

LESSON 2

SECOND DECLENSION AND CONJUGATION OF NOUNS AND VERBS IN LATIN

SECOND DECLENSION NOUNS IN LATIN

Second declension nouns in Latin are mostly masculine or neuter, but there are also feminine nouns that are declined like masculine nouns. The nominative of neuter nouns will always be the same as the accusative.

While first declension nouns end in “-a”, second declension nouns usually end in “-us”, “-ius”, or “-er”. Other second declension endings for the nominative are “-ir”, “-ur”, “-os”, “-on”, and “-um”. Greek-based “Pelion” and “Andros” are examples of the second declension nouns ending in “-os” and “-on”. The guiding principle or table for endings of the 2nd declension nouns is as follows: -

TABLE FOR THE SECOND DECLENSION ENDINGS

SINGULAR						PLURAL					
Nom	Voc	Acc	Gen	Dat	Abl	Nom	Voc	Acc	Gen	Dat	Abl
2a. us	e	um	l	o	o	2a. i	i	os	orum	is	is
2b. -	-	um	l	o	o	2b. i	l	os	orum	is	is
2c. um	um	um	l	o	o	2c. a	a	a	orum	is	is
2d. er	er	rum	ri	ro	ro	2d. ri	ri	ros	rorum	ris	ris

ILLUSTRATION 1

An example: - dominus- a or the lord.

Singular			Plural		
Nominative	dominus	a or the lord [subject]	Nominative	domini	the lords [subject]
Vocative	domine	oh lord	Vocative	domini	oh lords
Accusative	dominum	a or the lord [object]	Accusative	dominos	the lords [object]
Genitive	domini	of the lord	Genitive	dominorum	of the lords
Dative	domino	to the lord	Dative	dominis	to the lords
Ablative	domino	by, from, with the lord	Ablative	dominis	by, from, with the lord

ILLUSTRATION 2

Another example: - servus, servi- a or the servant.

	Singular	Plural
Nom	Servus	servi
Voc	Serve	servi
Acc	Servum	servos
Gen	Servi	servorum
Dat	Servo	servis
Abl	Servo	servis

Some second declension nouns examples include the following: - fructus /fructi- fruit, filius/filii- son, ager/agri- field, cancer/cancrī- cancer, puer/pueri- boy, somnus/somni- sleep, campus/campi- campus, circus/circi- circus, bacillus/bacilli- bacterium, radius/radii- radius, stimulus/stimuli- stimulus, hortus/horti- garden, fungus/fungi- fungus, deus/dei- god, animus/animi- mind, locus/loci- place, equus/equi- horse, modus/modi- manner, method, measure, fatum/fati- fate, granum/grani- grain, seed, monstrum/monstri- monster, evil omen, odium/odii- hatred, officium/officii- service, duty, office etc. As shown in the table of the cases of Latin nouns or adjectives that end in –um at the beginning of this lesson, the plural form endings assume –a in the nominative, vocative and accusative cases.

Benevolum [neuter]– kind, benevolent.

Singular		Plural	
Latin	English	Latin	English
benevolum [subject]	a or the kind	benevola	the kind[plural noun]
benevolum	oh the kind	benevola	oh the kind
benevolum [object]	the kind	benevola	the kind
benevoli	of the kind	benevolorum	of the kind
benevolo	in the kind	benevololis	in the kind
benevolo	from, by, with the kind	benevololis	from, by, with the kind

Let's decline a second declension irregular noun:-. E.g. ager-a or the field

ILLUSTRATION 3

	Singular			Plural	
	Latin	English	I	Latin	English
Nominative [subject]	ager	a or the field		agri	the fields
Vocative	ager	oh field		agri	oh fields
Accusative [object]	agrum	the field		agros	the fields
Genitive	agri	of the field		agrorum	of the fields
Dative	agro	in the field		agris	in the fields
Ablative	agro	by, from, with the field		agris	by, from, with the fields

