

*exempli gratia.*<sup>1</sup>

# Improving your indexed notebook: Conjugations and Declensions



Here we are at the beginning of the last term of Year One Grammar. Well done if you are still persevering – there has been a lot to learn. Don't forget to keep singing the little song about the meaning of the cases as you need to get that firmly fixed in your mind. You should have quite a collection of words in your indexed notebook by now and it is time to get them organised a little bit more. For this you will need some coloured highlighter pens (you will need five different colours) and some ordinary coloured felt tip pens with which you can highlight and underline words.

You know a number of verbs and a number of nouns and it is time we started to indicate in your indexed notebook which are which – and which conjugations and declensions they belong to. This will help you when you are doing your chanting. There are four conjugations (groups with similar patterns of endings) of verbs (and a few verbs that don't fit into the conjugation patterns exactly) and five declensions (groups with similar patterns of endings) of nouns. There is a good explanation of how the conjugations work with examples here:

<https://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/revision/classics/latin-conjugations>

and a good explanation of how the declensions work here:

<https://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/revision/classics/latin-declensions>.

So far we have only encountered the first conjugation verbs and the first and second declension nouns so looking at these web pages will not only help you revise what you know but also give you a peep into what is to come.

Choose two different colours of felt tip pen, say red and blue and underline the verbs in your indexed notebook in red and the nouns in blue. For the verbs you can then highlight them all in the same colour (e.g. yellow) since you only have first conjugation verbs in your notebook at the moment. For the nouns use yellow highlighter for first declension and orange for second declension. In a suitable place (e.g. the back cover) write a key listing the colours for underlining verbs and nouns and the colours for highlighting first conjugation verbs and first and second declension nouns. Leave space to add to the key as we move on to other conjugations and declensions.

You can now work through pages 59b-66 of *Latin Without Tears* which can be found on Volume 6 of the *Mothers' Companion* flashdrive.

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<sup>1</sup> For the sake of example. Abbreviated to e.g.

Here are two new words for your notebook. Remember to underline and highlight them as appropriate.

*Aedificare* (eye-diff-i-CAR-ay) build, to build up

First conjugation verb related to “edify.”

Bible example:

*omnia licent sed non omnia aedificant.* 1 Corinthians 10:23

Notice the ending of *aedificant* which shows you that the subject of the sentence is a plural noun. (Remember your chant!) It also shows you that it is about something happening now, in the present because it is in the present tense. You know *sed non. Omnia* you will meet later; it means “all”, “all things” or “everything.” “Licence” is a verb related to *licent*. Jerome's version of this well-know text then is “All things are allowed but not all things build up (= edify).”

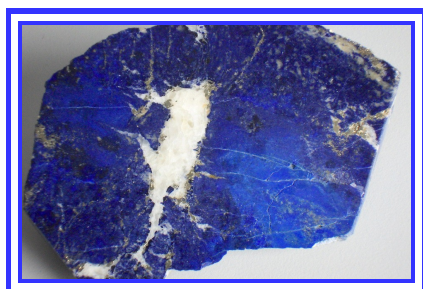
*donum* (DOUGH-numb) gift

Second declension neuter noun related to “donate,” “donor” and “donation.” There is a group of second declension nouns that have a nominative singular ending *um*. They are all neuter words, i.e. neither masculine nor feminine. They also have a slightly different pattern in the plural to second declension nouns ending in *us* or *er* – see for instance, *pirum* “a pear” which is set out on page 73 of *Latin Without Tears*. Nominative, vocative<sup>2</sup> and accusative plurals of second declension nouns ending in *um* all end in *a*.

Bible Example:

*et quibusdam dicentibus de templo quod lapidibus bonis et donis ornatum esset...* Luke 21:5a

*Donis* is in the ablative plural as you can guess from the ending. There are a few words you know here and others you might guess but I think you will have to look this one up before translating. Do you know what lapis lazuli is?<sup>3</sup> If so you might get *lapidibus*.



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2 Remember when looking at this example that *Latin Without Tears* does not give the vocative unless it is different from the Nominative. When you say your “chants” you should include the vocative to avoid confusion.

3 See the picture. The answer is here: [https://www.minerals.net/gemstone/lapis\\_lazuli\\_gemstone.aspx](https://www.minerals.net/gemstone/lapis_lazuli_gemstone.aspx)