# Memory Page

**Chapter Maxim**

**Arma virumque canō.\***
Of arms and the man I sing.  —Vergil's *Aeneid*

**New Chant**

## First-Declension Noun—*mēnsa*

| Case | Noun Job** | Singular | Plural |
|------|-----------|----------|--------|
| Nominative | SN, PrN | **mēnsa**: table | **mēnsae**: tables |
| Genitive | PNA | **mēnsae**: of the table | **mēnsārum**: of the tables |
| Dative | IO | **mēnsae**: to, for the table | **mēnsīs**: to, for the tables |
| Accusative | DO, OP | **mēnsam**: the table | **mēnsās**: the tables |
| Ablative | OP | **mēnsā**: by, with, from the table | **mēnsīs**: by, with, from the tables |

**Vocabulary**

| Latin | English |
|-------|---------|
| **Verbs** | |
| **errō, errāre, errāvī, errātum** | I wander, to wander, I wandered, wandered |
| **stō, stāre, stetī, statum** | I stand, to stand, I stood, stood |
| **parō, parāre, parāvī, parātum** | I prepare, to prepare, I prepared, prepared |
| **spectō, spectāre, spectāvī, spectātum** | I look at, to look at, I looked at, seen |
| **sum, esse, fuī, futūrum** | I am, to be, I was, about to be |
| **Nouns** | |
| **ancilla, ancillae (f)** | maidservant |
| **glōria, glōriae (f)** | glory |
| **īra, īrae (f)** | anger |
| **unda, undae (f)** | wave |
| **fenestra, fenestrae (f)** | window |

*\*Canō is a synonym of cantō. Both verbs mean "I sing."*
*\*\*The letters in this column are abbreviations (short ways of saying something) for noun jobs that will be explained in chapter 9. Note them, but there is no need to memorize them.*

**Along the Appian Way, Part 3**

Marcus decided that he was done getting rich for one day. He and Julia ran off to play somewhere safer.

Julia threw a rock into the ocean as a small *unda* (_____) splashed gently onto the beach. "It's a good thing you didn't hurt that scroll you borrowed. You know what our teacher, Master Balbus, would have done to you if you had ripped his map? You don't want to stir up his *īra* (_____)."

"No, I do not and I don't want to think about it," Marcus said as he tried to relax, squishing his toes into the warm sand. "*Sum* (_____) happy *stāre* (_____) here and try to relax. Getting nearly run over by a horse is scary enough for one day, thank you."

Marcus pulled out the borrowed map of his hometown once more. He knew if he were ever to be a Roman road builder he would have to study the very best—

Wait a minute! Marcus spun the scroll around in his hands. It seemed to be stuck together and wouldn't open.

He gasped. Julia spun around *spectāre* (_____) Marcus. "What's wrong?"

"I'm dead."

The scroll that now lay in Marcus's hand was not his teacher's scroll. The scroll in Marcus's hand had a bright golden seal!

## Grammar Lesson

**Noun Declensions**

Do you remember what a noun is from your English grammar class? Just in case you forgot, **a noun is a word that names a person, place, thing, or sometimes an idea**. Do you remember how in the last chapter we found that verbs have all sorts of different endings? Well, nouns have a whole set of endings all their own. As we have learned, when we put together all of the different forms of a verb, we call it **conjugating** a verb. When we put together the different forms of a noun, we call it **declining** a noun. When we create a chart of a declined noun, we call that chart a **declension**.
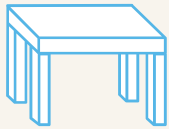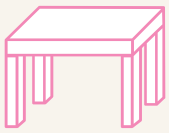
# Grammar Lesson

