

# 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 *Inflect* 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.   | <i>Rome is in Italy.</i>      |
| Ubi est Italia? | Italia in Europā est. | <i>Italy is in Europe.</i>    |
| Ubi est Nilus?  | Nilus in Africā est.  | <i>The Nile is in Africa.</i> |

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>us</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    |