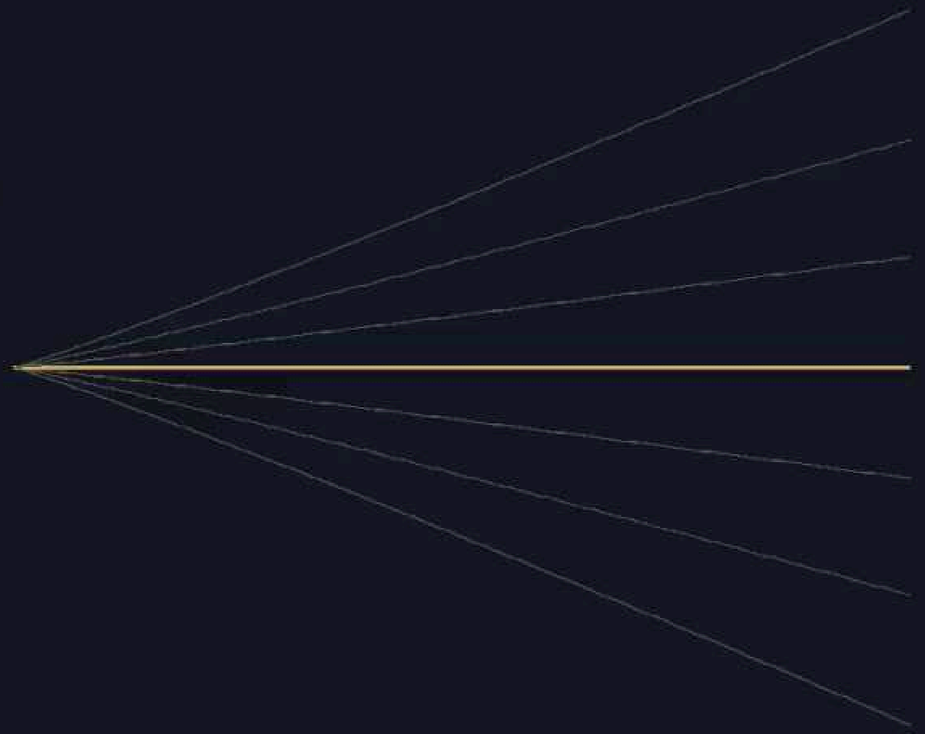
ANDERSON ACADEMY

LATN 101 B · Elementary Latin I (Brief course)

Lecture 2 · about 7 min

Nouns, Cases, and the First Declension



A library of university-level courses

Questions or feedback: garyanderson@mail.grokbot.com · @garyanderson

Three questions

- What is a case?
- What does each case do?
- How does the first declension work?

¶ 2.1

And how do the nouns of the first declension change their endings?

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Showing who does what

English

- Word order shows the job
- The girl loves the farmer

Latin

- Endings show the job
- Order is flexible

¶ 2.2

It shows the job of each noun by changing its ending.

Cases in English

- He and him
- She and her
- Who and whom
- Kept only in pronouns

¶ 2.3

English kept them only in pronouns, while Latin keeps them in every noun, pronoun, and adjective.

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The cases

- Nominative: subject
- Genitive: of, possession
- Dative: to or for
- Accusative: direct object
- Ablative: by, with, from, in

¶ 2.4

The dative marks the indirect object, to or for someone.

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Two more cases

- Vocative: addressing someone
- Usually the same as nominative
- Locative: at a place
- Rare, for later

¶ 2.5

A few nouns also have a rare seventh case, the locative, for place names, meaning at, such as at Rome.

