

# Chapter

## 8

# The Second Declension Neuter Noun; Questions

Dominus vobiscum

Neuter nouns of the second declension end in **-um** in the nominative singular, instead of the **-us**, **-ir**, or **-er** ending which signifies a masculine second declension noun. All neuter nouns, no matter which declension have one similarity: the nominative is always the same as the accusative, and in the plural these two cases always end in **-a**.

## I. Grammar

### A. Paradigm

The following paradigm shows the declension of a neuter noun. When you copy it, put it into your notebook on a page titled Second Declension in the “Cases/Declensions” section. Memorize each ending.

māndā'tūm, commandment			
Cases	Singular		Endings
Nom.	māndā'tūm	a (the) commandment	-um
Gen.	māndā'tī	of a (the) commandment	-i
Dat.	māndā'tō	to/for a(the) commandment	-o
Acc.	māndā'tūm	a (the) commandment	-um
Abl.	māndā'tō	(by/with) the commandment	-o
Plural			
Nom.	māndā'ta	the commandments	-a
Gen.	māndatō'rūm	of the commandments	-orum
Dat.	māndā'tīs	to/for the commandments	-is
Acc.	māndā'ta	the commandments	-a
Abl.	māndā'tīs	(by/with) the commandments	-is

### B. Questions

There are two types of questions. One is expecting the answer *yes* or *no*; the other is seeking information.

*Are you coming with me? What is your name?*



To ask a question which expects a *yes* or *no* answer, add the suffix **-ne** to the first word in the sentence. The suffix is properly called an enclitic, which means a word that “falls upon” another word.

To ask a question seeking information, do not add the **-ne**.

**Quis est vir?** *Who is the man?*

To ask a question which expects the answer *yes*, **nonne** is placed first in the sentence.

**Nonne puella est parva?** *Isn't the girl small? or The girl is small, isn't she?*

To ask a question which expects the answer *no*, **num** is placed first in the sentence.

**Num puella est parva?** *Is the girl small? or The girl isn't small, is she?*

Since there are no words in Latin for *yes* or *no*, you may either answer with a positive response or a statement.

**Laborasne?** *Are you working?* **Laboro.** *I am working.* **Non laboro.** *I am not working.* However, you may also use these idioms: **Ita vero**, *so true*, meaning *yes*, or **minime**, *the very least*, meaning *no*.

## II. Vocabulary

## English Derivatives

Use yellow cards with black ink for neuter nouns (14). Write the conjunctions on white cards with purple ink (4). Write enclitics, interrogative particles, and idioms on white cards with black ink (5).

**bel'lūm, bel'li**, n., *war*

**cae'lūm, cae'li**, n., *sky, heaven*

**dō'nūm, dō'nī**, n., *gift*

**fīrmamen'tūm, fīrmamen'ti**, n., *prop, support, atmosphere*

**frūmen'tūm, frūmen'ti**, n., *grain*

**māndā'tūm, māndā'ti**, n., *commandment, mandate, order*

**op'pīdūm, op'pīdi**, n., *town*

**peri'culūm, peri'culi**, n., *danger, risk*

**princi'pīūm, princip'i**, n., *beginning*

**reg'nūm, reg'nī**, n., *kingdom, royal power*

**Sabbā'tūm, Sabbā'ti**, n., or **Sabbā'ta, Sabbātōrūm**, n.pl., *The Sabbath*

**stīpen'diūm, stīpen'di**, n., *payment, wage*

**testimōn'iūm, testimōn'i**, n., *testimony, witness*

**vēr'bum, vēr'bi**, n., *word*

**quō'nīām**, conjunction, *because, since*

**quōd**, conjunction, *because*

(**bellicose**, belligerent)

(celestial)

(donation)

(peril)

(principal)

(interregnum)

(stipend)

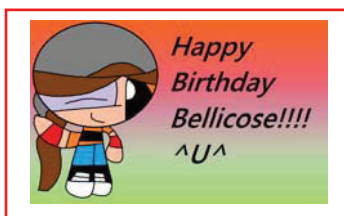
(testimonial)

(verbal, verbose)

**au'tem**, conjunction, *moreover, but* (postpositive)

**ē'nim**, conjunction, *for*

**-nē**, enclitic, expecting a *yes* or *no* answer



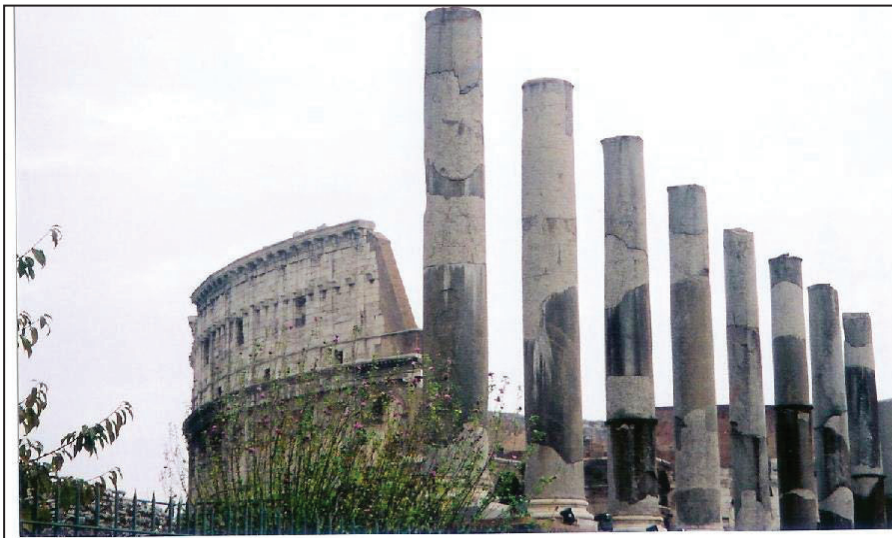
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**NOTA BENE:** Some Latin conjunctions are placed second in the sentence, and are called postpositive conjunctions, but in English, they are first in the sentence.

