

Year 2 Term 2 Week 1 Day 1
Grammar: fourth declension nouns.



We now move to Volume 9 of the *Mothers' Companion* flashdrive. *Latin Without Tears* pages 163-164a explains the group of nouns that belong to the fourth declension. It is easy to confuse these nouns with second declension nouns because the nominative singular ends in *us* as does the nominative singular of the second declension. The thing to notice is the genitive singular ending – also *us* – but notice the line over the top indicating a long *u* as in “tube.” Remember when chanting these nouns that you must include the vocative – which is the same as the nominative so *portus* for example goes: *portus, portus, portum, portus portui portu; portu, portu, portus, portuum, portubus, portubus.*

Portus, exercitus and *metus* are on your IGCSE word list and should go into your notebook. From the words on page 163 can you say what kind of water is “potable water?” Answer on the last page.

Portus “port “ or “haven”

Bible example:

et vix iuxta navigantes, venimus in locum quendam qui vocatur “Boni Portus” cui iuxta erat civitas Thalassa Acts 27:8

This is from the beginning of the account of Paul's journey as a prisoner which was to end in a ship wreck. *Iuxta* is “near” or “close to” *vix* is “with difficulty.” *Venimus* is part of a fourth conjugation

verb (we haven't got to them yet!) *venire* "to come." It is in the present tense (although it makes sense to translate it in the past). You will be able to guess the person from the endings of other conjugations you know. You can put it into your notebook. Look at the ending of the verb *vocatur*. What do you notice about it? (Answer on last page.) *Thalassa* is called Lasea in our English Bible.

Exercitus – "army" or "forces" Which legion is marching in the picture of a Roman army above? (Answer on the last page.)

Bible Example

et exercitus qui sunt in caelo sequebantur eum in equis albis vestiti byssinum album mundum.

Revelation 19:14.

Looking at the verb *sunt* here we can see that *exercitus* is plural – armies. *In caelo* tells you where the armies are. If you are feeling clever you might look at the ending of *sequebantur* and say "aha! *ur* – passive!" However I'm sorry to say it isn't! There is a group of Latin verbs known as deponent verbs which although they look passive are active. *Sequor* means "I follow" and it is a verb on your IGCSE list. It is third declension so put it in your notebook ready for when we get on to third conjugation verbs. You can mark it "dep." for deponent. *Byssinus* is an unusual word meaning fine linen and you will guess *albis* and *album* if you think of the albumen of an egg. *Eum* "him" in this passage is the Lord Jesus Christ.

Potable water is drinkable water.

Vocatur – *ur* ending so passive. Not “called” but “is called.”

The picture shows a re-enactment involving the 11th Legion as you can deduce from the standard.

Legio undecima Claudia ("Claudius' Eleventh Legion") was a legion of the Imperial Roman army. XI Claudia dates back to the two legions (the other was the XIIth) recruited by Julius Caesar to invade Gallia in 58 BC, and it existed at least until the early 5th century. The emblem of the legion is not known; it could have been, as all of the Caesar's legions, the bull.