

# Capitulum Primum

## Grammar Notes for Grammatically Challenged Parents

1. Latin is a language of ENDINGS! Latin Nouns (and other words) *INFLECT* to show their function or job in a sentence. To *Infect* means to *change endings*. This differs distinctly from English, which depends on word order to distinguish meaning in the sentence. In English, the difference between *Marcus hits Julia* and *Julia hits Marcus* is obvious based on the word order. In Latin, the endings change to show the difference.

2. There are three Genders of nouns: Masculine, Feminine, and Neuter.

Paradigm / Pattern Nouns	Singular	Plural
Masculine	fluvi <b>us</b> / river	fluvi <b>ī</b> / rivers
Feminine	insul <b>a</b> / island	insul <b>ae</b> / islands
Neuter	oppid <b>um</b> / town	oppid <b>a</b> / towns

These nouns come to you with endings you must memorize.

3. What is an Adjective?

An Adjective is a word that describes or modifies another word.

In Latin, adjectives will be listed with the endings **-us**, **-a**, **-um** in your workbook.

4. Learn the **Principle of Agreement**:

Adjectives agree with the nouns they modify in **Case**, **Number** and **Gender**.

Adjectives have endings, which (thus far) match their nouns.

Adjectives usually come **after** the noun they modify. (But not always)

Singular	Plural
fluvi <b>us</b> magn <b>us</b> / large river	fluvi <b>ī</b> magn <b>ī</b> / large rivers
insul <b>a</b> parv <b>a</b> / small island	insul <b>ae</b> parv <b>ae</b> / small islands
oppid <b>um</b> Roman <b>um</b> / Roman town	oppid <b>a</b> Roman <b>a</b> / Roman towns

5. What is a Noun **Declension**?

A Noun Declension is a Noun Family. All of the nouns in a Declension/Family *inflect* their endings the same way. There are 5 Noun Declensions/Families.

6. What is meant by **Case**, **Number** and **Gender**?

Latin nouns decline in six noun cases: *Nominative*, *Accusative*, *Genitive*, *Dative*, *Ablative* and *Vocative*.

Latin has two numbers: *Singular* and *Plural*.

Latin has three Genders: *Masculine*, *Feminine* and *Neuter*.

Gender is either **natural**: based on nature, such as *pater*, which is masculine meaning “father” or *puella*, which is feminine meaning “girl”; or **grammatical**: gender chosen for grammatical purposes, such as *insula*, feminine meaning “island”, or *fluvius*, masculine noun meaning “river”.

For now... **-us** ending nouns are Masc., **-a** ending nouns are Fem., **-um** ending nouns are Neuter

7. The Latin verb **est** means “is” and **sunt** means “are”.

8. To answer the question “Ubi?”, use *in* + \_\_\_\_\_ **ā**.

Ubi est Roma?

Roma in Italiā est.

*Rome is in Italy.*

Ubi est Italia?

Italia in Europā est.

*Italy is in Europe.*

Ubi est Nilus?

Nilus in Africā est.

*The Nile is in Africa.*

Patterns thus far:

Noun Endings	Singular	Plural
Masculine	<b>-us</b>	<b>-ī</b>
Feminine	<b>-a</b>	<b>-ae</b>
Neuter	<b>-um</b>	<b>-a</b>

Exempla	Singular	Plural
Masculine	fluv <b>ius</b> / river	fluv <b>ī</b> / rivers
Feminine	insul <b>a</b> / island	insul <b>ae</b> / islands
Neuter	oppid <b>um</b> / town	oppid <b>a</b> / towns