

NOUNS (3rd Declension): Regular

While the first and second declension nouns that you have learned so far are fairly common in Latin, the third declension makes about 40% of the nouns in the language. So it is especially important to learn the endings for these words since you will encounter them so frequently.

For now, we will just concentrate on the regular endings for this declension as shown below. Note that while they are different in many ways from the 1st and 2nd declensions, there are certain patterns that will help you in memorizing this declension:

nominative and accusative singulars of neuters are the same (just like the 2nd)

accusative singular generally ends in an -m (just like -am and -um)

ablative singular is a single vowel (just like -ā and -o)

nominative and accusative plurals of neuters are both -a (just like the 2nd)

genitive plural ends in -um (just like -arum and -orum)

dative and ablative plurals match (just like the 1st and 2nd)

Also of special note:

nominative singulars do not follow any pattern: they can be anything

| 1 st (Fem) | 2 nd (Masc/Neu) | 3 rd (Masc+Fem/Neu) | 3 rd (i-stem) | 3 rd (Adj) | 4 th (Masc/Neu) | 5 th (Fem) |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| a | ae | us,r/um i/a | --- es/a | --- es/ia * | es/ia | us/u us/ua es es |
| ae | arum | i orum | is um | is ium | is ium | us uum ei erum |
| ae | is | o is | i ibus | i ibus | i ibus | ui/u ibus ei ebus |
| am | as | um os/a | em/--- es/a | em/--- is/ia em/* | is/ia | um/u us/ua em es |
| ā | is | o is | e ibus | e/i ibus | i ibus | u ibus e ebus |

For example:

The brother is carrying the leader.
Frater portat ducem.

The king will walk on a journey.
Dux ambulabit in itinere.

The mother always loved the sister and brother.
Mater semper amavit sororem et fratrem.

You should now understand this Latin sentence:

**Although the maiden was invited to the seashore by the king, she showed great courage and refused.
Quamquam virgo litori ab rege invitata est, magnam virtutem demonstravit et negavit.**

NOUNS (3rd Declension): i-stems

This is perhaps the easiest lesson of all: learning the endings of the 3rd declension nouns that belong to the sub-category of that declension called "i-stems".

There are just five places in which the i-stems are different from the regular 3rd declension endings and each one of those five differences involves (surprise! surprise!) the letter "i".

Everywhere else, it is exactly the same. So if you properly memorized the regular 3rd declension endings, all you have to do now is remember the **five changes**:

| 1 st (Fem) | 2 nd (Masc/Neu) | 3 rd (Masc+Fem/Neu) | 3 rd (i-stem) | 3 rd (Adj) | 4 th (Masc/Neu) | 5 th (Fem) |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| a | ae | us,r/um i/a | --- es/a | --- es/ia * | es/ia | us/u us/ua es es |
| ae | arum | i orum | is um | is ium | is ium | us uum ei erum |
| ae | is | o is | i ibus | i ibus | i ibus | ui/u ibus ei ebus |
| am | as | um os/a | em/--- es/a | em/--- is/ia em/* | is/ia | um/u us/ua em es |
| ā | is | o is | e ibus | e/i ibus | i ibus | u ibus e ebus |

For example:

The sea is carrying the ships.
Mare portat navis.

The parents will walk to the city.
Parentes ambulabunt ad urbem.

The death of the citizen was announced by the enemy.
Mors civis ab hoste nuntiata est.

You should now understand this Latin sentence:

Because the fear of death was great in the heart of the enemy, the king prepared the citadel and saved the city.
Quod timor mortis in hostis pectore erat magnus, rex arcem paravit et urbem servavit.

ADJECTIVES and ADVERBS (3rd Declension)

OK. So you memorized the regular third declension endings. You have learned them so well that you will never forget them, even when you as old as Mr. Arwe. And then you easily added the five changes that make up the differences between the regular and i-stem thirds.

In which case, adding the few additional differences for the third declension adjectives will be easy:

The biggest difference is the nominative singular: to learn this ending you must understand that third declension adjectives have either one, two or three endings in the nominative singular.

If it is a “one termination adjective”, it is random just like a third noun and stays the same no matter what the gender, e.g. par, par, par – equal.

If it is a “two termination adjective”, the masculine/feminine form ends in -is but the neuter ends in -e, e.g. omnis, omne – all, every.

