

VOCATIVE CASE

Direct address is the calling out of a name in order to get a person's attention. In English, direct address is often inserted into sentences of any kind (statements, questions, or commands) and is marked off with commas. For example, "Bill, the cup is on the table.", "Where is my cup, Bill?", "Bill, grab my cup!". In Latin, direct address is also distinguished with a special case called the Vocative case.

Unlike the other cases you have learned (nominative, accusative, and genitive), the vocative case is not normally included in the declension charts. This is because it usually looks exactly like the nominative case in both the singular and plural, and the exceptions are few and easy to remember:

1) 2nd-declension nouns ending in *-us* become *-e* in the vocative singular. For example, the name *Marcus* in the vocative becomes *Marce!*.

2) 2nd-declension nouns ending in *-ius* or the adjective *meus -a -um* become *-i* in the vocative singular. For example, the name *Iulius* in the vocative becomes *Iuli*, and *meus* in the vocative becomes *mi*.