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 Henry John Roby
 Excerpt
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LATIN GRAMMAR.

ACCIDENCE *or*

STATEMENT OF INFLEXIONAL FORMS.

OF THE LETTERS.

§ 1. THE Latin Alphabet is the same as the English, with the omission of the letter *w*. The letters are also written and pronounced nearly the same as in English.

a, e, i, o, u, y, are called *vowels*, the rest are called *consonants*.

Of the consonants,

•Some are pronounced in the throat, called *Guttural*;
 viz. *c* (hard), *g* (hard), *k*, *q* (both which have same sound as hard *c*).

Some are pronounced at the teeth, called *Dental*;
 viz. *t*, *d*.

Some are pronounced with the lips, called *Labial*;
 viz. *p*, *b*, *f*.

Of these *c, k, q, t, p* are called *sharp* consonants (*tenues*);
g, d, b, *flat* consonants (*mediæ*).

l, r, m, n, are called liquids. Of these *m* is a *labial* liquid, *n* is a *dental* liquid.

s is a (sharp) *sibilant* (or *hissing* letter); *x* is a combination of *ks*.

h is a rough breathing or *aspirate*.

j and *v* are called *semi-vowels*.

R. G.

1

2

Of the Letters.

§ 2. K was a letter but little used by the Romans: Y and Z only to write Greek T and Z.

C was probably always pronounced hard.

Q was always followed by *u*, and *qu* was pronounced as *kw* in English.

I and U, before a vowel at the beginning of words, or between two vowels, were pronounced like (English) *y* and *w* respectively. V was so pronounced also after *ng*, *l*, and *r*, unless the *v* belonged to the termination of inflexion, as *colui*; sometimes also after *s*, as in *suadeo*. (In this use they are generally written J and V). See § 7.

U (V) and H, when in the composition and inflexion of words they occur between two vowels were often omitted in pronunciation and the syllables coalesced: as *amavisse* (i.e. *amavisse*) is contracted into *amasse*: *præhibeo* into *præbeo*. *u* following *v* (*u*), and sometimes *e* following *v*, was changed into *o*: as *quom* for *quum*, *servos* for *servus*, *vorto* for *verto*.

M appears to have had at the end of words a faint pronunciation, on which account it was dropped in verse before a word beginning with a vowel.

R was perhaps originally like English *th* in *those*: at least words in the older period written with an *s* (as *arbos*) were afterwards written with *r* (as *arbor*), especially between two vowels, as *Papirius* for *Papisius*. Compare *meridie* for *media die* &c.

S final was at one time omitted in pronunciation. See § 21, 75, and App. F.

§ 3. According to the mode of pronunciation the Latin consonants may be arranged as follows:

	Non-Continuous, Sharp. Flat. (tenuēs) (mediæ)		Continuous, (aspiratæ) Sharp. Flat.		Liquids.	Semi-vowels.
Guttural (throat letters)	C (<i>k</i> , <i>g</i>)	G (hard)	H			J
Dental (tooth letters)	T	D		R (?)	N	
Labial (lip letters)	P	B	F		M	V

Changes of Letters.

3

§ 4. Changes of Consonants. (Madvig.)

When consonants of a different character are brought together, either by composition or by the addition of a termination of inflexion or derivation, one or other of the consonants is frequently changed so as to facilitate pronunciation: Thus sometimes—

(1) A sharp before a liquid is changed into the corresponding flat, as *neg-ligens* from *nec-lego*.

(2) A flat before a sharp, or before *s* is changed into the corresponding sharp (in pronunciation though not always in writing);
 as *ac-tus* from *ag-o*, *scrip-tus*, *scrip-si*, from *scrib-o*.

(3) By *assimilation*, a consonant is completely changed into that which succeeds it: thus,

(a) *d*, *t*, *b* into *s*, as *ced-si* into *ces-si*, *pat-sus* into *pas-sus*, *jub-si* into *jus-si* (from *cedo*, *patior*, *jubeo*).

(b) *n*, *r* into *l*: as *corolla* (*coronula*) from *corona*, *agellus* (*agērūlus*) from *ager*.

§ 5. Changes of Vowels. (Madvig.)

If the root-vowel be lengthened in inflection,

ā is generally changed into *e*; as, *āgo*, *ēgi*.

If the root-vowel be weakened by an addition before the word,

ā is changed into *ī* if the syllable be open (i. e. ending in a vowel); as, *fācio*, *perfī-cio*: into *ē* if the syllable be close (i. e. ending in a consonant); as, *facio*, *perfec-tus*.

ē is often changed into *ī* (in an open syllable); as, *teneo*, *contī-neo*; *nomen*, *nomi-nis*; but remains in a close syllable, or before *r*; as, *teneo*, *conten-tus*; *fero*, *effero*.

