

Capitulum III - Puer Improbus

Personal Endings of Verbs

Verbs show number (singular or plural) and person (1st person, 2nd person, 3rd person). The English equivalents are:

	Singular	Plural
1st Person	I	we
2nd Person	you	you
3rd Person	he, she it	they

Chapters I & II introduced the verb “to be” in its 3rd person forms: *est, sunt*. This chapter introduces new verbs, also in the 3rd person. The person and number of Latin verbs are revealed by their endings. Verbs in the 3rd person singular end in *-t*. Verbs in the 3rd person plural end in *-nt*. Because the endings show person and number, the personal pronouns (I, you, *etc.*) are not required to show the subject (the nominative) of the verb in Latin and are used mainly for emphasis.

The Accusative Case

The accusative case is used for the direct object of nouns. The accusative case indicates that which is most *directly* affected by the action of the verb. The accusative singular for masculine and feminine nouns ends in *-m* in all declensions.

The endings of the accusative case the 1st and 2nd Declension nouns are as follow:

	1st Declension	2nd Declension
	Singular	Singular
Acc:	<i>-am</i>	<i>-um</i>

Thus:

Mārcus puellam pulsāt
Aemilia puerum verberat.

Personal Pronouns

The personal pronouns in English are *I, you, he, she, it; we, you (pl), they*. In Latin they are not often used in the nominative case, but are common in the other cases. This chapter introduces the personal pronouns in the singular accusative case for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd persons:

1st person *mē* (me, all genders)
 2nd person *tē* (you, all genders)
 3rd person *eum* (him) *eam* (her)

Thus:

Quis mē vocat?

Iūlia tē vocat.

Mārcus eam pulsat.

Iūlius eum audit.

Relative Pronouns

Relative pronouns (who, which) create subordinate clauses. In English, the forms are:

Nom.	who	which
Gen.	whose / of whom	of which
Dat.	to whom	to which
Acc.	whom	which
Abl.	with whom	with whom

A subordinate clause attaches to the main clause and is often, but not always, found in the middle of it:

The farmer, who was a hard worker, lived a long and fulfilling life.

That woman whom you saw last night was my wife!

The relative pronoun in Latin will show number, case, and gender. The relative pronoun will agree with its antecedent (*i.e.*, the word it relates back to in the main clause) in number and gender; but the case is governed by the usage of the personal pronoun within the subordinate clause.

In this chapter are introduced the relative pronoun in the nominative and accusative singular, masculine and feminine.

	Masculine	Feminine
	Singular	Singular
Nom.	<i>quī</i>	<i>quae</i>
Acc:	<i>quem</i>	<i>quam</i>

Thus:

Puer quī rīdet est Mārcus.

Puella quae plōrat est Iūlia.

Puella quam Mārcus pulsat est Iūlia.

Iūlius, quem Quīntus vocat, pater liberōrum est.

The Vocative Case

The vocative case is used for direct address: "Son, come here!". In Latin the vocative case endings are identical to the nominative, with the exception of second declension nouns ending in *-us*, which show *-e* (as in *Et tu, Brute?*).