## Number

Take a look at the declension of *mēnsa* on the preceding page. Notice how, just as with the verbs, the chart has two columns going up and down. Just as with the verbs, the column on the left is for the singular forms of the noun (which means just one, remember?) and on the right are all the plural forms. No problem so far, right? We call the difference between singular and plural in nouns their **number**, just like we do for verbs.
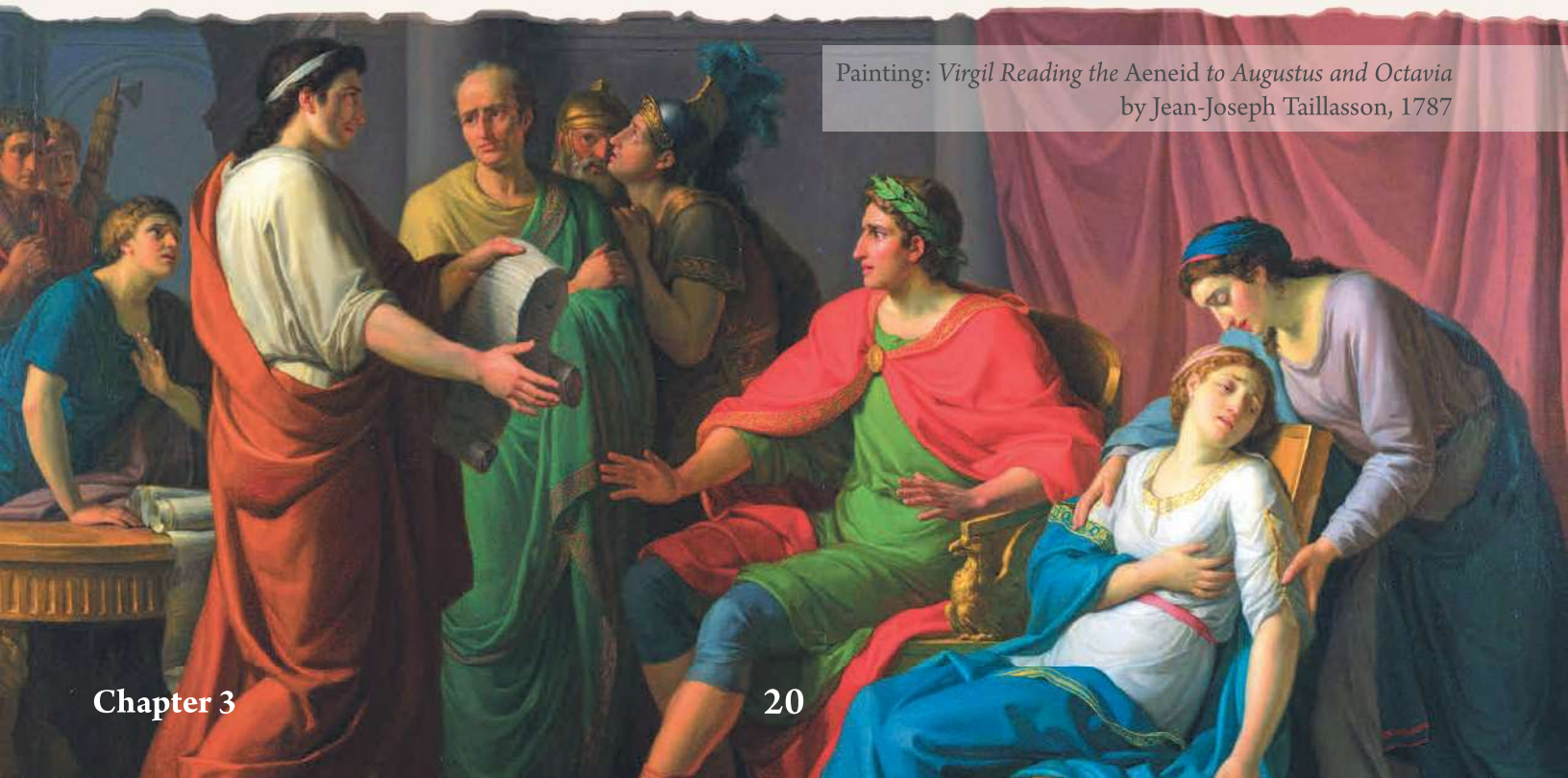
## Gender

In Latin, number is the only thing shared by both verbs and nouns. Latin nouns have **gender**, which verbs don't have. English nouns have gender, too. In English, "boy" is a **masculine** noun, "girl" is a **feminine** noun, and "table" is a **neuter** noun, meaning that it's not really either a "boy-table" or a "girl-table" because tables aren't boys or girls . . . they're just tables. Well, this may surprise you, but in Latin, all tables are girls! At least they are in Latin grammar. In fact, all the nouns from this week and last week are feminine, or, if you like, "girl nouns." (Don't worry, boys; we'll give you lots of masculine nouns later in this book.) Make sure to note that nouns ending in *-a, -ae* (we call them first-declension nouns) will almost always be feminine.

## Case

If you look at the chart of the declension of *mensa* again, you will see the label "case" and then five strange words in a column: nominative, genitive, dative, accusative, and ablative. These words may be strange to you now, but don't worry, we will explain them to you in future chapters! We did want you to see them now, however, because all nouns in Latin have not only number

Painting: *Virgil Reading the* Aeneid *to Augustus and Octavia* by Jean-Joseph Taillasson, 1787

(they are either singular or plural) and gender (they are either masculine, feminine, or neuter), but also **case**! Whenever we show you a noun-declension chart in this book, you will see these cases too. A noun's case (whether nominative, genitive, dative, accusative, or ablative) tells us what a noun's job is in a sentence. We will explain what these jobs are in later chapters.

### Looking Up a Latin Noun in a Dictionary

Whenever you look up a Latin noun in a Latin dictionary, you will find it listed a certain way. Let's use *mensa* as an example. Here is how it would look in a Latin dictionary:

<div align="center">
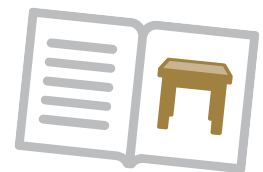
**mensa, -ae,** f.    *table*

</div>

The first form listed (*mensa*) is the form from your chart. Notice that it is in the nominative (nom.) row—so it is a form that is the nominative case.

