

LATIN GRAMMAR

Wheelock 20: Fourth Declension, Ablatives of Place From Which and Separation

1. Fourth Declension

1.1. We've learned 3 declension patterns so far; now we add the 4th declension! Here is a quick summary of the *typical gender* of nouns by declension pattern (as well as how the noun stems ends):

DECLENSION	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD	FOURTH
TYPICAL GENDER	Fem	Masc, Neut	All	Masc
STEM ENDING	-a	-o (weakens to -u)	Cons and -i	-u

1.2. The stem-vowel -u occurs in all forms except the dat/abl pl -ibus (the stem -u has weakened to -i in -ibus, but sometimes the original vowel is seen: -ubus). There aren't many 4th decl nouns, and as mentioned above, they are usually masc gender (in our lesson the only fem noun is **manus**, -ūs 'hand', while the only neut nouns are **cornū**, -ūs 'horn' and **genū**, -ūs 'knee'). Here are the forms (along with an example of 2nd decl and 3rd decl nouns whose lexical forms also end in -us so that you can see how the forms differ).

Fourth Declension Nouns		Fourth Declension Case Endings (+ stem vowel)		-US Nouns in Other Declensions	
SING.	frūctus fruit	cornū horn	M/F	N	2 nd Decl (M)
NOM	frūctus	cornū	-us	-ū	amīcus
GEN	frūctūs	cornūs	-ūs	-ūs	amīcī
DAT	frūctuī	cornū	-uī	-ū	amīcō
ACC	frūctum	cornū	-um	-ū	amīcum
ABL	frūctū	cornū	-ū	-ū	amīcō
PL.					
NOM	frūctūs	cornua	-ūs	-ua	amīcī
GEN	frūctuum	cornuum	-uum	-uum	amīcōrum
DAT	frūctibus	cornibus	-ibus	-ibus	amīcīs
ACC	frūctūs	cornua	-ūs	-ua	amīcōs
ABL	frūctibus	cornibus	-ibus	-ibus	amīcīs

1.3. Important things to remember

- There are 5 places where -us comes at the end, but the -u- is *short* in only 1 place (nom m/f sg); everywhere else there is a macron: -ūs.
- In order to keep from getting confused by the fact that some nouns with lexical forms ending in -us follow other declension patterns besides the fourth, you **MUST** continue to learn the gen sg form along with the nom sg lexical form when you're

memorizing vocab: *servus, servi* = 2nd decl; *tempus, temporis* = 3rd decl; *manus, manus* = 4th decl.

2. Ablatives of Place From Which and Ablatives of Separation

2.1. Ablative of Place From Which: With a verb of motion, we can express movement from a place using the ablative form of the place-noun with the prepositions **ā/ab, dē, ex** (*from, down from, away from*).

Graecī ā patriā suā nāvigāvērunt. The Greeks sailed from their (own) country.

Flūmen dē montibus flūxit. The river flowed down from the mountains.

2.2. Ablative of Separation: This is used to express that someone/thing is separate from another, but without motion involved. The thing/person that the one is separate from is in ablative case and can frequently occur without a preposition, esp. with verbs like ‘to free’, ‘to lack’, and ‘to deprive’.

Cicerō hostēs ab urbe prohibuit. Cicero kept the enemy away from the city.

Eōs timōre liberāvit. He freed them from fear.

Agricolae pecūniā saepe carēbant. The farmers were often lacking money.