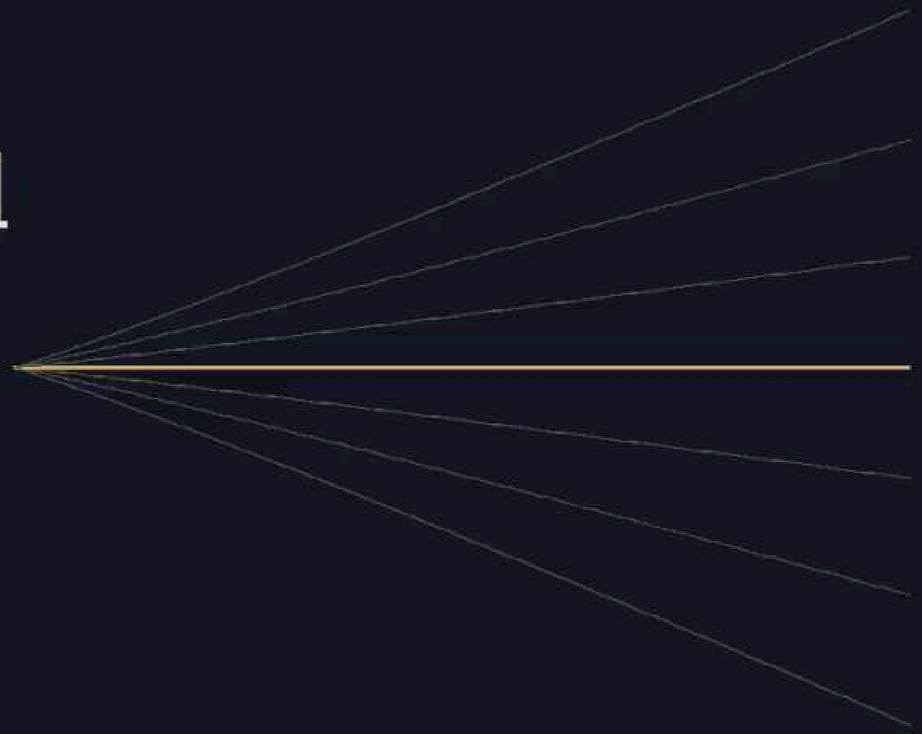
ANDERSON ACADEMY

LATN 101 B · Elementary Latin I (Brief course)

Lecture 4 · about 6 min

The Second Declension and Adjectives



A library of university-level courses

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

Three questions

- How does the second declension work?
- What is the neuter rule?
- How do adjectives agree?

¶ 4.1

What special rule applies to neuter nouns?

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Second declension types

Example	Gender
Dominus, domini	Bellum, belli
Masculine	Neuter

¶ 4.2

The genitive ending is always the surest way to tell which declension a noun belongs to.

Dominus singular

- Nominative: dominus
- Genitive: domini
- Dative: domino
- Accusative: dominum
- Ablative: domino
- Vocative: domine

¶ 4.3

The vocative is special: domine, O master.

Second declension endings

Singular	Plural
us	i
i	orum
o	is
um	os
o	is

¶ 4.4

And here is the plural. Nominative, domini, the masters.

Second declension endings

Singular	Plural
us	i
i	orum
o	is
um	os
o	is

¶ 4.4

As in the first declension, the dative and ablative plural are the same, here ending in is.

Nouns in er

Example	Pattern
Puer, pueri	Ager, agri
Keeps the e	Drops the e

¶ 4.5

The genitive in the dictionary tells you which kind it is.

The neuter rule

- Nominative equals accusative
- In singular and plural
- Plural ends in a
- Holds across Latin

¶ 4.6

So bellum, war, is bellum as subject or object, and bella, wars, as subject or object in the plural.

Neuter nouns

- Bellum: war
- Donum: gift
- Verbum: word
- Oppidum: town
- Periculum: danger

¶ 4.7

Other useful neuter nouns are donum, gift; verbum, word; oppidum, town; consilium, plan or advice; and periculum, danger.

Neuter plurals in English

Singular	Plural
Datum	Data
Medium	Media
Curriculum	Curricula

¶ 4.8

When people debate whether data is singular or plural,

First and second declension adjectives

- Bonus, bona, bonum: good
- Magnus: big
- Parvus: small
- Multus: many
- Malus: bad

¶ 4.9

Others include magnus, big; parvus, small; multus, much or many; malus, bad; and longus, long.

Agreement

Latin	English
Puella bona	A good girl
Dominus bonus	A good master
Donum bonum	A good gift

¶ 4.10

Good girls, as the object, is puellas bonas.

Agreement is not rhyming

Agricola is masculine

▼

So the adjective is masculine

▼

Agricola bonus

▼

Endings differ, but they agree

¶ 4.11

Agricola, farmer, is a masculine first declension noun, so a good farmer is agricola bonus, with a masculine adjective.

Where adjectives go

- Usually after the noun
- Size and quantity often before
- Unusual position adds emphasis
- Poets used this freely

¶ 4.12

Adjectives of size and quantity, such as magnus and multus, often come first, as in multi agricolae, many farmers.

Adjectives as nouns

- Boni: good people
- Bona: good things, goods
- Bona fide: in good faith
- Multa: many things

¶ 4.13

Bona, the neuter plural, means good things, or goods, which is the origin of the legal phrase bona fide,

A sentence with agreement

Dominus bonus: subject

Puero parvo: to the small boy

Donum magnum: the large gift

Dat: gives

¶ 4.14

Here is a sentence that uses both declensions.

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A sentence with agreement

Dominus bonus: subject

Puero parvo: to the small boy

Donum magnum: the large gift

Dat: gives

¶ 4.14

Every adjective sits beside its noun and matches it: dominus bonus nominative, puero parvo dative, donum magnum accusative.

Reading a dictionary entry

- Nominative: ager
- Genitive: agri, so second declension
- Gender: masculine
- Meaning: field

¶ 4.15

The genitive ending shows the declension: ae means first, i means second.

The vocative

- Brutus becomes Brute
- Et tu, Brute?
- Shakespeare, 1599
- Gaius becomes Gai

¶ 4.16

Brute is the vocative of Brutus.

Adjectives in er

Example	Pattern
Liber, libera, liberum	Pulcher, pulchra, pulchrum
Keeps the e	Drops the e

¶ 4.17

Pulcher, pulchra, pulchrum means beautiful, and drops its e in the other forms.

English words from the second declension

Latin	English
Dominus	Dominate
Amicus	Amicable
Verbum	Verbal
Consilium	Counsel

¶ 4.18

Oppidum is rarer, but consilium gives counsel, and periculum gives peril.

Exercise

Decline amicus bonus

Check agreement

Translate a sentence

Next: sentences

¶ 4.19

Then translate: Puellae multa dona habent.

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