

Capitulum XIII - Annus et Menses

Ablative of Time When

The Ablative is used without a preposition to indicate the time *when* something occurs. Many examples are used in this chapter:

Nam tempore antiquō Mārtius mēnsis prīmus erat. In ancient times, March was the first month.

Diē septimō vel octāvō post lūnam novam . . . On the 7th or 8th day after the new moon . . .

Aestāte diēs longī sunt. In the summer the days are long.

Autumnō folia dē arboribus cadunt. In the autumn leaves fall from trees.

Eō tempore multī Romānī urbem relinquunt. At that time many Romans leave the city.

Superlative Degree of Adjectives

Adjectives have three degrees of comparison: positive (*high*), comparative (*higher*), superlative (*highest*). English uses the suffix *-est* (*highest*) or the modifier *most* (*most beautiful*) to express the superlative degree. Latin uses the endings *-issimus*, *-issima*, *-issimum*, which decline on the 1st and 2nd Declension pattern:

	Singular			Plural		
	Masc	Fem	Neuter	Masc	Fem	Neuter
Nom.	<i>altissimus</i>	<i>altissima</i>	<i>altissimum</i>	<i>altissimī</i>	<i>altissimae</i>	<i>altissima</i>
Gen.	<i>altissimī</i>	<i>altissimae</i>	<i>altissimī</i>	<i>altissimōrum</i>	<i>altissimārum</i>	<i>altissimōrum</i>
Dat.	<i>altissimō</i>	<i>altissimae</i>	<i>altissimō</i>	<i>altissimīs</i>	<i>altissimīs</i>	<i>altissimīs</i>
Acc.	<i>altissimum</i>	<i>altissimam</i>	<i>altissimum</i>	<i>altissimōs</i>	<i>altissimās</i>	<i>altissima</i>
Abl.	<i>altissimō</i>	<i>altissimā</i>	<i>altissimō</i>	<i>altissimīs</i>	<i>altissimīs</i>	<i>altissimīs</i>

These 1st and 2nd Declension endings are used with *all* adjectives in the superlative degree, *including* those of the Third Declension:

	Singular			Plural		
	Masc	Fem	Neuter	Masc	Fem	Neuter
Nom.	<i>brevissimus</i>	<i>brevissima</i>	<i>brevissimum</i>	<i>brevissimī</i>	<i>brevissimae</i>	<i>brevissima</i>
Gen.	<i>brevissimī</i>	<i>brevissima</i>	<i>brevissimī</i>	<i>brevissimōrum</i>	<i>brevissimārum</i>	<i>brevissimōrum</i>
Dat.	<i>brevissimō</i>	<i>brevissimae</i>	<i>brevissimō</i>	<i>brevissimīs</i>	<i>brevissimīs</i>	<i>brevissimīs</i>
Acc.	<i>brevissimum</i>	<i>brevissimam</i>	<i>brevissimum</i>	<i>brevissimōs</i>	<i>brevissimās</i>	<i>brevissima</i>
Abl.	<i>brevissimō</i>	<i>brevissimā</i>	<i>brevissimō</i>	<i>brevissimīs</i>	<i>brevissimīs</i>	<i>brevissimīs</i>

5th Declension Nouns

This chapter introduces Fifth Declension nouns. All nouns of the Fifth Declension are feminine, except *diēs* and *merīdiēs* which are masculine. The forms are:

	Singular	Plural
Nom.	-ēs	-ēs
Gen.	-ēī	-ērum
Dat.	-ēī	-ēbus
Acc.	-em	-ēs
Abl.	-ē	-ēbus

Here is the declension of *diēs*, -ēī, day:

	Singular	Plural
Nom.	<i>diēs</i>	<i>diēs</i>
Gen.	<i>diēī</i>	<i>diērum</i>
Dat.	<i>diēī</i>	<i>diēbus</i>
Acc.	<i>diem</i>	<i>diēs</i>
Abl.	<i>diē</i>	<i>diēbus</i>

Only *diēs* and *rēs* are fully declined. Other Fifth Declension nouns lack plural forms other than an occasional nominative and accusative plural.

Third Declension Nouns

Here are the Third Declension Nouns presented in Chapter 13:

mēnsis, is <i>m</i> month	tempus, -oris <i>n</i> time
nox, noctis <i>f</i> night	lūx, lucis <i>f</i> light
aestās, -ātis <i>f</i> summer	hiems, hiemis <i>f</i> winter
vēr, vēris <i>n</i> spring	imber, -bris <i>m</i> rain
nix, nivis <i>f</i> snow	urbs, -bis <i>f</i> city