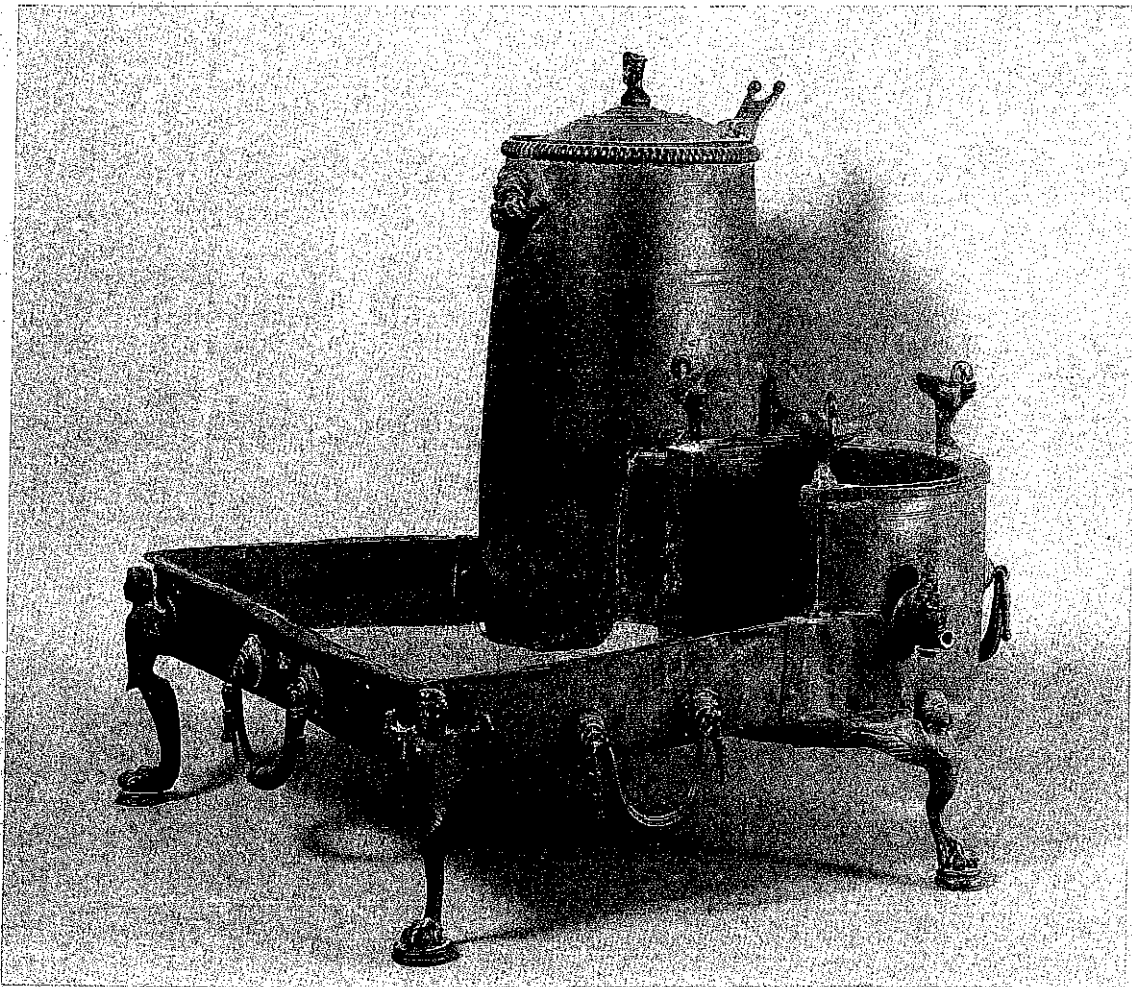


LESSON 4

Second Declension; Predicate Accusative



A combination space heater and food warmer from the dining room of a house at Stabiae

IF YOU LIVED IN ANCIENT ROME . . .

YOUR FURNITURE: ACCESSORIES

What Roman furniture lacked in variety it made up for, in the finer houses, in beauty, especially as it was seen against a background of mosaic and marble floors, colorfully painted walls, carved woodwork, draperies, and curtains.

Storage pieces included chests (*arcae*) and cupboards (*armāria*). There were many kinds of chests, including iron-bound oak chests which served as safes, and fancy storage pieces with gilt-bronze hardware. They all had the form of large rectangular boxes with the lid on top. There were also cylindrical boxes (*scrīnia*) for storing books. Clothing, dishes, and food were stored in chests or in cupboards; some wealthy houses had rooms lined with shelves.

Lamps (*lychni*, *lūcernae*) were beautiful but not very efficient, as they were fueled with third-pressing olive oil, which was watery and caused sputtering and smoke (the first two pressings were used for cosmetics and cooking respectively). Table lamps, floor lamps, and hanging lamps were made of bronze or iron, and often embellished with round or relief sculpture. For everyday use there were cheap, mass-produced terra-cotta lamps, carelessly glazed with metallic glazes to look like metal.

