

Neuter nouns in *-e* (sg) and *-ata* (pl): *prase, zvíře*

How do neuter nouns ending in *-e* (sg) and *-ata* (pl) decline?

What common nouns fall in this category and do they form a coherent semantic class?

The majority of neuter nouns ending in the nominative singular and *-e* with a corresponding nominative plural in *-ata* **are animate**, and many **denote animal offspring**.

They form a **regular but special declensional class**.

<u>Singular</u>	<i>prase</i>	<i>zvíře</i>
Nom	pras e	zvíř e
Gen	pras ete	zvíř ete
Dat	pras eti	zvíř eti
Acc	= nom	= nom
Voc	= nom	= nom
Loc	o pras eti	o zvíř eti
Instr	pras etem	zvíř etem

<u>Plural</u>	<i>prasata</i>	<i>zvířata</i>
Nom	pras ata	zvíř ata
Gen	pras at	zvíř at
Dat	pras atům	zvíř atům
Acc	= nom	= nom
Voc	= nom	= nom
Loc	pras atech	zvíř atech
Instr	pras aty [ama]	zvíř aty [ama]

Instrumental plural forms in literary Czech end in *-aty*, but spoken-Czech forms in *-ama* may be encountered.

Other common nouns here include *kuře/kuřata* (*chicken*), *štěně/štěňata* (*puppy*), *dvojče/dvojčata* (*twin*). The noun *dítě* (*child*) belongs to this class in the singular (Gen: *dítěte*, Dat/Loc: *dítěti*, Instr: *dítětem*), but the normal plural is *děti*, which is feminine and declines like *lidé* (Gen: *děti/lidí*, Dat: *dětem/lidem*, Loc: *dětech/lidech*, Instr: *děťmi/lidmi*).