Conversely, *ī* is changed into *ē* in a close syllable; thus the crude form *judic-* makes nom. *judex*.

ū in an open syllable often becomes *ū* in a close one; as, *adūlesco*, *adūltus*; *cūlo*, *cūltus*; so the nominative *corpūs*, *ebūr*, compared with *corpū-ris*, *ebū-ris*.

u often takes the place of these vowels before *l*; as, *pello*, *pepūli*; *scalpo*, *exsculpo*; *famīlia*, *famūlus*.

1—2

4 *Of Nouns.*

§ 6. Diphthongs are formed by the coalescence of two vowels rapidly pronounced into one vowel sound. In Latin the diphthongs in ordinary use are

$\begin{matrix} \text{æ} \\ \text{œ} \end{matrix} \left. \vphantom{\begin{matrix} \text{æ} \\ \text{œ} \end{matrix}} \right\} \text{ sounded (in England) like } ee \text{ in } \textit{feet},$
 $au \dots\dots\dots a \text{ in } \textit{hall}.$

$eu = \bar{u}$, $ei = \bar{i}$, $ui = \bar{i}$ (e. g. *huic, cui*), are rarely found.

The Greek *ai, oi, eu* are usually expressed in Latin by *æ, œ*, and *ī*.

æ is changed into *ī* if the radical vowel be lengthened by an addition before the word; as, *lædo, illido*.

§ 7. N.B. In the rapid pronunciation of two vowels, if the first be a vowel sounded farther back in the mouth than the second, a diphthong is produced: if the contrary, the first becomes a semi-vowel. Thus (sounding *a* as in *fāther*, *o* like *a* in *hall*, *i* as in *machine* and *u* as in *mute*) *ai* (=English *ī*), *au* (=English *ow*), *oi* (as in English) are compound vowel sounds; but *i* or *u* sounded before *a* or *e*, give *ya, ye, wa, we*: hence the consonant sound of *i* (*j*=*y* Engl.) and *u* (*v*=*w* Engl.) in Latin.

OF NOUNS.

§ 8. Nouns are inflected, that is, have different terminations, in order to denote differences of number, gender, and case.

Nouns are either Substantive or Adjective. (See the Syntax, § 140.)

1. Substantives have inflexions of case and number, but each is only of one gender. But see § 12.

2. Adjectives have inflexions of number, gender, and case.

§ 9. There are two *Numbers*: Singular, used when speaking of one; Plural, used when speaking of more than one.

Three *Genders*: Masculine, Feminine, and Neuter.

Five *Cases*, called Nominative, Accusative, Genitive,

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Excerpt

[More information](#)*Declension of Nouns.*

5

Dative, and Ablative. To which a *Vocative* is added in the singular of some nouns of the second declension (see § 21); and in Greek nouns (see App. A.).

N.B. The accusative, genitive, dative, and ablative are often called *Oblique cases*.

The genitive case often requires the preposition *of* to translate it into English; the dative *for*, sometimes *to*; the ablative *by* or *with*. The signification and use of these cases will be learnt from the Syntax; the forms will be found in the following examples, and are generally referred to five great types, called Declensions. The following general resemblances may be observed :

§ 10. SINGULAR. The accusative case always ends in *m* in masc. and fem. nouns, viz. 1st decl. *am*; 2nd, *um*; 3rd, *em* or *im*; 4th, *um*; 5th, *em*. In neuter nouns it is always like the nominative both in singular and plural.

PLURAL. Nom. and acc. of neuter nouns always end in *a*.

Gen. always ends in *um*, viz. in 1st decl. *arum*; 2nd *orum*; 3rd, *um* or *ium*; 4th, *um*; 5th, *rum*.

Acc. of masc. and fem. nouns always ends in *s*, viz. in 1st decl. *as*; 2nd, *os*; 3rd, *es* or *is*; 4th, *ūs*; 5th, *ēs*.

Dat. and Abl. are always alike; and in 1st and 2nd decl. end in *is*; in 3rd, 4th, 5th, in *būs*; viz. 3rd, in *ībūs*; 4th in *ībūs* or *ūbūs*; 5th in *ēbūs*.

§ 10 a. The declensions of nouns substantive are (in dictionaries) distinguished by the endings of the genitive case singular; which

in the 1st declension ends in <i>ae</i> ,	
... 2nd	<i>i</i> ,
... 3rd	<i>īs</i> ,
... 4th	<i>ūs</i> ,
... 5th	<i>ei</i> .

