14. 2-2 & 3-3 Adjectives

Lesson in a Nutshell

2-2 adjectives follow second declension in all three genders. This is normal for the masculine and neuter, but looks odd in the feminine.

3-3 adjectives are third declension in all three genders.

A reminder: All we are doing is studying the patterns by which adjectives tell us their case, number, and gender.

We have seen the behavior of 2-1-2 and 3-1-3 adjectives.

2-2 and 3-3 adjectives may strike you as strange. There are three genders. Why only two numbers to designate three genders?

Because in the case of 2-2 and 3-3- adjectives, the first number tells us how the adjective behaves in masculine **and feminine** genders. The second number tells us how the adjective behaves in the neuter gender.

	Masculine	Feminine	Neuter
2-1-2 adjectives	**2nd** declension	**1st** declension	**2nd** declension
3-1-3 adjectives	**3rd** declension	**1st** declension	**3rd** declension
2-2 adjectives	**2nd** declension		**2nd** declension
3-3 adjectives	**3rd** declension		**3rd** declension

Let's take a closer look.

2-2 Pattern

ἁμαρτωλός, -όν

ἁμαρτωλός is a 2-2 adjective that means "sinful." It is called a 2-2 adjective because it follows...

> **second** declension in the masculine <u>and feminine</u> gender and
> **second** declension in the neuter.

The pattern is a little strange to us because the feminine is usually first declension, not second.

ἁμαρτωλός [2-2]		
	(2) Masculine <u>and</u> (2) Feminine	(2) Neuter
n	ἁμαρτωλ**ος**	ἁμαρτωλ**ον**
g	ἁμαρτωλ**ου**	ἁμαρτωλ**ου**
d	ἁμαρτωλ**ῳ**	ἁμαρτωλ**ῳ**
a	ἁμαρτωλ**ον**	ἁμαρτωλ**ον**
n	ἁμαρτωλ**οι**	ἁμαρτωλ**α**
g	ἁμαρτωλ**ων**	ἁμαρτωλ**ων**
d	ἁμαρτωλ**οις**	ἁμαρτωλ**οις**
a	ἁμαρτωλ**ους**	ἁμαρτωλ**α**

Case Endings						
		Masculine **F**eminine **2**	**F**eminine **1**	**N**euter **2**	**M**asc/ **F**em **3**	**N**euter **3**
Singular	Nominative subject	ος	α or η	ον	ς	–
	Genitive possession	ου	ας or ης	ου	ος	ος
	Dative in, with, to, by	ῳ	ᾳ or ῃ	ῳ	ι	ι
	Accusative object	ον	αν or ην	ον	α	–
Plural	Nominative subject	οι	αι	α	ες	α
	Genitive possession	ων	ων	ων	ων	ων
	Dative in, with, to, by	οις	αις	οις	σιν	σιν
	Accusative object	ους	ας	α	ας	α

Study these two tables until it makes sense to you how the endings in blue are added to the adjective.

3-3 Pattern

μείζων, –ον

μείζων means "greater" and is a 3-3 adjective. This means it follows

third declension in the masculine <u>and feminine</u> gender, and
third declension in the neuter.

Do you see how the case endings (in blue) are attached to the adjective?

μείζων [3-3]

	(3) Masculine <u>and</u> (3) Feminine	(3) Neuter
n	μειζων	μειζον
g	μειζονος	μειζονος
d	μειζονι	μειζονι
a	μειζονα	μειζον
n	μειζονες	μειζονα
g	μειζονων	μειζονων
d	μειζοσι[ν]	μειζοσι[ν]
a	μειζονας	μειζονα

Case Endings

		Masculine 2	Feminine 1	Neuter 2	Masc/Fem 3	Neuter 3
Singular	Nominative (subject)	ος	α or η	ον	ς	–
	Genitive (possession)	ου	ας or ης	ου	ος	ος
	Dative (in, with, to, by)	ῳ	ᾳ or η	ῳ	ι	ι
	Accusative (object)	ον	αν or ην	ον	α	–
Plural	Nominative (subject)	οι	αι	α	ες	α
	Genitive (possession)	ων	ων	ων	ων	ων
	Dative (in, with, to, by)	οις	αις	οις	σιν	σιν
	Accusative (object)	ους	ας	α	ας	α

Don't be afraid!

Lexical Form of Adjectives

How will you know what pattern an adjective follows? The lexicon will tell you by the way it lists the adjective and if this leaves things unclear, it will list a few more examples to help.

Here are the adjectives we have studied as they are listed in the lexicon.

2-1-2	3-1-3	2-2	3-3
ἀληθινός , -ή, -όν	πᾶς, πᾶσα, πᾶν	ἁμαρτωλός, -όν	μείζων, –ον

The lexicon will list the adjective in its masculine, feminine, and neuter forms.

If the masculine and feminine share a form, the first entry will refer to the masculine **and feminine** forms. The second entry will refer to the neuter form.

How will you tell an adjective from a noun? A noun will always be listed with an article. A noun is **either** masculine **or** feminine **or** neuter. The article tells you the gender of the noun.

An adjective has to be able to change forms to match all three genders. It is necessary to understand the pattern it follows in the masculine **and** feminine **and** neuter genders.

Odd Patterns

Almost every time, you will be able to identify the case, number and gender of an adjective using the case endings chart. But not all adjectives follow the case endings exactly.

Don't worry. It is usually very easy to figure out the case, number and gender of adjectives.