Roman houses (unless they had private baths) were not centrally heated. If you felt cold, you sent a slave for a portable heater, a bronze or iron pan on short legs, filled with glowing charcoal. Some of these were also designed to keep food warm at the table, and some even included water heaters, since the Romans liked to add hot water to their wine in cold weather. Braziers on taller legs served as altars for offerings made at meals.

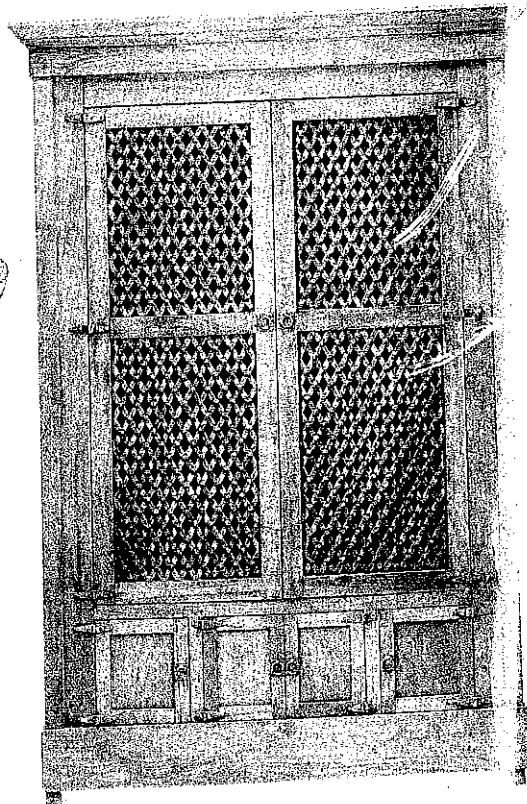
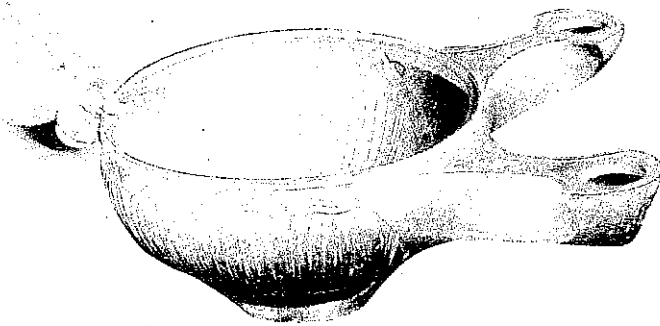
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A PHRASE TO USE

*Dē gustibus nōn est disputandum.
One ought not to argue about tastes.*

The Romans were very fond of sculpture. In the atria and peristyles of fine houses, portrait busts and statues of gods and mythological figures abounded. Even a poor family might have one or two treasured works of this kind, perhaps on the lower shelf of the sideboard (abacus) on which food was displayed, or on the decorative bronze or marble table at the end of the impluvium.

(below left) Roman oil lamp (below right) Modern reproduction of a Roman cupboard—Museo della Civiltà Romana, Rome



ANCIENT ROME LIVES ON . . .

Describe some modern lighting that is more beautiful than functional.

Although sculpture no longer abounds as in Roman times, what sort of art are you likely to find even in a modest home?

FORMS

SECOND DECLENSION

Nouns whose genitive singular ends in *-ī* belong to the second declension. They may be masculine, feminine, or neuter; but very few of them are feminine. Masculine nouns of the second declension end in *-us* or *-er* in the nominative singular; the few feminine nouns end only in *-us*; and neuter nouns end in *-um*. In the following declensions, *amicus* and *ager* are masculine and *verbum* is neuter.

SECOND DECLENSION NOUNS

SINGULAR			ENDINGS		
	MASC.	MASC.	NEUT.	MASC.	NEUT.
NOM.	<i>amicus</i>	<i>ager</i>	<i>verbum</i>	<i>-us</i>	<i>-um</i>
GEN.	<i>amicī</i>	<i>agrī</i>	<i>verbī</i>	<i>-ī</i>	
DAT.	<i>amicō</i>	<i>agrō</i>	<i>verbō</i>	<i>-ō</i>	
ACC.	<i>amicum</i>	<i>agrum</i>	<i>verbum</i>	<i>-um</i>	
ABL.	<i>amicō</i>	<i>agrō</i>	<i>verbō</i>	<i>-ō</i>	
PLURAL			ENDINGS		
	MASC.	MASC.	NEUT.	MASC.	NEUT.
NOM.	<i>amicī</i>	<i>agrī</i>	<i>verba</i>	<i>-ī</i>	<i>-a</i>
GEN.	<i>amicōrum</i>	<i>agrōrum</i>	<i>verbōrum</i>	<i>-ōrum</i>	
DAT.	<i>amicīs</i>	<i>agrīs</i>	<i>verbīs</i>	<i>-īs</i>	
ACC.	<i>amicōs</i>	<i>agrōs</i>	<i>verba</i>	<i>-ōs</i>	<i>-a</i>
ABL.	<i>amicīs</i>	<i>agrīs</i>	<i>verbīs</i>	<i>-īs</i>	

