Caput VII – The 3rd Declension

Review Noun Facts!

3rd Declension Noun Facts:

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:	rēx,	rēgis,	m.	Base:
	virtūs,	virtūtis,	f.	Base:
	corpus,	corporis,	nt.	Base:

3rd Declension Case Endings-All 3 Genders:

Case	Singular		Plural	
	M./F.	Nt.	M./F.	Nt.
Nom.	-s / Ø	Ø	-ēs	-a
Gen.	-is	-is	-um	-um
Dat.	-ī	-Ī	-ibus	-ibus
Acc.	-em	Ø	-ēs / -īs	-a
Abl.	-е	-е	-ibus	-ibus
Voc.	=Nom.	=Nom.	=Nom.	=Nom.

Do you notice any similarities to the 1st or 2nd Declension case endings?

The Nominatives of the 3rd Declension:

- Since most of the 3rd declension nouns are "**consonant stems**," their nominatives can be difficult to guess
- Most Latin books/instructors just insist on memorizing each of the nominative forms of 3rd declension nouns; but, as you probably guessed, a few linguistic rules can help you out
- **Basic principle:** M/F Nom. Sing. = -s -or- \emptyset (\emptyset for -l, -n, and -r stems, just like -a stems)
- Most Masc. and Fem. nouns add an "-s" to the end of the stem, and the resulting form can be easily guessed from just a few linguistic rules:
 - velar stop (c, g, k, ch) + "-s" > "-x"
 ex: rēg/s > rēx pāc/s > pāx
 dental (d, t, th) + "-s" > "-s" (" '-s' breaks your teeth!")
 ex: virtūt/s > virtūs laud/s > laus
 -s stems: ex: mōs/s > mōs (geminate reduction!)
 - Some nouns whose stems end in -s (of all 3 genders) underwent rhotacism and occasionally
- subsequent paradigmatic leveling, with vowel weakening in some nom. forms
 - o **ex:** Masc: honōs/ = (gen.) honōs/is > honōris; (nom.) honōs/s > honōs > honor (geminate reduction, then paradigmatic leveling and expected shortening, but cf. *mōs*, above)
 - o ex: Neut: corpos/ = (nom.) corpos/ \emptyset > corpus; (gen.) corpos/is > corporis
- Nouns whose stems end in a liquid (**l**, **n**, **r**) do something a little different in using the inherited Ø marker for the nominative singular:

LAT 506 Oughton

o By rule, to form the nominative singular, masc./fem. nouns whose stems end in a, l, n, and r add nothing (**Ø**) to the stem:

ex: $c\bar{o}nsul/\varnothing > consul$ $sor\bar{o}r/\varnothing > sor\bar{o}r$

But n-stems and some r-stems often also undergo vowel gradation (called "Ablaut" = A!), often including a lengthening (L) of the final vowel, and can lose the final stem consonant (if it's a nasal) through nasalization (cf. the French pronunciation of "un bon chien") if the Nom. ends in an o-grade.

M/F -n and -r stem nouns: Ablaut one step up from current grade for Nom., then L
If stem is basic e-grade, Nom = o-grade (usually the case for n-nouns)
If stem is zero grade, Nom = e-grade (usually the case for r-nouns)

ex: (stem) homen/ > homin/ (e-grade, with subsequent vowel weakening)

(nom.) homen/LA!-o > homōn > homō (L, A!-o-grade, nasalization)

(gen.) **homen/is** > **hominis** (stem in the e-grade)

ex: (stem) fratr/ > fratr/ (zero grade stem)

(nom.) **fratr/LA!-e > frater** > **frater** (L, A!-e-grade, later shortening) (gen.) **fratr/is** > **fratris** (stem in the zero grade)

Note: the **Neuter n-stem nouns** do not seem to undergo the same Ablaut pattern, but do not weaken the final vowel in the Nominative:

ex: (stem) carmen/ > (e-grade) = (nom.) carmen (e-grade, no weakening), but gen.: carmen/is > carminis (e-grade, with subsequent weakening)

Vowel Gradation (Ablaut)—a quick intro:

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

Case	Singular	Plural	
Nom.			
Gen.			ex: rēx, rēgis, m.
Dat.			
Acc.			Base:
Abl.			
Voc.			

LAT 506 Oughton

Case	Singular	Plural	
Nom.			
Gen.			
Dat.			ex: corpus, corporis, nt.
Acc.			Base:
Abl.			
Voc.			

Review: Noun/Adj. Agreement:

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

	Noun: amor, amoris, m. / Adj: magnus, magna, magnum		
	singular	plural	
Nominative			
Genitive			
Dative			
Accusative			
Ablative			

	Noun: pāx, pacis, f. / Adj: Rōmānus, Rōmāna, Rōmānum		
	singular plural		
Nominative			
Genitive			
Dative			
Accusative			
Ablative			

LAT 506 Oughton

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

then give the complete diction (Note: some forms may have more	nary entry: e than one case/number possibility, b	ut each has only one gender)
corpora –		
rēgibus –		
vurtūtī —		
nōmine —		
pacēs —		
uxōrem –		
carminum –		
amor –		
Key Terms: 3 rd Declension	Vowel Gradation/Ablaut	Nasalization