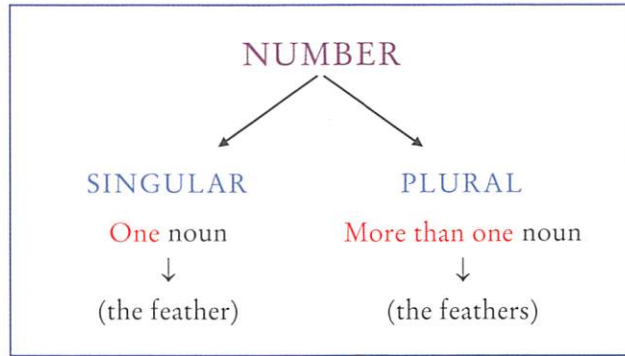


# NOUN TERMINOLOGY

## NUMBER



plūma  
nominative singular



plūmae  
nominative plural

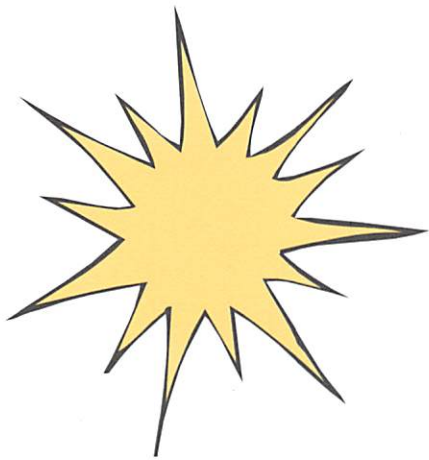
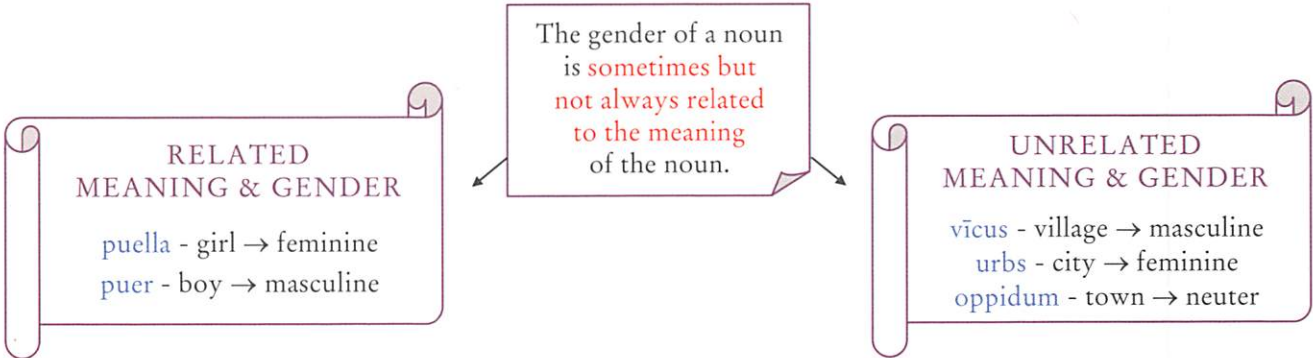
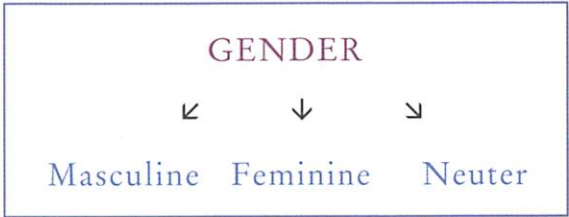


The **ending** of a noun reveals its case and number.

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

# NOUN TERMINOLOGY

## GENDER



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

puerum (boy)  
↓  
masculine  
↓  
accusative singular

GENDER MATTERS!

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

verbum (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, astri, 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.

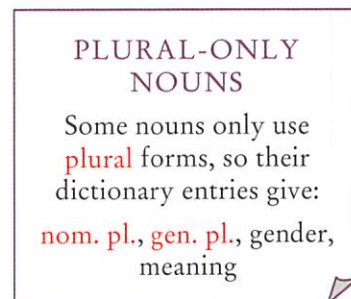
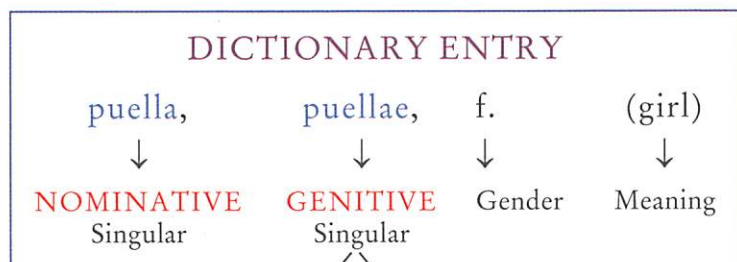
SECOND DECLENSION			THIRD DECLENSION		
	SING.	PL.		SING.	PL.
<i>Nom.</i>	puer	puerī	<i>Nom.</i>	pater	patrēs
<i>Gen.</i>	puerī	puerōrum	<i>Gen.</i>	patris	<span style="color: red;">patrum</span>
<i>Dat.</i>	puerō	puerīs	<i>Dat.</i>	patrī	patribus
<i>Acc.</i>	<span style="color: red;">puerum</span>	puerōs	<i>Acc.</i>	patrem	patrēs
<i>Abl.</i>	puerō	puerīs	<i>Abl.</i>	patre	patribus

