Noun Declension Summary

We have now seen all five noun cases: nominative, genitive, dative, accusative, and ablative.

Case Usage

nominative   **subject** (doer of action) of sentence; simple identification with forms of the verb *sum* (called **predicate nominative** or **predicate adjective**).

genitive   shows **possession**: translate *of* or *'s/s'*, with **special adjectives** such as *plēnus* ("full of"); **partitive**: satis *temporis* ("enough [of] time").

dative   **indirect object** (receiver of direct object): usually translates *to* or *for*, also used with **special adjectives** such as *facile* ("easy for").

accusative   **direct object** (receiver of action) of sentence, anyone or anything used, processed, directly affected by the action of the subject; used after the **accusative prepositions**: *ad* ("to," "at"), *ante* ("before"), *apud* ("among," "at the home of"), *circum* ("around"), *contrā* ("against"), *extrā* ("outside"), *inter* ("between," "among"), *intrā* ("inside, within"), *ob* ("on account of") *per* ("through"), *post* ("after"), *praeter* ("except," "besides," "past") *prope* ("near"), *propter* ("because of"), *suprā* ("above") *trāns* ("across").

ablative   ideas in English expressed by prepositions like **with, by, from, in, at, on** are commonly ablative in Latin; used with the **ablative prepositions**: *ā/ab* ("from," "away from"), *cum* ("with"), *dē* ("down from," "concerning, about"), *ē/ex* ("out of," "from"), *prō* ("in front of," "in behalf of," "for"), *sine* ("without").

Two prepositions, *in* and *sub* can be followed by either accusative (with motion) or ablative (stationary). Accordingly, *in + acc.* ("to," "into," "onto," "against"); *in + abl.* ("in," "at," "on," "among"). Likewise, *sub + acc.* ("under," "up to"); *sub + abl.* ("beneath," "at the foot of").

Noun Declensions

	1ST		**2ND MASC.**		**2ND NEUT.**		**3RD COMMON**		**3RD NEUT.**	
	Sing.	**Plur.**	**Sing.**	**Plur.**	**Sing.**	**Plur.**	**Sing.**	**Plur.**	**Sing.**	**Plur.**
nom.	–a	–ae	us/(e)r	–ī	–um	–a	—	–ēs	—	–a
gen.	–ae	–ārum	–ī	–ōrum	–ī	–ōrum	–is	–um	–is	–um
dat.	–ae	–īs	–ō	–īs	–ō	–īs	–ī	–ibus	–ī	–ibus
acc.	–am	–ās	–um	–ōs	–um	–a	–em	–ēs	—	–a
abl.	–ā	–īs	–ō	–īs	–ō	–īs	–e	–ibus	–e	–ibus

Most first declension nouns are feminine. We have learned a few that are masculine: *pīrāta* ("pirate"), *scurra* ("clown"), *aurīga* ("charioteer"), and *poēta* ("poet"). Second declension nouns can be both masculine and neuter. Most masculine nouns in second declension take the nominative singular ending –us, but we have a few, like *ager* ("field"), *liber* ("book"), *puer* ("boy"), and *vir* ("man"), that end in –(e)r. Because there is no set ending for nominative singular in third declension, <u>you must learn separately the nominative and genitive singular forms of every noun in the third declension</u>! By removing the –is ending from the genitive singular, we find the noun stem. The rest of the third declension endings are applied to the stem, not the original form.