

*Silent enim leges inter arma.*<sup>1</sup>

## Plural First Declension Nouns



In the middle of page 10 of *Latin Without Tears* you are introduced to the plural form<sup>2</sup> of first declension nouns. Notice that in the two word sentences that are given as examples the ending of the verb has changed from ...*at* to ...*ant*. This is because the subject is plural. *Volant, ululant*, etc. would be complete sentences of one word only in Latin and they would mean “They fly,” “They howl,” etc. When the subject is plural the ending of the verb has to be changed to ...*ant*. Study the examples on page 11 and the top of page 12.

NB:- At the moment we are using only verbs in the group called the First Conjugation in Latin and we are only using the present tense. If you are not sure what is meant by *tenses of verbs*, revise using your usual English textbook or look here for a quick summary:  
[https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tense\\_\(grammar\)](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tense_(grammar)).

By now you should know the little song which teaches the cases in their order and function. (Volume 5 of the *Mothers' Companion, Latin Without Tears, View Song Files*.) **This song is invaluable so be sure to get it by heart.**

Here are three more nouns in the nominative case to learn from the IGCSE vocabulary list. The nominative and genitive singular are shown as you would find in a dictionary.

*ancilla, ancillae* slave-girl, maid (ann-KILL-ah, ann-KILL-eye)

Bible example:

*non concupisces uxorem proximi tui non domum non agrum non servum non **ancillam** non bovem non asinum et universa quae illius sunt* (Deuteronomy 5:21)

(Accusative singular example)

*filia, filiae* daughter (FEEL-ee-ah, FEEL-ee-eye)

Bible example:

*et erit in novissimis diebus dicit Dominus effundam de Spiritu meo super omnem carnem et prophetabunt filii vestri et **filiae** vestrae et iuvenes vestri visiones videbunt et seniores vestri somnia somniabunt* (Acts 2:17)

(Nominative plural example)

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<sup>1</sup> Laws are silent in times of war. (Cicero)

<sup>2</sup> A plural noun is one that indicates more than one thing usually shown by adding and “s” in English e.g. hat (singular) hats (plural).

*puella, puellae*          girl (poo-EL-ah, poo-EL-eye)

Bible example:

*dicebat recedite non est enim mortua **puella** sed dormit et deridebant eum* (Matthew 9:24)

Practice chanting your new words in the same pattern as *femina*. Look up the Bible verses in English and see how the words fit in. You can probably see some other words you can guess too – *bovem* and *asinum* for instance.

Some new first conjugation verbs.

*Intrare*          to enter (in-TRAR-ay)

Bible example:

*non quod **intrat** in os coinquinat hominem sed quod procedit ex ore hoc coinquinat hominem*  
(Matthew 15:11)

*sperare*          to I hope, to expect (spe-RAH-ray)

Bible example:

*gustate et videte quoniam suavis est Dominus, beatus vir qui **sperat** in eo* (Psalm 34:8)

In the English Bible we have trusteth (trusts) where Jerome has put *sperat*. The word *suavis* also does not mean “good.” Can you guess what it means? (Answer on next page.) Tremellius translated it, *Gustate et videte bonum esse Iehovam: beatus vir ille, qui se recipit ad eum*, which is much more like what we have in English.

Add your new words to your vocabulary notebook. Construct some sentences with your new words and use some you have already learnt too, remembering to change the verb ending to ...*ant* if you use a plural noun as in the examples on page 10 of *Latin Without Tears*. The more you play with the words the better you will understand the grammar.

Answer:

*Suavis* = sweet