THE SECOND CONJUGATION OF LATIN VERBS IN THE PRESENT AND PAST OR PERFECT TENSES

These verbs end in -eo, -ere. E.g. habeo, habere, habui, habitum, - to have, sedeo, sedere, sedui, seditum- to sit, debeo, debere, debui, debitum- to owe, moveo, movere, movui, movitum- to move, iaceo, iacere, iacui, iacitum- to lie [on the ground/bed], moneo, monere, monui, monitum- to warn, teneo, tenere, tenui, tentum- to hold, video, videre, vidi, visum- to see, doceo, docere, docui, doctum- to teach or instruct, mereo, merere, merui, meritum- to deserve, misceo, miscere, miscui, mixtum- to mix, noceo, nocere, nocui, nocitum- to be harmful, praebeo, praebere, prae bui, praebitum- to provide, show, terreo, terrere, terrui, territum- to frighten, to deter, timeo, timere, timui, - - to fear, valeo, valere, valui, valitum- to be strong etc. No further proof is needed to show that English borrows heavily from Latin.

To conjugate these verbs, remove the '-ere' to find the stem. Then add these endings: e.g. -eo, -es, -et, -emus, -etis, -ent.

ILLUSTRATION 1

		Present tense		Past or present perfect tense	
Latin	English	Latin	English	Latin	English
-eo	I	habeo	I have or am having	habui	I had or I have had
-es	you [singular]	habes	you have or are having	habuisti	you had or have had
-et	he/she/it	habet	he/she/it has or is having	habuit	he/she/it had or has had
-emus	we	habemus	we have or are having	habuimus	we had or we have had
-etis	you [plural]	habetis	you have or are having	habuistis	you have or have had
-ent	they	habent	they have or are having	habuerunt	they had or have had

ILLUSTRATION 2

Another example: *teneo, tenere, tenui, tentum*- to hold

Present tense

Past or present perfect tense

Latin	English	Latin	English
<i>teneo</i>	I hold or am holding	<i>tenui</i>	I held or I have held
<i>tenes</i>	you hold [singular] or are holding	<i>tenuisti</i>	you held or have held
<i>tenet</i>	he/she/it holds or is holding	<i>tenuit</i>	he/she/it held or has held
<i>tenemus</i>	we hold or are holding	<i>tenuimus</i>	we held or have held
<i>tenetis</i>	you hold or are holding	<i>tenuistis</i>	you held or have held
<i>tenent</i>	they hold or are holding	<i>tenuerunt</i>	they held or have held

IRREGULAR VERBS CONJUGATION

Sum, esse, fui, futurum- to be

Present	Meaning	Past	Meaning
<i>sum</i>	I am	<i>fui</i>	I was or have been
<i>es</i> [singular]	you are	<i>fuisti</i>	you were or have been
<i>est</i>	he, she, it is	<i>fuit</i>	he, she, it was or has been
<i>sumus</i>	we are	<i>fuimus</i>	we were or have been
<i>estis</i> [plural]	you are	<i>fuistis</i>	you were or have been
<i>sunt</i>	they are	<i>fuerunt</i>	they were or have been

Another irregular verb: *adsum, adesse, adfui, adfuturum*- to be present or to be near

<i>adsum</i>	I am present	<i>adfui</i> or <i>affui</i>	I was present or have been present
<i>ades</i> [singular]	you are present	<i>adfuisti</i> or <i>affuisti</i>	you were present or have been present
<i>adest</i>	he, she, it is present	<i>adfuit</i> or <i>affuit</i>	he, she, or it was present or has been present
<i>adsumus</i>	we are present	<i>adfuimus</i> or <i>affuimus</i>	we were or have been present
<i>adestis</i> [plural]	you are present	<i>adfuistis</i> or <i>affuistis</i>	you were or have been present
<i>adsunt</i>	they are present	<i>affuerunt</i> or <i>affuere</i>	they were or have been present

Remember the popular Christmas song: *Adeste fideles*-Oh be present or Oh come all ye faithful!

Adeste is in the imperative mood which will be learnt in the subsequent lessons.

