

**Caput II – Nouns of the 1<sup>st</sup> Declension****Nouns:****Subject:****Direct Object (DO):****Indirect Object (IO):****Possession:**

Consider the following sentence: identify the **subj.**, **DO**, **IO**, and noun showing **possession**:

**“The poet gives the roses of the sailor to the girl.”**

**Case:****Nominative Case:****Subject/Verb Agreement:****Genitive Case:****Dative Case:****Accusative Case:****Ablative Case:****Vocative Case:****Declension:****Steps to Declining Nouns:**

- Find the base: go the genitive singular form (2<sup>nd</sup> dictionary form) and remove gen. ending (this gen. sing. ending will also indicate to which declension the noun belongs)
- Add the appropriate ending for case, gender, and number

	nom. sing.	gen. sing.	gender		
<b>ex:</b>	<b>puella,</b>	<b>puellae,</b>	<b>f.</b>	<b>Base:</b>	_____

**1<sup>st</sup> Declension:****Gender:**

**1<sup>st</sup> Declension Case Endings:**

Case	Singular	Plural
Nom.	-a	-ae
Gen.	-ae	-ārum
Dat.	-ae	-īs
Acc.	-am	-ās
Abl.	-ā	-īs
Voc.	-a	-ae

**\*Note the macron in the abl. sing. is a mandatory macron!**

**Practice:** Decline each noun given to the right in every case and number:

Case	Singular	Plural
Nom.		
Gen.		
Dat.		
Acc.		
Abl.		
Voc.		

ex: puella, puellae, f.

Base: \_\_\_\_\_

Case	Singular	Plural
Nom.		
Gen.		
Dat.		
Acc.		
Abl.		
Voc.		

ex: poēta, poētae, m.

Base: \_\_\_\_\_

Translate our example sentence into Latin using the following vocabulary words:

**“The poet gives the sailor’s roses to the girl.”**

**rosa, rosae, f. / nauta, nautae, m.** (the others are given above)

**Adjective:****Noun/Adj. Agreement:**

Add some adjectives to describe the **roses** and the **girl** in our example sentence above:  
 magnus, **magna**, magnum / multus, **multa**, multum / rubeus, **rubea**, rubeum / bellus, **bella**, bellum

**Identify the possible case(s), number(s), and gender of the following noun forms:**

(Note: some forms may have more than one case/number possibility, but each has only one gender)

poētārum –

nautae –

puellīs –

portās –

rosae –

fōrmam –

patria –

pecūniā –

**Translate the following Latin sentences using the case information supplied above:**

1. **Patria poētārum sine pecūniā non valet.** (sine = prep. + abl. – “without”)
2. **Nautae fōrmam rosae ad portās laudant.** (ad = prep. + acc. – “to, near, next to”)

**Key Terms:**

Noun	Dative	Subject	Adjective
Case	Accusative	Direct Object	Preposition
Gender	Ablative	Indirect Object	Agreement
Nominative	Vocative	Possession	- noun/adj.
Genitive	Declension	Predicate	- subj./verb

### Linguistic Principles behind the First Declension

If you think of the nouns of the first declension as having a stem *ending* in “-a,” then the morphology becomes a little more clear and will have more parallels with other declensions down the road.

rosa/ = rosa, rosae, f.                      poēta/ = poēta, poētae, m.

You can approach the paradigm by thinking of the markers for each case and number as follows:

Case	Singular	Plural
Nominative	-Ø = -aØ > -a	-i = -ai > -ae (must have L too, at some point, see below)
Genitive	orig. -Ls, later replaced by -Li = -āi > -ae	orig. -um, -Ls added = -a/Ls/um > -āsum > -ārum
Dative	-Li = -āi > -ae	-is = -ais > -īs
Accusative	-M = -am	-Ms = -ams > -ans > -a_s > -ās
Ablative	orig. -Ld, later the d is dropped -L = -ā	-is = -ais > -īs
Vocative	-Ø = -aØ > -a	-i = -ai > -ae

A couple of notes:

1. Gen. sing. -Ls is the original *a*-stem noun ending inherited from PIE and you see it in old inscriptions; it is also retained in legal phrases, such as *pater familiās* = “father of the family”
2. -āi > -ae, but -āi > -ī (cf. Dat. Sing. to Dat. Pl.), the latter process is called “monophthongization”
3. Gen. sing. and Nom. pl., the ending -i is borrowed from the *o*-stem nouns. However, at some point there must have been a lengthening of the *a* in the nom. pl. before the glide morphed into the diphthong, since -āi should have produced -ī. Older examples have -Ls as the Nom. pl., so the -L probably originates from there.
4. In Latin: -Vms > -Vns > -V\_s > -LVs (V = vowel), the loss of *n* when followed by *s* is a regular change (all dentals do this as we’ll see soon), and the lengthening of the vowel after the loss of a consonant is called “compensatory lengthening”