

# VEHICLE SPOTTING

**D**um raeda in fossā manēbat, Mārcus et Sextus vehicula exspectābant. Longum erat silentium.

Diū nūllum vehiculum appāret. Tandem Mārcus murmur rotārum audit et procul nūbem pulveris cōnspicit.

Sextus, “Quid est, Mārce? Estne plastrum?”

5

Mārcus, “Minimē, fatue! Plastra onera magna ferunt. Tarda igitur sunt. Sed illud vehiculum celeriter appropinquat.”

Sextus, “Ita vērō! Praetereā equī illud vehiculum trahunt. Bovēs plastra trahunt. Fortasse est raeda.”

“Nōn est raeda,” inquit Mārcus, “nam quattuor rotās habet raeda. Illud vehiculum duās tantum rotās habet.”

10

“Est cisium!” clāmat Sextus. “Ecce, Mārce! Quam celeriter appropinquat! Fortasse est vir praeclārus quī ab urbe Neāpolim iter facit.”

“Minimē, Sexte!” respondet Mārcus. “Nōn est vir praeclārus, nam tunicam, nōn togam, gerit. Fortasse est aliis tabellārius.”

15

Praeterit cisium. Tum nūbem pulveris tantum vident et murmur rotārum audiunt. Tandem silentium.

1 **exspectō, exspectāre**, *to look out for  
longus, long*

**tardus, slow  
illud, that**

3 **diū, adv., for a long time  
appāreō, appārēre, to appear  
rota, -ae, f., wheel**

**8 praetereā, adv., besides  
bōs, bovis, m./f., ox  
9 fortasse, adv., perhaps**

4 **procul, adv., in the distance, far off  
nūbēs, nūbis, gen. pl., nūbium, f.,  
cloud**

**10 quattuor, four  
11 duae, two  
12 tantum, adv., only**

pulvis, pulveris, m., dust

**13 Neāpolim, to Naples**

5 **plastrum, -ī, n., wagon, cart  
6 onus, oneris, n., load, burden**

**16 praetereō, praeterīre, irreg., to go past**

## EXERCISE 15a

### Respondē Latīnē:

- Quid puerī faciēbant ubi raeda in fossā manēbat?
- Erantne multa vehicula in viā?
- Quid Mārcus audit et cōnspicit?
- Cūr vehiculum plastrum esse nōn potest?

- Cūr vehiculum raeda esse nōn potest?
- Quid est?
- Estne vir praeclārus in cisiō?



Web Code: jfd-0015

## Nouns: Neuter

Some Latin nouns end with the same letters in the nominative and accusative singular and with the letter *-a* in the nominative and accusative plural. Second declension nouns of this type end with the letters *-um* in the nominative and accusative singular. These are **neuter** nouns. **Neuter** is the Latin word for “neither”; neuter nouns are neither masculine nor feminine (for the concept of gender, see page 34).

Look at the following sentences in which nouns ending with the letters *-um* in the singular and *-a* in the plural are used first as subject and then as direct object:

<b>Baculum</b> Dāvī in vīllā est.	S	<i>Davus's stick is in the farmhouse.</i>
Dāvus baculum habet. (11:8)	DO	<i>Davus has a stick.</i>
<b>Vēstīgia</b> Getae in silvā sunt.	S	<i>Geta's footprints are in the woods.</i>
<b>Vēstīgia</b> Getae inveniunt. (12:11)	DO	<i>They find Geta's footprints.</i>

The words **baculum** and **vēstīgia** are neuter nouns of the 2nd declension. Both the 2nd and the 3rd declensions have neuter nouns:

Number Case	2nd Declension	3rd Declension
<b>Singular</b>		
Nominative	bácul <u>um</u>	nōmen
Genitive	bácul <u>i</u>	nōmin <u>is</u>
Dative	bácul <u>o</u>	nōmin <u>ī</u>
Accusative	bácul <u>um</u>	nōmen
Ablative	bácul <u>o</u>	nōmine
Vocative	bácul <u>um</u>	nōmen
<b>Plural</b>		
Nominative	bácul <u>a</u>	nōmina
Genitive	bacul <u>ōrum</u>	nōmin <u>um</u>
Dative	bácul <u>is</u>	nōmín <u>ibus</u>
Accusative	bácul <u>a</u>	nōmina
Ablative	bácul <u>is</u>	nōmín <u>ibus</u>
Vocative	bácul <u>a</u>	nōmina

Most neuter nouns of the 2nd declension end in *-um* in the nominative and the accusative singular.

