

UNIT 2

PEOPLE, PLACES AND THINGS - NOUNS

2.1 What is a Noun?

A Noun is simply a 'naming' word to denote a person, place or thing eg. *Maria* (Mary), *sacerdos* (priest), *Roma* (Rome), *epistola* (letter). But complications occur with Latin Nouns because

- they have different **genders - masculine, feminine and neuter**
- they are **inflected**, that is their endings change according to the role they play in a sentence.
- they are grouped into five distinct categories called **Declensions**.

2.2 Gender

All the Nouns you will meet in this Course belong to some Gender, either **masculine, feminine** or **neuter** - which do not, however, correspond to the 'he, she and it' of English usage. The problem is not with the self-evident words indicating male or female gender such as *filius* (son) or *uxor* ('wife'), but with the vast array of Nouns which are genderless in English such as 'wine', 'the sun', 'peace' etc. which in Latin must be given one of the genders above. Thus in Latin 'wine' is neuter, 'the sun' is masculine and 'peace' feminine.

2.3 Inflection and Cases

You will have already noticed that the same Latin word can appear in a variety of different guises. So not only would you have, for example, *Dominus* for 'the Lord' but you would also come across other forms such as *Domine*, *Dominum*, *Domini* and *Domino*. Why this difference of ending for the same basic word? This is because Latin Nouns undergo a process of change known as **inflection** to indicate the particular role each word plays in a sentence.

Although there is no parallel with English Nouns, we do something similar with our Pronouns I/me or he/him etc. which we know instinctively how to use correctly. It would be absurd to say 'we praise he', and only someone with an insufficient grasp of English usage would say 'me give'. Now it is possible to see a correspondence between the way *Dominus* is used in Latin and the way we use 'he' in English; both indicate the person carrying out the action, as in *Dominus venit* ('The Lord cometh')

There is also a correspondence between *Dominum* and 'Him', both being used to complete the Verb as in *Laudamus Dominum* ('we praise the Lord', ie. Him).

There is a technical name for these changes; they are referred to as **Cases**, of which there are six to cover all the different situations you will meet.

Here are all the **Cases** you will need. Learn their names and see how they are used in different circumstances :



NOMINATIVE

1. **The Nominative Case** is used for the Noun or Pronoun which

- tells us who or what performs the action
- who or what exists

eg. *dicit Dominus* - the Lord saith
Dominus est Deus - the Lord is God



VOCATIVE

2. **The Vocative Case** is used when calling someone (occasionally something) by name
 eg. *Domine* - O Lord



ACCUSATIVE

3. **The Accusative Case** is used for the Noun which completes the meaning of the Verb
 eg. *laudamus Dominum* - we praise the Lord



GENITIVE

4. **The Genitive Case** expresses possession (equivalent to 's or 'of' in English) and tells us to whom a thing belongs, whether it be an item or an attribute.
 eg. *pax Domini* - the peace of the Lord



DATIVE

5. **The Dative Case** is most often associated with Verbs of giving, saying, showing etc. and indicates 'to' or 'for' a person or thing
 eg. *gratias agamus Domino* - let us give thanks to the Lord



ABLATIVE

6. **The Ablative Case** is used in a variety of ways according to the context which can be summarised loosely as indicating 'by', 'with' or 'from' someone or something
 eg. *cum Domino* - with the Lord

2.4 THE FIVE DECLENSIONS

Just as you saw in the previous Unit how all Verbs in Latin are grouped into categories each with its own distinctive pattern, so it is with Nouns which fall into five groups called **Declensions**.

Pay special attention to the **Nominative** and **Genitive Singular** forms underlined as both are usually given when referring to any Nouns. This helps to identify them more clearly as belonging to a particular Declension.

2.5 /1 1st Declension (fem.) ending in *-a* : ***terra, -ae*** (f) -earth, land

Case	Singular	Plural
Nom	<u><i>terra</i></u>	<i>terrae</i>
Voc.	<i>terra</i>	<i>terrae</i>
Acc.	<i>terram</i>	<i>terras</i>
Gen.	<u><i>terrae</i></u>	<i>terrarum</i>
Dat.	<i>terrae</i>	<i>terrīs</i>
Abl.	<i>terra</i>	<i>terrīs</i>

Note the short-hand way of reference to Nouns, eg. *terra, -ae* to indicate Nominative and Genitive Cases

2.5 /2 Gender

Nouns of the 1st Declension follow the above pattern and are said to be **Feminine**. This is an important consideration when it comes to matching them up later on with Adjectives. However there are a few Nouns of this group which are Masculine. These are usually connected with professions or callings eg :

