

Grammar: The second declension

Overview

The fourth declension is the fourth group of nouns, grouped according to their similar pattern of endings. For the other declensions, go to the appropriate page:

1st declension

3rd declension

4th declension

5th declension

Second declension nouns can be masculine or neuter.

Summary of basic case endings

Nominative	subject	what does the verb
Accusative	(direct) object	what the verb is done to
Genitive		'of'
Dative:	(indirect object)	'to, for'
Ablative:		'by, with, from'

Declension tables

Masculine

servus, servi (m) - slave

Case	sing.	pl.
Nom.	servus	servi
Voc.	serve	servi
Acc.	servum	servos
Gen.	servi	servorum
Dat.	servo	servis
Abl.	servo	servis

Notice that there is an extra case here between the nominative and accusative. This is the vocative, and is used to address someone or something.

Masculine Variation

There are a few masculine nouns that end in *-r* and not *-us*. Two of the most common ones are *puer* (boy) and *vir* (man). They decline as follow:

Case	sing.	pl.
Nom.	puer	pueri
Acc.	puerum	pueros
Gen.	pueri	puerorum
Dat.	puero	pueris
Abl.	pueri	pueris
Case	sing.	pl.
Nom.	vir	virī
Acc.	virum	viros
Gen.	virī	virorum
Dat.	viro	virīs
Abl.	viro	virīs

N.B. Note the endings of *vir* carefully so that you do not confuse them with the third declension word *vis*.

Neuter

templum, templi (n) - temple

Case	sing.	pl.
Nom.	templum	templa
Acc.	templum	templa
Gen.	temple	templorum
Dat.	templo	templis
Abl.	templo	templis

Note that the nominative and accusative . Also note that all neuter plural nominatives (whatever declension) end in *-a*.

Examples drawn from the exercises

Locate the second declension noun in each sentence and identify its number, gender and case.

The number after each question indicates the exercise from which it has been drawn, so that you can look at the example in context.

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| 1. tenens in gremio ... | <i>Exercise 8</i> |
| 2. Quid est annus? | <i>Exercise 3</i> |
| 3. sed etiam omnium oculo in semet haud inmerito
convertit. | <i>Exercise 10</i> |
| 4. qui ex reliquis excellit | <i>Exercise 11</i> |
| 5. inde loci mortalia saecla creavit ... | <i>Exercise 9</i> |
| 6. veniat regnum tuum | <i>Exercise 2</i> |
| 7. scandit fatalis machina muros feta armis ... | <i>Exercise 1</i> |
| 8. Surgent venti. | <i>Exercise 5</i> |
| 9. crescit in dies singulos hostium numerus; | <i>Exercise 7</i> |
| 10. si istius furorem ac tela vitemus. | <i>Exercise 7</i> |

Further examples

What case could the following be in? You will need to look up and give the gender.

Bella	portum	filio
coqui	rostrum	Quinte
populi	liber	vinculis
gladios		