LATINU

Latin I Chapter I

Basics

There are a few basic grammar rules to follow:

- In Latin, the verb often comes at the end of a sentence.
- Latin has no word for "the" or "a"—this needs to be supplied.
- Latin does not always express the subject.

There are three primary sentence structures you will encounter:

- (subject) (verb)
- (subject) is (noun/adjective)
- (subject) (object) (verb)

There are three genders in Latin:

- masculine
- feminine
- neuter

There is also a combined gender that can be masculine or feminine, depending on the context.

Chapter 1

Latin is an inflected language (the endings of nouns are declined based on their function in a sentence).

- Nouns in the nominative case are the subjects.
- Nouns in the accusative case are the objects.

In general, to decline a noun into any form:

- 1. Identify the case (nominative, accusative) of the noun.
- 2. Remove the case ending from the noun to get the stem.
- 3. Add the ending of the appropriate case.

Most 1st declension nouns are feminine and have the nominative ending -a, follow this pattern:

nominative (subject) puell-a accusative (object) puell-am

All 2nd declension nouns with the nominative ending **-us** or **-er** are masculine, following this pattern:

nominative (subject) colon-us puer ager accusative (object) colon-um puer-um agr-um

The first type of **-er** nouns keeps the **e** of the nominative in the other cases (e.g. *puer*, *puer-um*).

The second drops the e (e.g. ager, agr-um).

So, the stem of the first type is its nominative form while the stem of the second type is its nominative without the **e**.



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