

SYNTAX OF CASES

(how each Latin case is used)

NOMINATIVE CASE

USE	LATIN	ENGLISH
SUBJECT OF A FINITE VERB	<u>Nuntius</u> clamavit.	The <u>messenger</u> shouted.
PREDICATE NOMINATIVE (NOUN)	Roma est <u>urbs</u> magna. Puer <u>Marcus</u> appellatus est.	Rome is a great <u>city</u> . The boy was called <u>Marcus</u> .
PREDICATE ADJECTIVE	Regina erat <u>benigna</u> . Murus <u>altus</u> videtur.	The queen was <u>kind</u> . The wall seems <u>high</u> .

Nota bene: A predicate noun or adjective is used with forms of the verb *sum* as well as with the passive of verbs of seeing, making, naming, calling, choosing, and considering.

GENITIVE CASE

USE	LATIN	ENGLISH
<p>POSSESSION</p> <p>(to show the possessor)</p>	<p>Filia <u>reginae</u> ambulat.</p>	<p>The <u>queen's</u> daughter (or daughter <u>of the queen</u>) is walking.</p>
<p>MATERIAL</p> <p>(to express the material which something contains)</p>	<p>In insula fuit magna copia <u>aquae</u>.</p> <p>In camera est acervus <u>frumenti</u>.</p>	<p>There was a supply <u>of water</u> on the island.</p> <p>In the room is a pile <u>of grain</u>.</p>
<p>PARTITIVE/OF THE WHOLE</p> <p>(to express the whole amount about which only a part is indicated)</p> <p>(sometimes used in Latin even when English does not use the word <i>of</i> or uses another equivalent expression)</p>	<p>Partem <u>anni</u> laborabant.</p> <p>Fortissimi <u>civium</u> spectaverunt.</p> <p>Quis <u>vestrum</u> fugiet?</p> <p>Satis <u>frumenti</u> habemus.</p> <p>Nihil <u>cibi</u> est.</p> <p>Quid <u>consili</u> cepisti?</p>	<p>They were working part <u>of the year</u>.</p> <p>The bravest <u>of the citizens</u> watched.</p> <p>Who <u>of you</u> will flee.</p> <p>We have enough <u>(of) grain</u>.</p> <p>There is no <u>food</u> (nothing <u>of food</u>).</p> <p>What <u>(of a) plan</u> have you devised?</p>

<p>DESCRIPTION</p> <p>(to describe another noun)</p> <p>(<i>nota bene</i>: the genitive of description is a noun+adjective construction that is used to describe another noun)</p>	<p>Fuit vir <u>praeclarae auctoritatis</u>.</p> <p>Nilus erat flumen <u>magnae longitudinis</u>.</p> <p>Fossam <u>quinque pedum</u> fodunt.</p>	<p>He was a man <u>of eminent influence</u>.</p> <p>The Nile was a river <u>of great length</u>.</p> <p>They are digging a ditch <u>of five feet</u>.</p>
<p>WITH CERTAIN ADJECTIVES</p> <p>(to complete the meaning of specific adjectives -- often, but not always the adjective is followed by the word <i>of</i> in English)</p>	<p>Midas erat cupidus <u>auri</u>.</p> <p>Caesar fuit avidus <u>gloriae</u>.</p> <p>Cicero erat memor <u>officiorum</u>.</p>	<p>Midas was desirous <u>of gold</u>.</p> <p>Caesar was eager <u>for glory</u>.</p> <p>Cicero was mindful <u>of his duties</u>.</p>
<p>AS THE OBJECTS VERBS OF REMEMBERING AND FORGETTING</p> <p>(instead of accusative objects)</p>	<p>Obliviscere <u>caedis et incendiorum</u>, Catilina.</p> <p>Puella <u>suae matris</u> meminerat.</p>	<p>Forget <u>murder and fires</u>, Catiline.</p> <p>The girl remembered <u>her mother</u>.</p>
<p>OF THE CHARGE OR PENALTY</p> <p>(with verbs of accusing, condemning, and acquitting)</p>	<p>Cicero se <u>inertiae et nequitiae</u> condemnat.</p> <p>Vir <u>impietatis</u> absolutus est.</p>	<p>Cicero condemns himself <u>for inactivity and negligence</u>.</p> <p>The man was acquitted <u>of blasphemy</u>.</p>
<p>OF INDEFINITE VALUE</p> <p>(to indicate a value that is not specific, most commonly <i>tanti</i>, <i>quanti</i>, <i>parvi</i>, <i>magni</i>.)</p>	<p>Haec vita est <u>tanti</u> mihi.</p> <p><u>Quanti</u> est haec vita?</p>	<p>This life is <u>of such great value</u> to me.</p> <p><u>Of what value</u> is this life?</p>