The second form has a dash and then the letters *ae* like this: *-ae*. Why do you think that dash is there? It takes the place of the letters *mens*, which is the noun's stem. The *ae* is the noun's ending. The dictionary makers use a dash simply to save space! If they did not want to save space, the dictionary listing would look like this:

<div align="center">

**mensa, mensae**, feminine.    *table*

</div>

Now you can see that the *f.* is saving space, too. It stands for "feminine" because the gender of the noun *mensa* is feminine.

There is one more thing to note: If you look at your chant chart for this chapter, or Figure 3-1, you'll see that the endings for the nominative plural (first row, second column) and the genitive singular (second row, first column) are the same. However, when you look up a noun in a Latin dictionary, the endings are always for the nominative and genitive singular, not the nominative singular and nominative plural. We do the same thing in our vocabulary lists. (Again, don't worry if you don't really know what that means yet. We'll explain it later!)

| Case | Singular | Plural |
|---|---|---|
| Nominative | **mēnsa** | **mēnsae** |
| Genitive | **mēnsae** | **mēnsārum** |
| Dative | **mēnsae** | **mēnsīs** |
| Accusative | **mēnsam** | **mēnsās** |
| Ablative | **mēnsā** | **mēnsīs** |

Figure 3-1:
**Latin noun endings used in dictionaries**

# Worksheet

**A. Translation**   New and Review Vocabulary

1. **errō** _____

2. **stō** _____

3. **parō** _____

4. **spectō** _____

5. **sum** _____

6. **Arma virumque canō.** _____

7. **fossa** _____

8. **pātria** _____

9. **īra** _____

10. **unda** _____

11. **via** _____

**B. Chant**   Fill in the endings and translate the forms of *mēnsa* given below. The first one has been done for you.

| Case | Singular | Plural |
|------|----------|--------|
| Nominative | **mēns** a: table | **mēns**_____ |
| Genitive | **mēns**_____ | **mēns**_____ |
| Dative | **mēns**_____ | **mēns**_____ |
| Accusative | **mēns**_____ | **mēns**_____ |
| Ablative | **mēns**_____ | **mēns**_____ |

**C. Grammar**

1. A _____ names a _____, _____, _____ or _____.

2. Singular and _____ are the two options for _____.

3. Number answers the question "_____?"

4. Masculine, _____, and neuter are the three options for _____.

5. Giving all the endings for a verb is called conjugating it, whereas listing all the forms of a noun is

called _____ it.

**D. Derivatives**

1. Watching football on the couch can be called a _____ sport. (*spectō*)

2. To _____ something is to throw it out the window. (*fenestra*, preceded by *dē* for "out")
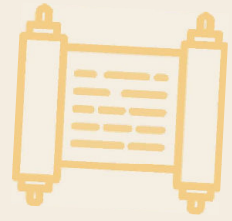
# Derivatives

## A. Study

Study the English derivatives that come from the Latin words you have learned this week:

| Latin | English |
|---|---|
| **errō** | error, erroneous |
| **stō** | station, stationary, static |
| **parō** | prepare, parry, pare |
| **spectō** | spectator, spectacle, spectacular, speculate |
| **ancilla** | ancillary |
| **glōria** | glorious, glorify, glory |
| **īra** | irritate, irate, irritable |
| **unda** | undulate, inundate |
| **fenestra** | defenestrate |

**Fun Fact!**

In ancient Rome, books, written on scrolls, took a long time to make. Copies were made by having someone read the book aloud while scribes would write an exact copy.
*There was no Roman god Xerox.*

## B. Define

In a dictionary, look up three of the English derivatives from the list above and write their definitions in the spaces below:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

## C. Apply

1. *Errāre hūmānum est.* This is a famous saying from the Roman philosopher Seneca. Can you figure out what it means? (Hint: *hūmānum* means "human.")

Give your translation here: _____

2. "Inundate," a derivative of the Latin word *unda*, means "to flood with *waves*." The following sentence uses "inundate" and several other derivatives. Underline all the derivatives in this sentence:

The secretary was inundated with so much paperwork that she made error after error and became extremely irritated.

3. Now write your own sentence using at least two derivatives from this week's vocabulary list above.

_____

_____

_____

# Quiz

## A. New Vocabulary

| Latin | English |
|---|---|
| errō, errāre, errāvī, errātum | |
| stō, stāre, stetī, statum | |
| parō, parāre, parāvī, parātum | |
| spectō, spectāre, spectāvī, spectātum | |
| sum, esse, fuī, futūrum | |
| ancilla, ancillae | |
| glōria, glōriae | |
| īra, īrae | |
| unda, undae | |
| fenestra, fenestrae | |

**B. Chant**  Give the chant for the declension of *mēnsa* and fill in the boxes.

| | Noun Job | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | SN, PrN | | |
| | PNA | | |
| | IO | | |
| | DO, OP | | |
| | OP | | |

**C. Grammar**  Define the following terms.

1. Noun: _____

2. Declension: _____

3. What question does the number of a noun answer? _____

4. What are the two options for number? _____

5. What are the three options for gender? _____