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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Base:</th>
<th>dónum, gift</th>
<th>cōnsilium, plan</th>
<th>magnum, great</th>
<th>Endings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nom.</td>
<td>dónum</td>
<td>cōnsilium</td>
<td>mágnun</td>
<td>-um</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gen.</td>
<td>dōnī</td>
<td>cōnsiliī(^1)</td>
<td>mágnī</td>
<td>-ī</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dat.</td>
<td>dōnō</td>
<td>cōnsiliō</td>
<td>mágnō</td>
<td>-ō</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acc.</td>
<td>dónum</td>
<td>cōnsilium</td>
<td>mágnun</td>
<td>-um</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abl.</td>
<td>dōnō</td>
<td>cōnsiliō</td>
<td>mágnō</td>
<td>-ō</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^1\) The gen. sg. of second declension nouns ending in -lus or -ium was spelled with a single -i (fīlius, gen. fīli; cōnsilium, gen. cōnsili) through the Ciceronian Period. However,
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nom.</td>
<td>mágnus</td>
<td>mágna</td>
<td>máignum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gen.</td>
<td>mágnī</td>
<td>mágnae</td>
<td>mágnī</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dat.</td>
<td>mágnō</td>
<td>mágnae</td>
<td>mágnō</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acc.</td>
<td>mágnum</td>
<td>mágnam</td>
<td>máignum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abl.</td>
<td>mágnō</td>
<td>mágnā</td>
<td>mágnō</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voc.</td>
<td>mágne</td>
<td>mágna</td>
<td>mágnum</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

since the genitive form -īī (īīī, cōnsīliīī) became established during the Augustan Period and since -īī was always the rule in adjectives (exīnius, gen. exīniī), this is the form which will be employed in this text.
Plural
Nom. mágni mágnæe mágna
Gen. magnorum magnarum magnorum
Dat. māgnīs māgnīs māgnīs
Acc. māgnōs māgnās māgnīs
Abl. māgnīs māgnīs māgnīs
Voc. mágni mágnæe mágna

Henceforth, such first and second declension adjectives will appear thus in the vocabularies:
meus, -a, -um múltus, -a, -um paucē, -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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. sum, I am</td>
<td>súmus, we are</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. es, you are</td>
<td>éstis, you are</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. est, he (she, it) is, there is</td>
<td>sunt, they are, there are</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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 predicate\(^2\). Such predicate nouns and adjectives—or "predicate nominatives," as they are often called—are connected or even equated.

\(^2\)The 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 ( = bāsīi), n., kiss
bēllum, -ī, n., war (bellicose, belligerent, rebel, rebellion, revel)
cōnsilium, -iī, n., plan, purpose, counsel, advice, judgment, wisdom (counsel, counselor)
cūra, -ae, f., care, attention, caution, anxiety (cure, curator, curious, curiosity, curio, curettage, sinecure; cp. cūrō, Ch. 36))
dōnum, -ī, n., gift, present (donate, donation, condone; cp. dō)
exitium, -ii, n., destruction, ruin (exit; cp. exeō, Ch. 37)
magister, magistri, m., and magistra, -ae, f., schoolmaster or schoolmistress, teacher, master or mistress (magistrate, magistracy, magistrate, maestro, mastery, mister, miss; cp. magnus)
móra, -ae, f., delay (moratorium, demur)
nihil, indeclinable, n., nothing (see Ch. 1)
óculus, -i, m., eye (ocular, oculist, binoculars, monocle)
officium, -ii, n., duty, service (office, officer, official, officious; cp. faciō, Ch. 10)
ótium, -ii, n., leisure, peace (otiose, negotiate)
perículum, -i, n., danger, risk (peril, perilous, imperil, parlous)
remédium, -ii, 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 (homo, 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, -i, m., a fool (stultify, stultification)
vérus, -a, -um, true, real, proper (verify, verisimilitude, very, veracity)
iúvō (or ádíuvō), iuvāre, iūvī, iūtum, to help, aid, assist; please (adjutant, coadjutant, aid, aide-de-camp)
sum, ésse, fūi, futúrum, to be, exist (essence, essential, future, futurity)

PRACTICE AND REVIEW
1. Ótium est bonum, sed Ótium multōrum est parvum.
2. Bella (from bellum, -i, n.) sunt mala et multa perícula habent.
3. Officium nautam dē ötiō hodiē vocat.
4. Paucī virī avāri multās fōrmās perīculī in pecūniā vident.
5. Si multam pecūniām habētis, saepe nōn estis sine ĉūris.
6. Puellae magistrām 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 ANTIQUAE

1. Fortuna est caeca. (*Cicero.—caecus, -a, -um, blind.)
2. Si pericula sunt vera, infortunatus es. (Terence.—infortunatus, -a, -um, unfortunate.)
3. Salvē, Ō amīce; vir bonus es. (Terence.)
4. Nōn bella est faīma filī tuī. (Horace.)
5. Errāre est hūmnānum. (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 viītam agricolae amat. (Virgil.—Daphnis is a pastoral character.)
9. Magistrī parvīs puerīs crūstula et dōna saepe dant. (Horace.—crūstulum, -i, 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. Infinitus est numerus stultōrum. (Ecclesiastes.—infinitus, -a, -um = Eng.)
13. Officium tuē vocat. (Persius.)
14. Mali sunt in nostrō numerō et dē exitiō bonōrum virōrum cōgitant. Bonōs adiuvāte; cōnservāte populum Rōmānum. (Cicero.—nostrō, our.)

THE RARITY OF FRIENDSHIP


(Cicero, De Amicitia 21.79–80.—dignus, -a, -um, worthy, deserving. amīcitia, -ae, friendship.—omnia, all [things].—praeclārus, -a, -um, splendid, remarkable.—rārus, -a, -um = Eng.—possimus, we are able.)

ETYMOLOGY

Some Romance derivatives:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Latin</th>
<th>Italian</th>
<th>Spanish</th>
<th>French</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>oculus</td>
<td>occhio</td>
<td>ojo</td>
<td>œil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ōtium</td>
<td>ozio</td>
<td>ocio</td>
<td>oisiveté</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>periculum</td>
<td>pericolo</td>
<td>peligro</td>
<td>péril</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
There are countless Latin expressions in current English usage (remember sub rosa?); one of them, related to an adjective encountered in this chapter, is rara 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 rara avis in the 1960s and early 70s, but there has been a remarkable resurgence of interest since then. Ergo, 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 cogito ergo sum. Semper cogitā, amīce, et vale!

**LATĪNA EST GAUDIUM—ET ÚTILIS!**