

Looking at Latin

**A GRAMMAR
FOR
PRE-COLLEGE**

by
Anna Andresian



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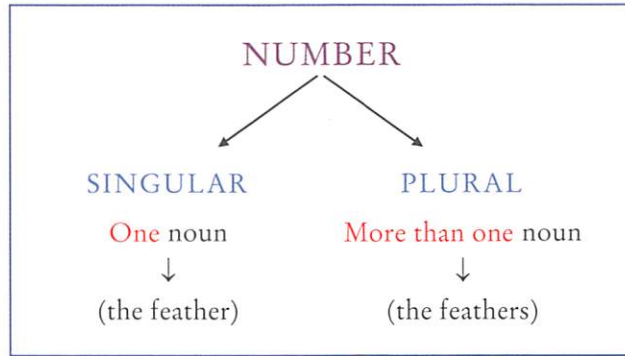
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NOUN TERMINOLOGY

NUMBER



plūma
nominative singular



plūmae
nominative plural

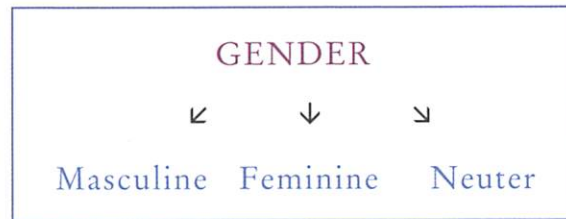


The **ending** of a noun reveals its case and number.

Every noun has a set of **singular** case forms and a set of **plural** case forms.

NOUN TERMINOLOGY

GENDER



The gender of a noun is **sometimes but not always related to the meaning** of the noun.

RELATED MEANING & GENDER

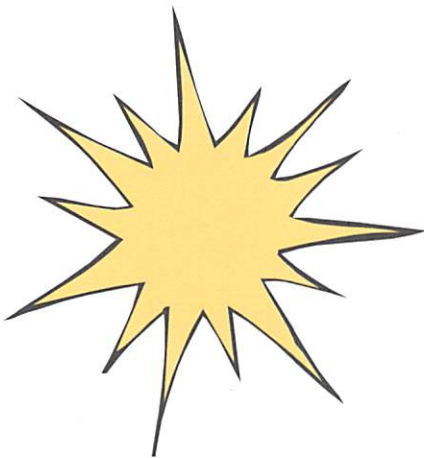
puella - girl → feminine
puer - boy → masculine

UNRELATED MEANING & GENDER

vīcus - village → masculine
urbs - city → feminine
oppidum - town → neuter

IDENTIFYING A NOUN'S GENDER

Some genders are obvious (*puer* - boy → masculine), but in many cases, you must look in the **dictionary** to find the gender of a noun.



stella, stellae, **f.** (star)

astrum, astrī, **n.** (star)

Typical noun dictionary entries

GENDER MATTERS!

Different genders use slightly **different endings**, so you may misunderstand a noun's form if you do not know its gender.

puer**um** (boy)
↓
masculine
↓
accusative singular

verb**um** (word)
↓
neuter
↓
nominative or **accusative** singular

NOUN TERMINOLOGY

DECLENSION

DECLENSION

"Declension" is simply a word that means
"Noun Type."

There are 5 different types of nouns in the Latin language,
each of which has its own set of case endings.

IDENTIFYING A NOUN'S DECLENSION

Every declension has a
genitive singular form
that is different from the
genitive singular forms
of other declensions.

Look at a noun's **dictionary
entry** to find its genitive
singular form.

stella, **stellae**, f. (star)

astrum, **astrī**, n. (star)

GENITIVE SINGULAR ENDINGS

- ae → 1st Declension
- ī → 2nd Declension
- is → 3rd Declension
- ūs → 4th Declension
- eī → 5th Declension

DECLENSION MATTERS!

It will be difficult to
interpret noun **endings**
correctly if you do not
know the noun's
declension.