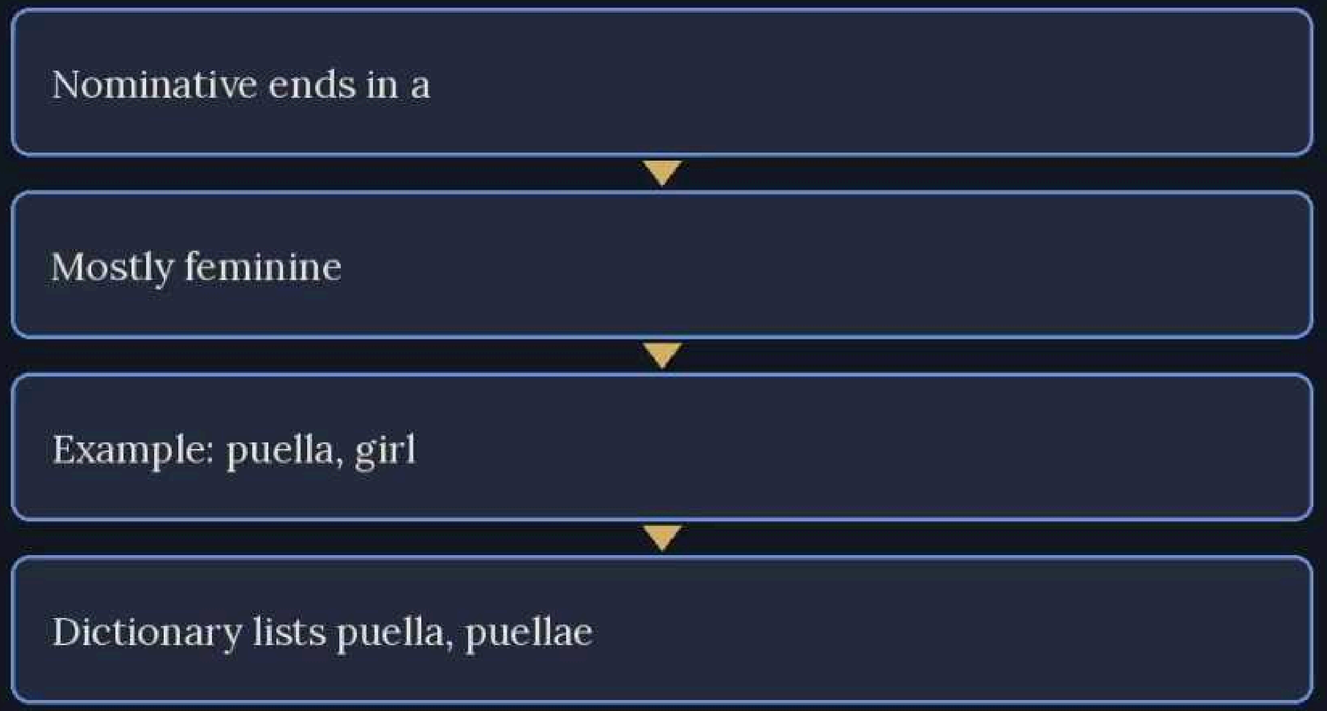
Gender

Word	Gender
Mensa, table	Feminine
Murus, wall	Masculine
Bellum, war	Neuter

¶ 2.6

but for most nouns it is simply grammatical.

The first declension



¶ 2.7

A standard example is puella, girl.

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First declension singular

- Nominative: puella
- Genitive: puellae
- Dative: puellae
- Accusative: puellam
- Ablative: puella, long a

¶ 2.8

Ablative, puella, with a long final a, by, with, or from the girl.

First declension plural

- Nominative: puellae
- Genitive: puellarum
- Dative: puellis
- Accusative: puellas
- Ablative: puellis

¶ 2.9

Notice that the dative and ablative plural are always the same, and that puellae can be genitive, dative, or nominative plural.

The endings to chant

Singular

- a
- ae
- ae
- am
- a

Plural

- ae
- arum
- is
- as
- is

¶ 2.10

Say them aloud as a chant: a, ae, ae, am, a; ae, arum, is, as, is.

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Using context

Puellae has several meanings

↓

Check the verb

↓

Singular verb: genitive or dative

↓

Plural verb: probably subject

¶ 2.11

If the verb is plural and no other subject appears, puellae is probably the subject, the girls.

Useful nouns

- Aqua: water
- Terra: earth
- Via: road
- Vita: life
- Insula: island

¶ 2.12

Each declines exactly like puella.

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Masculine first declension nouns

Latin	English
Agricola	Farmer
Nauta	Sailor
Poeta	Poet

¶ 2.13

They decline exactly like puella, but any adjective describing them must be masculine.

Reading a sentence

Puella: nominative, subject

Agricolae: dative, to the farmer

Aquam: accusative, the water

Dat: gives

¶ 2.14

Aquam is accusative, the thing given. Dat means gives.

The genitive

Latin	English
Vita agricolae	The farmer's life
Fama poetae	The poet's fame
Aqua insulae	The island's water

¶ 2.15

English can put a possessor before or after the noun, but Latin prose usually puts the genitive second.

The dative

- To whom or for whom
- Receivers and beneficiaries
- Poetae fabulam narrat
- With some adjectives

¶ 2.16

The dative is also used with certain adjectives, such as amicus, friendly, as in amica puellae, friendly to the girl.

The ablative

- By what means
- When
- Where
- With whom
- Often with a preposition

¶ 2.17

You will meet its uses one by one.

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English words from the first declension

Latin	English
Aqua	Aquarium
Terra	Territory
Vita	Vital
Insula	Peninsula

¶ 2.18

Fama gives famous, and patria gives patriot.

Further reading

- Wheelock's Latin, early chapters
- Perseus Latin tools, Tufts University
- Free online ending drills

¶ 2.19

The free Latin dictionary at Perseus, from Tufts University, shows any noun's full declension.

Exercise

Decline via

Chant the endings

Write each meaning

Next: verbs

¶ 2.20

Then write what each form means.