

Second Declension Nouns

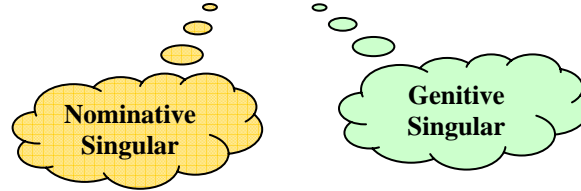
QUESTION

How do I know if a noun belongs to the 2nd declension?

ANSWER:

The noun's genitive singular will end in *-i*. When learning vocabulary words, one memorizes the nominative singular, the genitive singular, and the gender of each noun:

for example: *gladius, gladii* "sword" M.



How do I arrive at the stem of a noun?

Start with the genitive singular of the noun, and then drop off its case ending (for the second declension this is *-i*).

for example: *saxum, saxi* "stone"

sax /i
sax-

Thus, *sax-* is the noun stem. To this stem we can add the other case endings.

What are all of the case endings for a second declension noun?

They are:

Cases	MASCULINE NOUNS		Cases	NEUTER NOUNS	
	Singular	Plural		Singular	Plural
nominative	<i>-us</i> *	<i>-i</i>	nominative	<i>-um</i>	<i>-a</i>
genitive	<i>-i</i>	<i>-orum</i>	genitive	<i>-i</i>	<i>-orum</i>
dative	<i>-o</i>	<i>-is</i>	dative	<i>-o</i>	<i>-is</i>
accusative	<i>-um</i>	<i>-os</i>	accusative	<i>-um</i>	<i>-a</i>
ablative	<i>-o</i>	<i>-is</i>	ablative	<i>-o</i>	<i>-is</i>

Thus, one declines a noun by taking:

noun stem + case ending

* Some masculine singular nouns have a nominative form ending in *-r* or *-er*. ALWAYS use this form — learned as a vocabulary item — instead of the usual *-us* ending for the nominative singular

Cases with similar endings indicated in blue, red, green, and violet.