

## SECOND DECLENSION NOUNS (-us, -er, -ir; -um)

**Gender:** Nouns of the Second Declension are regularly **masculine** or **neuter**. Nouns ending in *-us*, *-er*, and *-ir* are masculine; those ending in *-um* are neuter.

### Formation:

1) Nouns ending in *-us* (masculine) and *-um* (neuter) decline thus:

	<b>Masculine</b>			<b>Neuter</b>	
	Singular	Plural		Singular	Plural
Nom.	<b>-us</b>	<b>-i</b>	Nom.	<b>-um</b>	<b>-a</b>
Gen.	<b>-i</b>	<b>-orum</b>	Gen.	<b>-i</b>	<b>-orum</b>
Dat.	<b>-o</b>	<b>-is</b>	Dat.	<b>-o</b>	<b>-is</b>
Acc.	<b>-um</b>	<b>-os</b>	Acc.	<b>-um</b>	<b>-a</b>
Abl.	<b>-o</b>	<b>-is</b>	Abl.	<b>-o</b>	<b>-is</b>

2) **Vir** (the only noun ending in *-ir*) declines thus:

	Singular	Plural
Nom.	vir	viri
Gen.	viri	virorum
Dat.	viro	viris
Acc.	virum	viros
Abl.	viro	viris

3) Nouns ending in *-er* (masculine) decline either like *puer*, boy or *ager*, field:

	Singular	Plural		Singular	Plural
Nom.	puer	pueri	Nom.	ager	agri
Gen.	pueri	puerorum	Gen.	agri	agrorum
Dat.	puero	pueris	Dat.	agro	agris
Acc.	puerum	pueros	Acc.	agrum	agros
Abl.	puero	pueris	Abl.	agro	agris

**Nouns declined like *puer***, retaining the *e* in the stem :

*adulter, adulteri, adulterer*  
*socer, soceri, father-in-law*  
*gener, generi, son-in-law*  
*vesper, vesperi, evening* (with ablative *vespere* and locative *vesperi*, in the evening).  
*Liber, Liberi, Bacchus* (the god of wine)  
*lucifer, luciferi, morning star*  
*armiger, armigeri, armor-bearer*  
*signifer, signiferi, standard-bearer* (and other compounds in *-fer* and *-ger*).

**Nouns declined like *ager***, dropping the *e* in the stem :

<i>aper, apri, boar</i>	<i>faber, fabri, smith</i>
<i>arbiter, arbitri, judge</i>	<i>fiber, fibri, beaver</i>
<i>cancer, cancri, crab</i>	<i>liber, libri, book</i>
<i>caper, capri, goat</i>	<i>magister, magistri, master, teacher</i>
<i>culter, cultri, knife</i>	<i>minister, ministri, servant</i>

**Feminine and Neuter Nouns of the Second Declension:**

The following nouns of the second declension are *feminine*:

- 1) Most cities, countries, and islands: *Corinthus, Aegyptus, Rhodus*, etc.
- 2) Most trees and plants: *fagus*, beech, *ficus*, fig tree, etc.
- 3) The following: *alvus*, belly; *carbasus*, linen; *humus*, ground; and a few others.

And the following are *neuter*:

*virus*, poison; *pelagus*, sea; *vulgus*, crowd, rabble.  
(These have no plural, except *pelagus*).

**Gentive in *-ii***: For nouns ending in *-ius*, the genitive singular of *-i* began to be replaced in the Augustan period with *-ii*. But this change did not affect proper nouns ending in *-ius*, which continued to have the genitive singular in *-i* not *-ii* (thus, *Vergili*, of Vergil). When the genitive singular is in *-i*, the accent of the nominative is retained.

**The Locative Case**: for the singular ends in *-i* and for the plural in *-is*:

*humi*, on the ground; *domi*, at home; *Corinthi*, at Corinth; *Delphis*, at Delphi.

**The Vocative Case** is always the same as the nominative in all declensions except *-us* nouns of the second declension, which change to *-e*: *O Marce*, O Marcus! But proper names ending in *-ius* (as well as *filius*, son; and *genius*, divine guardian) change to *-i*, retaining the accent as in the nominative: *O Vergili*, O Virgil! *O fili*, O son!

<b>Deus</b> has special forms:	Nom.	<i>deus</i>	<i>dei, dii, or di</i>
	Gen.	<i>dei</i>	<i>deorum or deum</i>
	Dat.	<i>deo</i>	<i>deis, diis, or dis</i>
	Acc.	<i>deum</i>	<i>deos</i>
	Abl.	<i>deo</i>	<i>deis, diis, or dis</i>