

Weak and Minor Nouns

Just like adjectives, nouns can be declined **strong** or **weak**. Unlike adjectives, nouns never change groups. Weak nouns are always weak and minor nouns are always minor. All nouns share the same demonstrative pronouns, regardless of if they are strong, weak, or minor.

Weak Nouns

Weak nouns are considered grammatically weak because there are very few variations in how they decline. Only the nominative singular and neuter accusative forms differ between genders, and there are only two weak neuter nouns: 'eage - eye' and 'eare - ear'. All other nouns are either masculine or feminine.

	Hunta - Hunter		Eage - Eye		Tunge - Tongue	
Nominative	se hunta	þa huntan	þæt eage	þa eagan	seo tunge	þa tungan
Accusative	þone huntan	þa huntan	þæt eage	þa eagan	þa tungan	þa tungan
Genitive	þæs huntan	þara huntena	þæs eagan	þara eagena	þære tungan	þara tungena
Dative	þæm huntan	þæm huntum	þæm eagan	þæm eagum	þære tungan	þæm tungum

Minor Nouns

Minor nouns are the least numerous, often having only a handful of nouns per category. They can be broken down into several sub-categories: **u-declensions**, **r-plurals**, **family nouns**, and **i-mutation nouns**.

U-Declensions

Unlike Strong and Weak nouns, nouns in the u-declension decline the same for both masculine and feminine. There are no neuter nouns in the u-declension.

	Sunu - Son		Hand - Hand		Duru - Door	
Nominative	se sunu	þa suna	seo hand	þa handa	seo duru	þa dura
Accusative	þone sunu	þa suna	þa hand	þa handa	þa duru	þa dura
Genitive	þæs suna	þara suna	þære handa	þara handa	þære dura	þara dura
Dative	þæm suna	þæm sunum	þære handa	þæm handum	þære dura	þæm durum

R-Plurals

R-plurals are nouns which add an 'r' between the stem and the suffix when declining in the plural. All r-plural nouns are neuter and take the same inflectional suffixes as strong neuter nouns. There are four nouns in the r-plural category: '*lamb - lamb*', '*æg - egg*', '*cealf - calf*', and '*cild - child*'.

	Cild - Child		Æg - Egg		Lamb - Lamb	
Nominative	þæt cild	þa cildra	þæt æg	þa ægru	þæt lamb	þa lambru
Accusative	þæt cild	þa cildra	þæt æg	þa ægru	þæt lamb	þa lambru
Genitive	þæs cildes	þara cildra	þæs ægges	þara æggra	þæs lambes	þara lambra
Dative	þæm cilde	þæm cildrum	þæm æge	þæm ægrum	þæm lambe	þæm lambrum

Family Nouns

The family nouns are *'fæder'*, *'modor'*, *'broðor'*, *'sweostor'*, and *'dohtor'*. In the singular, only the dative of *'modor'*, *'broðor'*, and *'dohtor'* declines and they decline the same way, with the 'o' becoming 'e' due to i-mutation. The plural *'fæder'* declines differently in the nominative and accusative plural, following the strong masculine paradigm.

	Fæder - Father		Modor - Mother		Sweostor - Sister	
Nominative	se fæder	þa fæderas	seo modor	þa modora	seo sweostor	þa sweostra
Accusative	þone fæder	þa fæderas	þa modor	þa modora	þa sweostor	þa sweostra
Genitive	þæs fæder	þara fædera	þære modor	þara modora	þære sweostor	þara sweostra
Dative	þæm fæder	þæm fæderum	þære meder	þæm modrum	þære sweostor	þæm sweostrum

I-mutated Nouns

I-mutation is a change in the sound of a vowel so that it is pronounced with the tongue higher and farther forward than usual. I-mutation is visible in the root-vowel of the singular dative, nominative plural, and accusative plural forms of certain nouns.

	Mann - Man		Boc - Book		Freond - Friend	
Nominative	se mann	þa menn	seo boc	þa bec	se freond	þa friend
Accusative	þone mann	þa menn	þa boc	þa bec	þone freond	þa friend
Genitive	þæs mannes	þara manna	þære boce	þara boca	þæs freondes	þara freonda
Dative	þæm menn	þæm mannum	þære bec	þæm bocum	þæm friend	þæm freondum

Glossary of Nouns in this Module

Weak Nouns	Minor U-Declension Nouns
Hunta - Hunter	Sunu - Son
Eage - Eye	Hand - Hand
Eare - Ear	Duru - Door
Tunge - Tongue	Weald - Forest
Mona - Moon	Feld - Field
Sunne - Sun	Medu - Mead
Steorra - Star	
Eare - Ear	I-Mutated Nouns
Drace - Dragon	Mann - Man
Nama - Name	Boc - Book
Cempa - Champion	Gos - Goose
Oxa - Oxen	Toð - Tooth
Eorðe - Earth	Mus - Mouse
Hearpe - Harp	Lus - Louse
Wita - Counsellor	Fot - foot
	Feond - Fiend
	Freond - Friend
	Burg - Walled Town
R-Plurals	Family Nouns
Lamb - Lamb	Fæder - Father
Æg - Egg	Modor - Mother
Cild - Child	Sweostor - Sister
Cealf - Calf	Broðor - Brother
	Dohtor - Daughter