

Second Declension Nouns

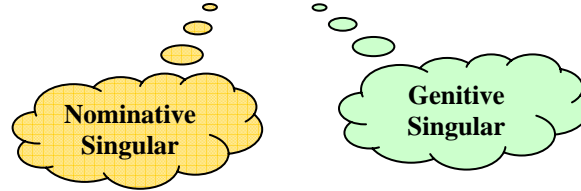
QUESTION

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.