# READING

## VOCATIVE ENDINGS: NEUTER GENDER

### Read the informative text and examples.

In Polish, singular nouns fall into three grammatical genders: masculine, feminine, and neuter. **The neuter gender**, which is absent in some other languages, encompasses several groups of nouns.

Neuter nouns primarily include:

➜ **names of young or immature beings**, e.g., niemowlę (infant), dziecko (child), dziewczę (girl-child), źrebię (foal), szczenię (puppy)...

➜ **names of objects and phenomena considered neuter**, e.g., okno (window), morze (sea), słońce (sun), niebo (sky), drzewo (tree), wino (wine)...

Neuter gender also applies to:

➜ **all verbal nouns** (nouns derived from verbs), e.g., czytanie (reading), śpiewanie (singing), pisanie (writing), mówienie (speaking), rozumienie (understanding), mycie (washing), picie (drinking)...

➜ **Latin-origin nouns ending in -um**, e.g., muzeum (museum), liceum (high school), solarium, akwarium (aquarium), stypendium (scholarship), audytorium (auditorium), forum, centrum (center), imperium (empire)...

➜ **some indeclinable loanwords ending in -i**, e.g., kiwi, martini, campari, sushi, spaghetti, alibi, Mississippi...

As you have probably noticed, neuter nouns in the nominative case have four basic endings, plus – exceptionally – the ending *-i*. The same endings are also found in the vocative case. Let's take a closer look and group the words according to these endings:

### ENDING *-o*

| Nominative | Vocative |
|---|---|
| dziecko *(child)* | dziecko |
| okno *(window)* | okno |
| niebo *(sky)* | niebo |
| drzewo *(tree)* | drzewo |
| wino *(wine)* | wino |
| krzesło *(chair)* | krzesło |
| nazwisko *(surname)* | nazwisko |



### ENDING *-e*

| Nominative | Vocative |
|---|---|
| morze *(sea)* | morze |
| słońce *(sun)* | słońce |
| miejsce *(place)* | miejsce |
| pole *(field)* | pole |
| + verbal nouns: | + verbal nouns: |
| mycie, picie, pisanie, czytanie, mówienie | mycie, picie, pisanie, czytanie, mówienie |
| *(washing, drinking, writing, reading, speaking)* | |

## ENDING -ę

The ending **-ę** most often appears in animate nouns, i.e., names of young and immature beings.

| Nominative | Vocative |
|---|---|
| dzіеcię (infant) | dziecię |
| niemowlę (baby) | niemowlę |
| dziewczę (girl-child) | dziewczę |
| szczenię (puppy) | szczenię |
| źrebię (foal) | źrebię |
| prosię (piglet) | prosię |
| pisklę (chick) | pisklę |
| cielę (calf) | cielę |
| kocię (kitten) | kocię |
| --- | --- |
| imię (name) | imię |
| ramię (shoulder) | ramię |
| znamię (birthmark) | znamię |

## ENDING -um

The **-um** ending in the neuter gender occurs only in loanwords from Latin.

| Nominative | Vocative |
|---|---|
| muzeum | muzeum |
| forum | forum |
| centrum | centrum |
| solarium | solarium |
| hospicjum | hospicjum |
| liceum | liceum |
| gimnazjum | gimnazjum |
| ... | ... |

## ENDING -i

The **-i** ending in the neuter gender occurs only in indeclinable loanwords.

| Nominative | Vocative |
|---|---|
| kiwi | kiwi |
| sushi | sushi |
| spaghetti | spaghetti |
| Capri | Capri |
| campari | campari |
| martini | martini |
| Ferrari | Ferrari |

**ADJECTIVES**

Adjectives in the vocative case remain the same as in the nominative:

- **kochane** dziecko → **kochane** dziecko *(dear child)*
- **słodkie** niemowlę → **słodkie** niemowlę *(sweet baby)*
- **czarne** kocię → **czarne** kocię *(black kitten)*

ADJECTIVE IN THE VOCATIVE CASE = ADJECTIVE IN NOMINATIVE CASE



**VOCATIVE SINGULAR**

| | MASCULINE | FEMININE | NEUTER | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ADJECTIVE | | = NOMINATIVE | = NOMINATIVE | |
| NOUN | **= LOCATIVE** / **-o** nouns ending in -a / **-cze** nouns ending in -ec | **-o** / **-u** diminutives with a soft ending / **-i** — nouns with an -i — nouns with a soft ending... / **-y** ...and functionally soft ending | **= NOMINATIVE** -o, -e, -ę, -um -i → exceptions | |

**VOCATIVE PLURAL = NOMINATIVE PLURAL**