<p>WITH CERTAIN IMPERSONAL VERBS</p> <p>(with <i>miseret</i>, <i>paenitet</i>, <i>piget</i>, <i>pudet</i>, and <i>taedet</i> to express the <u>cause</u> of the feeling) (the accusative case is used for the <u>person</u> feeling the emotion)</p>	<p>Me <u>inimicitiae</u> paenituit.</p> <p>Cives <u>timoris</u> pudet.</p>	<p>I was sorry for my <u>unfriendliness</u>.</p> <p>The citizens are ashamed <u>of</u> <u>their fear</u>.</p>

DATIVE CASE

USE	LATIN	ENGLISH
<p>INDIRECT OBJECT</p> <p>(used with verbs of giving, showing, and telling and most often a direct object also appears in the sentence)</p>	<p>Vir <u>filio</u> pecuniam dat.</p> <p>Insulam <u>amicis nostris</u> monstrabimus.</p> <p>Nuntius <u>duci</u> calamitatem nuntiavit.</p>	<p>The man is giving money <u>to his son</u>.</p> <p>We shall show the island <u>to our friends</u>.</p> <p>The messenger reported the disaster <u>to the leader</u>.</p>
<p>WITH SPECIAL VERBS</p> <p>(certain verbs take an object in the dative instead of a direct object in the accusative)</p>	<p>Cives <u>hostibus</u> fortiter resistent.</p> <p>Rex <u>nuntio</u> credit.</p>	<p>The citizens will resist <u>the enemy</u> bravely.</p> <p>The king believed <u>the messenger</u>.</p>
<p>WITH COMPOUND VERBS</p> <p>(many verbs compounded with certain prepositions take an object in the dative instead of a direct object in the accusative)</p>	<p>Legatus <u>militibus</u> praeerit.</p> <p>Iuvenis celeriter <u>omnibus</u> antecellere incepit.</p>	<p>The lieutenant will be in charge of <u>the soldiers</u>.</p> <p>The young man quickly began to excel <u>everybody</u>.</p>
<p>WITH CERTAIN ADJECTIVES</p> <p>(to complete the meaning of specific adjectives -- often, but not always the adjective is followed by the word <i>to</i> or <i>for</i> in English)</p>	<p>Hic est locus idoneus <u>ludo</u>.</p> <p>Villa erat propinqua <u>flumini</u>.</p> <p>Filia est similis <u>matri</u>.</p>	<p>This is a place suitable <u>for a school</u>.</p> <p>The villa was near <u>(to) the river</u>.</p> <p>The daughter is similar <u>to her mother</u>.</p>

