

-US-A-UM Adjectives

(cf. Wheelock 2, 3, 4)

One of the major types of Latin adjectives uses the **typical endings of the 1st and 2nd declensions** to indicate agreement with the nouns they modify.

For example, the Latin word for new is **novus, nova, novum** (sometimes written **novus -a -um**). This means that when you describe a masculine noun (for example **numerus**) with this adjective, you will take the endings from the **-us** endings of the second declension:

Singular forms:

novus numerus	new number (s)
novī numerī	of the new number
novō numerō	to/for the new number
novum numerum	new number (o)
novō numerō	by the new number

Plural forms:

novī numerī	new numbers (s)
novōrum numerōrum	of the new numbers
novīs numerīs	to/for the new numbers
novōs numerōs	new numbers (o)
novīs numerīs	by the new numbers

Remember that by our conventions, (s) means "as subject" and (o) means "as direct object." In Latin, the adjective may precede or follow the noun: **novus numerus** OR **numerus novus**. Notice that these endings will frequently be the same, if the noun is from the same declension as the ending used. The **-r words** like **vir, puer, ager** will have as nominative forms: **vir novus / puer novus / ager novus**, because the adjective always uses the typical forms for the declension. But the rest of the pattern will show the same endings in the noun and the adjective:

novus vir	novus puer	novus ager
novī virī	novī puerī	novī agrī
novō virō	novō puerō	novō agrō
novum virum	novum puerum	novum agrum
novō virō	novō puerō	novō agrō
novī virī	novī puerī	novī agrī
novōrum virōrum	novōrum puerōrum	novōrum agrōrum
novīs virīs	novīs puerīs	novīs agrīs
novōs virōs	novōs puerōs	novōs agrōs
novīs virīs	novīs puerīs	novīs agrīs

The **same forms will be used to describe a masculine noun of any declension**. For example, since **agricola, ae** is usually masculine, you would have to use the following forms:

novus agricola	novī agricolae
novī agricolae	novōrum agricolārum
novō agricolae	novīs agricolīs
novum agricolam	novōs agricolās
novō agricolā	novīs agricolīs

The **-a** of the **-us-a-um adjectives** indicates the use of the **typical endings of the 1st declension** for adjectives describing **feminine** nouns (of any declension); the **-um** indicates the use of the typical **2nd declension -um endings** for adjectives describing **neuter** nouns (of any declension). Here is a horizontal arrangement of the cases:

Singular:	magna cūra	magnae cūrae	magnae cūrae	magnam cūram	magnā cūrā
Plural:	magnae cūrae	magnārum cūrārum	magnīs cūrīs	magnās cūrās	magnīs cūrīs

Singular:	remedium vērum	remediū vērī	remediō vērō	remedium vērum	remediō vērō
Plural:	remedia vēra	remediōrum vērōrum	remediīs vērīs	remedia vēra	remediīs vērīs