LATINU

Latin I Chapter V

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.

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**.



All Latin verbs are in one of four conjugations.

1st conjugation	stems in -a	e.g. para -t
2nd conjugation	stems in -e	e.g. mone -t
3rd conjugation	stems ending in consonants	e.g. reg- it
4th conjugation	stems in -i	e.g. audi -t

Verbs are conjugated depending on their use, the context and the subject.

These verbs with endings **-t** or **-it** (for the 3rd conjugation) are in the present tense, meaning they translate to is "(verb)-ing" or "(verb)-s."

For adjectives, the masculine endings are the same as the 2nd declension endings; the feminine endings are the same as the 1st declension endings; the neuter endings are the same as the neuter 2nd declension endings.

This is abbreviated to, for example, magnus, -a, -um.

To decline an adjective,

- 1. Remove -us from the first (masculine) term to identify the stem.
- 2. Add the appropriate ending (gender and case) to the stem.

Adjectives must agree with the nouns they describe:

the adjective must have the same case and gender as the noun it describes.

The nominative plural ending for the 1st declension is -ae, and the accusative plural is -ās.

The nominative plural ending for the second declension is -ī, and the accusative plural is -ōs.

		singular	plural
nominative	1st decl. (fem.)	puell-a	puell-ae
	2nd decl. (masc.)	colōn-us	colōn-ī
		pu-er	puer-ī
		ag-er	agr-ī
accusative	1st decl. (fem.)	puell-am	puella-ās
	2nd decl. (masc.)	colōn-um	colōn-ōs
		puer-um	puer-ōs
		agr-um	agr-ōs

These same endings are used to decline adjectives.

Verbs must be conjugated to match the number (singular/plural) of the nominative—not the number of the accusative.

		singular	plural
1st decl. (fem.)	puell-a	puell-ae	
	2nd decl. (masc.)	colōn-us	colōn-ī
		pu-er	puer-ī
		ag-er	agr-ī



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