<p>OF PURPOSE</p> <p>(to indicate the purpose, use, or effect of something)</p>	<p>Dux praedam <u>praemio</u> dederat.</p> <p>Fortuna est <u>magnae curae</u>.</p>	<p>The leader had given the plunder <u>as a reward</u>.</p> <p>Luck is (acts as) <u>a great concern</u>.</p>
<p>OF REFERENCE</p> <p>(to indicate the person or thing affected, concerned, or referred to)</p>	<p>Cibus <u>militibus</u> paratur.</p>	<p>Food is being prepared <u>for the soldiers</u>.</p>
<p>DOUBLE DATIVE</p> <p>(dative of purpose and dative of reference used together)</p>	<p>Exercitus <u>auxilio oppido</u> venit.</p> <p>Flumen erat <u>impedimento hostibus</u>.</p>	<p>The army came <u>as an aid for the town</u>.</p> <p>The river was (acted as) <u>a hindrance to the enemy</u>.</p>
<p>POSSESSION</p> <p>(used with the verb <i>sum</i> to indicate the possessor - often preferred to using the verb <i>habeo</i> with a direct object)</p>	<p>Multi libri <u>discipulo</u> sunt.</p> <p>Villa pulchra erat <u>feminae</u>.</p> <p><u>Mihi</u> nomen est Marcus.</p>	<p>Many books are <u>to the student</u> = <u>The student</u> has many books.</p> <p>A beautiful villa was <u>to the woman</u> = <u>The woman</u> had a beautiful villa.</p> <p>The name <u>to me</u> is Marcus = <u>I</u> have the name Marcus = My name is Marcus.</p>
<p>AGENT</p> <p>(used with the passive periphrastic instead of the ablative of agent)</p>	<p>Auxilium <u>duci</u> mittendum est.</p> <p>Epistula <u>puellae</u> scribenda erat.</p>	<p>Help ought to be sent <u>by the leader</u>.</p> <p>The letter had to be written <u>by the girl</u>.</p>

ACCUSATIVE CASE

USE	LATIN	ENGLISH
DIRECT OBJECT	Amor <u>omnia</u> vincit. <u>Villam</u> aedificabimus. <u>Urbem</u> vidisti.	Love conquers <u>all</u> . We shall build <u>a villa</u> . You saw <u>the city</u> .
PREDICATE ACCUSATIVE (used along with a direct object with verbs meaning <i>make, name, call, choose, and consider</i>)	Populus Brutum <u>consulem</u> creavit. Puerum <u>Marcum</u> appellabunt.	The people elected Brutus <u>consul</u> . They will name the boy <u>Marcus</u> .
DOUBLE ACCUSATIVE (certain verbs of <i>asking, requesting, and teaching</i> take two accusatives, one of the <u>person</u> , the other of the <u>thing</u>)	Cives <u>consulem</u> <u>auxilium</u> rogaverunt. Magister <u>discipulos</u> <u>elementa</u> docebit.	The citizens asked <u>the consul</u> <u>for assistance</u> . The teacher will teach the <u>students</u> <u>the alphabet</u> .
PLACE TO WHICH (used with <i>in, ad, or sub</i> to express where someone or something is going)	Puellae <u>in casam</u> ambulaverunt. Nautae <u>ad insulam</u> navigabant. Exercitus <u>sub montem</u> properabit.	The girls walked <u>into the cottage</u> . The sailors were sailing <u>to the island</u> . The army will hasten <u>to the foot of the mountain</u> .
DURATION OF TIME (to express how long something lasted or took place)	Exercitūs <u>multas horas</u> pugnabant. Rex <u>decem annos</u> rexit.	The armies were fighting <u>for many hours</u> . The king ruled <u>for ten years</u> .

<p>EXTENT OF SPACE</p> <p>(to express how far something extends)</p>	<p>Flumen est <u>decem pedes</u> altum. Murus erat <u>quingquaginta pedes</u> longum.</p>	<p>The river is <u>ten feet</u> deep. The wall was <u>fifty feet</u> long.</p>
<p>WITH PREPOSITIONS</p> <p>(most prepositions take the accusative)</p>	<p><u>Per silvam</u> iter fecimus. <u>Trans flumen</u> navigavistis.</p>	<p>We made a journey <u>through the forest</u>. You sailed <u>across</u> the river.</p>
<p>SUBJECT OF AN INFINITIVE</p> <p>(used mostly in indirect statement)</p>	<p>Audimus <u>urbem</u> esse pulcherrimam. Nuntius narravit <u>milites</u> urbem cepisse.</p>	<p>We hear that <u>the city</u> is very beautiful. The messenger related that the <u>soldiers</u> had captured the city.</p>
<p>EXCLAMATION</p> <p>(used for emotional expressions)</p>	<p>O <u>tempora</u>, O <u>mores</u>! Io <u>Saturnalia</u>!</p>	<p>O what <u>times</u>, what <u>behaviors</u>! Hey, it's <u>Saturnalia</u>!</p>
<p>WITH CERTAIN IMPERSONAL VERBS</p> <p>(with <i>miseret</i>, <i>paenitet</i>, <i>piget</i>, <i>pudet</i>, and <i>taedet</i> to indicate the <u>person</u> feeling the emotion) (the genitive case is used to express the <u>cause</u> of the feeling)</p>	<p><u>Me</u> inimicitiae paenituit. <u>Cives</u> timoris pudet.</p>	<p><u>I</u> was sorry for my unfriendliness. <u>The citizens</u> are ashamed of their fear.</p>

