LESSON 1: THE FIRST DECLENSION

1. THE DECLENSION OF TERRA

Open your Grammar to No. 31. Here you see the declension of TERRA. Terra is a model for all Latin nouns that belong to the first declension. Look at the GENITIVE SINGULAR. It ends in -ae.

ALL NOUNS WHOSE GENITIVE ENDS IN -AE ARE IN THE FIRST DECLENSION.

The STEM of any noun is found by dropping the ending of the Genitive Singular. Thus, genitive: TERR-AE; STEM: TERR-.

A noun of the first declension is then declined by adding to the STEM the ENDINGS shown for TERRA.

You notice that the first five forms are all singular; the rest are plural—look at the MEANINGS.

There are five cases in each number. Study the MEANINGS given for the cases; the USES we shall study very gradually so they will not be too hard for you.

ASSIGNMENT: Memorize the declension of terra (Grammar, No. 31).

Before you begin to study the vocabulary on page 7 your teacher will explain the rules for quantity and accent given in the Grammar, Nos. 9-13. Learn these rules and see whether you can tell where the accent belongs in each of the words in the vocabulary.

Whenever nouns are given in vocabularies, both the nominative and genitive are printed. Be sure to learn the GENITIVE, because it tells you to what declension the noun belongs. Can you tell why all the words in the list are like terra?
HOW TO MAKE VOCABULARY STUDY EASY

1. Read the words after your teacher, being very careful to
   pronounce them just as your teacher does.
2. Look carefully at the genitive and the meanings; study
   them for a few minutes.
3. Place a piece of paper over the English and try to recite
   the English meanings. Don’t look until you have really tried
   to remember them! Then do the same with the Latin. BE SURE
   TO LEARN EVERYTHING THAT IS GIVEN IN THE VO-
   CABULARY.
4. Repeat this several times before class.
5. Every day review some vocabulary before starting on your
   new lesson. If you learn each vocabulary very carefully and keep
   reviewing it, Latin will be easy. You will have VICTÓRIA
   over Latin and will gain the GLÓRIA which belongs to a good
   student.

EXERCISE 1

Decline the words in the vocabulary. Remember they are all
like TERRA. Therefore:
1. Find the STEM by dropping the -ae of the genitive singular,
   thus: glóri-ae; stem: glóri-;
2. Add the ENDINGS of Terra, thus: glóri-a, glóri-ae,
   glóri-ae, etc.

EXERCISE 2
[Essential]

Tell what cases these forms are and give the meanings:

1. terram  8. nautárum  15. porta
2. silvás  9. terrae     16. silvis
3. portárum 10. victóriá  17. victóriá
4. glóriam 11. nautae    18. terra
5. portás  12. victóriam 19. portis
6. silvam  13. glóriae   20. nautis

EXERCISE 3

1. How can you tell the difference between the nominative
   and ablative singular of the first declension?
2. How can you find the stem of a Latin noun?
3. How can you tell to what declension a noun belongs?

2. RULES FOR GENDER

In English gender is very simple. Nouns naming men or male
animals are MASCULINE, as John, man, sailor (sailors are
usually men), bull, lion. Nouns naming women and female ani-
mals are FEMININE, as Mary, woman, waitress, cow, lioness.
Nouns naming things are NEUTER, as book, lake, beauty, soul.
BUT IN LATIN nouns naming things are sometimes masce-
line, sometimes feminine, sometimes neuter. Thus, terra, ae, is
FEMININE although land is a THING and is NEUTER in
English.

ASSIGNMENT: Learn the rules for the gender of nouns in
the first declension, Grammar, Nos. 32 and 33.

EXERCISE 4

Explain the gender of the words in the vocabulary on page 7.

3. USE OF VERBS

In Latin the pronouns (I, we, you, he, she, it, they), when
used as subjects of a verb, are not ordinarily expressed separate-
ly. THEY ARE CONTAINED IN THE ENDING OF THE
VERB. Thus: órat means he, she, or it prays. He, she, or it is
contained in the ending -at. Órant means they pray. They is
contained in the ending -ant. The ending -at contains THREE