

7

Third Declension Nouns

The third of Latin's five declensions contains nouns of all three genders with a great variety of nominative singular endings, but all characterized by the genitive singular in **-is**; because of this variety of gender and nominative form, it is especially important to memorize the full vocabulary entry (which in the chapter vocabularies will include the complete, unabbreviated genitive form—abbreviations will be used only in the notes). The declension itself is a simple matter, following the same principles already learned for first and second declension nouns: find the base (by dropping the genitive singular **-is**¹) and add the endings. Because the vocative is always identical to the nominative (with the sole exception of second declension **-us/-ius** words), it will not appear in any subsequent paradigms.

NOUNS OF THE THIRD DECLENSION

	rēx , m. <i>king</i>	virtūs , f. <i>merit</i>	homō , m. <i>man</i>	corpus , n. <i>body</i>	Case Endings	
Base	rēg-	virtūt-	homin-	corpor-	M./F.	N.
<i>Nom.</i>	rēx (rēg-s)	virtūs	hómō	córpus	—	—
<i>Gen.</i>	rēg-is	virtūtis	hóminis	córporis	-is	-is
<i>Dat.</i>	rēg-ī	virtūtī	hóminī	córpōrī	-ī	-ī
<i>Acc.</i>	rēg-em	virtūtem	hóminem	córpus	-em	—
<i>Abl.</i>	rēg-e	virtūte	hómine	córpore	-e	-e

¹ As has been pointed out before, English derivatives can also be helpful in remembering the base; e.g., **iter**, **itineris**, *journey*: itinerary; **cor**, **cordis**, *heart*: cordial; **custōs**, **custōdis**, *guard*: custodian.

<i>Nom.</i>	rēg-ēs	virtūtēs	hóminēs	córpora	-ēs	-a
<i>Gen.</i>	rēg-um	virtútum	hóminum	cóporum	-um	-um
<i>Dat.</i>	rēg-ibus	virtútibus	homínibus	corpóribus	-ibus	-ibus
<i>Acc.</i>	rēg-ēs	virtūtēs	hóminēs	córpora	-ēs	-a
<i>Abl.</i>	rēg-ibus	virtútibus	homínibus	corpóribus	-ibus	-ibus

GENDER

Rules have been devised to assist you in remembering the gender of the many third declension nouns, but, aside from the fact that those denoting human beings are masculine or feminine according to sense, the exceptions to most of the other rules are numerous.² The safest procedure is to learn the gender of each noun as you first encounter it.³

TRANSLATION

In translating (as well as declining), take very careful note of the fact that a third declension noun may be modified by a first or second declension adjective; e.g., *great king* in Latin is **magnus rēx**, **magnī rēgis**, etc., *true peace* is **vēra pāx**, **vērae pācis**, etc. While an adjective and noun must agree in number, gender, and case, the spelling of their endings will not necessarily be identical.

Because some of the endings of third declension nouns are identical to the endings of different cases of nouns in other declensions (e.g., the dative singular **-ī** is the same as the genitive singular and the masculine nominative plural in the second declension), it is absolutely essential when reading and translating not only to pay attention to word order and context but also to recognize a particular noun's declension. Again, meticulous study of the vocabulary is the key to success.

² However, the following rules have few or no exceptions:

Masculine

-or, -ōris (*amor, -ōris; labor, -ōris; arbor, tree*, is a principal exception)

-tor, -tōris (*victor, -tōris; scriptor, -tōris, writer*)

Feminine (including a large group of abstract nouns)

-tās, -tātis (*vēritās, -tātis, truth; libertās, -tātis*)

-tūs, -tūtis (*virtūs, -tūtis; senectūs, -tūtis, old age*)

-tūdō, -tūdinis (*multitūdō, -tūdinis; pulchritūdō, -tūdinis*)

-tiō, -tiōnis (*nātiō, -tiōnis; orātiō, -tiōnis*)

Neuter

-us (*corpus, corporis; tempus, temporis; genus, generis*)

-e, -al, -ar (*mare, maris, sea; animal, animālis*)

-men (*carmen, carminis; nōmen, nōminis*)

The gender of nouns following these rules will not be given in the notes.

