

Task 1. Spot all the nouns in the text. Identify their declensions. List the cases of the nouns from the first two declensions.

10. Contra verbosos noli contendere verbis;
Sermo datur cunctis, animi sapientia paucis.

*Do not exchange words with a wordy person;
Speech is given to all, wisdom of mind (good sense) to few.*

17. Ne cures, si quis tacito sermone loquatur;
Conscious ipse sibi de se putat omnia dici.

*Do not pay any attention if someone talks behind your back (with silent speech);
The self-conscious man thinks everything is said about him.*

23. Si tibi pro meritis nemo respondet amicus
Incusare deum noli, sed te ipse coerce.

*If no friend stands up for you as you deserve,
Do not accuse the god, but scold yourself.*

4. Sermones blandos blaesosque cavere memento;
Simplicitas veri fama est, fraus ficta loquendi.

*Remember to watch out for smooth and lisping words;
Simplicity is the mark of the true, deceit that of telling stories.*

10. Utile consilium dominus ne despice servi;
Nullius sensum, si prodest, tempseris unquam.

*As a lord do not despise the counsel of your servant;
Never spurn anyone's advice, if it useful.*

(Disticha Catonis, Liber 1, 3; Trans. by James Marchand)

Task 2

Change each nominative form to the corresponding direct object of **spectate** (imperative of **specto** – *look at...!*) and genitive object of **memini** (I am mindful of)

Note: Adjectives are inflected following the same patterns as nouns and fall into the same declension groups.

Note 2: *memini* can also take accusative (direct) object in its first meaning “to remember smth” (e.g. *terram memini* – I remember the land).

Example: *Terra est pulchra. Spectate terram pulchram. Memini terrae pulchrae.*

1. Insula est magna.
2. Puella est parva.
3. Reginae sunt pulchrae.
4. Paeninsulae sunt parvae.
5. Phoenicia est pulchra.
6. Graecia est magna.
7. Insulae sunt parvae.

Reading

Sophocles ad summam senectutem tragoedias fecit. Quod propter studium cum rem negligere familiarem videretur, a filiis in iudicium vocatus est, ut quem ad modum nostro more male rem gerentibus patribus bonis interdici solet, sic illum quasi desipientem a re familiari removerent iudices. Tum senex dicitur eam fabulam quam in manibus habebat et proxime scripserat, Oedipum Coloneum, recitasse iudicibus quaesisseque num illud carmen desipientis videretur. Quo recitato sententiis iudicum est liberatur.

Sophocles composed tragedies right up to extreme old age. And when, on account of his zeal, he seemed to be neglecting his property, he was summoned to court by his sons, so that, just as it is our custom for good fathers to be indicted for negligence in administering their property, so the judges were to remove his control of the property on the grounds that he had dementia. At that point the old man is said to have recited to the judges a tragedy of his which was then in preparation and which he had most recently written, the Oedipus at Colonus, and to have asked whether it seemed to be the poem of someone suffering from dementia. After this recitation, he was set free by the verdict of the judges.

(Cicero, Cato Maior 22; Translation by [LivingPoets](#))

Tasks

- 1) Identify the noun (and sometimes adjective) forms. Try to guess some of them before consulting the dictionary.
 - a. summam senectutem
 - b. ad modum nostro more
 - c. propter studium
 - d. sententiis iudicum

- 2) Identify the structure of the following sentences. See where the subject, objects and predicate are and look at the verb and noun forms:
 - a. Sophocles ad summam senectutem tragoedias fecit.
 - b. A filiis in iudicium vocatus est.
 - c. Fabulam quam in manibus habebat iudicibus recitasse
 - d. Quo recitato sententiis iudicum est liberatur.