dog -> dog**s**
    - house -> house**s**
  - But we have some irregular English plurals
    - child -> child**ren**
- The bad news
  - Plural nouns take another set of endings
- The good news
  - Clearly related to the singular endings
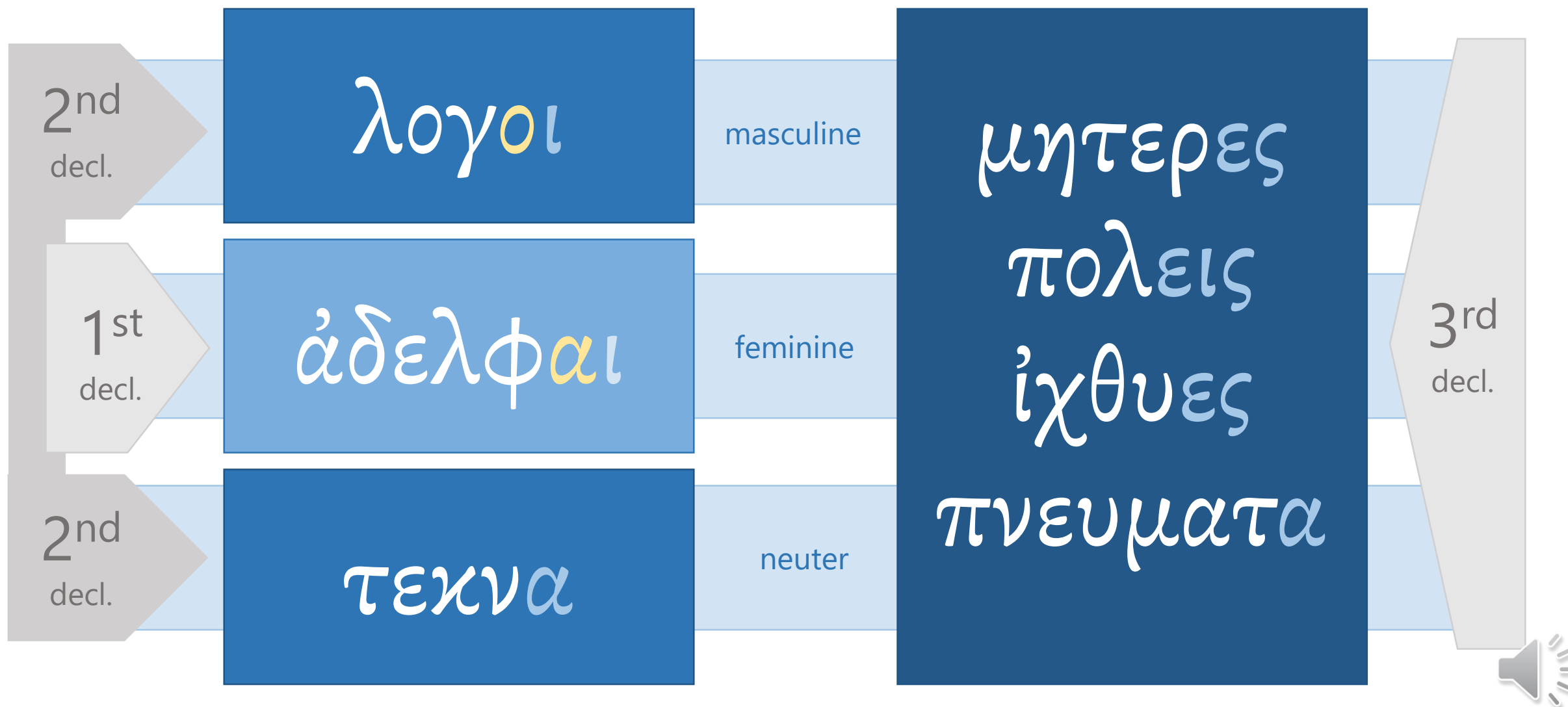 - Much