³ A helpful device is to learn the proper form of some adjective like **magnus, -a, -um**, with each noun. This practice provides an easily remembered clue to the gender and is comparable to learning the definite article with nouns in Romance languages. For example: **magna virtūs, magnum corpus, magnus labor**.

VOCABULARY

- āmor, amōris**, m., *love* (amorous, enamored; cp. **amō**, **amīcus**)
cārmēn, cārmīnis, n., *song, poem* (charm)
cīvitās, cīvitātis, f., *state, citizenship* (city; cp. **cīvis**, Ch. 14)
cōrpus, cōrporis, n., *body* (corps, corpse, corpuscle, corpulent, corporal, corporeal, corporate, corporation, incorporate, corsage, corset)
hómō, hómīnis, m., *human being, man* (homicide, homage; homo sapiens, but not the prefix homo-; cp. **hūmānus** and **vir**)
lābor, labōris, m., *labor, work, toil; a work, production* (laboratory, be-labor, laborious, collaborate, elaborate; cp. **labōrō**, Ch. 21)
littera, -ae, f., *a letter of the alphabet; litterae, -ārum*, pl., *a letter (epistle), literature* (literal, letters, belles-lettres, illiterate, alliteration)
mōs, mōris, m., *habit, custom, manner; mōrēs, mōrum*, pl., *habits, morals, character* (mores, moral, immoral, immorality, morale, morose)
nōmen, nōminis, n., *name* (nomenclature, nominate, nominative, nominal, noun, pronoun, renown, denomination, ignominy, misnomer)
pāx, pācis, f., *peace* (pacify, pacific, pacifist, appease, pay)
rēgīna, -ae, f., *queen* (Regina, regina, reginal; cp. **regō**, Ch. 16)
rēx, rēgis, m., *king* (regal, regalia, regicide, royal; cp. **rajah**)
tēmpus, tēmporis, n., *time; occasion, opportunity* (tempo, temporary, contemporary, temporal, temporize, extempore, tense [of a verb])
tērra, -ae, f., *earth, ground, land, country* (terrestrial, terrace, terrier, territory, inter [verb], parterre, subterranean, terra cotta)
ūxor, uxōris, f., *wife* (uxorial, uxorious, uxoricide)
virgō, vīrginis, f., *maiden, virgin* (virgin, virginal, virginity, Virginia)
vīrtūs, virtūtis, f., *manliness, courage; excellence, character, worth, virtue* (virtuoso, virtuosity, virtual; cp. **vir**)
nōvus, -a, -um, *new; strange* (novel, novelty, novice, innovate)
post, prep. + acc., *after, behind* (posterity, posterior, posthumous, post mortem, P.M. = post meridiem, preposterous, post- as a prefix, post-graduate, postlude, postwar, etc.; cp. **postrēmum**, Ch. 40)
sub, prep. + abl. with verbs of rest, + acc. with verbs of motion, *under, up under, close to* (sub- or by assimilation suc-, suf-, sug-, sup-, sus-, in countless compounds: subterranean, suburb, succeed, suffix, suggest, support, sustain)
aúdeō, audēre, aūsus sum (the unusual third principal part of this “semi-deponent” verb is explained in Ch. 34), *to dare* (audacious, audacity)
nēcō (1), *to murder, kill* (internecine; related to **noceō**, Ch. 35, and **necro**- from Gk. **nekros**).

PRACTICE AND REVIEW

1. Secundās litterās discipulae herī vidēbās et dē verbīs tum cōgitābās.
2. Fēminae sine morā cīvitātem dē īnsidiīs et exitiō malō monēbunt.

