

*Ars compensabit, quod vis tibi magna negabit.*<sup>1</sup>

# First Declension Nouns

## Ablative Case (singular)



On the page 8 of *Latin Without Tears* you will find an explanation of the ablative case with some examples. We are studying the group of nouns known as the First Declension. In First Declension singular nouns, the ending for the ablative case, ...*â* (more usually written *â* nowadays), is similar to the ending for the nominative. However the nominative case ends with a short *ă*. Since many editions of the classics do not give any diacritical marks at all, the case must often be decided by context. Notice that the endings are pronounced differently. The ablative ending is a long *a* as in “say.” The nominative ending is a short *a* as in “cat.” This difference is important in Latin poetry and you will need to observe it carefully.

Do not worry about learning the vocabulary in *Latin Without Tears*. Learn the vocabulary lower down this page instead. Enjoy making some sentences of your own by shuffling the words around. Remember to make sure that the endings of the nouns are correct, though. You need the *-a* ending for the subject and the *-am* ending for the object, the *-ae* ending for the genitive or the dative and the long *-a* ending for the ablative. Listen to the audio on the *Mothers' Companion* flash drive to get the correct pronunciation unless you have someone helping you who knows how to pronounce Latin.

Here are three more nouns in the nominative case to learn from the IGCSE vocabulary list. If you wish to use one of these words as the object in a sentence you will need to change the ending from *a* to *am*. If you wish to use a noun in the genitive case or the dative case remember to change the ending to *ae*. In a dictionary the nominative singular is given followed by the genitive singular. This is because the genitive singular indicates which group or declension a noun belongs to. The nouns with genitive singular *ae* are all in the First Declension. The nominative and genitive singular forms of the nouns are shown here as they would be in a dictionary. The genitive singular is given because from it we can determine to which of the groups or declensions of nouns any word belongs. All first declension nouns have a genitive singular ending *ae*

*aqua, aquae* – water (AK- wa, AK-oo-eye)

Bible example:

*quindecim cubitis altior fuit aqua super montes quos operuerat* (Genesis 7:20)

*pugna, pugnae* – battle, fight (POOG-na, POOG-n-eye)

Bible example:

*et salvavit Dominus in die illa Israhel pugna autem pervenit usque Bethaven* (I Samuel 14:23)

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<sup>1</sup> Skill makes up for that which you lack in strength.

*Roma, Romae* – Rome (ROAM-a, ROAM-eye)

Bible example:

*his autem expletis posuit Paulus in Spiritu transita Macedonia et Achaia ire Hierosolymam dicens quoniam postquam fuero ibi oportet me et **Romam** videre* (Acts 19:21)

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Some new first conjugation verbs.

*aedificare* – to build

*occupare* – to seize, to occupy, to attack

*putare* – I think

With these you can make sentences such as: *femina Romam occupat.*

**Always write the vocabulary words in your indexed note book.**

Experiment with your vocabulary and see what you can do.