6 *Declension of Nouns Substantive.*

DECLENSION I.	DECLENSION II.	
Nom. ending in <i>a</i> (Fem.) e. g. <i>mensa, a table.</i> <i>Singular.</i> Nom. <i>mensā</i> Acc. <i>mensam</i> Gen. <i>mensæ</i> Dat. <i>mensæ</i> Abl. <i>mensā</i>	in <i>us</i> and <i>er</i> (Masc.) e. g. <i>dominus, a lord; puer, a boy.</i> Nom. <i>dōminūs</i> Acc. <i>dōminum</i> Gen. <i>dōminī</i> Dat. <i>dōminō</i> Abl. <i>dōminō</i> Voc. <i>dōminē</i>	<i>um</i> (Neut.) e. g. <i>regnum, a kingdom.</i> Nom. <i>regnum</i> Acc. <i>regnum</i> Gen. <i>regnī</i> Dat. <i>regnō</i> Abl. <i>regnō</i>
<i>Plural.</i> Nom. <i>mensæ</i> Acc. <i>mensas</i> Gen. <i>mensarum</i> Dat. <i>mensis</i> Abl. <i>mensis</i>	Nom. <i>dōminī</i> Acc. <i>dōmīnōs</i> Gen. <i>dōminōrum</i> Dat. <i>dōminīs</i> Abl. <i>dōminīs</i>	Nom. <i>regnā</i> Acc. <i>regnā</i> Gen. <i>regnōrum</i> Dat. <i>regnīs</i> Abl. <i>regnīs</i>

N.B. Most nouns in *er* omit *e* in the oblique cases: as *ager, agrum, agri, &c.*
 Nouns in *ius* have their vocative case ending in *i*, as *filius, Voc. fili.*

Declension of Nouns Substantive.

7

DECLENSION III.

(On the terminations of the nominative see § 25 : on the gender, § 41—46.)

(a) Masc. or Fem.		Neut.		(b) Masc. or Fem.		Neut.	
e. g. <i>navis</i> (fem.), <i>a ship</i> ; <i>mare, the sea</i> .				e. g. <i>labor</i> (masc.), <i>labour</i> ;		e. g. <i>corpus, a body</i> .	
<i>Singular.</i>							
Nom. <i>nāvīs</i>	Nom. <i>mārē</i>	Nom. <i>lābōr</i>	Nom. <i>corpūs</i>				
Acc. <i>nāvem</i>	Acc. <i>mārē</i>	Acc. <i>lāborem</i>	Acc. <i>corpūs</i>				
Gen. <i>nāvīs</i>	Gen. <i>mārīs</i>	Gen. <i>lābōrīs</i>	Gen. <i>corpōrīs</i>				
Dat. <i>nāvī</i>	Dat. <i>mārī</i>	Dat. <i>lābōrī</i>	Dat. <i>corpōrī</i>				
Abl. <i>nāvī</i> (or <i>-ē</i>)	Abl. <i>mārē</i>	Abl. <i>lābōrē</i>	Abl. <i>corpōrē</i>				
<i>Plural.</i>							
Nom. <i>nāvēs</i>	Nom. <i>mārē</i>	Nom. <i>lābōrēs</i>	Nom. <i>corpōrā</i>				
Acc. <i>nāvium</i>	Acc. <i>mārīum</i>	Acc. <i>lābōrium</i>	Acc. <i>corpōrum</i>				
Gen. <i>nāvīum</i>	Gen. <i>mārīum</i>	Gen. <i>lābōrium</i>	Gen. <i>corpōrum</i>				
Dat. <i>nāvībūs</i>	Dat. <i>mārībūs</i>	Dat. <i>lābōrībūs</i>	Dat. <i>corpōrībūs</i>				
Abl. <i>nāvībūs</i>	Abl. <i>mārībūs</i>	Abl. <i>lābōrībūs</i>	Abl. <i>corpōrībūs</i>				

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[More information](#)8 *Declension of Nouns Substantive.*

(c) Masc. Fem.

e. g. *judex* (masc. and fem.), *a*
judge.

(d) Masc. Fem.

e. g. *serpens* (fem. usually), *a*
*serpent.**Singular.*Nom. *jūdex*Acc. *jūdicem*Gen. *jūdicis*Dat. *jūdicī*Abl. *jūdicē*

serpens

serpentem

serpentis

serpentī

serpentē

*Plural.*Nom. } *jūdicēs*Acc. } *jūdicum*Gen. } *jūdicibus*

Dat. }

Abl. }

serpentēs

serpentium

serpentibus

DECLENSION IV.

Nom. in *us* (Masc. or Fem.)*u* (Neut.)e. g. *fructus*, *fruit*;e. g. *cornu*, *a horn*;

DECLENSION V.

in *es* (Fem. except
dies, § 48.)e. g. *dies*, *a day*.*Singular.*Nom. *fructūs*Acc. *fructum*Gen. *fructūs*Dat. *fructū*Abl. *fructū*Nom. } *cornū*

Acc. }

Gen. } *cornūs*

Dat. }

Abl. } *cornū*Nom. *diēs*Acc. *diēm*Gen. *diē*Dat. *diē*Abl. *diē**Plural.*Nom. } *fructūs*

Acc. }

Gen. } *fructuum*

Dat. }

Abl. }

*cornuā**cornuum**cornūbus**diēs**diērum**diēbus*

§ 12. Some substantives have a different form for the masculine and feminine, and therefore are almost the same as adjectives, and are frequently (esp. class 3) used as such.