The nominative and accusative singular forms of neuter nouns of the 3rd declension, such as **nōmen** and **murmur**, are not predictable, but the other cases are formed by adding the usual 3rd declension endings to the base, which is found by dropping the ending from the genitive singular form.

Remember that the accusative singular of neuter nouns is always the same as the nominative singular and that the nominative and accusative plurals always end in *-a*.

Most 1st declension nouns are feminine. Most 2nd declension nouns are either masculine or neuter. The 3rd declension contains many nouns that are masculine, many that are feminine, and a number of neuter nouns. See the chart on page 267 at the end of this book for examples of nouns of the different genders in each declension.

Examples of neuter nouns are:

### 2nd Declension

- auxilium, -ī, n., help*
- baculum, -ī, n., stick*
- cisium, -ī, n., light two-wheeled carriage*
- cubiculum, -ī, n., room, bedroom*
- olīvētūm, -ī, n., olive grove*
- perīculum, -ī, n., danger*
- plastrum, -ī, n., wagon, cart*
- silentium, -ī, n., silence*
- vehiculum, -ī, n., vehicle*
- vēstīgīum, -ī, n., track, footprint, trace*

### 3rd Declension

- iter, itineris, n., journey*
- murmur, murmuris, n., murmur, rumble*
- nōmen, nōminis, n., name*
- onus, oneris, n., load*
- tempus, temporis, n., time*

## BUILDING THE MEANING

### Nominative, Accusative, or Genitive Plural? How Do You Decide?

At the top of page 114 you saw the words **baculum** and **vēstīgia** used in sentences, first as subjects and then as direct objects. To decide which case is being used, you need to consider the sentence as a whole, just as you have learned to do when other nouns are present that have endings that could be more than one case.

Up to now, the case ending **-a** has indicated a 1st declension nominative singular, e.g., **puella**, but now you can see that if the noun is neuter the ending **-a** could indicate either nominative or accusative plural, e.g., **bacula** or **onera**.

Up to now, the ending **-um** has indicated either a 2nd declension accusative singular of a masculine noun, e.g., **puerum**, or a 3rd declension genitive plural, e.g., **mātrum**, but now you can see that if a noun is 2nd declension and neuter the ending **-um** could indicate either a nominative or accusative singular, e.g., **baculum**.

Note also that the nominative and accusative singular forms of some 3rd declension neuter nouns end with the letters **-us**, e.g., **onus**. You need to know that this is a 3rd declension neuter noun rather than a 2nd declension masculine noun such as **servus**. The word **servus** could only be nominative, while **onus** could be either nominative or accusative.

Now that neuter nouns have been introduced, it is particularly important to note the gender and declension of a noun when you learn vocabulary.



## EXERCISE 15b

Read each sentence aloud. Identify each neuter noun and its declension. How can you tell the case of each noun ending in *-a* or *-um*? Translate each sentence:

1. Nūllum vehiculum cōnspicere poterant puerī.
2. Prīnceps magnās vōcēs senātōrum audīre nōlēbat.
3. Nox erat; raeda in fossā immōbilis manēbat; nēmō auxilium ferēbat.
4. Canis lātrābat quod murmur rotārum audiēbat.
5. Sorōrem clāmōrēs frātrum vexābant.
6. Magna onera ferēbant plaustra.
7. Erant multa vehicula in viā; cisium tarda vehicula praeterībat.
8. Magnum onus fert plastrum.
9. Necesse erat iter Rōmam facere.
10. Servī vēstīgia canum in agrīs inveniunt.
11. Ubi cisium praeterit, est magnum perīculum.
12. Magnum onus nōn fert raeda.

