

ACCUSATIVE CASE

Review:

A case in grammar is a form of a noun or pronoun that determines its function in a sentence. Although Old English used to rely heavily on cases, modern English retains very few of them. What remains of the old case system in English is found in its pronouns.

The subject (or nominative) case is the form of a noun or pronoun that may only be used as the subject of a sentence or to rename the subject of the sentence. In English, the pronouns "he", "she", "I", "they", and "who" are in the nominative case. When used properly, these forms may only be the subject of a sentence or rename the subject of a sentence.

Accusative Case:

The object (or accusative) case is the form of a noun or pronoun that is used as an object, either of a verb or of a preposition. In English, the pronouns "him", "her", "me", "them", and "whom" are in the accusative case. When used properly, these forms may be used as the direct object of a verb or the object of a preposition.

Unlike in English, almost all nouns in Latin have different cases. All the forms that you learned in Unit 1 are in the nominative case: for a-nouns, *a* and *ae*; for us-nouns, *us* and *i*; for um-nouns, *um* and *a*; for is-nouns, *is* and *es*. Thus, nouns in those forms may only be used as subjects of a sentence or to rename a subject.

For masculine or feminine singular nouns, Latin forms the accusative by adding *m*: for a-nouns, *am*; for us-nouns, *um*; for is-nouns, *em*. For masculine and feminine plural words, Latin forms the accusative by adding *s*: for a-nouns, *as*; for us-nouns *os*; for is-nouns, *es*.

For all neuter nouns, both singular and plural, Latin forms accusative forms the same as it forms the nominative: for um-nouns, *um* in the singular and *a* in plural.

Nominative and Accusative Cases

	a-nouns		us-nouns		um-nouns		is-nouns	
	sg.	pl.	sg.	pl.	sg.	pl.	sg.	pl.
Nominative	a	ae	us	i	um	a	is	es
Accusative	am	as	um	os	um	a	em	es

These accusative forms may be used for the direct object or the object of the preposition in Latin. For example, here the accusative nouns are used as a direct object.

Vir uvam accipit. ("The man takes a grape.")

Vir uvas accipit. ("The man takes grapes.")

Vir caseum accipit. ("The man takes a cheese.")

Vir caseos accipit. ("The man takes the cheeses.")

Vir poculum accipit. ("The man takes a cup.")

Vir pocula accipit. ("The man takes cups.")

Vir panem accipit. ("The man takes a loaf of bread.")
Vir panes accipit. ("The man takes loaves of bread.")

Here the accusative nouns are used as the object of a preposition.

Vir super petram est. ("The man is on top the rock.")
Vir super harenam est. ("The man is on the sand.")
Ventus contra petram flat. ("The wind blows against the rock.")