

The Case Endings

Latin nouns have one of six case endings:

- Nominative
- Genitive
- Dative
- Accusative
- Ablative
- Vocative (or Imperative)

CASE NAME	USE... ¹	USUALLY TRANSLATED...
Nominative	When the noun is the subject, predicate nominative, or in apposition to the subject	
Genitive	When the noun is dependent upon another noun, as in possession	With the English preposition “of”
Dative	When the noun is the indirect object	With the English prepositions “to” or “for”
Accusative	When the noun is the direct object (or the object of certain prepositions)	
Ablative	When the noun indicates separation, manner, a motion away from, location, instrumentality, agency	With the English prepositions “from,” “with,” “in,” and “by” Latin prepositions: <i>cum</i> “with” <i>de</i> “concerning,” “about,” “from” <i>e</i> or <i>ex</i> ² “out of,” “from” <i>in</i> “in,” “on” [place where]
Vocative	When the noun is used in direct address	

¹ As you progress in your understanding of the Latin you will see that all of the cases, except for the vocative, have multiple uses.

² Use *e* before a consonant, *ex* before a vowel