

# Latin 101

Nouns and the first declension

A dark blue diagonal bar that starts from the bottom left corner and extends towards the top right corner, covering the lower half of the slide.

Puer iacit baculum.

# Nouns in Latin

- Word order does not matter in Latin.
- Instead, Latin uses cases to indicate how a noun functions.
- There are five:  
Nominative, Genitive,  
Dative, and  
Accusative

# The Nominative Case

- Indicates the subject and/or subject complement of the sentence
- Who or what is doing the action?
- The **boy** threw the stick
- Marked with an “a” ending in the singular and an “ae” ending in the plural

	Singular	Plural
Nom.	Terr <b>a</b> - the land	Terr <b>ae</b> - the lands
Gen.		
Dat.		
Acc.		
Abl.		

# The Genitive Case

- Indicates possession of an object
- Translated as “the genitive noun’s X” or “the X of the genitive noun”
- This was the best day **of the year**. / It was the **teacher’s** birthday
- Marked with an “ae” ending in the singular and an “arum” ending in the plural

	Singular	Plural
Nom.	Terra <sup>a</sup> - the land	Terra <sup>ae</sup> - the lands
Gen.	Terra <sup>ae</sup> - of the land	Terra <sup>arum</sup> - of the lands
Dat.		
Acc.		
Abl.		

# The Dative Case

- Used to indicate the beneficiary of an action
- Can be translated both as the indirect object or “to/for the noun”
- I mailed **Caesar** a letter. / I sent a book **to the library**.
- Marked with an “ae” ending in the singular and an “is” ending in the plural

	Singular	Plural
Nom.	Terra <sup>a</sup> - the land	Terra <sup>ae</sup> - the lands
Gen.	Terra <sup>ae</sup> - of the land	Terra <sup>arum</sup> - of the lands
Dat.	Terra <sup>ae</sup> - to/for the land	Terra <sup>is</sup> - to/for the lands
Acc.		
Abl.		

# The Accusative Case

- Used to indicate the receiver of an action
- The direct object of the sentence
- I pushed the **button**.
- Marked with an “am” ending in the singular and an “as” ending in the plural

	Singular	Plural
Nom.	Terra <b>a</b> - the land	Terra <b>ae</b> - the lands
Gen.	Terra <b>ae</b> - of the land	Terra <b>arum</b> - of the lands
Dat.	Terra <b>ae</b> - to/for the land	Terra <b>is</b> - to/for the lands
Acc.	Terra <b>am</b> - the land (DO)	Terra <b>as</b> - the lands (DO)
Abl.		

# The Ablative Case

- Used to indicate instrument, manner, or agent
- Often the object of a preposition (of which there are many)
- Most commonly translated as “by/with/from the noun”
- I walked **from the store by the river with my friend** to get home to my mother.
- Marked with an “a” ending in the singular and an “is” ending in the plural.

	Singular	Plural
Nom.	Terra - the land	Terrae - the lands
Gen.	Terrae - of the land	Terrarum - of the lands
Dat.	Terrae - to/for the land	Terris - to/for the lands
Acc.	Terram - the land (DO)	Terras - the lands
Abl.	Terra - by/with/from the land	Terris - by/with/from the lands



Using your chart,  
identify the case  
and number of  
these Latin nouns  
(there may be more  
than one answer!):

1. Aquam
2. Terrae
3. Nautis
4. Agricolas
5. Vita
6. Juliae
7. Silvarum
8. Poeta
9. Catalinam
10. Magistris