SECOND DECLENSION

	SING.	PL.
Nom.	puer	puerī
Gen.	puerī	puerōrum
Dat.	puerō	puerīs
Acc.	puerum	puerōs
Abl.	puerō	puerīs

puerum:
Second
Declension
↓
accusative
singular

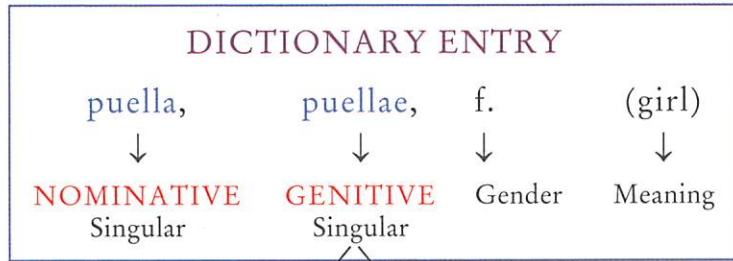
THIRD DECLENSION

	SING.	PL.
Nom.	pater	patrēs
Gen.	patris	patrum
Dat.	patrī	patribus
Acc.	patrem	patrēs
Abl.	patre	patribus

patrum:
Third
Declension
↓
genitive
plural

NOUN TERMINOLOGY

DICTIONARY ENTRY AND STEM



Use genitive to identify the **declension** of the noun.

Use genitive to identify the **stem** of the noun.

GENITIVE SINGULAR ENDINGS

- ae → 1st Declension
- ī → 2nd Declension
- is → 3rd Declension
- ūs → 4th Declension
- eī → 5th Declension

PLURAL-ONLY NOUNS

Some nouns only use **plural** forms, so their dictionary entries give: **nom. pl., gen. pl.,** gender, meaning

dēliciae, dēliciārum, f. (sweetheart)
castra, castrōrum, n. (battle camp)

STEM

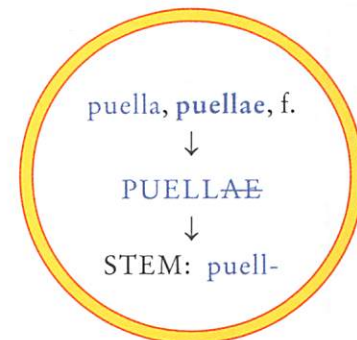
Basic **foundation** of a noun - case endings are added to it.

Remove **genitive singular** ending to identify the stem of a noun.

DICTIONARY ENTRY

agricola, agricol ae , m. (farmer)	→	agricol-
ager, agri i , m. (field)	→	agr-
libertās, libertāt is , f. (freedom)	→	libertāt-
manus, man ūs , f. (hand)	→	man-
diēs, diē i , m. (day)	→	di-

STEM



NOUN TERMINOLOGY

SUMMARY

CASE	Reveals grammatical function of noun.	Nominative, Genitive, Dative, Accusative, Ablative
NUMBER	Indicates whether there is one or more than one .	Singular, Plural
GENDER	Plays a role in determining what case endings are used.	Masculine Feminine Neuter
DECLENSION	Type of noun: different declensions use different case endings .	1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th
STEM	Basic foundation of noun: case endings are added to it.	Cut off ending of genitive singular form
DICTIONARY ENTRY	Reveals declension, stem, gender , and meaning of noun.	Nominative, Genitive, Gender, Meaning

FIRST DECLENSION



FEMININE (AND SOME MASCULINE) NOUNS

FIRST DECLENSION

Typical:
aqua, aquae, f. (water)

Genitive Singular: -AE

*LONG MARK



Nominative Sing.: -A
Ablative Sing.: -Ā

STEM



Cut off -AE from
Genitive Singular.

1ST DECLENSION ENDINGS

	<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
<i>Nominative</i>	-a	-ae
<i>Genitive</i>	-ae	-ārum
<i>Dative</i>	-ae	-īs
<i>Accusative</i>	-am	-ās
<i>Ablative</i>	-ā*	-īs



aqua, aquae, f. (water)

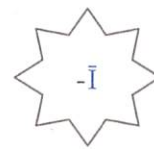
1ST DECLENSION aqua, aquae, f. (water)

	<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
<i>Nominative</i>	aqua	aquae
<i>Genitive</i>	aquae	aquārum
<i>Dative</i>	aquae	aquīs
<i>Accusative</i>	aquam	aquās
<i>Ablative</i>	aquā	aquīs

Most first declension
nouns are **feminine**,
but **several** are
masculine:

agricola → farmer
nauta → sailor
poēta → poet

SECOND DECLENSION



MASCULINE NOUNS IN -US

Nouns in -US

↓
Masculine
(Plants, trees, cities
are feminine.)

