

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*?

VOCABULARY

terra, terrae	{ earth land
porta, portae	gate
Marīa, Mariāe	Mary
nauta, nautae	sailor
victōria, victōriae	victory
silva, silvae	forest
glōria, glōriae	{ fame glory

RELATED ENGLISH WORDS

The following phrases contain English words related to some of the Latin words in the vocabulary: a *nautical* dictionary; a *sylvan* scene; the *portals* of the palace; rough *terrain*. Can you tell to which words they are related?



PORTA

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 VOCABULARY.**

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 *VICTŌRIA* over Latin and will gain the *GLŌRIA* 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: *glōri-ae*; stem: *glōri-*;

2. Add the **ENDINGS** of **terra**, thus: *glōri-a*, *glōri-ae*, *glōri-ae*, etc.

EXERCISE 2

[Essential]

Tell what cases these forms are and give the meanings:

- | | | |
|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1. terram | 8. nautārum | 15. porta |
| 2. silvās | 9. terrae | 16. silvīs |
| 3. portārum | 10. victōria | 17. victōriā |
| 4. glōriam | 11. nautae | 18. terra |
| 5. portās | 12. victōriam | 19. portīs |
| 6. silvam | 13. glōriae | 20. nautīs |
| 7. victōriae | 14. Mariāe | 21. portā |

- | | | |
|--------------|------------|--------------|
| 22. Mariā | 26. Mariām | 30. silvā |
| 23. terrārum | 27. silvae | 31. silvārum |
| 24. terrā | 28. terrīs | 32. nauta |
| 25. silva | 29. glōria | 33. portae |

EXERCISE 3

- How can you tell the difference between the nominative and ablative singular of the first declension?
- How can you find the stem of a Latin noun?
- 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 animals 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 masculine, 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 separately. **THEY ARE CONTAINED IN THE ENDING OF THE VERB.** Thus: *ōrat* means *he, she, or it prays*. *He, she, or it* is contained in the ending **-at**. *Ōrant* means *they pray*. *They* is contained in the ending **-ant**. The ending **-at** contains **THREE**