puerum:  
Second Declension  
↓  
accusative  
singular

patrum:  
Third Declension  
↓  
genitive  
plural

# NOUN TERMINOLOGY

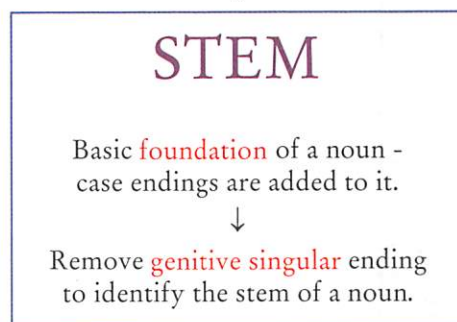
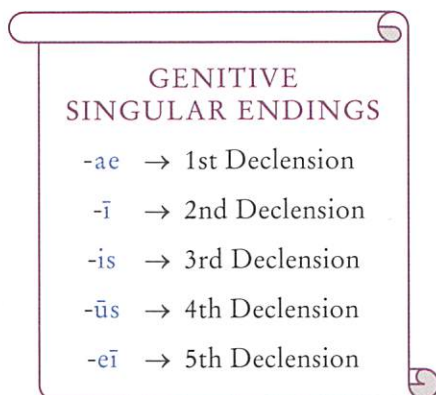
## DICTIONARY ENTRY AND STEM



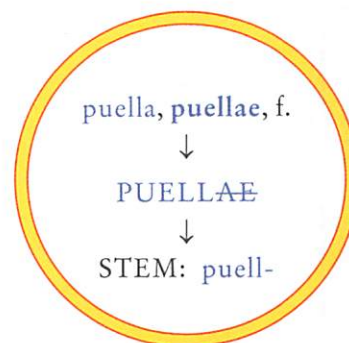
dēliciae, dēliciārum, f. (sweetheart)  
castra, castrōrum, n. (battle camp)

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

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



<u>DICTIONARY ENTRY</u>	<u>STEM</u>
agricola, agricol <b>ae</b> , m. (farmer)	→ agricol-
ager, agr <b>i</b> , m. (field)	→ agr-
libertās, libertāt <b>is</b> , f. (freedom)	→ libertāt-
manus, man <b>ūs</b> , f. (hand)	→ man-
diēs, di <b>eī</b> , m. (day)	→ di-



# NOUN TERMINOLOGY

## SUMMARY

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

# FIRST DECLENSION



## FEMININE (AND SOME MASCULINE) NOUNS

\*LONG MARK  
↓  
Nominative Sing.: -A  
Ablative Sing.: -Ā

FIRST DECLENSION  
Typical:  
aqua, aquae, f. (water)  
Genitive Singular: -AE

STEM  
↓  
Cut off -AE from  
Genitive Singular.

1 <sup>ST</sup> DECLENSION ENDINGS		
	Singular	Plural
Nominative	-a	-ae
Genitive	-ae	-ārum
Dative	-ae	-īs
Accusative	-am	-ās
Ablative	-ā*	-īs



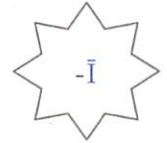
aqua, aquae, f. (water)

1 <sup>ST</sup> DECLENSION aqua, aquae, f. (water)		
	Singular	Plural
Nominative	aqua	aquae
Genitive	aquae	aquārum
Dative	aquae	aquīs
Accusative	aquam	aquās
Ablative	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)

2 <sup>ND</sup> 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.

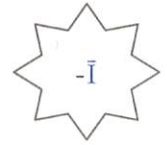


2 <sup>ND</sup> DECLENSION MASCULINE (-US) animus, animī, m. (mind, heart, soul)		
	<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
<i>Nominative</i>	animus	animī
<i>Genitive</i>	animī	animōrum
<i>Dative</i>	animō	animīs
<i>Accusative</i>	animum	animōs
<i>Ablative</i>	animō	animīs

2 <sup>ND</sup> DECLENSION MASCULINE (-IUS) nūntius, nūntiī, m. (messenger) <sup>†</sup>		
	<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

<sup>†</sup> 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)

2 <sup>ND</sup> 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.