SECOND DECLENSION MASCULINE (-US)

Typical:
animus, animī, m. (mind, heart, soul)
nūntius, nūntiī, m. (messenger)

Genitive Singular: -ī

STEM

↓
Cut off -ī from
Genitive Singular.



nūntius, nūntiī, m.
(messenger)

2ND DECLENSION MASCULINE ENDINGS (-US)

	<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
<i>Nominative</i>	-us	-ī
<i>Genitive</i>	-ī	-ōrum
<i>Dative</i>	-ō	-īs
<i>Accusative</i>	-um	-ōs
<i>Ablative</i>	-ō	-īs

Nouns in -IUS
have an "i" at
the end of their
stems. Do not
cut this off.

2ND DECLENSION MASCULINE (-US)

animus, animī, m. (mind, heart, soul)

	<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
<i>Nominative</i>	animus	animī
<i>Genitive</i>	animī	animōrum
<i>Dative</i>	animō	animīs
<i>Accusative</i>	animum	animōs
<i>Ablative</i>	animō	animīs

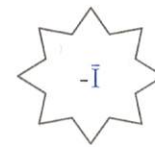
2ND DECLENSION MASCULINE (-IUS)

nūntius, nūntiī, m. (messenger)[†]

	<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
<i>Nominative</i>	nūntius	nūntiī
<i>Genitive</i>	nūntiī	nūntiōrum
<i>Dative</i>	nūntiō	nūntiīs
<i>Accusative</i>	nūntium	nūntiōs
<i>Ablative</i>	nūntiō	nūntiīs

[†]See p. 11 for important information about an alternative genitive singular form for -ius nouns.

SECOND DECLENSION



MASCULINE NOUNS IN -R

Nouns in -R

↓
Masculine

SECOND DECLENSION MASCULINE (-R)

Typical:

puer, puerī, m. (boy)

ager, agrī, m. (field)

vir, virī, m. (man)

Genitive Singular: -ī

STEM



Cut off -ī from
Genitive Singular.



puer, puerī, m. (boy)

2ND DECLENSION MASCULINE ENDINGS (-R)

	<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
<i>Nominative</i>	-r	-ī
<i>Genitive</i>	-ī	-ōrum
<i>Dative</i>	-ō	-īs
<i>Accusative</i>	-um	-ōs
<i>Ablative</i>	-ō	-īs

NOTE:

Some nouns **drop** an
"e" from their stems.

The dictionary entries
below indicate that
puer keeps the "e"
in its stem but that
ager drops it.

2ND DECLENSION MASCULINE puer, puerī, m. (boy)

	<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
<i>Nominative</i>	puer	puerī
<i>Genitive</i>	puerī	puerōrum
<i>Dative</i>	puerō	puerīs
<i>Accusative</i>	puerum	puerōs
<i>Ablative</i>	puerō	puerīs

2ND DECLENSION MASCULINE ager, agrī, m. (field)

	<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
<i>Nominative</i>	ager	agrī
<i>Genitive</i>	agrī	agrōrum
<i>Dative</i>	agrō	agrīs
<i>Accusative</i>	agrum	agrōs
<i>Ablative</i>	agrō	agrīs

SECOND DECLENSION



NEUTER NOUNS IN -UM

Nouns in -UM

↓
Neuter

SECOND DECLENSION NEUTER (-UM)

Typical:

signum, signī, n. (sign)
auxilium, auxiliī, n. (help)

Genitive Singular: -ī

STEM



Cut off -ī from
Genitive Singular.



gaudium, gaudiī, n.
(joy)

2ND DECLENSION NEUTER ENDINGS (-UM)

	Singular	Plural
Nominative	-um	-a
Genitive	-ī	-ōrum
Dative	-ō	-īs
Accusative	-um	-a
Ablative	-ō	-īs

★
NOMINUSATIVE
★

"Nominusative" is a made-up word to help you remember that neuter **nominative** and **accusative** look the same. (It is *not* a separate case.)