more regular than singulars
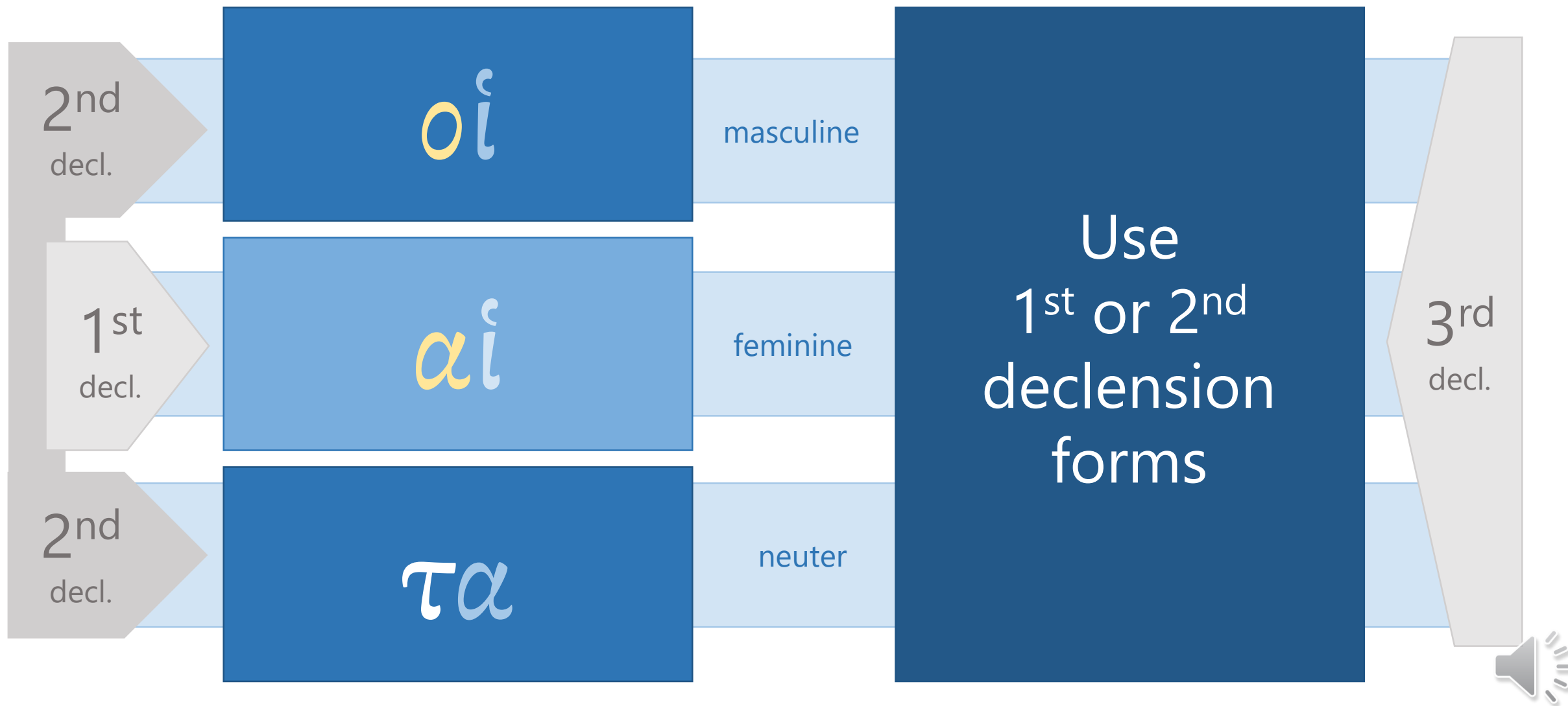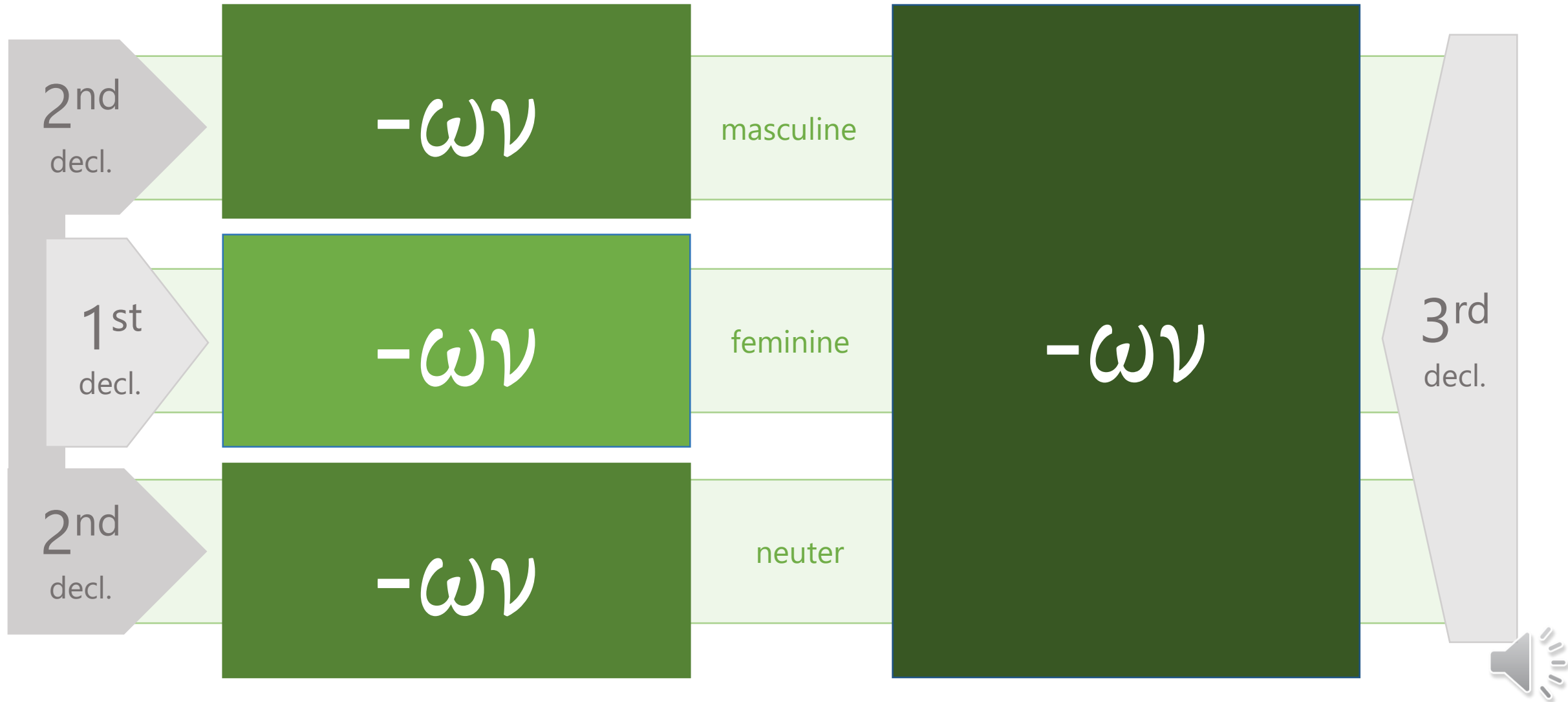
Nominative Plural Case Endings