2 <sup>ND</sup> 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

2 <sup>ND</sup> 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)

2 <sup>ND</sup> 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.)

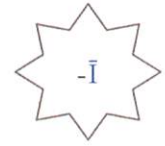
For all neuter nouns, the “nominusative” plural is -A.

2 <sup>ND</sup> DECLENSION NEUTER signum, signī, n. (sign)		
	Singular	Plural
Nominative	signum	signa
Genitive	signī	signōrum
Dative	signō	signīs
Accusative	signum	signa
Ablative	signō	signīs

2 <sup>ND</sup> DECLENSION NEUTER gaudium, gaudiī, n. (joy) <sup>†</sup>		
	Singular	Plural
Nominative	gaudium	gaudia
Genitive	gaudiī	gaudiōrum
Dative	gaudiō	gaudiīs
Accusative	gaudium	gaudia
Ablative	gaudiō	gaudiīs

<sup>†</sup>See p. 11 for important information about an alternative genitive singular form for -ius nouns.

# SECOND DECLENSION



## SUMMARY

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

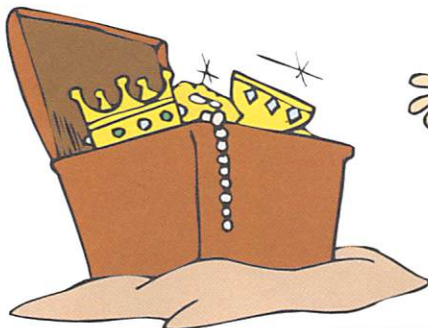
**MASCULINE VS. NEUTER**  
Differences appear in the **nominative** and the **accusative**.

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

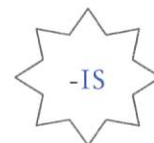
→ **Aurum** fulget.  
◊The gold◊ shines.  
This neuter form can be **nominative** or **accusative**.  
↓                      ↓  
♠ Subject                      ✗ Direct Object



→ **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 <sup>RD</sup> 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

3<sup>RD</sup> DECLENSION  
STEMS

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

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

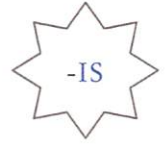
Some stems **drop letters** from the nominative:  
māter → mātr-

3 <sup>RD</sup> 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**.

3 <sup>RD</sup> DECLENSION NEUTER ENDINGS		
	<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
<i>Nominative</i>	-varies-	-a
<i>Genitive</i>	- <b>i</b> s	- <b>u</b> m
<i>Dative</i>	- <b>i</b>	- <b>i</b> bus
<i>Accusative</i>	-varies-	-a
<i>Ablative</i>	-e	- <b>i</b> bus

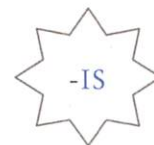


3 <sup>RD</sup> DECLENSION NEUTER <i>onus, oneris, n.</i> (burden)		
	<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
<i>Nominative</i>	<i>onus</i>	<i>onera</i>
<i>Genitive</i>	<i>oneris</i>	<i>onerum</i>
<i>Dative</i>	<i>onerī</i>	<i>oneribus</i>
<i>Accusative</i>	<i>onus</i>	<i>onera</i>
<i>Ablative</i>	<i>onere</i>	<i>oneribus</i>



*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)

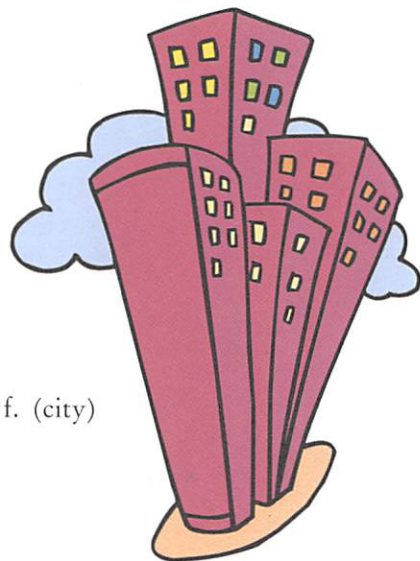
**STEM**  
↓  
Cut off **-IS** from **Genitive Singular**.

