

Third Declension Noun and Adjective Endings Used In Active Participles

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The Third Declension Endings for Masculine Active Participles- 3

<i>Case</i>	<i>Ending</i>	<i>Definite Article</i>	<i>Participle</i>	<i>Translation</i>
Nom. Sg.	--/-ς	ὁ	λέγων	the (one) saying
Gen. Sg.	-ος	τοῦ	λέγοντος	of the (one) saying
Dat. Sg.	-ι	τῷ	λέγοντι	to the (one) saying
Acc. Sg.	-α/-ν	τὸν	λέγοντα	the (one) saying
Nom. Pl.	-ες	οἱ	λέγοντες	the (ones) saying
Gen. Pl.	-ων	τῶν	λέγοντων	of the (ones) saying
Dat. Pl.	-σι	τοῖς	λέγονσι(ν)	to the (ones) saying
Acc. Pl.	-ας	τούς	λέγοντας	the (ones) saying

Active participles follow the third declension ending pattern in the masculine and neuter forms, but they follow the first declension pattern in the feminine forms. Note that in the constructions above, the definite article functions like a pronoun (“the [one]”), but the participle is always just the “-ing” form of the verb.

These are all examples that are in the present tense. When the tense changes to aorist or perfect, other changes to the forms can occur, as well, especially with aorist forms that are constructed by adding a $-\sigma\alpha$ to the present stem of the verb.

I wanted to show you why we have an $-\omega\nu$ ending in the masculine singular form. It is constructed by adding the $-\omicron\nu\tau$ - infix (which is the sign of the active participle) to the stem of the verb. It just so happens that in the Nominative Singular form, one of the options is “—”, or nothing. So, when the word ends with the $-\omicron\nu\tau$, the $-\tau$ drops off, and the $-\omicron$ is lengthened to $-\omega$, causing the masculine singular ending to be $-\omega\nu$. If you check to see if the word is with a masculine singular nominative definite article (ὁ), you may catch what is going on, and not be fooled into thinking it is some genitive plural form.