2nd decl.	-ι	masculine	
1st decl.	-ι	feminine	-ες or -α
2nd decl.	-α	neuter	

3rd decl.

Nominative Plural Case Endings

Nominative Plural Examples

2nd decl.	λογοι	masculine	μητερες
1st decl.	ἀδελφαι	feminine	πολεις ἰχθυες
2nd decl.	τεκνα	neuter	πνευματα

3rd decl.

Nominative Plural Definite Article

οἱ — masculine

αἱ — feminine

τα — neuter

2nd decl.

1st decl.

2nd decl.

3rd decl.

Use 1st or 2nd declension forms

Genitive Case Endings

Genitive Case Examples

2nd decl.	λογων	masculine
1st decl.	ἀδελφων	feminine
2nd decl.	τεκνων	neuter

μητερων
ἰχθυων
πολεων

3rd decl.
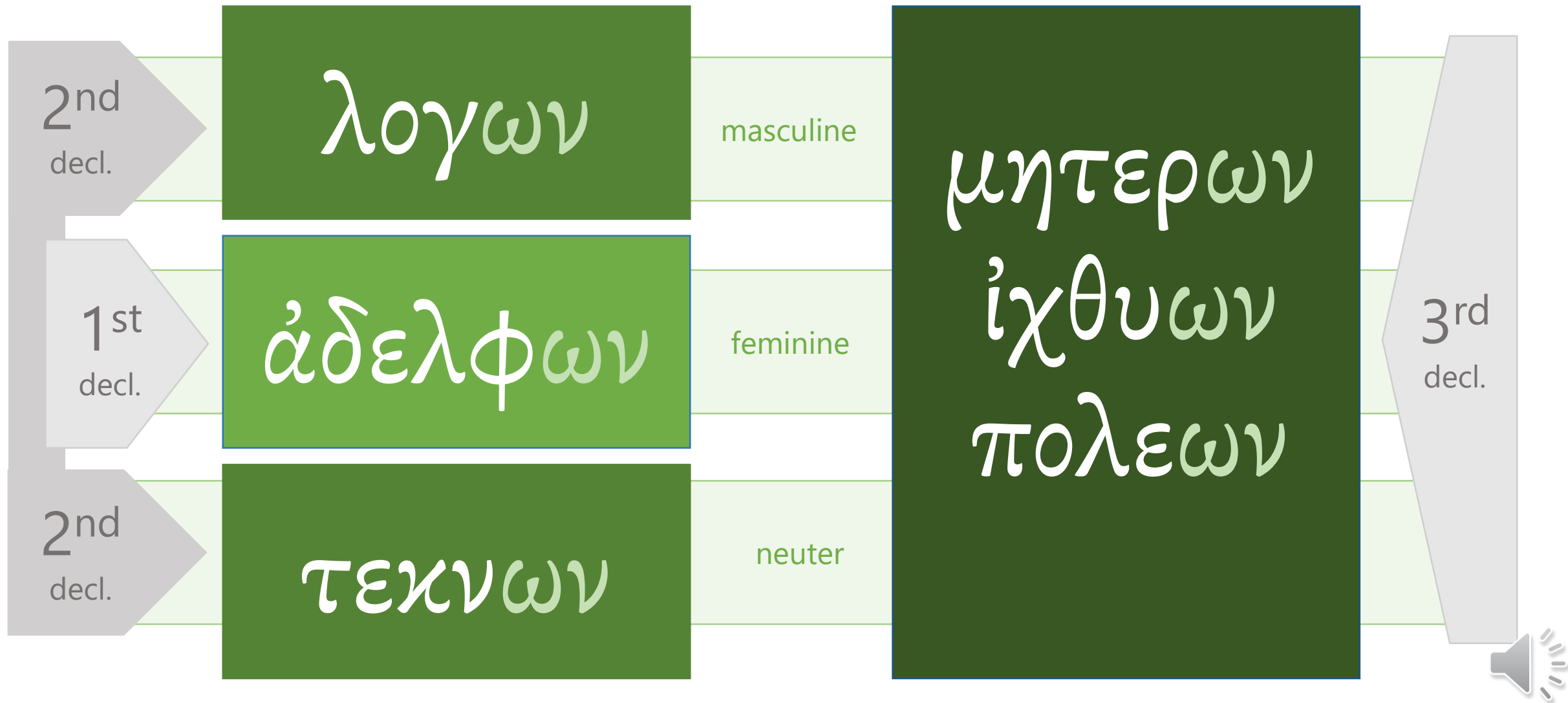
Comparing the Case Forms (1-2 decl.)

