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Second Declension Neuters; Adjectives; Present Indicative of Sum; Predicate Nouns and Adjectives; Substantive Adjectives

SECOND DECLENSION—NEUTERS

In the first declension there are no nouns of neuter gender but in the second declension there are many. They are declined as follows, again by adding endings to a base:

	dōnum, <i>gift</i>	cōnsilium, <i>plan</i>	magnum, <i>great</i>	
Base:	dōn-	cōnsili-	magn-	Endings
Singular				
<i>Nom.</i>	dōnum	cōnsilium	mágnūm	-um
<i>Gen.</i>	dōnī	cōnsiliī ¹	mágnī	-ī
<i>Dat.</i>	dōnō	cōnsiliō	mágnō	-ō
<i>Acc.</i>	dōnum	cōnsilium	mágnūm	-um
<i>Abl.</i>	dōnō	cōnsiliō	mágnō	-ō

¹ The gen. sg. of second declension nouns ending in **-ius** or **-ium** was spelled with a single **-ī** (*filius*, gen. *filī*; *cōnsilium*, gen. *cōnsiliī*) through the Ciceronian Period. However,

Plural

<i>Nom.</i>	dōna	cōnsília	mágha	-a
<i>Gen.</i>	dōnōrum	cōnsiliōrum	magnōrum	-ōrum
<i>Dat.</i>	dōnīs	cōnsiliīs	magnīs	-īs
<i>Acc.</i>	dōna	cōnsília	mágha	-a
<i>Abl.</i>	dōnīs	cōnsiliīs	magnīs	-īs

Notice that the second declension neuter endings are the same as the masculine endings, except that the nominative, accusative, and vocative are identical to one another (this is true of all neuters of all declensions): **-um** in the singular, **-a** in the plural. Word order and context will often enable you to distinguish between a neuter noun used as a subject and one used as an object (vocatives are even more easily distinguished, of course, as they are regularly set off from the rest of the sentence by commas). The plural **-a** ending might be mistaken for a first declension nominative singular, so you can see again how important it is to memorize all vocabulary entries completely, including the gender of nouns. Regular second declension neuters will be presented in the vocabularies in the following abbreviated form: **dōnum, -ī** (= **dōnum, dōnī**), n.

DECLENSION AND AGREEMENT OF ADJECTIVES

The paradigms of **magnus** presented in Chs. 2–4 have illustrated the point that, while the base remains constant, the adjective has masculine, feminine, or neuter endings according to the gender of the noun with which it is used, and it likewise agrees with its noun in number and case. The full declension of **magnus** below provides a good review of the first two declensions.

	Masc.	Fem.	Neut.
Singular			
<i>Nom.</i>	mághus	mágha	mághum
<i>Gen.</i>	mágnī	mághae	mágnī
<i>Dat.</i>	mágnō	mághae	mágnō
<i>Acc.</i>	mághum	mágham	mághum
<i>Abl.</i>	mágnō	mághā	mágnō
<i>Voc.</i>	mágha	mágha	mághum

since the genitive form **-ī** (**filī**, **cōnsiliī**) became established during the Augustan Period and since **-ī** was always the rule in adjectives (**eximius**, gen. **eximī**), this is the form which will be employed in this text.

Plural

<i>Nom.</i>	mágnī	mágnae	mágnā
<i>Gen.</i>	magnórum	magnárum	magnórum
<i>Dat.</i>	mágnīs	mágnīs	mágnīs
<i>Acc.</i>	magnōs	mágnās	mágnā
<i>Abl.</i>	mágnīs	mágnīs	mágnīs
<i>Voc.</i>	mágnī	mágnae	mágnā

Henceforth, such first and second declension adjectives will appear thus in the vocabularies:

méus, -a, -um múltus, -a, -um paúcī, -ae, -a (pl. only)

Sum: PRESENT INFINITIVE AND PRESENT INDICATIVE

As the English verb *to be* is irregular, so is the Latin **sum**. Although the personal endings can be distinguished, the stem varies so much that the best procedure is to memorize these very common forms as they are given. Notice that, because **sum** is an intransitive linking verb, we do not refer to its voice as either active or passive.

