

## Year 2 Term 3 Week 8 Day 1

### Grammar: Consolidate the Five Noun Declensions

We have now covered all the basic grammar concepts needed for IGCSE and your task now is to be sure you can remember and use them. In this lesson I have set out what you need to know about nouns. I suggest you turn the summary of information below into a wall chart or poster – decorate it as colourfully as you can and set it out in whatever way is most helpful to you personally. If you are even slightly artistic nouns are easy to illustrate too! You can print out these pages, cut them out and paste them together or write out everything yourself – whatever suits you best. The finished results will help you with your chants and also provide a handy look-up table for reference when you are doing translation. All this will help the patterns of endings to stick in your mind.

**First Declension** (genitive singular: ...*ae*) usually feminine  
*femina* “woman”

Nominative	<i>femina</i>	<i>feminae</i>
Vocative	<i>femina</i>	<i>feminae</i>
Accusative	<i>feminam</i>	<i>feminas</i>
Genitive	<i>feminae</i>	<i>feminarum</i>
Dative	<i>feminae</i>	<i>feminis</i>
Ablative	<i>feminā</i>	<i>feminis</i>

Bible example:

*Vasthi quoque regina fecit convivium **feminarum** in palatio, ubi rex Assuerus manere consueverat.*

Esther 1:9

(*Cōnsuēscere* “to be accustomed/used to”)

## Second Declension (genitive singular: ...i) masculine or neuter

Second declension nouns have a nominative singular ending in *um* or *ur* if masculine and *um* if neuter. Most of the *ur* nouns drop the *e* later in the declension – *magister* becomes *magistrum* and so on not *magisterum* but a few, like *puer*, do not.

*servis* “slave”, *magister* “master”, *puer* “boy”, *bellum* “war”

	Masculine singular	Masculine plural	Masculine singular	Masculine plural	Masculine singular	Masculine plural	Neuter singular	Neuter plural
Nominative	<i>servus</i>	<i>servi</i>	<i>magister</i>	<i>magistri</i>	<i>puer</i>	<i>pueri</i>	<i>bellum</i>	<i>bella</i>
Vocative	<i>serve</i>	<i>servi</i>	<i>magister</i>	<i>magistri</i>	<i>puer</i>	<i>pueri</i>	<i>bellum</i>	<i>bella</i>
Accusative	<i>servum</i>	<i>servos</i>	<i>magistrum</i>	<i>magistros</i>	<i>puerum</i>	<i>pueros</i>	<i>bellum</i>	<i>bella</i>
Genitive	<i>servi</i>	<i>servorum</i>	<i>magistri</i>	<i>magistorum</i>	<i>pueri</i>	<i>puerorum</i>	<i>belli</i>	<i>bellorum</i>
Dative	<i>servo</i>	<i>servis</i>	<i>magistro</i>	<i>magistris</i>	<i>puero</i>	<i>pueris</i>	<i>bello</i>	<i>bellis</i>
Ablative	<i>servo</i>	<i>servis</i>	<i>magistro</i>	<i>magistris</i>	<i>puero</i>	<i>pueris</i>	<i>bello</i>	<i>bellis</i>

Bible example:

*erit enim tempus cum sanam doctrinam non sustinebunt sed ad sua desideria coacervabunt sibi*

***magistros*** *prurientes auribus* 2 Timothy 4:3

*sustinēre* “to endure”, *sanus* “sound in body/healthy” *dēsīderium* (second declension)

“longing/desire” *coacervāre* “heap up” *prūriēns* “itching”.

## Third Declension (genitive singular: ...is)

Third declension nouns are divided into two classes: Imparisyllabic or Increasing and Parisyllabic or Non-increasing. Imparisyllabic nouns such as *rex*, *nomen* and *ovis* have more syllables in the genitive singular than in the nominative singular. Parisyllabic nouns such as *cubile* have the same number of syllables in the genitive singular as they do in the nominative singular. Most parisyllabic nouns have a genitive plural which ends ...ium whereas the imparisyllabic nouns have a genitive plural ending ...um. Also notice the difference in the ablative singular ending of the neuter parisyllabic nouns compared to the others.