3. Rēx et rēgīna igitur crās nōn audēbunt ibi remanēre.
4. Mōrēs Graecōrum nōn erant sine culpīs vitīisque.
5. Quādo hominēs satis virtūtis habēbunt?
6. Corpora vestra sunt sāna et animī sunt plēnī sapientiae.
7. Propter mōrēs hūmānōs pācem vērā nōn habēbimus.
8. Poteritne cīvītās perīcula temporum nostrōrum superāre?
9. Post bellum multōs librōs dē pāce et remediīs bellī vidēbant.
10. Officia sapientiamque oculīs animī possumus vidēre.
11. Without sound character we cannot have peace.
12. Many students used to have small time for Greek literature.
13. After bad times true virtue and much labor will help the state.
14. The daughters of your friends were dining there yesterday.

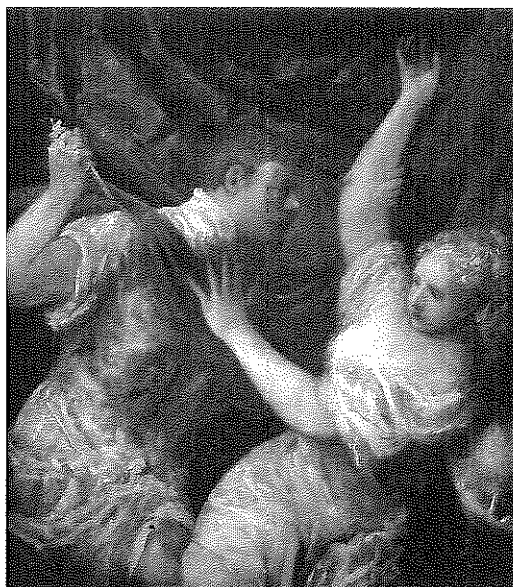
SENTENTIAE ANTĪQUAE

1. Homō sum. (*Terence.)
2. Nihil sub sōle novum (*Ecclesiastes.—**sōl, sōlis**, m., *sun*.—**novum**: sc. *est*.)
3. Carmina nova dē adulēscentiā virginibus puerīsque nunc cantō. (Horace.—**cantāre**, *to sing*.)
4. Laudās fortūnam et mōrēs antīquae plēbis. (*Horace.—**plēbs, plēbis**, f., *the common people*.)
5. Bonī propter amōrem virtūtis peccāre ōdērunt. (Horace.—**peccāre**, *to sin*.—**ōdērunt**, defective vb., 3d per. pl., *to hate*.)
6. Sub prīncipe dūrō temporibusque malīs audēs esse bonus. (Martian.—**prīnceps, -cipis**, m., *chief, prince*; **dūrus, -a, -um**, *hard, harsh*.)
7. Populus stultus virīs indignīs honōrēs saepe dat. (Horace.—**honor, -nōris**, *honor, office*.—**indignus, -a, -um**, *unworthy*.)
8. Nōmina stultōrum in parietibus et portīs semper vidēmus. (Cicero.—The desire to scribble names and sentiments in public places is as old as antiquity!—**pariēs, -etis**, m., *wall of a building*.)
9. Ōtium sine litterīs mors est. (*Seneca.—**mors, mortis**, f., *death*.)
10. Multae nātiōnēs servitūtem tolerāre possunt; nostra cīvītās nōn potest. Praeclāra est recuperātiō libertātis. (Cicero.—**nātiō, -ōnis** = Eng.—**servitūs, -tūtis**, *servitude*.—**praeclārus, -a, -um**, *noble, remarkable*.—**recuperātiō, -ōnis**, *recovery*.—**libertās, -tātis** = Eng.)
11. Nihil sine magnō labōre vīta mortālibus dat. (Horace.—**mortālis, -tālis**, *a mortal*.)
12. Quōmodo in perpetuā pāce salvī et liberī esse poterimus? (Cicero.—**quōmodo**, *how*.)
13. Glōria in altissimīs Deō et in terrā pāx hominibus bonae voluntātis. (*Luke.—**altissimīs**, abl. pl., *the highest*.—**voluntās, -tātis**, *will*.)

THE RAPE OF LUCRETIA

Tarquinius Superbus erat rēx Rōmānōrum, et Sextus Tarquinius erat fīlius malus tyrannī. Sextus Lucrētiam, uxōrem Collātīnī, rapuit, et fēmina bona, propter magnum amōrem virtūtis, sē necāvit. Rōmānī antīquī virtūtem animōsque Lucrētiaē semper laudābant et Tarquiniōs culpābant.

