CRASH LATIN GRAMMAR · LESSON REVIEW

Lesson 2

Adjectives & Adverbs — the Genitive and Dative Cases

Source: Oliver's handouts, Lesson 2 Outline & Comparison of Adjectives

MORPHOLOGY

The Three Degrees of Comparison

Comparative & superlative are built from the stem of the Positive (minus its final vowel).

PATTERN	POSITIVE	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE
3 terminations altus type	*altus, a, um* high	*altior, altius* higher	*altissimus, a, um* highest / very high
2 terminations fortis type	*fortis, forte* brave	*fortior, fortius* braver	*fortissimus, a, um* bravest
1 termination felix type	*felix* happy	*felicior, felicius* happier	*felicissimus, a, um* happiest

COMPARATIVE ENDINGS

-ior (m/f) · -ius (n)

REGULAR SUPERLATIVE

-issimus, a, um

DECLENSION OF COMPARATIVE

3rd declension

REGULAR EXCEPTIONS

- **-er adjectives** → superlative adds -rimus, a, um to the nom. masc. positive: asper → asperrimus · pulcher → pulcherrimus · acer → acerrimus
- **Six adjectives in -ilis** → superlative adds -limus, a, um to the stem: facilis → facillimus, difficilis → difficillimus, similis → simillimus, dissimilis → dissimillimus, humilis → humillimus

WILDLY IRREGULAR — JUST MEMORIZE THESE

- bonus → melior → optimus (good)
- malus → peior → pessimus (bad)
- magnus → maior → maximus (great)
- parvus → minor → minimus (small)
- multus → plus → plurimus (much)
- (prope) → propior → proximus (near)
- plus: exterus/exterior/extremus, inferus/inferior/infimus, superus/superior/supremus, posterus/posterior/postremus, (prae/pro) prior/primus, (in/intra) interior/intimus, (ultra) ulterior/ultimus, (cis/citra) citerior/citimus

MORPHOLOGY

The "unus nauta" Irregulars

*All take **-ius** in the genitive singular and **-i** in the dative singular (all genders) — otherwise decline like 1st/2nd declension.*

alius · alter · neuter · nullus · solus · totus · ullus · unus · uter · uterque

SYNTAX

Genitive & Dative, Function by Function

Each use with its diagnostic Latin example — recognize the pattern, not just the label.

GENITIVE CASE

POSSESSION

the plain "of" relationship

DESCRIPTION

viri magnae virtutis — a man of great courage

PARTITIVE / GENITIVE OF THE WHOLE

pars militum — part of the soldiers

WITH CARDINALS + PAUCI

use abl. with de/ex instead: *decem ex pueris*

WITH CERTAIN ADJECTIVES

memor sui amici — mindful of his friend

OBJECTIVE GENITIVE

amor patriae (love of country), *timor belli* (fear of war)

DATIVE CASE

INDIRECT OBJECT

pueris libros dedit — he gave books to the boys

SPECIAL VERBS

favor/help/please/trust/believe/persuade/command/obey/serve/resist/envy/threaten/pardon (+ opposites) — exceptions abound, check a dictionary

COMPOUND VERBS

ad-, ante-, con-, in-, inter-, ob-, post-, prae-, pro-, sub-, super- compounds: *Brutus classi praeerat*

PURPOSE

magno usui nostris fuit — often paired w/ dative of person affected

REFERENCE + DOUBLE DATIVE

reference + purpose together: *legio auxilio Caesari fuit*

POSSESSOR (WITH SUM)

est mihi liber — I have a book

WITH ADJECTIVES

fitness/nearness/likeness/friendliness (+ opposites): *nobis sunt amici*

SYNTAX

Adjective Agreement

BASIC RULE

agrees with its noun/pronoun in gender, number, case: *nautae fortissimi*

PREDICATE ADJ. + MIXED-GENDER NOUNS

masc. plural if living beings, neuter if things: *ager silvaque erant magna*

SUBSTANTIVE USE

adjective standing in for a noun: *omnia* (all things), *nostri* (our men)

SELF-TEST

Exercise Prompts

Same phrases as the handout — quiz yourself before checking the key. Each line needs the case named.

GENITIVE SINGULAR

- the small body
- the braver king
- the heaviest shield
- the only citizen

DATIVE SINGULAR

- one horn
- the largest island
- a very beautiful woman
- the higher tower

ACCUSATIVE SINGULAR

- a very wide river
- a very deep swamp
- a very bad son
- the seventh day

ABLATIVE SINGULAR

- a very wretched girl
- the brave soldier
- a noble king
- the strongest farmer

ACCUSATIVE PLURAL

- very fierce foot soldiers · severe wounds · happier girls · light hands