## FORMS

### Roman Numerals and Latin Numbers

I	ūnus, -a, -um, one	VIII	octō, eight
II	duo, -ae, -o, two	IX	novem, nine
III	trēs, trēs, tria, three	X	decem, ten
IV	quattuor, four	L	quīnquāgintā, fifty
V	quīnque, five	C	centum, a hundred
VI	sex, six	D	quīngentī, -ae, -a, five hundred
VII	septem, seven	M	mīlle, a thousand

The words above are adjectives. The masculine, feminine, and neuter endings or forms are given for the numbers one, two, three, and five hundred. The others never change their form. Here are forms for *ūnus*, *duo*, and *trēs*:

Case	Masc.	Fem.	Neut.	Masc.	Fem.	Neut.	Masc.	Fem.	Neut.
Nom.	ūnus	ūna	ūnum	dúo	dúae	dúo	trēs	trēs	tria
Gen.	ūniūs	ūniūs	ūniūs	duōrum	duárum	duōrum	tríum	tríum	tríum
Dat.	ūnī	ūnī	ūnī	duōbus	duábus	duōbus	tríbus	tríbus	tríbus
Acc.	ūnum	ūnam	ūnum	dúos	dúas	dúo	trēs	trēs	tria
Abl.	ūnō	ūnā	ūnō	duōbus	duábus	duōbus	tríbus	tríbus	tríbus

In the stories, you have met the following other adjectives that have *-īus* in the genitive singular and *-ī* in the dative singular: *alius*, *-a*, *-ud*, *another*; *other* (10); *alter*, *altera*, *alterum*, *second*, *one (of two)*, *the other (of two)*, *another*; (1); *nūllus*, *-a*, *-um*, *no*, *not any* (9); and *sōlus*, *-a*, *-um*, *alone* (3).



All roads to Rome radiated from the center of the city, a point marked by the Emperor Augustus with the *miliarium aureum*, a gilded, inscribed bronze milestone. Shown here are peoples of the world who came to Rome, circling the *miliarium aureum*.

Seventeenth-century European engraving, artist unknown

### EXERCISE 15c

Answer the questions by supplying the Latin words for the appropriate numbers, read aloud, and translate:

1. Quot rotās raeda habet? \_\_\_\_\_ rotās raeda habet.
2. Quot rotās plastrum habet? \_\_\_\_\_ rotās plastrum habet.
3. Quot rotās cisium habet? \_\_\_\_\_ rotās cisium habet.
4. Quot equī raedam trahunt? \_\_\_\_\_ equī raedam trahunt.
5. Quot bovēs plastrum trahunt? \_\_\_\_\_ bovēs plastrum trahunt.
6. Quot liberōs in raedā vidēs? In raedā \_\_\_\_\_ puellam et \_\_\_\_\_ puerōs videō.
7. Quot parentēs in raedā vidēs? \_\_\_\_\_ parentēs in raedā videō.
8. Quot līberī cum quot parentibus Rōmam raedā iter faciēbant?  
\_\_\_\_\_ puella et \_\_\_\_\_ puerī cum \_\_\_\_\_ parentibus Rōmam raedā iter faciēbant.

**Quot...? How many...?**

### EXERCISE 15d

**Respondē Latīnē:**

1. Sī duo puerī et octō puellae iter faciunt, quot līberī iter faciunt?
2. Sī duae puellae et trēs puerī iter faciunt, quot līberī iter faciunt?
3. Sī sex parentēs et trēs puellae iter faciunt, quot hominēs iter faciunt?
4. Sī quīnque parentēs et trēs puerī iter faciunt, quot hominēs iter faciunt?
5. Sī quattuor puerī et sex puellae iter faciunt, quot līberī iter faciunt?
6. Sī quattuor puellae et quīnque puerī iter faciunt, quot līberī iter faciunt?
7. Sī quattuor puellae et trēs puerī iter faciunt, quot līberī iter faciunt?

**hominēs, hominūm, m. pl., people**