

FIRST DECLENSION NOUNS (-a)

Formation: Nouns of the First Declension are declined thus:

	Singular	Plural
Nom.	-a	-ae
Gen.	-ae	-ārum
Dat.	-ae	-īs
Acc.	-am	-ās
Abl.	-ā	-īs

N.B.: The long **-ā** of the ablative singular distinguishes it from the nominative singular, which has a short **-a**.

Example:

Nom.	<i>silva</i> (the forest)	<i>silvae</i> (the forests)
Gen.	<i>silvae</i> (of the forest)	<i>silvārum</i> (of the forests)
Dat.	<i>silvae</i> (to the forest)	<i>silvīs</i> (to the forests)
Acc.	<i>silvam</i> (the forest)	<i>silvās</i> (the forests)
Abl.	<i>silvā</i> (in or by the forest)	<i>silvīs</i> (in or by the forests)

N.B.: Because Latin has no article (*the* or *an*), *silva* may mean *the forest*, *a forest*, or simply *forest*.

Gender: Nouns of the first declension are overwhelmingly **feminine**.

A very few nouns in the first declension are masculine:

- 1) Some natural genders such as *agricola* (farmer), *nauta* (sailor), *pīrāta* (pirate), *poēta* (poet), *scrība* (scribe or clerk).
- 2) Some personal or family names: *Catīlīna*, *Mūrēna*, *Dolābella*, *Scaevola*.
- 3) And *Hadria* (the Adriatic).

Even fewer nouns are of common gender: *incola* (inhabitant) and *advena* (stranger).

Adjectives, of course, will always agree with gender: *pīrāta malus* (evil pirate), *poēta clārus* (famous poet).

Dea and Fīlia: For the dative and ablative plural of *dea* (goddess) and *fīlia* (daughter) the endings **-ābus** (*deābus* and *fīliābus*) are used to distinguish these nouns from the second declension nouns *deus* (god) and *fīlius* (son).

Familiās: An old genitive in **-ās** is preserved in the word *familiās* (of the family), often with *pater*, *mater*, *fīlius*, or *fīlia*. Thus, *pater familiās* (father of the family = head of the household).

SECOND DECLENSION NOUNS (-us, -er, -ir; -um)

Gender: Nouns of the Second Declension are regularly **masculine** or **neuter**. Nouns ending in *-us*, *-er*, and *-ir* are masculine; those ending in *-um* are neuter.

Formation:

1) Nouns ending in *-us* (masculine) and *-um* (neuter) decline thus:

Masculine			Neuter		
	Singular	Plural		Singular	Plural
Nom.	-us	-i	Nom.	-um	-a
Gen.	-i	-orum	Gen.	-i	-orum
Dat.	-o	-is	Dat.	-o	-is
Acc.	-um	-os	Acc.	-um	-a
Abl.	-o	-is	Abl.	-o	-is

2) **Vir** (the only noun ending in *-ir*) declines thus:

	Singular	Plural
Nom.	vir	viri
Gen.	viri	virorum
Dat.	viro	viris
Acc.	virum	viros
Abl.	viro	viris

3) Nouns ending in *-er* (masculine) decline either like *puer*, boy or *ager*, field:

	Singular	Plural		Singular	Plural
Nom.	puer	pueri	Nom.	ager	agri
Gen.	pueri	puerorum	Gen.	agri	agrorum
Dat.	puero	pueris	Dat.	agro	agris
Acc.	puerum	pueros	Acc.	agrum	agros
Abl.	puero	pueris	Abl.	agro	agris

Nouns declined like *puer*, retaining the *e* in the stem :

adulter, adulteri, adulterer
socer, soceri, father-in-law
gener, generi, son-in-law
vesper, vesperi, evening (with ablative *vespere* and locative *vesperi*, in the evening).
Liber, Liberi, Bacchus (the god of wine)
lucifer, luciferi, morning star
armiger, armigeri, armor-bearer
signifer, signiferi, standard-bearer (and other compounds in *-fer* and *-ger*).

Nouns declined like *ager*, dropping the *e* in the stem :

<i>aper, apri, boar</i>	<i>faber, fabri, smith</i>
<i>arbiter, arbitri, judge</i>	<i>fiber, fibri, beaver</i>
<i>cancer, cancri, crab</i>	<i>liber, libri, book</i>
<i>caper, capri, goat</i>	<i>magister, magistri, master, teacher</i>
<i>culter, cultri, knife</i>	<i>minister, ministri, servant</i>

Feminine and Neuter Nouns of the Second Declension:

The following nouns of the second declension are *feminine*:

- 1) Most cities, countries, and islands: *Corinthus, Aegyptus, Rhodus*, etc.
- 2) Most trees and plants: *fagus*, beech, *ficus*, fig tree, etc.
- 3) The following: *alvus*, belly; *carbasus*, linen; *humus*, ground; and a few others.