We can now do some translations to show that Latin is easy to learn: -

A. The farmer is working in the field- Agricola in agro laborat.

B. The teacher teaches his students Latin language- Magister discipulis suis latinam linguam docet. 'his students' is the indirect object of the verb 'teach' and so is in the dative case which means 'to his students'. Remember that to teach is doceo, docere; student in Latin is discipulus, discipuli. Suus, sua, suum – his, her, its.

C. I am eating food- Cibus manduco or cibus edo.

ADJECTIVES AND ADVERBS IN THE FIRST AND SECOND DECLENSIONS

Adjectives and adverbs should agree with the nouns in gender, case and number. Thus masculine adjectives go with masculine nouns both in cases and numbers. The same thing applies to both feminine and neuter nouns. The adjectives and adverbs are declined as the nouns in the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th declensions.

For example; bonus, bona, bonum means good. Bonus is masculine and belongs to the second declension; bona is feminine and is a first declension adjective while bonum a neuter adjective falls into second declension. The same applies to magnus meaning great, big. There is short form that is used to indicate the masculine, feminine and neuter genders; magnus, -a, -um/great, big, meus, -a, -um/my, tuus, -a, -um/your, suus, -a, -um/his, benevolus, -a, -um/kind, well wishing, friendly, benevolent, devoted/, longus, -a, -um/long, multus, -a, -um/many, parvus, -a, -um/small, mortuus, -a, -um/dead etc. An exception is bene [well] which is formed from bonus [good].

Adverbs are formed from first and second declension adjectives by adding -e to the stem in Latin. But in English, adverbs are usually formed by adding -ly to the end of an adjective. However, we will give examples of adverbs made from first and second declension adjectives: - malus, mala, malum [bad] → male [badly], pius, pia, pium [pious] → pie [piously].

Adverbs are formed from third declension adjectives by adding -iter to the stem. Examples: fortis, forte [strong] → fortiter [strongly], celer, celeris [swift] → celeriter [swiftly]

SOME LATIN ADJECTIVES AND ENGLISH DERIVATIVES

Latin	Meaning	English derivatives
prasinus, -a, -um;	green	
purpureus, -a, -um;	purple	purple
caeruleus, -a, -um	blue	cerulean
lividus, -a, -um	black and blue	livid
niger	black	denigrate
ater, atra, atrum	black[dark]	atrabilious

Latin	Meaning	English derivatives
fuscus	dark	obfuscate [unclear]
ravus, -a, -um	gray	
albus, -a –um	white	albumen
ruber, rubra, rubrum	red	rubella
roseus, -a, -um	rose	red rose
fulvus, -a, -um	golden yellow	
flavus, -a, um	yellow[pale]	riboflavin

SOME LATIN WORDS IMPORTED INTO ENGLISH

Latin	Meaning	English
officium	office	official
alta	high, tall, deep	altitude
antiqua	old	antiquity
longa	long	longitude
magna	large, great	magnitude
picture	picture	pictorial
nova	new	novice
terra	land, earth	terrestrial
prima	first	primitive
sub	under	subway
cornu	horn	cornet
est	is	establish
habere	to have	habit
casa	small house	casin
via	street, way	via
lata	wide	latitude
copia	plenty	copious
multa	many	multitude

Latin	Meaning	English
nominare	to name	nominate
non	not	none
aqua	water	aquarium
pater	father	paternal
mater	mother	maternal
patria	fatherland	patrimony
herba	herb	herbal
insula	island	insulate
lingua	tongue, language	linguistic
nauta	sailor	nautical
schola	school	scholar
amica	friendly	amicable
mira	strange, spectacular	mirage
obscura	dark	obscure
periculosa	dangerous	perilous
discipulus	student	disciple
pulchra	beautiful	pulchritude
plumbeus	leaden	plumber
mutare	to change	mutate
vitare	to avoid	inevitable[unavoidable]
populus	people	populous
radius	ray	radiate
densa	thick	dense
femina	woman	feminine
evocare	to call forth	evoke
mortem	death	mortician, mortuary
obitus	death	obituary
puer	boy	puerile

So far, so good. See you in the next lesson which will deal with 3rd declension nouns, conjugation of 3rd conjugation verbs, adjectives and adverbs. So long.

Ofomah E S

Instructor

h