

## 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*).