And the following are *neuter*:

virus, poison; *pelagus*, sea; *vulgus*, crowd, rabble.
(These have no plural, except *pelagus*).

Gentive in *-ii*: For nouns ending in *-ius*, the genitive singular of *-i* began to be replaced in the Augustan period with *-ii*. But this change did not affect proper nouns ending in *-ius*, which continued to have the genitive singular in *-i* not *-ii* (thus, *Vergili*, of Vergil). When the genitive singular is in *-i*, the accent of the nominative is retained.

The Locative Case: for the singular ends in *-i* and for the plural in *-is*:

humi, on the ground; *domi*, at home; *Corinthi*, at Corinth; *Delphis*, at Delphi.

The Vocative Case is always the same as the nominative in all declensions except *-us* nouns of the second declension, which change to *-e*: *O Marce*, O Marcus! But proper names ending in *-ius* (as well as *filius*, son; and *genius*, divine guardian) change to *-i*, retaining the accent as in the nominative: *O Vergili*, O Virgil! *O fili*, O son!

Deus has special forms:	Nom.	<i>deus</i>	<i>dei, dii, or di</i>
	Gen.	<i>dei</i>	<i>deorum or deum</i>
	Dat.	<i>deo</i>	<i>deis, diis, or dis</i>
	Acc.	<i>deum</i>	<i>deos</i>
	Abl.	<i>deo</i>	<i>deis, diis, or dis</i>

THIRD DECLENSION NOUNS

1) Masculine and feminine third declension nouns are declined alike:

	Masculine		Feminine	
Nom.	pater	patrēs	vox	vōcēs
Gen.	patris	patrum	vōcis	vōcum
Dat.	patrī	patribus	vōcī	vōcibus
Acc.	patrem	patrēs	vōcem	vōcēs
Abl.	patre	patribus	vōce	vōcibus

Third declension nouns have a variety of nominative endings, but the genitive singular *always* ends in *-is*.

2) Neuter nouns differ only in the accusative singular and nominative and accusative plural.

	Neuter	
Nom.	nōmen	nōmina
Gen.	nōminis	nōminum
Dat.	nōminī	nōminibus
Acc.	nōmen	nōmina
Abl.	nōmine	nōminibus

3. I-Stems of the Third Declension:

	Masculine & Feminine		Neuter	
Nom.	nox	noctēs	mare	maria
Gen.	noctis	noctium	maris	marium
Dat.	noctī	noctibus	marī	maribus
Acc.	noctem	noctēs	mare	maria
Abl.	nocte	noctibus	marī	maribus

- Masculine and feminine I-Stems carry the distinctive *i* in the genitive plural.
- Neuter I-Stems carry the *i* in the ablative singular, the nominative, and genitive accusative plural.

I-Stems can be recognized by the following general rules:

1) Parisyllabic nouns (having the same number of syllables in nominative and genitive singular) with the following exceptions:

· *Pater, māter, frāter, senex, iuvenis, canis* have the genitive plural in *-um*.

· *Sēdēs* (seat), *mēnsis* (month), *vātēs* (bard) appear with both *-um* and *-ium*

2) Monosyllabic nouns (having one syllable in the nominative singular) with two consonants before the *-is* of the genitive singular. (*pars, partis, partium*).

3) Neuter nouns in **-e, -al, -ar** (*animal, animālis, animālium*) decline like *mare*.

Some Common I-Stem Nouns:

cīvis, cīvīs, cīvium (m.&f.) citizen

hostis, hostīs, hostium (m.) enemy

nāvis, nāvīs, nāvium (f.) ship

fīnis, fīnīs, fīnium (f.) end;

pl. boundaries, territory

clades, cladīs, cladium (f.) defeat

mōlēs, mōlīs, molium (f.) mass, structure

ars, artis, artium (f.) art, skill

dēns, dentīs, dentium (m.) tooth

mors, mortīs, mortium (f.) death

pars, partis, partium (f.) part, share

urbs, urbīs, urbium (f.) city

nox, noctīs, noctium (f.) night

arx, arcīs, arcium (f.) citadel

mare, marīs, marium (n.) sea

animal, animalīs, animalium (n.) animal

exemplar, exemplarīs, exemplarium (n.) copy

Pure I-Stems show the *-i* not only in the genitive plural, but also in the accusative singular, ablative singular, and often in the accusative plural:

Thus: *turris* (f.) tower *vīs* (f.) force, power

febris (f.) fever

turris *turrēs* *Tiberis* (m.) Tiber

turris *turrium* *puppis* (f.) stern (of a ship)

turrī *turribus* *pelvis* (f.) basin,

turrim *turrīs* (or *-ēs*) *secūris* (f.) axe

turrī *turribus* *tussis* (f.) cough

sitis (f.) thirst

restis (f.) rope

FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD DECLENSION

1. First Declension Nouns are declined thus:

	Singular	Plural
Nom.	-a	-ae
Gen.	-ae	-arum
Dat.	-ae	-is
Acc.	-am	-as
Abl.	-a	-is

2. Second Declension Nouns are declined thus:

Masculine			Neuter		
	Singular	Plural		Singular	Plural
Nom.	-us (-er)	-i	Nom.	-um	-a
Gen. -	-i	-orum	Gen.	-i	-orum
Dat.	-o	-is	Dat.	-o	-is
Acc.	-um	-os	Acc.	-um	-a
Abl.	-o	-is	Abl.	-o	-is

3. Third Declension Nouns are declined thus:

Masculine & Feminine			Neuter		
	Singular	Plural		Singular	Plural
Nom.	-----	-es	Nom.	-----	-a
Gen.	-is	-um	Gen.	-is	-um
Dat.	-i	-ibus	Dat.	-i	-ibus
Acc.	-em	-es	Acc.	-----	-a
Abl.	-e	-ibus	Abl.	-e	-ibus

Remember the Neuter Rule:

The Nominative and the Accusative are always alike, and in the plural end in **-a**.

Remember:

- i) The Accusative singular always ends in **-m** for masculine and feminine nouns.
- ii) The Ablative singular always ends in a vowel.
- ii) The Dative and Ablative plurals are always alike within each declension.

The Fourth Declension

Fourth declension nouns carry a characteristic **-u-** throughout their declension (except in the dative and ablative plural) and are identified by the **-ūs** in the genitive singular.

	Masculine		Neuter	
	Sing.	Plur.	Sing.	Plur.
Nom.	cursus	cursūs	cornū	cornua
Gen.	cursūs	cursuum	cornūs	cornuum
Dat.	cursū (ū)	cursibus	[cornū]	cornibus
Acc.	cursum	cursūs	cornū	cornua
Abl.	cursū	cursibus	cornū	cornibus

Arcus (*bow, arch*), tribus (*tribe*) and quercus (*oak*) always show *-ubus* in the dative and ablative plural. Artus (*joint*), lacus (*lake*), partus (*birth*), verū (*spit*), genū (*knee*) and a few others will occasionally show it.

Gender: Fourth declension nouns are generally **masculine**, although a few feminines and even fewer neuters appear. Feminine and masculine nouns are declined alike.

The following are the only common 4th Declension feminine nouns:

acus, -ūs, <i>needle</i>	pecus, -ūs (also, -ī), <i>food, provisions</i>
anus, -ūs, <i>old woman</i>	porticus, -ūs, <i>colonnade, porch</i>
domus, -ūs, <i>house</i>	socrus, -ūs, <i>mother-in-law</i>
īdūs, -um (plural), <i>the Ides</i>	specus, -ūs, <i>cave</i>
manus, -ūs, <i>hand</i>	tribus, -ūs, <i>tribe</i>
nurus, -ūs, <i>daughter-in-law, young girl</i>	

The following are the only 4th Declension neuter nouns:

cornū, -ūs, <i>horn</i>	pecū, -ūs, <i>herd, flock</i>
genū, -ūs, <i>knee</i>	verū, -ūs, <i>spit, tip of javelin</i>
gelū, -ūs, <i>frost, chill</i>	specus, -ūs, <i>cave</i> (also masc. and fem.)

Domus (f.), *house*, shows forms of both the 4th and 2nd declensions (but is always feminine in gender).

The Fifth Declension

Fifth declension nouns carry a characteristic **-e-** and are identified by the **-eī** in the genitive singular.

	Singular	Plural
Nom.	rēs	rēs
Gen.	reī	rērum
Dat.	reī	rēbus
Acc.	rem	rēs
Abl.	rē	rēbus

Gender: All 5th declension nouns are **feminine**, except *dies*, and compounds of *dies*, which are masculine. *Dies*, however, can also be feminine when it refers to a specific day: *constitutā diē*, *on the appointed day*.

Of nouns of the fifth declension, only *dies* and *res* are declined fully. Most lack plural forms, which are, however, found in the nominative or accusative in *acies*, *effigies*, *eluvies*, *facies*, *glacies*, *series*, *species*, *spes*.

The 5th declension noun *dies* is used to form certain common adverbs and expressions of time:

hodie, *today* pridie, *the day before* perendie, *day after tomorrow*

Note the following common 5th declension nouns:

aciēs, -eī (f), *keenness, edge, line of battle*

faciēs, -eī (f), *shape, form, figure, face*

effigiēs, -eī (f), *an image, likeness, effigy*

glaciēs, -eī (f), *ice*

fides, -eī (f), *pledge, trust, faith*

spēs, speī (f), *hope*

eluviēs, -eī (f), *flowing, discharge, flood*

seriēs, -eī (f), *row, chain, series; descent*

speciēs, -eī (f), *sight, view; shape, form*