PRESENT INFINITIVE OF Sum: esse, to be

PRESENT INDICATIVE OF Sum

Singular

1. sum, *I am*
2. es, *you are*
3. est, *he (she, it) is, there is*

Plural

- súmus, *we are*
éstis, *you are*
sunt, *they are, there are*

PREDICATE NOUNS AND ADJECTIVES

As an intransitive verb, **sum** cannot take a direct object. Instead, like a coupling which connects two cars in a train, **sum** (and other linking verbs to be learned later) serves to connect the subject of a clause with a noun or adjective in the predicate². Such predicate nouns and adjectives—or “predicate nominatives,” as they are often called—are connected or even equated

²The two main divisions of a sentence are the subject and the predicate. The predicate is composed of the verb and all its dependent words and phrases.

with the subject by the linking verb, and so they naturally agree with the subject in number and case (usually the nominative, of course) and, wherever possible, in gender as well. In the case of compound subjects of different gender, a predicate adjective usually agrees in gender with the nearest, though the masculine often predominates. Study the following examples, and be prepared to identify the predicate nouns and adjectives in the chapter's sentences and reading passage.

Vergilius est amīcus Augustī, *Virgil is the friend of Augustus.*

Vergilius est poēta, *Virgil is a poet.*

Vergilius est magnus, *Virgil is great.*

Fāma Vergiliī est magna, *the fame of Virgil is great.*

Amīcae sunt bonae, *the girlfriends are good.*

Puerī dēbent esse bonī, *the boys ought to be good.*

Puer et puella sunt bonī, *the boy and girl are good.*

Dōnum est magnum, *the gift is large.*

Dōna sunt magna, *the gifts are large.*

Sumus Rōmānī, *we are Romans (Roman men).*

Sumus Rōmānae, *we are Roman women.*

SUBSTANTIVE ADJECTIVES

The Romans often used an adjective as a “substantive,” i.e., in place of a noun, just as we do in English (“The meek shall inherit the earth”—i.e., “the meek *people*”). Such a substantive adjective should generally be translated as a noun, often by supplying *man* or *men*, *woman* or *women*, *thing* or *things*, in accordance with its number and gender, as illustrated in the following examples:

Bonās saepe laudant, *they often praise the good women.*

Multī sunt stultī, *many (men) are foolish.*

Puerī mala nōn amant, *the boys do not love bad things.*

Paucī dē periculō cōgitant, *few (men) are thinking about the danger.*

VOCABULARY

bāsium, -iī (= **bāsīī**), n., *kiss*

béllum, -i, n., *war* (bellicose, belligerent, rebel, rebellion, revel)

cōnsílium, -iī, n., *plan, purpose, counsel, advice, judgment, wisdom* (counsel, counselor)

cúra, -ae, f., *care, attention, caution, anxiety* (cure, curator, curious, curiosity, curio, curettage, sinecure; cp. **cūrō**, Ch. 36)

dōnum, -i, n., *gift, present* (donate, donation, condone; cp. **dō**)

- exítium**, -ī, n., *destruction, ruin* (exit; cp. **exeō**, Ch. 37)
magíster, **magístrī**, m., and **magístra**, -ae, f., *schoolmaster* or *schoolmistress, teacher, master* or *mistress* (magistrate, magistracy, magisterial, maestro, mastery, mister, miss; cp. **magnus**)
móra, -ae, f., *delay* (moratorium, demur)
níhil, indeclinable, n., *nothing* (see Ch. 1)
óculus, -ī, m., *eye* (ocular, oculist, binoculars, monocle)
offícium, -ī, n., *duty, service* (office, officer, official, officious; cp. **faciō**, Ch. 10)
ótiūm, -ī, n., *leisure, peace* (otiose, negotiate)
perícūlum, -ī, n., *danger, risk* (peril, perilous, imperil, parlous)
remédium, -ī, n., *cure, remedy* (remedial, irremediable, remediation)
béllus, -a, -um, *pretty, handsome, charming* (belle, beau, beauty, embellish, belladonna, belles-lettres). Do not confuse with **bellum**, *war*.
bónus, -a, -um, *good, kind* (bonus, bonanza, bonny, bounty, bona fide)
hūmánus, -a, -um, *pertaining to man* (**homō**, Ch. 7), *human; humane, kind; refined, cultivated* (humanity, humanitarian, humanism, the humanities, humanist, inhuman, superhuman)
málus, -a, -um, *bad, wicked, evil* (malice, malicious, malign, malignant, malaria, malady, malefactor, malfeasance, malevolent; mal-, a prefix as in maladjustment, malnutrition, maltreat, malapropos)
párvus, -a, -um, *small, little* (parvovirus, parvule, parvicellular)
stúltus, -a, -um, *foolish*; **stúltus**, -ī, m., *a fool* (stultify, stultification)
vérus, -a, -um, *true, real, proper* (verify, verisimilitude, very, veracity)
iúvō (or **ádiuvō**), **iuvāre**, **iúvī**, **iútum**, *to help, aid, assist; please* (adjutant, coadjutant, aid, aide-de-camp)
sum, **esse**, **fūī**, **futūrum**, *to be, exist* (essence, essential, future, futurity)