<i>agricola</i> - farmer / vine-dresser	<i>Papa</i> - Pope
<i>propheta</i> - prophet	<i>Baptista</i> - the Baptist
<i>scriba</i> - scribe	<i>Evangelista</i> - Evangelist

Other nouns of the 1st Declension are :

<i>vita, -ae</i> - life	<i>Ecclesia, -ae</i> - Church
<i>stella, -ae</i> - star	<i>regina, -ae</i> - queen
<i>miser cordia, -ae</i> - mercy	<i>gratia, -ae</i> - grace (pl. thanks)
<i>anima, -ae</i> - soul (Dat. and Abl. Pl. <i>animabus</i>)	

Exercise 1 Choose the correct word from the shaded box to complete the sense :

1. <i>panis</i>	<i>vita</i> <i>vitis</i> <i>vitae</i>	- the Bread of Life
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2. <i>vidimus</i>	<i>stellas</i> <i>stellam</i> <i>stellae</i>	<i>ejus</i> - we have seen His star
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3. <i>lauda</i>	<i>anima</i> <i>animam</i> <i>animae</i>	<i>mea Dominum</i> - praise the Lord, O my soul
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4. <i>Joanni</i>	<i>Baptistam</i> <i>Baptistae</i> <i>Baptista</i>	- to John the Baptist
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5. <i>cum</i>	<i>Maria</i> <i>Mariae</i> <i>Mariam</i>	- with Mary
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2.6 /1 2nd Declension (masc.) ending in **-us** : **apostolus, -i** - apostle

Case	Singular	Plural.
Nom	<u>apostolus</u>	apostoli
Voc.	apostole	apostoli
Acc.	apostolum	apostolos
Gen.	<u>apostoli</u>	apostolorum
Dat.	apostolo	apostolis
Abl.	apostolo	apostolis

In the same way these 2nd Declension Nouns are formed :

<i>Christus, -i</i> - Christ <i>mundus, -i</i> - world <i>agnus, -i</i> - lamb <i>oculus, -i</i> - eye	<i>Dominus, -i</i> - Lord <i>cibus, -i</i> - food <i>angelus, -i</i> - angel <i>discipulus, -i</i> - disciple
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Exceptions

Deus - God (Voc. *Deus*)

Filius - Son (Voc. *fili*)

Jesus - (Nom. *Jesus*, Acc. *Jesum*, all other Cases *Jesu*)

2.6 /2 2nd Declension (masc.) ending in **-er** : **liber, libri** - book

Case	Singular	Plural.
Nom	<u>liber</u>	libri
Voc.	liber	libri
Acc.	librum	libros
Gen.	<u>libri</u>	librorum
Dat.	libro	libris
Abl.	libro	libris

Other 2nd Declension **-er** Nouns are :

<i>magister, magistri</i> - teacher <i>puer, -pueri</i> - boy	<i>ager, agri</i> - field
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Learn also

vir, viri - man

which has the same endings.

Exercise 2 Choose the correct word to complete the sentences :

1. <i>Laus tibi</i>	<i>Christe</i> <i>Christo</i> <i>Christi</i>	- Praise to Thee, O Christ
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2. <i>fides</i>	<i>Apostoli</i> <i>Apostolorum</i> <i>Apostolis</i>	- the faith of the Apostles
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Angelus

3.	<i>Angelum Angeli</i>	<i>Domini nuntiavit Mariae</i>	- The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary
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4.	<i>gratias agamus</i>	<i>Dominus Domino Dominum</i>	<i>Deo nostro</i> - let us give thanks to the Lord our God
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5.	<i>dixit Jesus</i>	<i>Discipuli Discipulos Discipulis</i>	<i>suis</i> - Jesus said to His disciples
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2.6 /3 2nd Declension (Neuter) ending in **-um** : *peccatum* - sin

Case	Singular	Plural.
Nom	<i>peccatum</i>	<i>peccata</i>
Voc.	<i>peccatum</i>	<i>peccata</i>
Acc.	<i>peccatum</i>	<i>peccata</i>
Gen.	<i>peccati</i>	<i>peccatorum</i>
Dat.	<i>peccato</i>	<i>peccatis</i>
Abl.	<i>peccato</i>	<i>peccatis</i>

Note that neuter Nouns have the same form in the Nom. Voc. and Acc.