For all neuter nouns, the "nominusative" plural is -A.

2ND DECLENSION NEUTER signum, signī, n. (sign)

	Singular	Plural
Nominative	signum	signa
Genitive	signī	signōrum
Dative	signō	signīs
Accusative	signum	signa
Ablative	signō	signīs

2ND DECLENSION NEUTER gaudium, gaudiī, n. (joy)[†]

	Singular	Plural
Nominative	gaudium	gaudia
Genitive	gaudiī	gaudiōrum
Dative	gaudiō	gaudiīs
Accusative	gaudium	gaudia
Ablative	gaudiō	gaudiīs

[†]See p. 11 for important information about an alternative genitive singular form for -ius nouns.

SECOND DECLENSION



SUMMARY

2 ND DECLENSION MASCULINE		
	<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
<i>Nominative</i>	-us, -r	-ī
<i>Genitive</i>	-ī	-ōrum
<i>Dative</i>	-ō	-īs
<i>Accusative</i>	-um	-ōs
<i>Ablative</i>	-ō	-īs

MASCULINE VS. NEUTER

Differences appear
in the **nominative** and
the **accusative**.

2 ND DECLENSION NEUTER		
	<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
<i>Nominative</i>	-um	-a
<i>Genitive</i>	-ī	-ōrum
<i>Dative</i>	-ō	-īs
<i>Accusative</i>	-um	-a
<i>Ablative</i>	-ō	-īs

Virum vocāmus.
We call "the man".

This masculine form can
only be **accusative**.

↓
Direct Object

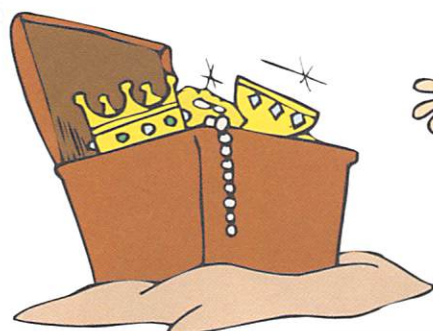
You must know
the **gender** of a
noun in order to
identify its ending
correctly.

Aurum fulget.
"The gold" shines.

This neuter form can be
nominative or **accusative**

↓
Subject

↓
× Direct Object



Aurum inveniō.
I find "the gold".

This neuter form can be
nominative or **accusative**

↓
× Subject

↓
Direct Object

NOTE ON THE GENITIVE SINGULAR

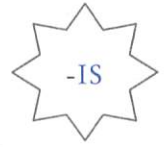
For nouns with **-ius** and **-ium** in the
nominative singular, there are **two**
possible forms for the **genitive singular**:

nūntius, nūntī, m. - early form

nūntius, nūntiī, m. - Augustan form

This book will use the Augustan **-iī**.

THIRD DECLENSION



MASCULINE AND FEMININE NOUNS

Masculine and feminine nouns use the **same** case endings.

THIRD DECLENSION MASCULINE/FEMININE

There is no "typical" noun.
The **nominative singular varies**.

soror, sorōris, f. (sister)
flōs, flōris, m. (flower)
māter, mātris, f. (mother)

Genitive Singular: -IS

STEM



Cut off **-IS** from
Genitive Singular.

3 RD DECLENSION MASCULINE/FEMININE ENDINGS		
	<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
<i>Nominative</i>	-varies-	-ēs
<i>Genitive</i>	-is	-um
<i>Dative</i>	-ī	-ibus
<i>Accusative</i>	-em	-ēs
<i>Ablative</i>	-e	-ibus

3RD DECLENSION STEMS

Some stems **keep**
the entire nominative:
soror → sorōr-

Some stems **change letters**
in the nominative:
flōs → flōr-

Some stems **drop letters**
from the nominative:
māter → mātr-

3 RD DECLENSION MASCULINE/FEMININE flōs, flōris, m. (flower)		
	<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
<i>Nominative</i>	flōs	flōrēs
<i>Genitive</i>	flōris	flōrum
<i>Dative</i>	flōrī	flōribus
<i>Accusative</i>	flōrem	flōrēs
<i>Ablative</i>	flōre	flōribus



flōs, flōris, m. (flower)

THIRD DECLENSION



NEUTER NOUNS

All nouns
with nominatives
ending in **-men**
are neuter.

