

# ADJECTIVE MATCHING

Latin adjectives, like nouns, have grammatical gender; however, while noun gender is inherent and constant, adjectives change gender depending on their usage. For this reason, when you learn an adjective, you learn three endings instead of one: for instance, *malus a um*, which is short for *malus mala malum*. The first form (*malus*) is the masculine form, the second (*mala*) is the feminine form, and the third (*malum*) is the neuter. Adjectives with *us a um* endings change their forms exactly like 1st- and 2nd-declension nouns (us-nouns, a-nouns, and um-nouns respectively). Therefore, they are called adjectives of the 1st & 2nd declensions or simply -us -a -um adjectives.

An adjective always takes on the gender of the noun it modifies. For example, *uva mala*, *caseus malus*, and *poculum malum*. In these examples the adjective rhymes with the noun it modifies, but this is often not the case. For instance, since *propheta* is masculine, it would be *propheta malus* ("a wicked prophet"); and since *domus* is feminine, it would be *domus mala* ("a bad house"). Even though these do not rhyme, they do match in gender.

An adjective takes on not only the gender, but also the grammatical number of its noun (singular or plural). 1st- and 2nd-declension adjectives have the same plural forms as us-nouns, a-nouns, and um-nouns respectively: for example, *uvae malarum*, *casei mali*, *pocula mala*, *panes mali*, and *carnes malarum*.

## **-us -a -um adjectives**

	<b>Masculine</b>		<b>Feminine</b>		<b>Neuter</b>	
	<b>sg.</b>	<b>pl.</b>	<b>sg.</b>	<b>pl.</b>	<b>sg.</b>	<b>pl.</b>
Nominative	us	i	a	ae	um	a