Latin has five separate declensions.

All Latin nouns go into one of the five possible declensions or categories.

Each declension in these lessons will use a different color.

The Latin student can identify the correct declension by looking at the genitive singular ending. This ending will appear in all vocabularies or dictionaries. femina, feminae f. woman

Femina is the nominative and feminae is the genitive singular for the first declension.

If you drop the ae of the genitive you have the base which is femin__.

All other endings will be added to that base.

1'st Declension:

Nominative	a	ae
Genitive	ae	arum
Dative	ae	is
Accusative	am	as
Ablative	a	is
Vocative	same as nominative	

*(abus) will replace (is) in the dat & abl. plural. for the words dea and filia.

Syntax of each case: (How the word is used in the sentence)

Subjects and Predicate Nouns

Ownership

Indirect Objects (other uses will be shown in later lessons)

Direct Objects and some phrases

Phrases (many adverbial will be shown in later lessons.)

Direct Address (In Latin the Vocative will always be surrounded by commas.)

* The syntax will not change as you change declensions.

*The endings and gender will change.

Almost all first declension words are feminine in gender.There are some masculine words in the first declension. The only time that will become a problem for the learner is if you are modifying them with an adjective. To be discussed in a later chapter.

*Nouns and adjectives must match in 1) case   2)gender   3) number. They do not have to match by declension.

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