THIRD DECLENSION NEUTER

There is no "typical" noun.
The **nominative singular varies**.

lūmen, lūminis, n. (light)
caput, capitis, n. (head)
onus, oneris, n. (burden)

Genitive Singular: -IS

STEM



Cut off **-IS** from
Genitive Singular.

3RD DECLENSION NEUTER ENDINGS

	<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
<i>Nominative</i>	-varies-	-a
<i>Genitive</i>	- is	- um
<i>Dative</i>	- ī	- ibus
<i>Accusative</i>	-varies-	-a
<i>Ablative</i>	-e	- ibus



3RD DECLENSION NEUTER **onus, oneris, n.** (burden)

	<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
<i>Nominative</i>	onus	onera
<i>Genitive</i>	oneris	onerum
<i>Dative</i>	onerī	oneribus
<i>Accusative</i>	onus	onera
<i>Ablative</i>	onere	oneribus



onus, oneris, n. (burden)

THIRD DECLENSION



I-STEM NOUNS

I-STEMS

Special set of 3rd declension nouns whose case forms have some **extra i's**.

THIRD DECLENSION I-STEM NOUNS

Typical:

urbs, urbis, f. (city)
arx, arcis, f. (citadel)

cīvis, cīvis, m./f. (citizen)
fēlēs, fēlis, f. (cat)

mare, maris, n. (sea)
animal, animālis, n. (animal, creature)
nectar, nectaris, n. (nectar, ambrosia)

STEM

↓
Cut off **-IS** from
Genitive Singular.

MASCULINE/FEMININE (TYPE 1 I-STEM)

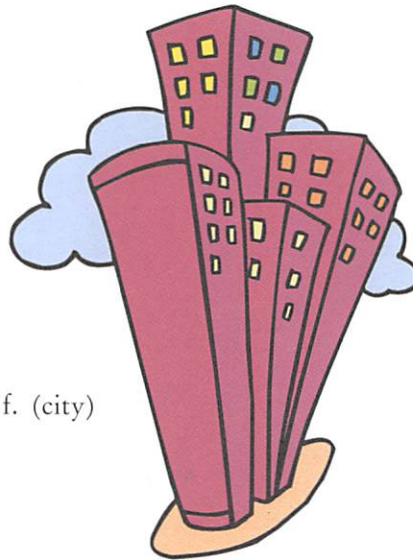
Nominative Stem
↓ ↓
ends in ends in
-s or -x **2 consonants**

MASCULINE/FEMININE (TYPE 2 I-STEM)

Nominative, Genitive
=
-is, -is or **-es, -is**

NEUTER I-STEM

Nominative
↓
ends in
-e or -al or -ar



urbs, urbis, f. (city)

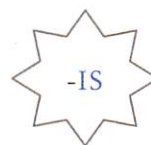
MASCULINE/FEMININE I-STEM ENDINGS

	<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
<i>Nominative</i>	-varies-	-ēs
<i>Genitive</i>	-is	- i um
<i>Dative</i>	-ī	-ibus
<i>Accusative</i>	-em	-ēs / - i s
<i>Ablative</i>	-e	-ibus

NEUTER I-STEM ENDINGS

	<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
<i>Nominative</i>	-varies-	- i a
<i>Genitive</i>	-is	- i um
<i>Dative</i>	-ī	-ibus
<i>Accusative</i>	-varies-	- i a
<i>Ablative</i>	- i	-ibus

THIRD DECLENSION



SUMMARY

3 RD DECLENSION MASCULINE/FEMININE		
	<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
<i>Nominative</i>	-varies-	-ēs
<i>Genitive</i>	-is	-um
<i>Dative</i>	-ī	-ibus
<i>Accusative</i>	-em	-ēs
<i>Ablative</i>	-e	-ibus

3 RD DECLENSION NEUTER		
	<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
<i>Nominative</i>	-varies-	-a
<i>Genitive</i>	-is	-um
<i>Dative</i>	-ī	-ibus
<i>Accusative</i>	-varies-	-a
<i>Ablative</i>	-e	-ibus

