

Nouns in -um

How do neuter nouns ending in -um decline?

What common nouns fall in this category?

Neuter nouns of Latin origin ending in the suffix *-um* **decline in one of two ways**: according to **the *vízum* model** or according to **the *muzeum* model**. **The two types differ only** in oblique endings (Gen, Dat, Loc, Instr) **in the plural**.

<u>Singular</u>	<i>vízum</i>	<i>muzeum</i>
Nom	víz um	muze um
Gen	víz a	muze a
Dat	víz u	muze u
Acc	= nom	= nom
Voc	= nom	= nom
Loc	víz u	muze u
Instr	víz em	muze em

<u>Plural</u>	<i>vízum</i>	<i>muzeum</i>	
Nom	víz a	muze a	
Gen	víz	muze í	NB: <i>muzeum</i> acts like <u>soft</u> neuter in most plural forms
Dat	víz ům	muze ím	
Acc	= nom	= nom	
Voc	= nom	= nom	
Loc	víz ech	muze ich	
Instr	víz y / víz ama	muze i / muze ema	

In the instrumental plural, the literary forms are *vízy* and *muzei*, but spoken-Czech forms (*vízama*, *muzeema*) may be encountered.

Other nouns following **the *vízum* model** include *album*, *centrum*, *fórum*, *datum*, *specifikum*, and a host of nouns relating to linguistic terminology: *adjektivum*, *synonymum*, *antonymum/opozitum*, *deminutivum*... Other nouns following **the *muzeum* model** include *akvárium*, *gymnázium*, *kritérium*, *studium*, and *adverbium*.