Ex. 1. *ēquus*, *horse*; *ēqua*, *mare*: so *tibicēn* (for *tibicēnus*), *flute-player*; *tibicīna*, *female flute-player*.

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[More information](#)*Declension of Nouns Adjective.* 92. *māgister, master; māgistra, mistress.*3. *victor, conqueror; victrix, conqueress.*

The forms *victricia, conquering, ultricia, avenging*, are used as neut. pl. adjectives.

4. *Persā, Persian man; Persis, Persian woman.*5. *Phœnix, Phœnician man; Phœnissā, Phœnician woman.*6. *Tyndārides, son of Tyndārus; Tyndāris, daughter of Tyndarus.*7. *Thestīādes, son of Thestius; Thestīās, daughter of Thestius.*

N.B. The last two and similar forms are named *patronymics*. The last four are Greek forms.

DECLENSION OF NOUNS ADJECTIVE.

§ 13. Adjectives (in the positive degree) differ from substantives only in having inflexions to denote differences of gender. They may be divided into two classes.

1. Those which have a different form for all three genders.

2. Those which have one form for masculine and feminine, and either another form for the neuter or the same form.

The 1st class has a feminine termination (nom. in *a*) like the first declension; and masculine (nom. in *us* or *er*), neuter (nom. in *um*) like the second declension.

Thus Nom. *bonus, bona, bonum*; just like *dominus, mensa, regnum*.

The 2nd class have terminations similar to the third declension.

(*a*) Those ending in *is*, neuter *e*, as *tristis, triste*, like III. (*a*) *navis, mare*.

N.B. The ablative singular is always in *i*.

10 Declension of Nouns Adjective.

(b) Those ending in *or*, neuter *us*, as *meliior*, *melius*, like III. (b), *labor*, *corpus*.

The penult however of adjectives of the comparative degree is always long; that of substantives like *corpus* always short.

(c) Those ending in *x*, *as*, *es*, and *ans* or *ens*, (and some others), as *felix*, *nostrās*, *amans*, &c. like III. (c) and (d); excepting that the neuter acc. sing. is the same as the nominative, and the neuter nom. and acc. plural end in *ia*, as *felicīa*, *amantīa*.

The formation of the cases from the genit. sing. is similar to that of substantives of the III. decl. (See § 25.)

N.B. In (b) and (c) the ablative singular ends either in *e* or *i*, but in (b) *e* is more usual, and in (c) *i* is more usual: (but in ablatives absolute, § 184, always *e*).

§ 14. 1. Ex. *bōnus*, *good*.

<i>Singular.</i>			<i>Plural.</i>		
Masc.	Fem.	Neut.	Masc.	Fem.	Neut.
Nom. <i>bōnūs</i>	<i>bōnā</i>	<i>bōnum</i>	Nom. <i>bōnī</i>	<i>bōnæ</i>	<i>bōnā</i>
Acc. <i>bōnum</i>	<i>bōnam</i>	<i>bōnum</i>	Acc. <i>bōnōs</i>	<i>bōnās</i>	<i>bōnā</i>
Gen. <i>bōnī</i>	<i>bōnæ</i>	<i>bōnī</i>	Gen. <i>bōnōrum</i>	<i>bōn- ārum</i>	<i>bōn- ōrum</i>
Dat. <i>bōnō</i>	<i>bōnæ</i>	<i>bōnō</i>	Dat. }		
Abl. <i>bōnō</i>	<i>bōnā</i>	<i>bōnō</i>	Abl. }	<i>bōnīs</i>	

N.B. The Voc. Sing. Masc. is *bōnē*.

So also *tēner* (for *tēnērus*), *tenēra*, *tenērum*, and other adjectives in *er*, the masculine being declined like *puer*.

2. (a) Ex. *tristis*, *sad*.

<i>Singular.</i>		<i>Plural.</i>	
Masc. and Fem.	Neut.	Masc. and Fem.	Neut.
Nom. <i>tristīs</i>	<i>tristē</i>	Nom. }	
Acc. <i>tristem</i>	<i>tristē</i>	Acc. }	<i>tristēs</i> <i>tristiā</i>
Gen. }	<i>tristīs</i>	Gen. }	<i>tristium</i>
Dat. }		Dat. }	
Abl. }	<i>tristī</i>	Abl. }	<i>tristībūs</i>