PRACTICE AND REVIEW

1. Ōtium est bonum, sed ōtium multōrum est parvum.
2. Bella (from **bellum**, -ī, n.) sunt mala et multa perícula habent.
3. Offícium nautam dē ōtiō hodiē vocat.
4. Paucī virī avārī multās fōrmās perículī in pecūniā vident.
5. Sī multam pecūniam habētis, saepe nōn estis sine cūrīs.
6. Puellae magístram dē cōnsiliō malō sine morā monent.
7. Ō magne poēta, sumus vērī amīcī; mē iuvā, amābō tē!
8. Fēmina agricolae portam videt.
9. You (sg.) are in great danger.
10. My son's opinions are often foolish.
11. The daughters and sons of great men and women are not always great.
12. Without wisdom the sailors' good fortune is nothing and they are paying the penalty.

SENTENTIAE ANTĪQUAE

1. Fortūna est caeca. (*Cicero.—**caecus, -a, -um, blind.**)
2. Sī perīcula sunt vēra, īnfortūnātus es. (Terence.—**īnfortūnātus, -a, -um, unfortunate.**)
3. Salvē, Ō amīce; vir bonus es. (Terence.)
4. Nōn bella est fāma filiī tuī. (Horace.)
5. Errāre est hūmānum. (Seneca.—As an indeclinable neuter verbal noun, an infinitive can be the subject of a verb.)
6. Nihil est omnīnō beātum. (Horace—**omnīnō, adv., wholly.**—**beātus, -a, -um, happy, fortunate.**)
7. Remedium īrae est mora. (Seneca.)
8. Bonus Daphnis, amīcus meus, ōtium et vītā agricolae amat. (Virgil.—Daphnis is a pastoral character.)
9. Magistrī parvīs puerīs crūstula et dōna saepe dant. (Horace.—**crūstulum, -ī, cookie.**)
10. Amīcam meam magis quam oculōs meōs amō. (Terence.—**magis quam, more than.**)
11. Salvē, mea bella puella—dā mihi multa bāsia, amābō tē! (Catullus.—**mihi, dat., to me.**)
12. Īnfīnītus est numerus stultōrum. (Ecclesiastes.—**īnfīnītus, -a, -um = Eng.**)
13. Offīcium mē vocat. (Persius.)
14. Malī sunt in nostrō numerō et dē exitiō bonōrum virōrum cōgitant. Bonōs adiuvāte; cōservāte populum Rōmānum. (Cicero.—**nostrō, our.**)

THE RARITY OF FRIENDSHIP

Paucī virī vērōs amīcōs habent, et paucī sunt dignī. Amīcitiā vēra est praeclāra, et omnia praeclāra sunt rāra. Multī virī stultī dē pecūniā semper cōgitant, paucī dē amīcīs; sed errant: possumus valēre sine multā pecūniā, sed sine amīcitiā nōn valēmus et vīta est nihil.

(Cicero, *Dē Amīcitiā* 21.79–80.—**dignus, -a, -um, worthy, deserving.** **amīcitiā, -ae, friendship.**—**omnia, all [things].**—**praeclārus, -a, -um, splendid, remarkable.**—**rārus, -a, -um = Eng.**—**possumus, we are able.**)

ETYMOLOGY

Some Romance derivatives:

Latin	Italian	Spanish	French
oculus	occhio	ojo	œil
ōtium	ozio	ocio	oisiveté
perīculum	pericolo	peligro	péril

officium	officio	oficio	office
bonus	buono	bueno	bon
vērūs	vero	verdadero	vrai
magister	maestro	maestro	maître
bellus	bello	bello	belle
hūmānus	umano	humano	humain
beātus	beato	beato	béat
bāsium	bacio	beso	baiser
rārus	raro	raro	rare

LATĪNA EST GAUDIUM—ET ŪTILIS!

Salvē, amīce! There are countless Latin expressions in current English usage (remember **sub rosā?**); one of them, related to an adjective encountered in this chapter, is **rāra avis**, lit. *a rare bird*, but used for an exceptional or unusual individual or a rarity. The student of Latin in the United States was becoming a **rāra avis** in the 1960s and early 70s, but there has been a remarkable resurgence of interest since then. **Ergō**, *therefore*, is another Latin word that has come straight into English; ergo, you now know what Descartes meant in his *Discourse on Method* when he said **cōgitō ergō sum**. **Semper cōgitā, amīce, et valē!**



Cicero
Uffizi
Florence, Italy