ABLATIVE CASE

USE	LATIN	ENGLISH
<p>MEANS</p> <p>(to show what is used to get the job done - <i>no preposition</i>)</p>	<p>Miles <u>gladio</u> pugnāt.</p> <p>Frumentum <u>carro</u> portatum est.</p>	<p>The soldier is fighting <u>with a sword</u>.</p> <p>The grain was carried <u>by means of a cart</u>.</p>
<p>PLACE IN WHICH</p> <p>(to indicate where someone or something is - preposition <i>in</i> or <i>sub</i>)</p>	<p>Pueri <u>in Italiā</u> habitant.</p> <p>Agricolae <u>in agris</u> laborabant.</p> <p>Castra sunt <u>sub monte</u>.</p>	<p>The boys live <u>in Italy</u>.</p> <p>The farmers were working <u>in the fields</u>.</p> <p>The camp is <u>at the foot of the mountain</u>.</p>
<p>PLACE FROM WHICH</p> <p>(to indicate where someone or something is coming from - preposition <i>ab/a</i>, <i>de</i>, or <i>ex/e</i>)</p>	<p>Nautae <u>ab insulā</u> navigabant.</p> <p>Exercitus <u>de monte</u> properabit.</p> <p>Puellae <u>ex casā</u> ambulaverunt.</p>	<p>The sailors were sailing <u>away from the island</u>.</p> <p>The army will hasten <u>down from the mountain</u>.</p> <p>The girls walked out <u>from the cottage</u>.</p>
<p>ACCOMPANIMENT</p> <p>(to show the person with whom something is done - preposition <i>cum</i>)</p>	<p>Mater <u>cum liberis</u> ambulabat.</p> <p>Vir <u>cum servo</u> appropinquat.</p>	<p>The mother was walking <u>with her children</u>.</p> <p>The man is approaching <u>with a slave</u>.</p>

<p>MANNER</p> <p>(to show the attitude or outlook with which something is done - preposition <i>cum</i>),</p> <p>(<i>nota bene</i>: if an adjective is used with a noun to indicate manner, <i>cum</i> may be omitted; if <i>cum</i> <u>is</u> used, note the placement of <i>cum</i> <u>between</u> the noun and the adjective)</p>	<p>Gladiatores <u>cum virtute</u> pugnauerunt.</p> <p>Cives <u>magnā celeritate</u> fugerant.</p> <p>Dux <u>summā cum laude</u> honoratus erat.</p>	<p>The gladiators fought <u>with courage</u>.</p> <p>The citizens had fled <u>with great speed</u>.</p> <p>The general had been honored <u>with the utmost praise</u>.</p>
<p>TIME</p> <p>(to indicate the time when something happens - <i>no preposition</i>)</p>	<p><u>Aestate</u> ad oram maritimam imus.</p> <p>Regina <u>paucis diebus</u> perveniet.</p>	<p><u>In the summer</u> we go to the beach.</p> <p>The queen will arrive <u>within a few days</u>.</p>
<p>PERSONAL AGENT</p> <p>(to show who carries the action of a passive verb - preposition <i>ab/a</i>)</p> <p>(<i>nota bene</i>: three p's: (1) passive verb (2) person (3) preposition <i>ab/a</i>)</p>	<p>Pila <u>a puellis</u> iacitur.</p> <p>Victoria <u>ab consule</u> nuntiata est.</p>	<p>The ball is thrown <u>by the girls</u>.</p> <p>The victory was reported <u>by the consul</u>.</p>
<p>SPECIFICATION/RESPECT</p> <p>(to specify in what respect something is true - <i>no preposition</i>)</p>	<p>Venus omnes alias deas <u>pulchritudine</u> superat.</p> <p>Milites <u>virtute</u> praecesserunt.</p>	<p>Venus surpasses all other goddesss <u>in beauty</u>.</p> <p>The soldiers excelled <u>in courage</u>.</p>