3 RD DECLENSION MASCULINE/FEMININE I-STEM		
	<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
<i>Nominative</i>	-varies-	-ēs
<i>Genitive</i>	-is	-ium
<i>Dative</i>	-ī	-ibus
<i>Accusative</i>	-em	-ēs / -īs
<i>Ablative</i>	-e	-ibus

3 RD DECLENSION NEUTER I-STEM		
	<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
<i>Nominative</i>	-varies-	-ia
<i>Genitive</i>	-is	-ium
<i>Dative</i>	-ī	-ibus
<i>Accusative</i>	-varies	-ia
<i>Ablative</i>	-ī	-ibus

BEWARE OF NEUTER NOUNS!!

The unusual-looking
nominatives of the
3rd declension might
actually be **accusative**
if the noun is neuter!



Animal tē terret.

✧The animal✧ scares you.
(Neuter Nominative)

Animal vidēs.

You see ✧the animal✧.
(Neuter Accusative)

FOURTH DECLENSION



MASCULINE NOUNS

Nouns in -US
↓
Masculine
except for:
manus, f. (hand)
domus, f. (house)
+
a few other
feminine nouns.

FOURTH DECLENSION MASCULINE

Typical:
fluctus, fluctūs, m. (wave)

Genitive Singular: -ŪS

STEM

↓
Cut off -ŪS from
Genitive Singular.

4TH DECLENSION MASCULINE ENDINGS

	<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
<i>Nominative</i>	-us	-ūs
<i>Genitive</i>	-ūs*	-uum
<i>Dative</i>	-uī	-ibus
<i>Accusative</i>	-um	-ūs
<i>Ablative</i>	-ū	-ibus

NOTE:

Accusative
Singular → -UM

Genitive
Plural → -UUM

*LONG MARK

Nominative
Singular → -US

Genitive
Singular → -ŪS

4 TH DECLENSION MASCULINE fluctus, fluctūs, m. (wave)		
	<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
<i>Nominative</i>	fluctus	fluctūs
<i>Genitive</i>	fluctūs	fluctuum
<i>Dative</i>	fluctuī	fluctibus
<i>Accusative</i>	fluctum	fluctūs
<i>Ablative</i>	fluctū	fluctibus



fluctus, fluctūs, m. (wave)

FOURTH DECLENSION



NEUTER NOUNS

Nouns in -Ū
↓
Neuter

FOURTH DECLENSION NEUTER

Typical:
cornū, cornūs, n. (horn, wing of an army)
Genitive Singular: -Ūs

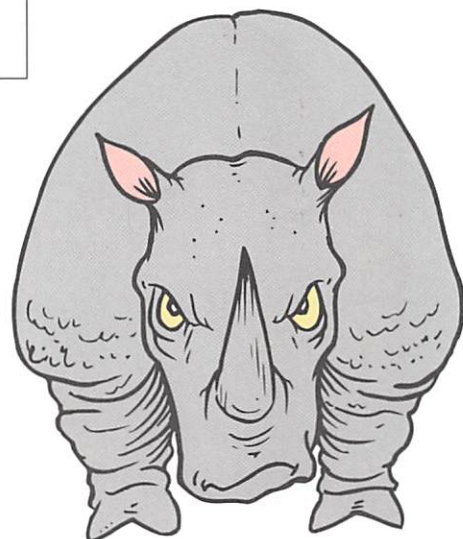
STEM
↓
Cut off -Ūs from
Genitive Singular.

4TH DECLENSION NEUTER ENDINGS

	<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
<i>Nominative</i>	-ū	-ua
<i>Genitive</i>	-ūs	-uum
<i>Dative</i>	-ū	-ibus
<i>Accusative</i>	-ū	-ua
<i>Ablative</i>	-ū	-ibus



4 TH DECLENSION NEUTER cornū, cornūs, n. (horn, wing of an army)		
	<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
<i>Nominative</i>	cornū	cornua
<i>Genitive</i>	cornūs	cornuum
<i>Dative</i>	cornū	cornibus
<i>Accusative</i>	cornū	cornua
<i>Ablative</i>	cornū	cornibus



cornū, cornūs, n. (horn)

FOURTH DECLENSION



SUMMARY

4 TH DECLENSION MASCULINE		
	<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
<i>Nominative</i>	-us	-ūs
<i>Genitive</i>	-ūs	-uum
<i>Dative</i>	-uī	-ibus
<i>Accusative</i>	-um	-ūs
<i>Ablative</i>	-ū	-ibus

MASCULINE VS. NEUTER

Major differences
in the singular,
“nominative”
differences in
the plural.