**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**



urbs, urbis, f. (city)

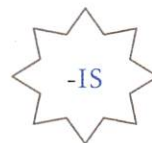
**NEUTER I-STEM**

Nominative  
↓  
ends in  
**-e or -al or -ar**

MASCULINE/FEMININE I-STEM ENDINGS		
	Singular	Plural
Nominative	-varies-	-ēs
Genitive	-is	-ium
Dative	-ī	-ibus
Accusative	-em	-ēs / -īs
Ablative	-e	-ibus

NEUTER I-STEM ENDINGS		
	Singular	Plural
Nominative	-varies-	-ia
Genitive	-is	-ium
Dative	-ī	-ibus
Accusative	-varies-	-ia
Ablative	-ī	-ibus

# THIRD DECLENSION



## SUMMARY

3 <sup>RD</sup> 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 <sup>RD</sup> 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 <sup>RD</sup> 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 <sup>RD</sup> 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.**

4 <sup>TH</sup> 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 <sup>TH</sup> 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)

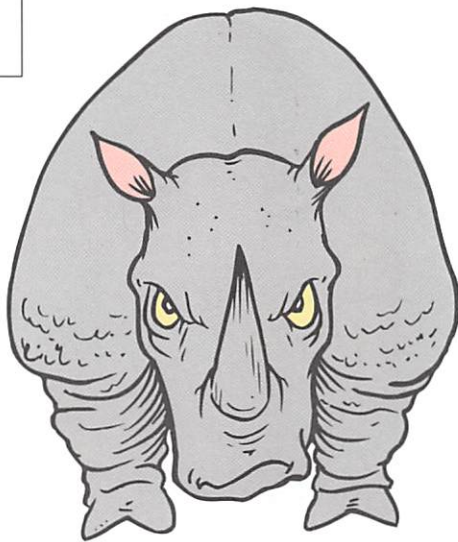
Genitive Singular: -ŪS

STEM  
↓  
Cut off -ŪS from  
Genitive Singular.

4 <sup>TH</sup> 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

★  
NOMINUSATIVE  
(See p. 10)

4 <sup>TH</sup> 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



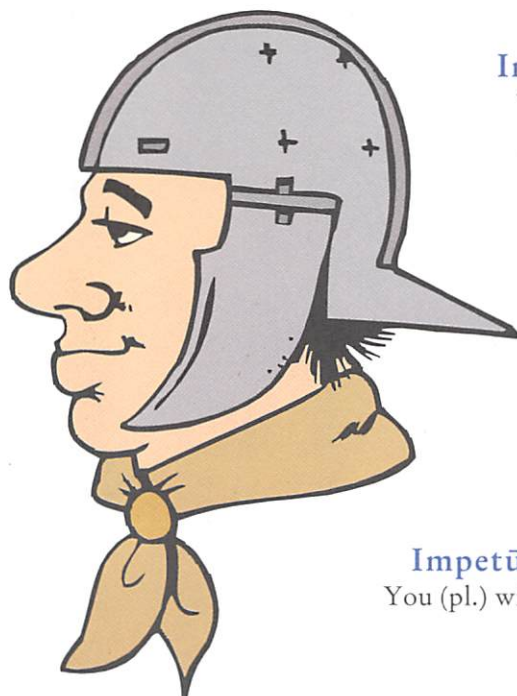
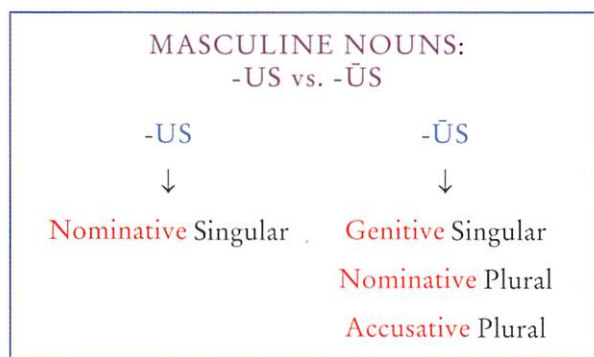
## SUMMARY

4 <sup>TH</sup> 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 <sup>TH</sup> 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



**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.

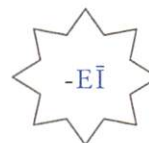
(Nominative Plural)

**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**:

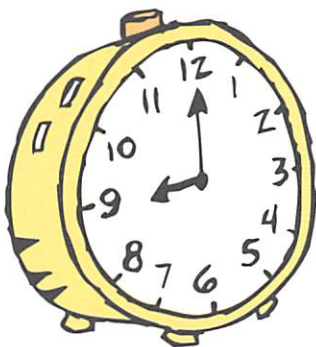
diēs → day  
merīdiēs → midday

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 <sup>TH</sup> DECLENSION ENDINGS		
	Singular	Plural
<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 <sup>TH</sup> DECLENSION rēs, reī, f. (thing, matter, situation)		
	Singular	Plural
<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 <sup>TH</sup> DECLENSION diēs, diēī, m. (day)		
	Singular	Plural
<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