

Subject 'in the verb'

The subject of a sentence is sometimes a noun (e.g. the sailors) and sometimes a pronoun (e.g. we). When the subject is a noun, we put that noun into the nominative case in Latin. When it is a pronoun, we say that the subject is 'in the verb', because the pronoun does not normally appear as a separate word (as it does in English), but simply appears as the ending on the verb.

If we wish to analyse the Latin for a sentence in which the subject is 'in the verb', there will be no noun to write S over, so we write V+S over the verb to show that that is where the subject is hiding.

S	V	O	S	O	V
The girl	loves	the farmer	= puella	agricola	amat
S	V	O	O	V + S	
She	loves	the farmer	= agricolam	amat	

N.B. When a sentence has its subject 'in the verb', the first word we write in Latin will be the object, which we must remember to put in the accusative case.

Nouns in the vocabulary

When we list nouns in the vocabulary, we give three pieces of information: the genitive singular ending, the gender and the meaning. All three must be learnt.

The genitive singular ending for nouns of the 1st declension is -ae, and so all 1st declension nouns will appear in the vocabulary with the letters -ae after them, e.g. fāma, -ae. Alternatively, the genitive singular may sometimes be written in full, e.g. fāma, fāmae.

The gender of a noun may be masculine (m.), feminine (f.), common (c.) or neuter (n.). *Common* means that the noun can be either masculine or feminine. *Neuter* is the Latin for neither, and means simply that the noun is neither masculine nor feminine (rather like the English 'it'). We will meet some neuter nouns in Chapter 4.

Vocabulary 2

agricola, -ae, m.	= farmer	patria, -ae, f.	= country, fatherland
aqua, -ae, f.	= water	puella, -ae, f.	= girl
fābula, -ae, f.	= story	pugna, -ae, f.	= battle
fāma, -ae, f.	= fame, glory	Rōma, -ae, f.	= Rome
fēmina, -ae, f.	= woman	sagitta, -ae, f.	= arrow
Graecia, -ae, f.	= Greece	sapientia, -ae, f.	= wisdom
incola, -ae, c.	= inhabitant	terra, -ae, f.	= land, ground
insula, -ae, f.	= island	Troia, -ae, f.	= Troy
mēnsa, -ae, f.	= table	via, -ae, f.	= road, street, way
nauta, -ae, m.	= sailor	victōria, -ae, f.	= victory

So you really want to learn Latin...

Exercise 2. 6

Read the information on the left-hand page about 'subjects in the verb'. Then translate into Latin:

1. We love the stories.
2. The sailor loves stories.
3. They overcome the country.
4. The woman loves water.
5. He has overcome the sailor.
6. They will call the farmer.
7. I will not prepare the table.
8. They prepare the tables.
9. You (pl.) have built a road.
10. She has called the girl.

Exercise 2. 7

Study the information on the left-hand page about nouns in the vocabulary. Note down and learn all the words in Vocabulary 1. Then, to revise the meanings of all the cases, give the Latin for:

1. Of the sailor
2. The inhabitants (object)
3. The islands (subject)
4. O woman!
5. O girls!
6. Wisdom (object)
7. Of the way
8. Of the battles
9. The story (subject)
10. Of fame

Exercise 2. 8

Translate into Latin. Note that proper names (such as Greece, Rome and Troy) are nouns and must be put into the correct case.

1. The women love wisdom.
2. The inhabitants have overcome the sailors.
3. The sailors will not attack Rome.
4. The girls are working.
5. The farmers have prepared the arrows.

Exercise 2. 9

From which Latin words are the following English ones derived? Translate the Latin word and explain the meaning of the English one. E.g. *nautical* describes matters to do with sailing; from *nauta* = sailor

1. feminine
2. aquatic
3. fable
4. laborious
5. navigate

Using Latin

Terra firma

'It's nice to be back on terra firma' –
terra firma = firm ground.