

GCSE Latin for Beginners

Lesson 5 Pre-Class Tasks

1. SECOND DECLENSION: *vir*, *puer*, *liber*.

Most masculine nouns in the second declension go like *dominus*. A few, however, such as *vir* (man), *puer* (boy) and *liber* (book) have a nominative singular ending in *-r*.

All their other endings are the same as those of *dominus*. In effect these nouns decline as if they had a nominative singular ending *-us*, which has disappeared. Look at the tables below. Note how *puer* keeps the *-e-* in its stem in all cases, whereas *liber* drops the *-e-* from the accusative singular onwards, reflecting how the word would have been pronounced.

		man <i>m</i>	boy <i>m</i>	book <i>m</i>
<i>sg</i>	<i>nominative</i>	<i>vir</i>	<i>puer</i>	<i>liber</i>
	<i>accusative</i>	<i>vir-um</i>	<i>puer-um</i>	<i>libr-um*</i>
	<i>genitive</i>	<i>vir-i</i>	<i>puer-i</i>	<i>libr-i</i>
	<i>dative</i>	<i>vir-o</i>	<i>puer-o</i>	<i>libr-o</i>
	<i>ablative</i>	<i>vir-ō</i>	<i>puer-ō</i>	<i>libr-ō</i>
<i>pl</i>	<i>nominative</i>	<i>vir-i</i>	<i>puer-i</i>	<i>libr-i</i>
	<i>accusative</i>	<i>vir-os</i>	<i>puer-os</i>	<i>libr-os</i>
	<i>genitive</i>	<i>vir-orum</i>	<i>puer-orum</i>	<i>libr-orum</i>
	<i>dative</i>	<i>vir-is</i>	<i>puer-is</i>	<i>libr-is</i>
	<i>ablative</i>	<i>vir-is</i>	<i>puer-is</i>	<i>libr-is</i>

*drops the *-e-* from its stem

Note too another noun that goes like *liber* (dropping the *-e-* from the accusative singular onwards):

ager (acc. *agrum*, gen. *agri*, etc) *field*.

Task 1.

Translate into English:

1. *pueri per agros cum nuntiis ambulat.*
2. *vir est dominus servorum.*
3. *femina libros pueris dat.*
4. *in agris cum servis semper laboro.*
5. *servus gladios virorum in hortum portat.*

Translate into Latin:

1. There are men in the house.
2. The slave-girls are preparing food for the men.
3. He is now working in the field with the boys.
4. I give the book to my friend.

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2. SECOND CONJUGATION VERBS.

So far we have only met verbs in the *first* conjugation. These verbs go like *porto* and feature an *-a-* as the characteristic vowel in their endings.

As you saw in Lesson 1¹, there are four **conjugations** in Latin.

All the conjugations use the **same person endings** (-o, -s, -t, -mus, -tis, -nt).

The major difference is that they use **different characteristic vowels** in these endings (compare Spanish, which has *-ar*, *-er* and *-ir* verbs; Spanish inherited this system of different verb conjugations from Latin).

Verbs in the second conjugation use an **-e-** in their endings. Here is the present tense of **moneo** (warn, advise):

	<i>2nd conjugation</i> warn, advise	
<i>sg 1</i>	mon- eo	I warn <i>or</i> I am warning (etc.)
<i>2</i>	mon- es	You (s). warn
<i>3</i>	mon- et	He/She/It warns
<i>pl 1</i>	mon- emus	We warn
<i>2</i>	mon- etis	You (pl.) warn
<i>3</i>	mon- ent	They warn

Here are five second conjugation verbs that go like *moneo*:

habeo *I have, I hold*

timeo *I fear, I am afraid*

sedeo *I sit*

video *I see*

terreo *I frighten*

Task 2. Can you think of any English *derivatives* from these words? Write them down if so.

Task 3.

Translate into English:

1. pueri in agro cum puellis sedent.
2. villam in insula habemus.
3. ancilla equum domini timet.
4. equi domini puerum terrent
5. amicos de nuntio monetis.

Translate into Latin:

1. I have the master's letter.
2. You (pl.) do not fear the gods.
3. The messengers' swords frighten the woman.

¹ See Lesson 1 Handout, Page 1.