

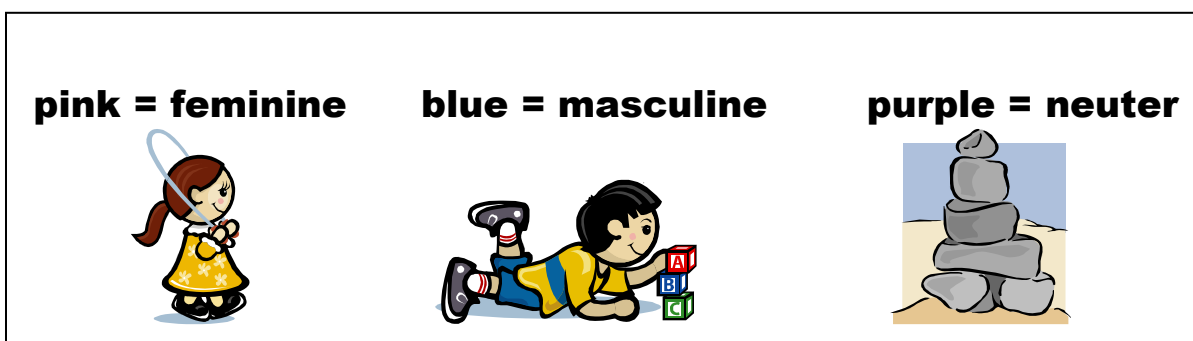
NOUNS & ADJECTIVES

“Families,” “Species,” Numbers and “Colors” (Declensions, Cases, Numbers and Genders)

Every noun and adjective in Latin has 4 characteristics, which we can think of in interesting ways to help us remember.

- **Declension:** There are 5 declensions, or “families” in Latin. You only need to know the first 3 families for now, 1st 2nd and 3rd.
- **Gender:** All Latin nouns have gender: either **masculine, feminine, or neuter.**

We also refer to this quality as “color”:



Words that refer to male persons are masculine (blue), words that refer to female persons are feminine (pink).

- ***puer* (boy) = masculine, *ancilla* (slave-girl) = feminine**

However, things in Latin have “random” genders. For example,

- ***via* (street) = feminine**
- ***aedificium* (building) = neuter**
- ***anulus* (ring) = masculine**

Some words, like the ones above, belong to the 1st or 2nd noun “family” (declension). We can see the gender of these nouns by their nominative endings:

-a = feminine (1st family)






-um = neuter (2nd family neuter)

-us = masculine (2nd family masculine)

Nouns in the 3rd family can be any color, so make sure you memorize the color when you have them on a vocab list! (indicated by m., f., or n. in your dictionary).
E.G.

- ◆ *sol* (sun) = m (blue)
- ◆ *iter* (journey) = n (purple)
- ◆ *libertas* (freedom) = f (pink)

- **Number:** Just like in English, every noun is either **singular** (only 1) or **plural** (more than one).
- **Case:** In Latin, there are 5 cases a noun can be, or “species”. These “species” show us how to translate the noun.

Case Names	Animals	Animal Names	Translation
Nominative		Norman the Lion	as subject – performs the action
Genitive		Ginny the Octopus	“of _____”
Dative		Dottie the ToadFrog	“to _____” or “for _____”
Accusative		Alec the Moose	as Direct Object – receives the action
Ablative		Sid P Space the Astronaut	as object of preposition, or “by/with _____”

- **Noun / Adjective Agreement:**

If a noun and an adjective go together, they must be the same in 3 ways:

species (case), number, color (gender)

It does NOT matter if the adjective and noun are in the same family!

There are two kinds of adjectives:

- **1st & 2nd Family adjectives** (shown as **-us, -a, -um**)
 - look different depending on the **color** of the noun they go with

- 1st/2nd adjectives with **pink** nouns use 1st family endings; with **blue** nouns use 2nd Masc. family endings; with **purple** nouns use 2nd N family endings

Example: *attonitus, attonita, attonitum* = astonished

***puer attonitus* = the astonished boy**

***puella attonita* = the astonished girl**

***aedificium attonitum* = the astonished building**



*Notice the adjective changes to **blue** when it goes with a blue noun, to **pink** when it goes with a pink noun, etc. by changing the **family** of endings it uses.

- **3rd Family adjectives** (shown as **-is, -is, e**)
 - only look different when they're with **purple** nouns (don't worry too much about this for now!)

Example: *nobilis, nobilis, nobile* = noble

***puer nobilis* = The noble boy**

***puella nobilis* = The noble girl**

***aedificium nobile* = The noble building**

Let's look at another example:

- ◆ *senex* (old man) = **blue** (masculine), **single** (one), and Norman the **lion** (nominative). It also comes from the **3rd Family**.












































































If we want to describe *senex* in Latin, we must use a **blue, single, lion adjective**.



- ◆ Let's say we want to say that the *senex* is good.
 - *bonus, bona, bonum* = good. This adjective is a 1st/2nd adjective, so from those families we need a **blue, single, lion** version of "good."
 - *bonus* = **blue** (masculine), **single, lion** (nominative).

SO, to say "**the good old man**", we say "*senex bonus*."

Check out the charts below that show noun & adjective family endings, with colors and animals attached!

	1 st Family	2 nd Family - Masc.	2 nd Family - Neuter
Nominative	 a  ae 	 us  ī 	 um  a 
Genitive	 ae  ārum 	 ī  ūrum 	 ī  orum 
Dative	 ae  īs 	 ō  īs 	 ō  īs 
Accusative	 am  as 	 um  os 	 um  a 
Ablative	 ā  īs 	 ō  īs 	 ō  īs 
Nominative	 --  ēs 	 --  a 	
Genitive	 is  um 	 is  um 	
Dative	 ī  ibus 	 ī  ibus 	
Accusative	 e  m  ēs 	 --  a 	
Ablative	 e  ibus 	 e  ibus 