*rex* “king”, *nomen* “name”, *ovis* “sheep”, *cubile* “bed”

	Masculine, Feminine singular increasing	Masculine, Feminine plural increasing	Neuter singular increasing	Neuter plural increasing	Feminine singular non-increasing	Feminine plural non-increasing	Neuter singular non-increasing	Neuter plural non-increasing
Nominative	<i>rex</i>	<i>reges</i>	<i>nomen</i>	<i>nomina</i>	<i>ovis</i>	<i>oves</i>	<i>cubile</i>	<i>cubilia</i>
Vocative	<i>rex</i>	<i>reges</i>	<i>nomen</i>	<i>nomina</i>	<i>ovis</i>	<i>oves</i>	<i>cubile</i>	<i>cubilia</i>
Accusative	<i>regem</i>	<i>reges</i>	<i>nomen</i>	<i>nomina</i>	<i>ovem</i>	<i>oves</i>	<i>cubile</i>	<i>cubilia</i>
Genitive	<i>regis</i>	<i>regum</i>	<i>nominis</i>	<i>nominum</i>	<i>ovis</i>	<i>ovium</i>	<i>cubilis</i>	<i>cubilium</i>
Dative	<i>regi</i>	<i>regibus</i>	<i>nomini</i>	<i>nominibus</i>	<i>ovi</i>	<i>ovibus</i>	<i>cubili</i>	<i>cubilibus</i>
Ablative	<i>rege</i>	<i>regibus</i>	<i>nomine</i>	<i>nominibus</i>	<i>ove</i>	<i>ovibus</i>	<i>cubili</i>	<i>cubilibus</i>

Bible example:

*ego sum pastor bonus; bonus pastor animam suam dat pro ovibus* John 10:11

*Pastor* “shepherd”.

## Fourth Declension (genitive singular: ...*ūs*)

Notice that in the fourth declension the nominative singular **and** plural ends in ...*us*. There are no neuter nouns from this declension on the IGCSE syllabus, although such nouns do exist. It is easy to confuse nouns from this declension with those from the second declension. In the fourth declension, for instance, *gradus*<sup>1</sup> could be nominative plural or genitive singular as well as nominative singular. Words from the second declension with a *us* ending are always nominative singular.

The good news is that there are only seven nouns from the fourth declension on your IGCSE list:

<i>casus, casus</i> m.	“event, accident, misfortune”
<i>domus, domus</i> f.	“home”
<i>exercitus, exercitus</i> m.	“army”
<i>impetus, impetus</i> m.	“charge” in a military sense not a financial one!
<i>manus, manus</i> f.	“hand”
<i>metus, metus</i> m.	“fear”
<i>portus, portus</i> m.	“port”

If you learn to decline these fourth declension nouns you will not confuse them with second declension ones.

*gradus* “step”

	Masculine, singular	Masculine, plural
Nominative	<i>gradus</i>	<i>gradūs</i>
Vocative	<i>gradus</i>	<i>gradūs</i>
Accusative	<i>gradum</i>	<i>gradūs</i>
Genitive	<i>gradūs</i>	<i>graduūm</i>
Dative	<i>gradui</i>	<i>gradibus</i>
Ablative	<i>gradu</i>	<i>gradibus</i>

Bible example:

*in manibus tuis sortes meae, eripe me de manu inimicorum meorum et a persequentibus me.*

Psalm 31:15

*Sors* “lot/fate”, *ēripere* “to rescue, to snatch”, *persequentibus* “of those who persecute”.

Note: **Any** noun such as *feminā*, *magistro* or *iudice* which indicates a **person or persons** in the ablative is preceded by a preposition – as is *persequentibus* in this example. The same applies to proper names in the ablative.

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1 The helpful diacritical marks over the letters are not present in most modern Latin texts or on your exam paper.

## Fifth Declension (genitive singular: ...*ēī*)

There are **only four** words from the fifth declension on the IGCSE syllabus:

*dies, diei* This word can be m. or f. “day”  
*fides, fidei* f. “faith”  
*res, rei* f. “thing, matter”  
*spes, spei* f. “hope”

	Masculine/feminine, singular	Masculine/feminine, plural
Nominative	<i>diēs</i>	<i>diēs</i>
Vocative	<i>diēs</i>	<i>diēs</i>
Accusative	<i>diem</i>	<i>diēs</i>
Genitive	<i>diēī</i>	<i>diērum</i>
Dative	<i>diēī</i>	<i>diēbus</i>
Ablative	<i>diē</i>	<i>diēbus</i>

Bible example:

*nunc autem manet fides, spes, caritas tria haec, maior autem his est caritas* I Corinthians 13:13