## LESSON 1: THE FIRST DECLENSION

### 1. THE DECLENSION OF TERRA

Open your Grammar to No. 31. Here you see the declension of TERRA. Terra is a model for all Latin nouns that belong to the first declension. Look at the GENITIVE SINGULAR. It ends in -ae.

# ALL NOUNS WHOSE GENITIVE ENDS IN -AE ARE IN THE FIRST DECLENSION.

The STEM of any noun is found by dropping the ending of the Genitive Singular. Thus, genitive: TERR-AE; STEM: TERR-.

A noun of the first declension is then declined by adding to the STEM the ENDINGS shown for TERRA.

You notice that the first five forms are all singular; the rest are plural—look at the MEANINGS.

There are five cases in each number. Study the MEANINGS given for the cases; the USES we shall study very gradually so they will not be too hard for you.

ASSIGNMENT: Memorize the declension of terra (GRAMMAR, No. 31).

Before you begin to study the vocabulary on page 7 your teacher will explain the rules for quantity and accent given in the Grammar, Nos. 9-13. Learn these rules and see whether you can tell where the accent belongs in each of the words in the vocabulary.

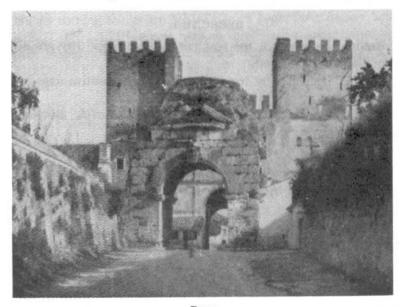
Whenever nouns are given in vocabularies, both the nominative and genitive are printed. Be sure to learn the GENITIVE, because it tells you to what declension the noun belongs. Can you tell why all the words in the list are like terra?

#### VOCABULARY

terra, terrae	$\left\{ egin{array}{l} earth \ land \end{array}  ight.$
porta, portae	gate
Marīa, Marīae	Mary
nauta, nautae	sailor
victōria, victōriae	victory
silva, silvae	forest
glōria, glōriae	${fame \atop glory}$

## RELATED ENGLISH WORDS

The following phrases contain English words related to some of the Latin words in the vocabulary: a nautical dictionary; a sylvan scene; the portals of the palace; rough terrain. Can you tell to which words they are related?



PORTA

# HOW TO MAKE VOCABULARY STUDY EASY

1. Read the words after your teacher, being very careful to pronounce them just as your teacher does.

2. Look carefully at the genitive and the meanings; study

them for a few minutes.

3. Place a piece of paper over the English and try to recite the English meanings. Don't look until you have really tried to remember them! Then do the same with the Latin. BE SURE TO LEARN EVERYTHING THAT IS GIVEN IN THE VOCABULARY.

4. Repeat this several times before class.

5. Every day review some vocabulary before starting on your new lesson. If you learn each vocabulary very carefully and keep reviewing it, Latin will be easy. You will have  $VICT\bar{O}RIA$  over Latin and will gain the  $GL\bar{O}RIA$  which belongs to a good student.

#### EXERCISE 1

Decline the words in the vocabulary. Remember they are all like TERRA. Therefore:

1. Find the STEM by dropping the -ae of the genitive singular, thus: glori-ae; stem: glori-;

2. Add the ENDINGS of terra, thus: glori-ae, glori-ae, glori-ae, etc.

## **EXERCISE 2**

## [Essential]

## Tell what cases these forms are and give the meanings:

1.	terram	8.	nautārum	15.	porta
2.	silvās	9.	terrae	- 16.	silvīs
3.	portārum	10.	victōria	17.	victōriā
	glōriam	11.	nautae	18.	terra
	portās	12.	victōriam	19.	portīs
	silvam	13.	glōriae	20.	nautīs
	victōriae		Marīae	21.	portā

22.	Marīa	26.	Marīam	30.	silvā
23.	terrārum	27.	silvae	31.	silvārum
24.	terrā	28.	terrīs	32.	nauta
25.	silva	29.	glōria	33.	portae

#### EXERCISE 3

- 1. How can you tell the difference between the nominative and ablative singular of the first declension?
  - 2. How can you find the stem of a Latin noun?
  - 3. How can you tell to what declension a noun belongs?

#### 2. RULES FOR GENDER

In English gender is very simple. Nouns naming men or male animals are MASCULINE, as John, man, sailor (sailors are usually men), bull, lion. Nouns naming women and female animals are FEMININE, as Mary, woman, waitress, cow, lioness. Nouns naming things are NEUTER, as book, lake, beauty, soul.

BUT IN LATIN nouns naming things are sometimes masculine, sometimes feminine, sometimes neuter. Thus, terra, ae, is FEMININE although *land* is a THING and is NEUTER in English.

ASSIGNMENT: Learn the rules for the gender of nouns in the first declension, Grammar, Nos. 32 and 33.

## **EXERCISE 4**

Explain the gender of the words in the vocabulary on page 7.

## 3. USE OF VERBS

In Latin the pronouns (I, we, you, he, she, it, they), when used as subjects of a verb, are not ordinarily expressed separately. THEY ARE CONTAINED IN THE ENDING OF THE VERB. Thus: ōrat means he, she, or it prays. He, she, or it is contained in the ending -at. Ōrant means they pray. They is contained in the ending -ant. The ending -at contains THREE