Two characteristics of the neuter are worth remembering:

1. Its nominative is always the same as the accusative.
2. In the plural these two cases will always end in *-a*.

In this declension, accordingly, the neuter differs from the masculine in the nominative singular and the nominative and accusative plural.

In terrīs Trōiae sunt agrī et oppida.

In Troy's lands there are fields and towns.

Agrōs et oppida spectant.

They are looking at the fields and towns.

SYNTAX

PREDICATE ACCUSATIVE

A verb of *making, naming, or choosing* may take, in addition to its direct object, a second accusative which we call the predicate accusative (or objective complement).

Filiam vocō Helenam. *I call my daughter Helen.*

Translation Help

You have seen that the order of words in a Latin sentence is likely to be quite different from the order of words in an English sentence. In English we learn the syntax from the word's position in the sentence. *The woman looks at the girl* does not mean the same thing as *The girl looks at the woman*.

In Latin, however, *The woman looks at the girl* can be expressed in six different ways.

Fēmina puellam spectat.	Puellam spectat fēmina.
Fēmina spectat puellam.	Spectat fēmina puellam.
Puellam fēmina spectat.	Spectat puellam fēmina.

The most usual order for a Latin sentence is to begin with the subject and end with the verb, and whatever the verb needs to complete its meaning is put in between. Each variation from this order provides a different emphasis, but does not change the meaning of the sentence. That is why case endings are so important in Latin. From observing the case endings, it is very evident that, no matter what the order of the words, *fēmina* remains the subject and *puellam* the direct object of these sentences.

VOCABULARY

Notice that a noun ending in -er in the nominative may either keep the -e in the other cases (like *puer, pueri, m.*) or lose it (like *ager, agri, m.*). You will know which kind of -er word you have by looking at the genitive.

A second declension noun whose base ends in -i has a genitive singular in -ī (not īi): *nūntius, nūnti, m.*; *auxilium, auxili, n.* Therefore you will have to look at the nominative, and drop the -us or -um, to find the base. In such words the accent stays where it would be if both i's were there: *auxi'li*.

★ BASIC WORDS

ager, agri, m. field, territory
amīcus, amīci, m. friend
auxilium, auxili, n. help, aid
bellum, belli, n. war
lēgātus, lēgātī, m. legate, envoy
nūntius, nūnti, m. message, news;
messenger
oppidum, oppidi, n. town
puer, pueri, m. boy
verbum, verbī, n. word
vir, viri, m. man; husband; hero

parō, parāre prepare
portō, portāre carry, bring

contrā (adverb) on the contrary; on the
other hand; in return (prep. w. acc.)
against

itaque (conjunction) and so, therefore

★ LEARNING ENGLISH THROUGH LATIN

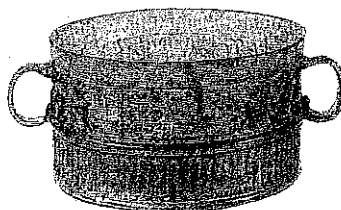
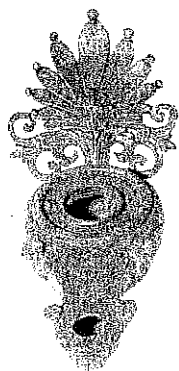
<i>agriculture</i>	<i>the art of farming and cultivating the soil</i>
<i>amicable</i>	<i>friendly</i>
<i>auxiliary</i>	<i>giving help or aid, assisting</i>
<i>belligerent</i>	<i>showing a readiness to fight or quarrel</i>
<i>contradict</i>	<i>speak against, say the opposite of</i>
<i>legate</i>	<i>envoy or ambassador</i>
<i>portable</i>	<i>easily moved or carried</i>
<i>puerile</i>	<i>childish, immature</i>
<i>virile</i>	<i>manly</i>