<p>DESCRIPTION</p> <p>(to describe another noun - <i>no preposition</i>)</p> <p><i>(nota bene:</i> the ablative of description is a noun+adjective construction that is used to describe another noun - often translated using the preposition <i>of</i> as well as <i>with</i>)</p>	<p>Fuit vir <u>praeclarā auctoritate</u>.</p> <p>Hercules erat vir <u>ingenti corpore</u>.</p>	<p>He was a man <u>of/with eminent influence</u>.</p> <p>Hercules was a man <u>of/with a huge body</u>.</p>
<p>COMPARISON</p> <p>(used with comparative adjectives or adverbs to make a comparison between two persons or things - <i>no preposition</i>)</p>	<p>Hoc flumen est latius <u>illo flumine</u>.</p> <p>Puella <u>sorore</u> altior erat.</p>	<p>This river is wider <u>than that river</u>.</p> <p>The girl was taller <u>than her sister</u>.</p>
<p>DEGREE OF DIFFERENCE</p> <p>(to show by how much one person/thing differs from another; <i>multo</i> and <i>paulo</i> are common in this construction - <i>no preposition</i>)</p>	<p>Puella erat altior quam puer <u>uno pede</u>.</p> <p>This river is <u>much</u> wider than that river.</p> <p>Haec via erit <u>paulo</u> longior quam illa via.</p>	<p>The girl was taller than the boy <u>by one foot</u>.</p> <p>Hoc flumen est <u>multo</u> latius quam illud flumen.</p> <p>This street will be <u>a little</u> longer than that street.</p>
<p>SOURCE/ORIGIN</p> <p>(to express the source from which someone/something is derived or comes - <i>use of preposition varies</i>)</p>	<p>Lucius Catilina <u>nobili genere</u> natus est.</p> <p>Augustus multa templa <u>de marmore</u> aedificavit.</p>	<p>Lucius Catiline was born <u>from a noble family</u>.</p> <p>Augustus built many temples <u>from marble</u>.</p>

<p>WITH PREPOSITIONS</p> <p>(the following prepositions use the ablative: <i>ab/a, de, ex/e, cum, sine, prae, pro</i>; sometimes <i>in</i> and <i>sub</i>)</p>	<p>Orator <u>pro civibus</u> orationem habebit.</p> <p>Familia <u>sine pecuniā</u> effūgit.</p>	<p>The orator will deliver a speech <u>on behalf of the citizens</u>.</p> <p>The household fled <u>without money</u>.</p>
<p>WITH CERTAIN DEPONENT VERBS</p> <p>(used as the objects of <i>fruor, fungor, potior, utor, vescor</i> and their compounds)</p>	<p>Quo usque abutēre, Catilina, <u>patientiā nostrā</u>?</p> <p>Regina <u>his verbis</u> usa est.</p> <p><u>Luce</u> vitae fruimus.</p>	<p>How long, Catiline, will you abuse <u>our patience</u>?</p> <p>The queen used <u>these words</u>.</p> <p>We enjoy <u>the light</u> of life.</p>
<p>WITH CERTAIN ADJECTIVES</p> <p>(to complete the meaning of specific adjectives -- the adjective may followed by such words <i>to, of, on</i> or <i>with</i> in English)</p>	<p>Marcus se dignum <u>custodiā</u> iudicat.</p> <p>Aeneas saepe <u>virtute suā</u> fretus erat.</p> <p>Femina est contentus <u>villā</u>.</p>	<p>Marcus judges himself worthy <u>of a guard</u>.</p> <p>Aeneas often was relying <u>on his own courage</u>.</p> <p>The woman is content with her villa.</p>
<p>ABSOLUTE</p> <p>(used to show the circumstances under which the action of a sentence takes place - <i>no preposition</i>)</p> <p>(<i>nota bene</i>: the ablative absolute consists of a noun in the ablative modified by an <u>adjective, participle, or another noun</u> - translation is very flexible)</p>	<p><u>Aquā sordidā</u>, non natabo.</p> <p><u>Officio facto</u>, dominus discessit.</p> <p><u>Caesare consule</u>, Roma erat potentissima.</p>	<p><u>Since the water is dirty (With the water dirty)</u>, I shall not swim.</p> <p><u>After his duty was completed (With his duty completed)</u>, the master departed.</p> <p><u>When Caesar was consul (With Caesar consul)</u>, Rome was very powerful.</p>

