Caput IV – Neuter Nouns of the 2ⁿᵈ Declension and *sum, esse*

Review Noun Facts!

2ⁿᵈ Declension Nouns:

Steps to Declining Nouns:
- Find the stem: 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: ōtium,   ōtiī,   nt.   **Stem:_____**

The TWO RULES for NEUTER NOUNS:

        #1:

        #2:

2ⁿᵈ Declension Neuter Case Endings:

Case	Singular	Plural
Nom.	-um	-a
Gen.	-ī	-ōrum
Dat.	-ō	-īs
Acc.	-um	-a
Abl.	-ō	-īs
Voc.	-um	-a

How do these compare to the Masculines of the 2ⁿᵈ Declension?

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

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

ex: perīculum, perīculī, nt.

Base:_____

    2-1-2 Adjectives (1ˢᵗ/2ⁿᵈ Decl. adj.)(us/a/um adj.):

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

	Noun: bellum, bellī, *nt.* / **Adj:** bonus, bona, bonum	
	singular	**plural**
Nominative		
Genitive		
Dative		
Accusative		
Ablative		
Vocative		

Transitive Verbs:

Intransitive Verbs ("Linking" Verbs):

The Verb *sum, esse* "to be"
- What is the stem? – *Think back to what the original infinitive ending was before rhotacism!*
     sum, esse – STEM:_____
- So, what is missing? (when compared to the other verbs we know)
     o We call this kind of verb "**athematic**"
- Because it is athematic, when you conjugate *sum*, things will happen that don't happen to the so-called "regular" verbs (meaning: **thematic** verbs)
- Ultimately, a lot of the stuff that happens to this verb is expected and perfectly regular. In reality, a lot of this is *more* regular than most Latin verbs. Verbs like "to be" that are used very often are able to retain older forms and qualities that were largely lost in other verbs due to remodeling and leveling of the paradigms.
- NOTE: when the stem meets an ending of "**–s**" or "**–t**" nothing else needs to happen
- NOTE: when the stem meets an ending starting with "**-m**" or "**-n**", an intervening vowel is inserted (originally an "**o**", but weakened to a "**u**"). This ultimately arrives from the use of the theme vowel in the 3rd pers. plural (*o*-nt), something Latin regularly does in the 3rd pers. plural forms of athematic verbs whose stems end in consonants, and the presence of the

nasalized "o^m" in the 1st pers. sing. These "o"s lead to a remodeling of the 1st pers. plural to follow suit, which actually (singularly among all Latin verbs) has the final forms for the 1st sing, 1st pl., and 3rd pl. follow the typical thematic vowel pattern from PIE [which was short-o grade in those three forms].

- NOTE: the loss and subsequent replacement of syllables in these forms arrives from the early use of the verb as an enclitic (aka "enclitic reduction") and the remodeling and analogical leveling that occurs as a result.

sum, esse – **Present Active Indicative**

	sing.	**plural**
1st		
2nd		
3rd		

Note the "Geminate Reduction" in the 2nd Person Singular – The Romans didn't bother to write out the double "**s**"; so **ess > es**

Predicate Nouns and Adj:

Predicate Nominative:

Substantive Adjectives:

Key Terms:		
2nd Declension	*sum, esse*	Transitive Verb
Neuter Nouns	Athematic Verb	Substantive Adj.
2 Rules for Neuter Nouns	Predicate	Geminate Reduction
2-1-2 Adjectives (us/a/um)	Intransitive Verb	

Linguistic Principles for Neuter Nouns of the 2nd Declension

Case	Singular	Plural
Nominative	**-M̥**	**-e*/H₂**
	-o/M̥ > -om > **-um**	**-e/H₂ > -a**
Genitive	**-ī** (-o bases)	orig. **-um**, **-Ls** added before that
	-o/ī > **-ī**	-o/**Ls**/**um** > -ōsum > **-ōrum**
Dative	**-Li**	**-īs**
	-ō/i > -ō	-o/īs > **-īs**
Accusative	**-M̥**	**-e*/H₂**
	-o/M̥ > -om > **-um**	**-e/H₂ > -a**
Ablative	**-L** (orig. **-Ld**, the d is later dropped)	**-īs**
	-o/L > **-ō**	-o/īs > **-īs**
Vocative	**-M̥**	**-e*/H₂**
	-o/M̥ > -om > **-um**	**-e/H₂ > -a**

Key: "L" = "lengthen vowel"; "Ø" = "nothing"

A couple of notes**:**
1. Remember due to the first rule of Neuter Nouns, the nom. and acc. (and voc.) of any given number will *always be the same*!
2. Vowel weakening: short vowels often weaken in predictable patterns: for now we'll focus on short "o": when unaccented, **-ŏ > -u**, as it does in the final syllables in the Nom. and Acc. sing. of the o-stem nouns
3. *****The Nom./Acc. plural is formed from the addition of the second laryngeal (H₂), which also causes the "-o" at the end of the stem to undergo Ablaut to short-e grade. Since that connecting vowel often undergoes Ablaut (cf. in the Voc. sing. of the Masc. o-stems), this change is not unexpected, but it does explain the loss of the "o" in these forms.