4 TH DECLENSION NEUTER		
	<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
<i>Nominative</i>	-ū	-ūa
<i>Genitive</i>	-ūs	-uum
<i>Dative</i>	-ū	-ibus
<i>Accusative</i>	-ū	-ūa
<i>Ablative</i>	-ū	-ibus

MASCULINE NOUNS: -US vs. -ŪS

-US



Nominative Singular

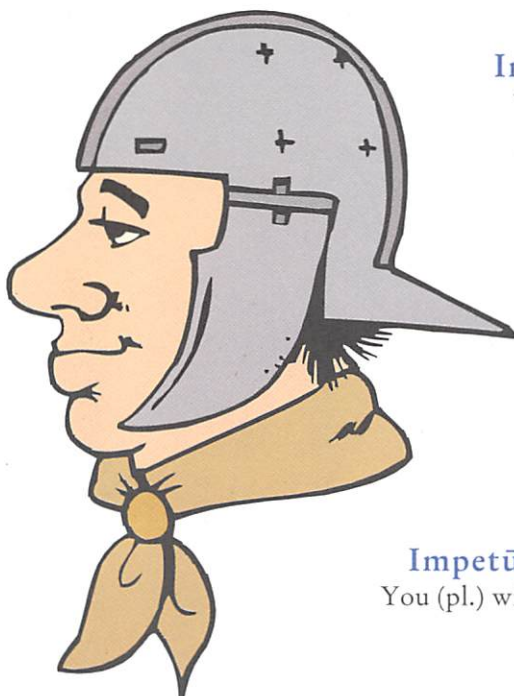
-ŪS



Genitive Singular

Nominative Plural

Accusative Plural



Impetus nōs terruit.

✧The attack✧ scared us.

(Nominative Singular)

Ēventum **impetūs** expectāmus.

We await the outcome ✧of the attack✧.

(Genitive Singular)

Impetūs hostium ācerrimī erant.

✧The attacks✧ of the enemies were very fierce.

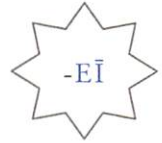
(Nominative Plural)

Impetūs in patriam nostram faciētis.

You (pl.) will make ✧attacks✧ against our fatherland.

(Accusative Plural)

FIFTH DECLENSION



FEMININE (AND SOME MASCULINE) NOUNS

Most fifth declension nouns are **feminine**, but **a few** are **masculine**:

diēs → day
merīdiēs → midday

FIFTH DECLENSION

Typical:
rēs, reī, f. (thing, matter, situation)
diēs, diēī, f. (day)

Genitive Singular: -EĪ

STEM

↓
Cut off **-EĪ** from **Genitive Singular**.



diēs, diēī, m. (day)

5 TH DECLENSION ENDINGS		
	<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
<i>Nominative</i>	-ēs	-ēs
<i>Genitive</i>	-eī	-ērum
<i>Dative</i>	-eī	-ēbus
<i>Accusative</i>	-em	-ēs
<i>Ablative</i>	-ē	-ēbus

Some nouns have an "i" at the end of their stems. Do not cut this off!

(Notice also that these nouns have ēī with a long ē in the genitive and dative singular.)

5 TH DECLENSION rēs, reī, f. (thing, matter, situation)		
	<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
<i>Nominative</i>	rēs	rēs
<i>Genitive</i>	reī	rērum
<i>Dative</i>	reī	rēbus
<i>Accusative</i>	rem	rēs
<i>Ablative</i>	rē	rēbus

5 TH DECLENSION diēs, diēī, m. (day)		
	<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
<i>Nominative</i>	diēs	diēs
<i>Genitive</i>	diēī	diērum
<i>Dative</i>	diēī	diēbus
<i>Accusative</i>	diem	diēs
<i>Ablative</i>	diē	diēbus