VOCATIVE CASE

USE	LATIN	ENGLISH
<p>DIRECT ADDRESS</p> <p>The forms of the vocative case are exactly the same as the nominative case, singular and plural.</p> <p>There are, however, three exceptions, both in Declension II, and only in the singular:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">(1) nouns ending in <i>-us</i> have the vocative singular ending in <i>-e</i>(2) nouns ending in <i>-ius</i> have the vocative singular ending in <i>-i</i>(3) the vocative of <i>meus</i> is <i>mi</i>	<p><i>Celeriter ambulate, <u>puellae</u>.</i> <i>Narra nobis fabulam, <u>pater</u>.</i> <i>Audivistisne nuntium, <u>cives</u>.</i></p> <p><i>Libera captivos, <u>Marce</u>.</i> <i>Audi diligenter, <u>mi fili</u>.</i></p>	<p>Walk quickly, <u>girls</u>. Tell us a story, <u>father</u>. Did you hear the news, <u>citizens</u>?</p> <p>Free the prisoners, <u>Marcus</u>. Listen carefully, <u>my son</u>.</p>

LOCATIVE CASE

USE	LATIN	ENGLISH												
<p>PLACE WHERE</p> <p>The locative case is used with <u>names of cities, towns, and small islands</u> to express the place in which or where someone or something is or occurs - <i>no preposition</i> is used.</p> <p>The endings of the locative are:</p> <table data-bbox="277 574 554 798"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>SINGULAR</th> <th>PLURAL</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Declension I</td> <td>-ae</td> <td>-is</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Declension II</td> <td>-i</td> <td>-is</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Declension III</td> <td>-e,-i</td> <td>-ibus</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>(There are no names of cities, towns, or small islands in Declensions IV and V.)</p>		SINGULAR	PLURAL	Declension I	-ae	-is	Declension II	-i	-is	Declension III	-e,-i	-ibus	<p><u>Romae</u> sumus.</p> <p>Pompeius <u>Brundisi</u> mansit.</p> <p>Iuvenes Cicero et alii Romani <u>Athenis</u> studebat.</p> <p><u>Gadibus</u> multa aedificia sunt.</p>	<p>We are <u>in Rome</u>.</p> <p>Pompeius stayed <u>in Brundisium</u>.</p> <p>As young men, Cicero and other Romans studied <u>in Athens</u>.</p> <p><u>In Cadiz</u>, there are many buildings.</p>
	SINGULAR	PLURAL												
Declension I	-ae	-is												
Declension II	-i	-is												
Declension III	-e,-i	-ibus												
<p>WITH CERTAIN SPECIAL WORDS</p> <p>domi - at home ruri - in the country(side) humi - on the ground</p> <p><i>no preposition</i> is used</p>	<p>Pensum meum <u>domi</u> reliqui. Cicero et alii opulentes Romani villas <u>ruri</u> habebat.</p> <p><u>Humi</u> defessi pueri iacent.</p>	<p>I left my homework <u>at home</u>. Cicero and other well-off Romans had villas <u>in the country</u>. The tired boys are lying <u>on the ground</u>.</p>												