Here are some other Neuter Nouns of the 2nd Declension which you will come across :

<i>Evangelium, -ii</i> - Gospel	<i>templum, -i</i> - temple
<i>principium, -ii</i> - beginning	<i>initium, -ii</i> - beginning
<i>vinum, -i</i> - wine	<i>donum, -i</i> - gift
<i>adjutorium, -ii</i> - help	<i>labium, -i</i> - lip
<i>regnum, -i</i> - kingdom	<i>debitum, -i</i> - debt
<i>sacrificium, -ii</i> - sacrifice	<i>refugium, -i</i> - refuge
<i>mysterium, -ii</i> - mystery	<i>saeculum, -i</i> - century, times
<i>mirabilium, -ii</i> - miracle, marvel	<i>auxilium, -ii</i> - help
<i>tabernaculum, -i</i> - tabernacle	<i>sacramentum, -i</i> - sacrament
<i>bellum, -i</i> - war	<i>testamentum, -i</i> - testament, witness
<i>tectum, -i</i> - roof	

2.6 /4 How it sounds

Remember to sound BOTH letters of the Gen. Sing. ending *-ii* separately from each other observing at the same time the correct rhythm.

eg. *Evangelii* (Ev-an- GEL- ee-ee)

Exercise 3 Match the following expressions in the left-hand column with its equivalent :

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. <i>Salve Regina</i> | a. thanks (be) to God |
| 2. <i>regnum coelorum</i> | b. Mother of mercy |
| 3. <i>Corpus Christi</i> | c. Lamb of God |
| 4. <i>Fili Dei vivi</i> | d. Queen of Heaven |
| 5. <i>peccata mundi</i> | e. the kingdom of Heaven |
| 6. <i>Agnus Dei</i> | f. the Lord be with you |
| 7. <i>Regina Coeli</i> | g. Body of Christ |
| 8. <i>Mater misericordiae</i> | h. the sins of the world |
| 9. <i>Deo gratias</i> | i. Hail (holy) Queen |
| 10. <i>Dominus vobiscum</i> | j. Son of the living God |

2.7 3rd Declension : *rex, regis* (m) - king

opus, operis (n) - work

	Sing.	Pl.
Nom.	<u>rex</u>	<i>reges</i>
Voc.	<i>rex</i>	<i>reges</i>
Acc.	<i>regem</i>	<i>reges</i>
Gen.	<u>regis</u>	<i>regum</i>
Dat.	<i>regi</i>	<i>regibus</i>
Abl.	<i>rege</i>	<i>regibus</i>

	Sing.	Pl.
Nom.	<u>opus</u>	<i>opera</i>
Voc.	<i>opus</i>	<i>opera</i>
Acc.	<i>opus</i>	<i>opera</i>
Gen.	<u>operis</u>	<i>operum</i>
Dat.	<i>operi</i>	<i>operibus</i>
Abl.	<i>opere</i>	<i>operibus</i>

Unlike the 1st and 2nd Declensions, the Nominative Singular of the 3rd Declension has a large variety of endings as can be seen below. Some Gen. Plurals end in **-ium**.

-as : *veritas, veritatis* - truth *majestas, majestatis* - majesty

-o : *fortitudo, fortitudinis* - strength, *multitudo, multitudinis* - crowd
-io : *oblatio, oblationis* - oblation *passio, passionis* - passion
resurrectio, resurrectionis - resurrection *remissio, remissionis* - remission

-en : **nomen, nominis* - name, **semen, seminis* - seed

-x ; *lex, legis* - law *crux, crucis* - cross
calix, calicis - chalice *pax, pacis* - peace

-us : **corpus, corporis* - body **scelus, sceleris* - wickedness
**pectus, pectoris* - chest, breast **munus, muneris* - gift
**opus, operis* - work **tempus, temporis* - time

-is : *sanguis, sanguinis* - blood *panis, panis* - bread

-or : *creator, creatoris* - creator *amor, amoris* -love
honor, honoris - honour *factor, factoris* - maker

-re : **altare, altaris* - altar **salutare, salutaris* - salvation

-er : *mulier, muleris* - woman *pater, patris* - father

-os : *flos, floris* - flower *sacerdos, sacerdotis* - priest

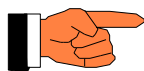
* NB These neuter Nouns have the same form for Nom. Voc. and Acc. Cases.

2.8 4th Declension : *manus, -us* (f) - hand

Spiritus, -us (m) - spirit

	Sing.	Pl.
Nom.	<u>manus</u>	<i>manus</i>
Voc.	<i>manus</i>	<i>manus</i>
Acc.	<i>manum</i>	<i>manus</i>
Gen.	<u>manus</u>	<i>manuum</i>
Dat.	<i>manui</i>	<i>manibus</i>
Abl.	<i>manu</i>	<i>manibus</i>

	Sing.	Pl.
Nom.	<u>spiritus</u>	<i>spiritus</i>
Voc.	<i>spiritus</i>	<i>spiritus</i>
Acc.	<i>spiritum</i>	<i>spiritus</i>
Gen.	<u>spiritus</u>	<i>spirituum</i>
Dat.	<i>spiritui</i>	<i>spiritibus</i>
Abl.	<i>spiritu</i>	<i>spiritibus</i>



-US

The problem with the ending **-us** is that Nouns of the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Declensions can have this for their Nominative Singular, as you have seen with *Dominus* (2nd), *corpus* (3rd) and *manus* (4th). In order to avoid confusion between Nouns of the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Declension whose Nominative Case ends in *-us*, take note of the Genitive Case in all instances as this is the key to distinguishing the different categories from each other.

