LATIN GRAMMAR I
Wheelock 3: Second Declension Masculine, Apposition

1. Second Declension Masc Nouns/Adjectives
1.1. What we said last chapter about nouns and adjectives in general holds true in this chapter. What's new is the introduction of a new *declension* pattern: second declension (where the noun's final stem vowel is –o, but it's obscured in a few situations). Second declension nouns are normally masc or neut (while first decl nouns are usually fem).

1.2. Second declension masculine paradigm (neuter forms are in next ch.):

| Sing. | Stem vowel + case ending | Stem/base + case ending | English gloss |
|---|---|---|---|
| Nom | –us (<os) | amīcus | the (a) friend |
| Gen | –ī | amīcī | of the friend |
| Dat | –ō | amīcō | to/for the friend |
| Acc | –um (<om) | amīcum | the friend |
| Abl | –ō | amīcō | by/with/from the friend |
| Voc | –e | amīce | O friend |

| Pl. | Stem vowel + case ending | Stem/base + case ending | English gloss |
|---|---|---|---|
| Nom | –ī | amīcī | the friends |
| Gen | –ōrum | amīcōrum | of the friends |
| Dat | –īs | amīcīs | to/for the friends |
| Acc | –ōs | amīcōs | the friends |
| Abl | –īs | amīcīs | by/with/from the friends |
| Voc | –ī | amīcī | O friends |

1.3. Note: the stem vowel –o has weakened to –u in two forms: nom sg and acc sg. But knowing that the real stem vowel is –o helps explain why the –o shows up frequently in the other forms.

1.4. The masc form of the adj. 'large, great' is magnus and is declined exactly like amīcus since it follows the 2nd decl pattern.

1.5. Some Latin 2nd decl masc nouns have lexical forms that do not end with –us but with –er (we can call them –er nouns). Technically, the noun's stem appears to end with –ro, but in the nom sg the –s case ending was not used, and the –o stem vowel also dropped out:
1.5.1. –er nouns where 'e' is part of the stem: *pueros > *puero > puer
1.5.2. –er nouns where 'e' is not part of the stem but is added: *agros > *agro > *agr > ager

1.5.3. Here are the paradigms for these two types of –er nouns in 2<sup>nd</sup> decl:

| Sing. | Stem vowel + case ending | boy | field | large |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nom | –er/–us (<os) | puer | ager | magnus |
| Gen | –ī | puerī | agrī | magnī |
| Dat | –ō | puerō | agrō | magnō |
| Acc | –um (<om) | puerum | agrum | magnum |
| Abl | –ō | puerō | agrō | magnō |
| Voc | –er/-e | puer | ager | magne |

| Pl. | Stem vowel + case ending | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nom | –ī | puerī | agrī | magnī |
| Gen | –ōrum | puerōrum | agrōrum | magnōrum |
| Dat | –īs | puerīs | agrīs | magnīs |
| Acc | –ōs | puerōs | agrōs | magnōs |
| Abl | –īs | puerīs | agrīs | magnīs |
| Voc | –ī | puerī | agrī | magnī |

1.6. Final comments on the forms:

1.6.1. Beware that some of the case endings are ambiguous and could stand for two or more possibilities. Let grammatical and semantic context reign when trying to determine which it is.

1.6.2. Only in vocative sing of 2<sup>nd</sup> decl masc –us nouns/adjs do we have a different ending (a different stem vowel is used, -e). The –er nouns have identical nom/voc forms!

    Nom sg      amīcus          puer
    Voc sg      amīce           puer

1.6.3. Attributive adjectives in 2<sup>nd</sup> decl will match their nouns in case/gender/number. Usually, the endings will match spelling, but sometimes the endings will be spelled differently, even though they do match case/gender/number. Why? Consider these exx:

    Nom ms:  amīcus magnus      vs      puer magnus
    Voc ms:   amīce magne       vs      puer magne

Nom ms : amīcus magnus      vs      agricola magnus
Acc ms :   amīcum magnum     vs      agricolam magnum


1.6.4. Finally, nouns ending in –ius (fīlius 'son' and Vergilius 'Vergil') and the possessive adj. meus ('my') have a single –ī at the end of the voc sing (instead of –e like amīce):

   Ō mī fīlī Vergilī!     'O my son, Vergil!'

2. Apposition: When two nouns try to fill the same function slot and share the same referent (they refer to the same entity), the second noun is said to be in apposition to the first noun (I like to call the first noun the anchor for the appositive). As such, the appositive renames or recharacterizes the first noun. In Latin (and other languages) the appositive shares the same case as its anchor (the gender and number are often the same but not necessarily).

My brother, Charlie, struck out.        The pitcher hit my brother, Charlie.

Gāium, fīlium meum, in agrō videō.  (I see Gaius, my son, in the field.)

3. Latin word order:
3.1. General word order:
S (+mod) / IO (+mod) / DO (+mod) / adverbials / V
Puer puellae bellae rosam dat.
The boy to the pretty girl a rose is giving = The boy is giving the pretty girl a rose.

3.2. The general word order can vary, since Latin case endings indicate the function. Differences in word order reflect things like contrast, emphasis.