## **The Eight Noun Rules**

- 1. Stems ending in alpha or eta are in the first declensions, stems ending in omicron are in the second, and consonantal stems are in the third
- 2. Every neuter word has the same form in the nominative and accusative
- 3. Almost all neuter words end in alpha in the nominative and accusative plural
- 4. In the dative singular, the iota subscripts if possible (only in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> declension)
- 5. Vowels often change their length ("ablaut")
- 6. In the genitive and dative, the masculine and neuter will always be identical
- 7. The Square of Stops (crucial for understanding 3<sup>rd</sup> declension changes)
- 8. A tau cannot stand at the end of a word and will drop off