If it is a “three termination adjective”, the masculine is random just like a third noun, the feminine ends in -is and the neuter ends in -e, e.g. celer, celeris, celere – quick, fast.

As you have already learned, the accusative singular ending of the neuter adjective will follow whatever happened in the nominative.

And finally, the ablative singular ending is always -i.

Everywhere else, the adjective endings are exactly the same as the i-stem endings. So if you properly memorized the 3rd declension i-stem endings, all you have to do now is remember these **three changes**:

| 1 st (Fem) | 2 nd (Masc/Neu) | | 3 rd (Masc+Fem/Neu) | | 3 rd (i-stem) | | 3 rd (Adj) | | 4 th (Masc/Neu) | | 5 th (Fem) | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|---------|--------------------------------|--------|--------------------------|--------|-----------------------|-------------|----------------------------|------|-----------------------|----|------|
| a | ae | us,r/um | i/a | --- | es/a | --- | es/ia | * | es/ia | us/u | us/ua | es | es |
| ae | arum | i | orum | is | um | is | ium | is | ium | us | uum | ei | erum |
| ae | is | o | is | i | ibus | i | ibus | i | ibus | ui/u | ibus | ei | ebus |
| am | as | um | os/a | em/--- | es/a | em/--- | is/ia | em/* | is/ia | um/u | us/ua | em | es |
| ā | is | o | is | e | ibus | e/i | ibus | i | ibus | u | ibus | e | ebus |

Adverbs:

Review: 1st and 2nd declension adverbs have no changeable endings: you simply put the letter “e” on the end of the stem of the adjective.

New: 3rd declension adverbs have no changeable endings: you simply put the letters “iter” or “ter” on the end of the stem of the adjective.

You should now understand this Latin sentence:

**When the time for virtue is announced, the king prepares for death willingly and attacks the enemies without hesitation.
Ubi tempus virtuti nuniatur, rex morti libenter parat et sine haesitatione hostis oppugnat.**

ADDITIONAL CASE USUAGES

Now for a slight change of pace to return to our uses of the cases in Latin. As you recall, so far you have learned the following case uses:

Nominative

Subject: **Brock** likes the blues.

Predicate Nominative: Brock is **super chill**.

Genitive

Possession: The music **of Brock** is, of course, vinyl.

Dative

Indirect Object: Let's give a round of snaps **to Brock**.

Reference: Brock's connections were a huge help **to me**.

Accusative

Direct Object: I love **the Brockster**.

w/ preposition: This weekend we're all going **to Brock's pad**.

Ablative

Location: Brock is **in the house**.

Means: Brock can surely wail **with that harmonica**.

Accompaniment: Brock's going to the club **with his buds**.

Agent: Nothing is done right unless it's done **by Brock**.

Now for some new additions.

Uses of Cases: the Genitive Case

As I have said, the Genitive case is commonly translated with the word "of". While usually it denotes possession, it can also be used as follows:

Partitive Genitive

to indicate a part or portion of a whole, e.g. "none of the pie", "some of the pie", "all of the pie", "a piece of the pie"

Objective Genitive

to indicate the object of an action described by a noun, e.g. "my love of DP knows no bounds", "her hatred of boiled carrots was strangely alluring"

Add these to the Genitive of Possession that you have already learned and you will now know the three main uses of the genitive case.

You should now understand this Latin sentence:

**Part of the family of Marcus was saved by the king's love of justice.
Pars Marci familiae ab regis iustitiae amore servata est.**

Uses of Cases: the Dative Case

Remember that the dative case is commonly translated as "to" or "for". When combined with certain adjectives like friendly, pleasing, suitable or well-known, it is simply called the Dative with Adjective.

Add this to the Indirect Object and the Dative of Reference that you have already learned and you will now know the three main uses of the dative case.

You should now understand this Latin sentence:

**It was suitable for Marcus to bring flowers to my mother for my father.
Erat idoneum Marco portare flores matri patri.**

Uses of Cases: the Ablative Case

In the Ablative of Specification, the ablative case is used, without a preposition, to answer the question "with respect to what?"

While I am smarter than Brock in Latin, he is way more fluent than me in cool.

Add this to the other four uses of the ablative case that you have already learned and you have only dipped your toe into the pond made up of the 15 uses of the ablative case.

You should now understand this Latin sentence:

**In a competition with my friends, I was surpassed in skill with a sword by Marcus.
In certamine cum amicis, ab Marco gladio in arte superatus sum.**