

First Declension Nouns

QUESTION

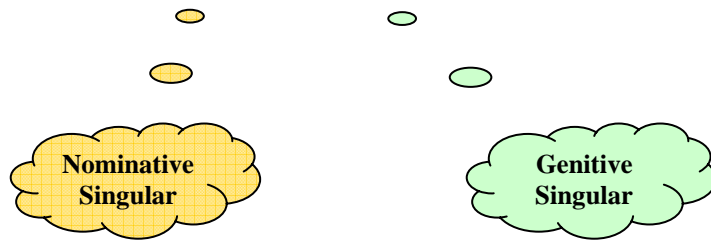
How do I know if a noun belongs to the 1st declension?

ANSWER:

The noun's genitive singular will end in *-ae*. When learning vocabulary words, one memorizes the:

1. nominative singular,
2. the genitive singular,
3. and the gender of each noun:

for example: *insula, insulae* Feminine — “island”



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 first declension this is *-ae*).

for example: *insula, insulae* “island”

insul /ae
insul-

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

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

They are:

Cases	Singular	Plural
nominative	<i>-a</i>	<i>-ae</i>
genitive	<i>-ae</i>	<i>-arum</i>
dative	<i>-ae</i>	<i>-is</i>
accusative	<i>-am</i>	<i>-as</i>
ablative	<i>-a</i>	<i>-is</i>

Thus, one declines a noun by taking:

noun stem + case ending

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