	Masc. (2ⁿᵈ decl.)	Fem. (1ˢᵗ decl.)	Neut. (2ⁿᵈ decl.)	
nom.	ὁ λογος	ἡ ἀδελφη	το τεκνον	singular
gen.	του λογου	της ἀδελφης	του τεκνου	
voc.	- λογε	- ἀδελφη	- τεκνον	
nom.	οἱ λογοι	αἱ ἀδελφαι	τα τεκνα	plural
gen.	των λογων	των ἀδελφων	των τεκνων	
voc.	- λογοι	- ἀδελφαι	- τεκνα	

1-2 Declension Pronouns (Personal)

	Masc. (2nd decl.)	Fem. (1st decl.)	Neut. (2nd decl.)	
nom.	αὐτος	αὐτη	αὐτο	singular
gen.	αὐτου	αὐτης	αὐτου	singular
voc.	-	-	-	singular
nom.	αὐτοι	αὐται	αὐτα	plural
gen.	αὐτων	αὐτων	αὐτων	plural
voc.	-	-	-	plural

1-2 Declension Pronouns (Demonstrative)

	Masc. (2nd decl.)	Fem. (1st decl.)	Neut. (2nd decl.)	
nom.	οὖτος	αὐτη	τουτο	singular
gen.	τουτου	ταυτης	τουτου	
voc.	-	-	-	
nom.	οὖτοι	αὐται	ταυτα	plural
gen.	τουτων	τουτων	τουτων	
voc.	-	-	-	

Comparing the Case Endings (3ʳᵈ decl.)

	masc./fem.	neut.	
nom.	-	-	singular
gen.	-ος	-ος	
voc.	-	-	

	masc./fem.	neut.	
nom.	-ες	-α	plural
gen.	-ων	-ων	
voc.	-ες	-α	

Comparing the Case Forms (3ʳᵈ decl.)

	ἀμπελων-type	irregular	μητηρ-type	πνευμα-type	
nom.	ἀμπελων	γυνη	πατηρ	πνευμα	singular
gen.	ἀμπελωνος	γυναικος	πατρος	πνευματος	
voc.	ἀμπελων	γυναι	πατερ	πνευμα	

	ἀμπελων-type	irregular	μητηρ-type	πνευμα-type	
nom.	ἀμπελωνες	γυναικες	πατερες	πνευματα	plural
gen.	ἀμπελωνων	γυναικων	πατερων	πνευματων	
voc.	ἀμπελωνες	γυναικες	πατερες	πνευματα	

Comparing the Case Forms (3ʳᵈ decl.)

	παις-type	πολις-type	ἱερευς-type	γενος-type	ἰχθυς-type
nom.	παις	πολις	ἀντιοχευς	γενος	ἰχθυς
gen.	παιδος	πολεως	ἀντιοχεως	γενους	ἰχθυος
voc.	παι	πολε	ἀντιοχευ	γενος	ἰχθυ
nom.	παιδες	πολεις	ἀντιοχεις	γενη	ἰχθυες
gen.	παιδων	πολεων	ἀντιοχεων	γενεων	ἰχθυων
voc.	παιδες	πολεις	ἀντιοχεις	γενη	ἰχθυες

singular

plural

Plural Pronouns

3rd decl.

nom.	τίς	ἐγω	συ
gen.	τίνος	μου	σου
voc.	--	ἐγω	συ

singular

nom.	τίνες	ἡμεις	ὑμεις
gen.	τίνων	ἡμων	ὑμων
voc.	τίνες	ἡμεις	ὑμεις

plural

The Disagreeable Neuter Plural

- Usually nominals agree with their adjectives and pronouns
  - Same gender, case, and number
- The neuter plural is an exception!
  - Adjectives and pronouns can disagree with their nominal in number
    - Same gender and case
    - But can be singular!

Τα τεκνα τουτο.

These are the children.

Keep Learning

- You can learn more about nominative and genitive plural nominals here:
  - Mounce, *Basics of Biblical Greek* (3rd edition)
    - nominative, 6.8 (p. 30), 6.12-6.18 (pp. 32-35)
    - definite article, 6.19-6.24 (pp. 35-36)
    - genitive, 7.1 (p. 43), 7.3-7.4 (pp. 43-44), 7.8-7.11 (pp. 45-47), 7.16 (p. 49)
    - pronouns, 11.1-11.10 (pp. 91-93), 12.1-12.11 (100-103), 13.1-13.9 (pp. 107-109)

> **!** Mounce introduced plural forms early on when he introduced the cases. You can go back and review those sections, focusing now on the plural endings.