Exercise 4 Judging from the Genitive Case in each instance say which Declension these **-us** Nouns belong to :

1. <i>domus, -us</i> - house	5. <i>puteus, -i</i> - well
2. <i>potus, -us</i> - drink	6. <i>vulnus, vulneris</i> - wound
3. <i>uterus, -i</i> - womb	7. <i>exercitus, -us</i> - army
4. <i>pecus, -oris</i> - cattle/herd	8. <i>famulus, -i</i> - (man)servant

2.9/1 5th Declension : *dies, diei* (m. or f.) - day

	Sing.	Pl.
Nom.	<i>dies</i>	<i>dies</i>
Voc.	<i>dies</i>	<i>dies</i>
Acc.	<i>diem</i>	<i>dies</i>
Gen.	<i>diei</i>	<i>dierum</i>
Dat.	<i>diei</i>	<i>diebus</i>
Abl.	<i>die</i>	<i>diebus</i>

2.9/2 Gender

All Nouns of the 5th Declension are **Feminine** except *dies* which is usually masculine, but in exceptional circumstances i.e. when it refers to a special day such as the Day of Judgement, (as in *Dies irae, dies illa...*) it is feminine.

Other relevant Nouns of the 5th Declension are :

<i>spes, spei</i> - hope	<i>fides, fidei</i> - faith
<i>res, rei</i> - thing, affair	<i>requies, requiei</i> - rest
<i>species, speciei</i> - appearance, beauty; species	<i>facies, faciei</i> - face

Exercise 5 Say which Case the underlined words belong to.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <i>Angeli eorum in caelis semper vident <u>faciem</u> Patris mei</i> | Their angels in heaven always see the face of My Father |
| 2. <i>Mysterium <u>Fidei</u></i> | The Mystery of Faith |
| 3. <i>Surrexit Christus <u>spes</u> mea</i> | Christ my hope has risen |
| 4. <i><u>Requiem</u> aeternam dona eis, Domine</i> | Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord |
| 5. <i>sub <u>specie</u> aeternitatis</i> | in the light (lit. under the appearance of) eternity |

Vocabulary

<i>pars, partis</i> - part, area	<i>quem</i> - whom
<i>interrogabat</i> - he asked	<i>dixerunt</i> - they said
<i>caro, carnis</i> - flesh, meat	<i>alii...alii</i> - some...others
<i>pater, patris</i> - father	<i>petra, -ae</i> - rock
<i>porta, -ae, -ae</i> - door, gate	<i>inferum, -i</i> - hell
<i>clavis, clavis</i> - key	<i>Petrus, -i</i> - Peter
<i>aedificabo</i> - I will build	<i>non prevalebunt</i> - they shall not prevail
<i>dabo</i> - I will give	<i>adversus eam</i> - against it

Reading Practice

Venit Jesus in partes Caesareae Phillipi, et interrogabat discipulos suos, dicens : Quem dicunt homines esse Filium hominis? At illi dixerunt : Alii Joannem Baptistam, alii autem Eliam, alii vero Jeremiam, aut unum ex prophetis. Dicit illis Jesus : Vos autem quem me esse dicitis? Respondens Simon Petrus, dixit : Tu es Christus, Filius Dei vivi. Respondens autem Jesus, dixit ei: Beatus es, Simon Bar Jona : quia caro et sanguis non revelavit tibi, sed Pater meus , qui in coelis est. Et ego dico tibi, quia tu es Petrus, et super hanc petram aedificabo Ecclesiam meam, et portae inferi non prevaletur adversus eam. Et tibi dabo claves regni coelorum.

Jesus came into the quarters of Caesarea Phillipi, and He asked His disciples, saying, Whom do men say that the Son of Man is? But they said : Some, John the Baptist, and other some Elias, and others Jeremias, or one of the prophets. Jesus saith to them : But whom do you say that I am? Simon Peter answered, and said : Thou art Christ, Son of the living God. And Jesus answering said to him : Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-Jona, because flesh and blood hath not revealed it to thee, but My Father who is in heaven : and I say to thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it ; and to thee I will give the keys of the kingdom of heaven.