

Masculine nouns in *-ista* (and *-a*)

How do masculine nouns ending in *-ista* (and *-a*) decline?

What common nouns fall in this category?

Masculine nouns ending in *-ista* (or just *-a*) follow a feminine declensional pattern in the singular (with two important exceptions) and a masculine declensional pattern in the plural. The exceptions to the singular occurs in the **Locative and Dative singular** where these nouns always take the animate ending *-ovi*.

Nouns in *-ista* are high-frequency in their marking of those who **play a sport or musical instrument**:

<i>hokejista</i>	<i>klavírista</i> [pianist]
<i>tenista</i>	<i>houslista</i> [violinist]
<i>fotbalista</i>	<i>flétnista</i> [flutist]
<i>volejbalista</i>	<i>trombonista</i>
<i>basketbalista</i>	<i>saxofonista</i>

They are also used to indicate **members of other professions** as well as **adherents to a belief system**: *policista*, *anarchista*, *komunista*, *socialista*, *optimista*, *pesimista*, *altruista*... **Another frequent word** is *turista*.

Note that the feminine counterpart to *-ista* is *-istka* and declines regularly: *tenistka*, *komunistka*, *turistka*...

Masculine nouns in -ista

	SG	PL
Nom	tenista	tenisté (tenisti)
Voc	tenisto!	tenisté!
Acc	tenistu	tenisty
Dat	tenist <u>ovi</u>	tenistům
Gen	tenisty	tenistů
Loc	tenist <u>ovi</u>	tenistech
Instr	tenistou	tenisty (tenistama)

Deviations from the feminine pattern in the singular have been underlined. The forms in parentheses in the **nom pl** and **instr pl** are characteristic of spoken Czech.

Masculine nouns in *-a* follow the same declensional pattern, but often take a nom pl ending in *-ové*. Some common nouns here include: *kolega* (colleague), *hrdina* (hero), and *předseda* (chairperson).

Masculine nouns in -a

	SG	PL
Nom	hrdina	hrdinové
Voc	hrdino!	hrdinové!
Acc	hrdinu	hrdiny
Dat	hrdinovi	hrdinům
Gen	hrdiny	hrdinů
Loc	hrdinovi	hrdinech
Instr	hrdinou	hrdiny (hrdinama)

Note that the word *kolega* will take *-ích* in the loc pl with a corresponding consonant mutation: *o kolezích*.

Male diminutive names in *-a* follow the singular declensional pattern above. For example: *Honza, Jarda, Standa...*