

Caput III – Masculine Nouns of the 2nd Declension

Review Noun Facts!

2nd Declension Nouns:

Steps to Declining Nouns:

- Find the base: go the genitive singular form (2nd 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
 ex: amīcus, amīcī, m. Base: _____

2nd Declension Masculine Case Endings:

Case	Singular	Plural
Nom.	-us / -er	-ī
Gen.	-ī	-ōrum
Dat.	-ō	-īs
Acc.	-um	-ōs
Abl.	-ō	-īs
Voc.	-e / -er	-ī

Do you notice any similarities to the 1st Declension?

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

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

ex: populus, populī, m.

Base: _____

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

ex: ager, agrī, m.

Base: _____

Sakros Law and r-stem nouns:**Noun/Adj. Agreement:****Adjectives (dictionary entry):**

Practice: Decline the following noun/adjective pair in the chart below

	Noun: puer, puerī, m. / Adj: magnus, magna, magnum	
	singular	plural
Nominative		
Genitive		
Dative		
Accusative		
Ablative		
Vocative		

Practice: 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)

amicōrum –

puerōs –

filiis –

agrō –

virī –

numerus –

sapientiā –

agricolae –

Apposition:

Word Order: S (modifiers) + **DO** (modifiers) + **IO** (modifiers) + **adv. / prep. phrases** + **V**

Key Terms:2nd Declension

Masculine Nouns

Vowel Weakening

Appositive / Apposition

Sakros Law

Apocope/Syncope

Linguistic Principles behind the First and Second Declensions (M/F Nouns)

Think of the nouns of the first declension as having a stem *ending* in “-a”:

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

Think of the nouns of the second declension as having a stem *ending* in “-o”:

amīco/ = amicus, amīcī, m. puero/ = puer, puerī, m. [note: think of this as an “r-stem”]

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

Case	Singular		Plural	
Nominative	-Ø (-a and -r bases) / -s (others)		-ī	
	-a/Ø > -a	-o/s > -us -ro/Ø > -re > -r	-a/ī > -ae (L, too, see below)	-o/ī > -ī
Genitive	-Lī (-a bases) / -ī (-o bases) [-a bases: orig. -Ls, hence the L with -ī]		orig. -um, -Ls added before that	
	= -ā/ī > -ae	-o/ī > -ī	-a/Ls/um > -āsum > -ārum	-o/Ls/um > -ōsum > -ōrum
Dative	-Li		-īs	
	-ā/ī > -ae	-ō/ī > -ō	-a/īs > -īs	-o/īs > -īs
Accusative	-M		-Ms =	
	-a/M > -am	-o/M > -om > -um	-a/Ms > -ams > -ans > -a_s > -ās	-o/Ms > -oms > -ons > -o_s > -ōs
Ablative	-L (orig. -Ld, the d is later dropped)		-īs	
	-a/L > -ā	-o/L > -ō	-a/īs > -īs	-o/īs > -īs
Vocative	-Ø		-ī	
	-a/Ø > -a	-o/Ø > -e -ro/Ø > -re > -r	-a/ī > -ae	-o/ī > -ī

Key: “L” = “lengthen vowel”; “Ø” = “nothing”

A couple of notes:

1. Vowel weakening: short vowels often weaken in predictable patterns: for now we’ll focus on short “o”: when unaccented, -ō > -u, as it does in the final syllables in the Nom. and Acc. sing. of the o-stem nouns
2. Nom. sing. of the o-stem nouns: for non r-stems, see vowel weakening, above. For “r-stems,” it is important to understand that the stem-final “o” is really just a combining vowel. From PIE, Latin inherits a “Ø” marker for the Nom. sing. of all r-stem nouns (as we’ll see in other declensions, too. First, the -o Ablauts to short e-grade (-ro > -re); next, the short “e” is dropped through apocope. [Important: v. on **Sakros Law**, below]

3. 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”
4. Vowels combine with *-i* and *-ī* in different ways:

-āi > -ae	-āī > -ī	(cf. Dat. sing. to Dat. pl. a-stem nouns)
-ōī, -oi > -ī	-ōī > -ō	(cf. Dat. sing. to Gen. sing. o-stem nouns)

The process that results in *-ī* in these cases is called “monophthongization”
5. For the Gen. sing. and Nom. pl. in the *a*-stem nouns the ending *-ī* 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 **-āī** should have produced *-ī*. Older examples have *-Ls* as the Nom. pl., so the *-L* probably originates from there.
6. 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”
7. Voc. sing.: cf. on the nom. sing. for the *o*-stems, above, but an addition of “Ø” to an *o*-stem noun leads to a change of vowel grade (Ablaut) to short-*e* grade, the short “*e*” is then lost from the *r*-stems through apocope, as noted above.

Sakros Law: When the final syllables of *r*-stem nouns are dropped from the Nom. and Voc. singular forms, an “*e*” is sometimes inserted internally to the stem when an “uncomfortable consonant cluster” results at the end of the stem. Compare these examples below:

viro/Ø > vir	[no problem here, no change]
puero/Ø > puer	[no problem here, no change]
agro/Ø > agr > ager	[consonant cluster, “ <i>e</i> ” inserted into base]