(Livy 1.58; Tarquinius Superbus was Rome's last king, Collatinus a Roman nobleman; according to legend, the rape of Lucretia led to the overthrow of the Tarquin dynasty, the end of monarchy, and the establishment of the Roman Republic in 509 B.C.—**rapuit**, *raped*.—**sē**, *herself*.—**necāvit**, a past tense form.)



Tarquin and Lucretia
Titian, 1570–75

Akademie der Bildenden Kuenste, Vienna, Austria

CATULLUS DEDICATES HIS POETRY BOOK

Cornēliō, virō magnae sapientiae, dabō pulchrum librum novum. Cornēlī, mī amīce, librōs meōs semper laudābās, et es magister doctus literārū! Quārē habē novum labōrem meum: fāma librī (et tua fāma) erit perpetua.

(Catullus 1, prose adaptation; see L.I. 1. Catullus dedicated his first book of poems to the historian and biographer Cornelius Nepos.—**doctus**, *-a, -um*, *learned, scholarly*.)

ETYMOLOGY

From what Latin word do you suppose It. **uomo**, Sp. **hombre**, and Fr. **homme** and **on** are derived?

“Tense” meaning the “time” of a verb comes from **tempus** through old

Fr. *tens*; but “tense” meaning “stretched tight” goes back to **tendō, tendere, tetendī, tēsum, to stretch**.

In late Latin **cīvitās** came to mean *city* rather than *state*, and thus it became the parent of the Romance words for city: It. **città**, Sp. **ciudad**, Fr. **cit  **.

In the readings

2. solar, solstice.—novel, novelty, novice, novitiate, innovate, renovate.
3. chant, enchant, incantation, cant, recant, canto, cantabile, precentor.
4. plebeian, plebe, plebiscite. 5. peccant, peccadillo. 6. dour, duration, endure, obdurate. 13. volunteer, involuntary.

It may prove helpful to list the Romance and English equivalents of three of the suffixes given in n. 2.

Latin	Italian	Spanish	French	English
-tās, -tātis	-t��	-dad	-t��	-ty
v��rit��s	verit��	verdad	v��rit��	verity (truth)
ant��quit��s	antichit��	antig��edad	antiquit��	antiquity
-ti��, -ti��nis	-zione	-ci��n	-tion	-tion
n��ti��	nazione	naci��n	nation	nation
razi��	razione	raci��n	ration	ration
-tor, -t��ris	-tore	-tor	-teur	-tor
inventor	inventore	inventor	inventeur	inventor
actor	attore	actor	acteur	actor

LAT  NA EST GAUDIUM—ET   TILIS!

Salv  te, et discipul   et discipulae! Quid nunc agitis? You are beginning to see by now that Latin is living everywhere in our language; in fact, it’s a **r  ra avis** these days who considers Latin a dead language. To anyone who does, you might quip, **quot homin  s, tot sententiae**—an old proverb from the 2nd cen. B.C. comic playwright Terence meaning, freely, *there are as many opinions as there are men*.

Notice **terra** in the Vocab.: we met “subterranean” in the last chapter, now do you think of ET? In the 1980s the little guy was everybody’s favorite *ExtraTerrestrial* (from **extr  **, prep. + acc., *beyond*, + **terra**). Until he became familiar with the terrain, he was in a **terra incognita**; but once he’d learned the territory he felt he was on **terra firma** (look all four of those up in your Funk and Wagnall’s—if you need to!). And, speaking of movies, Stephen Spielberg’s top-grossing *Jurassic Park* reminded us all that Tyrannosaurus rex was truly both a “tyrant” and a “king” (though Spielberg’s “velociraptors” were certainly terrifying “swift-snatchers,” from the Lat. adj. **v  l  x**, *fast*, as in “velocity,” + **raptor**, a third decl. noun based on the verb **rapere**, *to seize, snatch, grab*). **Lat  nam semper am  bitis—val  te!**