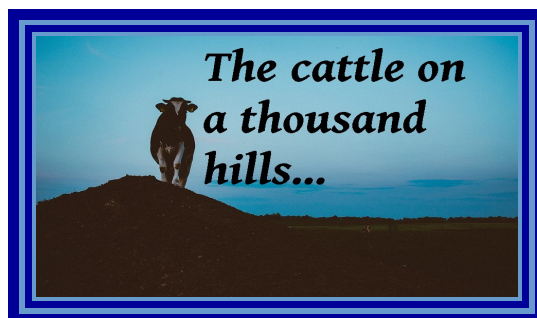


*Nescire autem quid antequam natus sis acciderit, id est semper esse puerum.*<sup>1</sup>

## Genitive Plural First Declension Nouns



In the middle of page 12 of *Latin Without Tears* you are introduced to the genitive plural form of first declension nouns. Notice the ...*arum* ending for genitive plural nouns. Study the examples given and then make some similar phrases yourself using the genitive plural of the vocabulary you have learned. You can mix it with the vocabulary presented in *Latin Without Tears* to make more interesting phrases if you like.

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. You can change the ending to ...*arum* to make the genitive plural in your own phrases.

*silva, silvae* – wood (silv-AH, sliv-EYE)

Bible example:

*quoniam meae sunt omnes ferae silvarum iumenta in montibus et boves* (Psalm 50:11)

Jerome's version seems strange here as the lovely expression “a thousand hills” seems to have gone missing! Tremellius has it in his translation although he uses a slightly different word for “forests” or “woods.”

*sagitta, sagittae* – arrow (sag-itt-AH, sag-it-EYE)

*hasta, hastae* – spear (hast-AH, hast-EYE)

Bible example:

*sol et luna steterunt in habitaculo suo; in luce sagittarum tuarum ibunt in splendore fulgurantis hastae tuae.* (Habakkuk 3:11)

Can you guess *sol* and *luna* before you look up the text in your Bible? You might get *habitaculo* too. Notice both vocabulary words are in this text. One is in the genitive singular form and one in the genitive plural. Which is which? (The answer is on the next page.) Notice that when you look up the English translation you will see that it is “...of **your** arrows” and “of **your** spear.” *Tuarum* is “your” in the genitive plural and “*tuae*” is “your” in the genitive singular. Notice that the endings match – they are ...*arum*. Notice too (in passing) that the Latin word order is different. An adjective or a possessive pronoun (your, my, his, hers etc.) follows the noun it qualifies in Latin. In English it proceeds it. We say “your spear” or “tall tree” but in Latin it is “spear your” and “tree tall”.

Add your new words to your vocabulary notebook. Remember: the more you play with the words the better you will understand the grammar.

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<sup>1</sup> Not to know what happened before you were born is to remain a child forever. (Cicero)

Answer:

*sagittarum* is plural and *hastae* is singular.