**nōn'nē**, interrogative particle expecting only a *yes* answer  
**nūm**, interrogative particle expecting only a *no* answer  
**ī'ta ve'rō**, idiom, *so true, yes*  
**min'īmē**, idiom, *the very least, no*



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### III. Exercises

**A. Decline** the new nouns in the vocabulary lesson.

**B. English to Latin**

1. to or for the Sabbath (dative pl.) 2. wages (nom. pl.) 3. of the towns (gen. pl.) 4. wars (nom. pl.) 5. testimonies (acc.pl.) 6. We do not praise kingdoms, do we? 7. He praises the kingdom of God, doesn't he? 8. Is the lieutenant telling about the wars? 9. You (pl.) are not thinking about the dangers of war, are you? 10. The son and daughter think about heaven and God's commandments. 11. The horse is carrying the boys, isn't it? 12. Does the man give gifts to the woman? 13. Since we are telling the men about the Lord, we are singing, aren't we? 14. Among the apostles Peter is the man of God. 15. The prophet is preparing to sing, isn't he?

**C. Translate.** Notice that word order is not always the traditional one.

1. Regnum Dei amant viri. (Before you translate, change to: Viri amant regnum Dei.) 2. Nonne regnum Dei est in caelo etiam in terrā? 3. Quoniam habitamus in terrā, putamus de mandatis Domini. 4. Nonne trans regnum puellae puerique laborant? 5. Dasne tunicam puellae? 6. Non est periculum in Italiā. 7. Estne frumentum in carro? 8. Ubi viri parant periculum? 9. Stipendium pueris quod laborant damus. (First, change the word order to: Damus stipendium pueris quod laborant.) 10. Angeli de caelo testimonium dant. 11. Auscultatne verba Petri Davique? 12. Nonne sunt oppida in Italiā? 13. Ubi est patria? Estne America? 14. Num ante carrum ambulamus? 15. Vocant, "Gloria Deo."

### IV. Reading Lesson.

#### In Viā <sup>1</sup>(ad) Romam

Aquila vocat, "Tempus est excitare (*It is time to get up!*)" Clara vocat Priscillam et Fideliam, "Auscultatisne Aquilam? Tempus est excitare!" Philippus vocat Davum Titumque, "Tempus est excitare!" Servi parant equos ut portent (*to carry*) familiam ad Romam.

Servi carros, raedasque parant. Raedae Aquilam et puellas et ancillas portant. Equus Fidelium ad Romam portat. Servi puellas et Aquilam in raedā et pueros in equis curant. Servi gladios portant et familiam contra periculum servant.

Servi ad raedas ambulant. Equi nonnullos (*some*) servos portant.

Servi frumentum portant. Pueri vocant, "Ad Romam!"

Equi et raedae familiam portant in viā ab oppido Vercellis in provinciā Galliā. Via ad Romam est per oppida. Oppida sunt Placentia, Bononia, Florentia, Clusium, Veiique, tandem (*finally*) via ducit (*leads*) ad Romam!

#### Recognition Vocabulary

Towns are named [Placentia](#), [Bononia](#), [Florentia](#), [Clusium](#) and [Veii](#).

#### Responde Latine. Answer in a complete sentence.

1. Quis Priscillam Fideliamque vocat?
2. Quis Davum Titumque vocat?
3. Ubi equi familiam portant?
4. Quos (*Whom*) servi curant?
5. Per quot (*how many*) oppida equi et raedae familiam portant? (Give the number in English.)

<sup>1</sup> We are putting the "ad" in parentheses, because it is not usually written before names of cities.





[A Roman road](#)



**NOTA BENE:**

Roman roads laid stones on a firm foundation of earth or stone. They tried to keep the roads in a very straight line. Then they usually built trenches (ditches) along the sides of the roads, filling them with larger stones. Flat stones were placed on top and then sand to fill in the empty spaces.

**V. Vercellae** is in Transalpine Gaul, across the Alps. It is 75 miles northwest of Placentia. Placentia is in Cisalpine Gaul, south of the Alps, and 80 miles north of Bononia. Give the total mileage for their trip.

Bononia down to Florentia - 45 miles

Then on to Clusium - 60 miles

On to Veii - 73 miles

Then Roma at last - 20 miles

If the family can only travel 30 miles per day, how many days will it take to get to Roma?



## VI. Map of the Seven Hills of Rome

Campus Martius, the Field of Mars, was used as a training ground for soldiers and private citizens who wanted to become physically fit. It was dedicated to Mars, the Roman god of war. In later times, it was also used for