Roman lantern—Museo della Civiltà Romana, Rome



PRACTICE

- A.** Here are some additional English words derived from the two verbs in the Vocabulary of this lesson. Fill in the missing letters and define the words:
1. ----- ble 2. pre ----- tion 3. im ----- 4. irre ----- ble
5. trans ----- tion 6. pre ----- tory
- B.** Find the one noun in the Vocabulary of this Lesson whose base will make English words out of all of the following:
1. ----- al 2. pro ----- 3. ----- iage 4. ----- ose 5. -----
atim
- C.** Name the gender of each of these second declension nouns:
1. ager 2. amicus 3. verbum 4. oppidum 5. puer
- D.** Change from singular to plural, keeping the same case:
1. bellum 2. lēgātī 3. puer 4. auxiliō 5. amicum
- E.** Change from plural to singular, keeping the same case:
1. verbis 2. nūntiōrum 3. agrī 4. oppida 5. virōs
- F.** Give the following forms:
1. ager in the genitive singular 2. auxilium in the nominative plural
3. lēgātus in the nominative plural 4. amicus in the dative singular
5. bellum in the accusative plural 6. nūntius in the accusative plural
7. puer in the ablative singular 8. verbum in the genitive plural 9. oppidum
in the accusative singular 10. vir in the dative plural
- G.** Give the construction of the numbered nouns:
1. Agricola cum filiā in villā habitat. 2. Agricolae filia puella est, nōn
fēmina. 3. Filiam agricola vocat Helenam. 4. Helena ex agris in
oppidum ambulat.
- H.** Read the Latin aloud and translate:
1. Puer et puella verba parant. 2. Nūntius lēgātōs vocat in oppidum.
3. Puerī cum puellis in agris ambulant. 4. Nūntius verba ad villam portat



This bronze oil lamp and glass cup are examples of the luxury styling of utilitarian objects.

ab agricolae amīcō. 5. Cum agricolā filia in agrīs est. 6. Bellumne parātis contrā patriam? 7. Nōne estis puerōrum et puellārum amīcī? 8. Hecubae virum vocāmus Priamum. 9. Lēgātī nūntium dē bellō portant in agrōs. 10. Virī auxilium ad amīcōs in oppidum portant.

I. Translate:

1. The farmer's household lives in a farmhouse in the fields. 2. We do not like the town, and so we are walking in the forest. 3. Don't you call your daughter Helen? 4. The farmers are calling the boys and girls into the fields. 5. In the town there are envoys and messengers and sailors. 6. Are the men preparing war against the town? 7. The envoy of our native land is carrying a message about the war. 8. The woman is telling a story about a boy and his friends. 9. Do you like the messenger's words about the war with Greece? 10. The friends are carrying aid to the farmer in the fields.



FROM THE PHILOSOPHER'S HANDBOOK . . .

Salūs populī suprēma lēx.

The safety of the people is the highest law.

—CICERO

Can you list three laws in your town or state that were made for the safety or well-being of the people?

READING

The Trojan War Begins

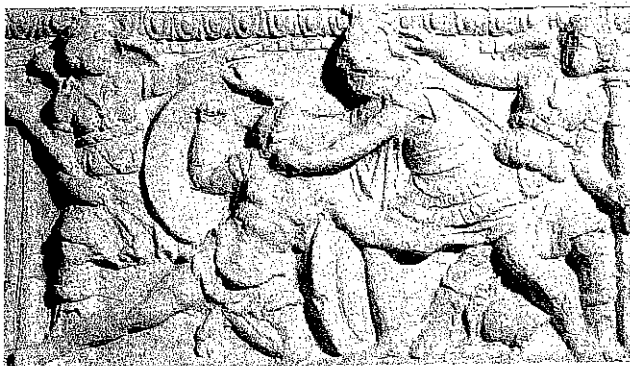
Helena in oppidō Trōiā habitat cum Trōiae nautā; itaque rēginam vocāmus "Helenam Trōiae." Nautam poētae vocant Alexandrum.

In Graeciā lēgātī ab Menelāo Helenae virō ad terrās et oppida nūntium portant: "Helena rēgina ā Graeciā ad oppidum Trōiam in Asiam cum Alexandrō nāvigat!" Lēgātī vocant virōs Graeciae ad bellum contrā Trōiam. Graeciae virī bellum parant et ad Asiam nāvigant.

Priamus est vir Hecubae rēginae. Priamī lēgātī nūntium portant ad Trōiae prōvinciās. Lēgātōrum verba sunt "Virī Graeciae bellum parant in Trōiam et Asiam." Itaque virī prōvinciārum auxilium portant ad oppidum Trōiam.

READING COMPREHENSION

1. Why is the queen called "Helen of Troy"?
2. What is the sailor's name?
3. Who is Helen's husband?
4. Why did the envoys from Helen's husband call the men of Greece to war?
5. Who is Priam?
6. What message do his envoys carry to the provinces of Troy?



A heroic fight from the Trojan War depicted on an Etruscan burial urn, 2d c. B.C. Divinities on each side support the rival warriors.

4. in Asiam = *in Asia*: The Accusative of Place to Which is used here instead of the Ablative of Place Where because of the motion expressed in nāvigat. 8. in Trōiam: Remember that in with the accusative can also mean *against*.