CHAPTER 16

Adjectives of the Third Declension

Wheelock assures you that there isn't much new material to learn in this chapter, and in a way he's right.
You know what adjectives are, and you know the case endings of the third declension.
In this chapter, you going to see that a class of adjectives uses the third declension endings to form the different numbers, genders, and cases.
Even though these adjectives use the third declension endings, they may modify nouns of all the declension; i.e., third declension adjectives are not restricted to modifying only third declension nouns.
But that's nothing conceptually new: you've seen adjectives of the first and second declensions modifying nouns of the third declension. So, as you can see, Wheelock is right to say that this chapter doesn't really confront you will a mass of new material to memorize.

On the other hand, people tend to confuse things which are similar more often than things which are quite distinct from one another.
Third declension adjectives work like adjectives of the first and second declensions, but there are some important differences which you must keep straight.
Additionally, the endings used by these adjectives are almost identical to the endings which nouns of the third declension use, but only almost.
I'm trying to warn you that this isn't going to be an easy chapter.
You're going to have grip the book firmly and keep a sharpened pencil nearby. Let's start.

ADJECTIVES

First let's take stock of what you know.
You know that adjectives are words which modify nouns, and that they "agree" in number, gender, and case with they are modifying.
To agree with nouns, which may be in all the possible cases, numbers and genders, adjectives must be able to decline.
The adjectives you're familiar with decline in the first and second declensions : they use first declension case endings to modify nouns which are feminine, second declension endings to modify nouns which are masculine and neuter.
The dictionary entry for such adjectives look like this:

magnus, -a, -um	miser, -a, -um
bonus, -a, -um	pulcher, -chra, -chrum
bellus, -a, -um	noster, -tra, -trum

Things to notice are:
  (1)   adjectives have no inherent gender fixed in the stem,
        so the dictionary doesn't list a gender for adjectives;
  (2)   sometimes the true stem of the adjective is not identical with the masculine, nominative singular,
        so you must scan the other listings for stem changes
        (e.g. the "-e-" of "pulcher" and "noster" is not a part of the true stem);
  (3)   first and second adjectives can modify nouns of any of he other declensions,
        not just those of the first and second declensions.

ADJECTIVES OF THE THIRD DECLENSION

The name speaks for itself. Some adjectives get their case endings from the third declension.
So you have two things to consider :
  (1)   what are the case endings;
  (2)   how does the dictionary distinguish between a third declension adjective from one of the first and second declension: i.e., how can you tell where the adjective is going to get its case endings simply by looking at the dictionary entries.

Let's take up the first point by reviewing the third declension endings for nouns.
Decline the following third declension nouns, and don't forget to check whether the nouns are i-stems:
"homo, -inis (m)"; "tempus, -oris (n)"; "virtus, -tutis (f)"; "mare, -ris (n)".
     (If you're unsure of the third declension endings, you should stop right now and review them.)

	man	*time*	*virtue*	*sea*
N/V.	_____	_____	_____	_____
Gen.	_____	_____	_____	_____
Dat.	_____	_____	_____	_____
Acc.	_____	_____	_____	_____
Abl.	_____	_____	_____	_____
N/V.	_____	_____	_____	_____
Gen.	_____	_____	_____	_____
Dat.	_____	_____	_____	_____
Acc.	_____	_____	_____	_____
Abl.	_____	_____	_____	_____

Here are the things to remember about the third declension case endings:
    (1) the third declension endings are divided into two groups :
        the non-i-stem endings and the i-stem endings;
    (2) the nominative singular has many different appearances;
    (3) basically the case endings are the same for non-i-stem nouns of all three genders.
        The apparent exception is with the neuter nouns, where the neuter nouns are following their own
        peculiar set of laws: nominative and accusative cases are always the same,
        and the nominative (hence accusative also) plural ending is short "-a"
    (4) With i-stem nouns, however, the endings used by masculine and feminine nouns are slightly
        different from those used by neuter nouns.

So what endings does a third declension adjectives use?
An adjective is going to have to able to modify nouns of all three genders, so a third declension adjective
will have to be able to masculine, feminine, and neuter.
To do this, a third declension adjective uses the pattern of the i-stem endings, with one further refinement
: the ablative singular of the masculine and feminine is long "-i", not short "-e".
Cover up the two columns of endings on the right and try to write down the endings third declension
adjectives are going to use.
     Check your work against the answers given in the two right columns.

CASE ENDINGS FOR THIRD DECLENSION ADJECTIVES

	MASC./FEM.	NEUTER	MASC./FEM.	NEUTER
N/V.	----------	----------	-------	-------
Gen.	_____	_____	-is	-is
Dat.	_____	_____	-i	-i
Acc.	_____	_____	-em	-------
Abl.	_____	_____	-i	-i
N/V.	_____	_____	-es	-ia
Gen.	_____	_____	-ium	-ium
Dat.	_____	_____	-ibus	-ibus
Acc.	_____	_____	-es	-ia
Abl.	_____	_____	-ibus	-ibus

So these are the variable case endings which are going to be attached to the stem of third declension
adjectives. The endings are almost identical to those of the third declension nouns; so, as Wheelock
puts it, there's nothing much new to be learned.

STEMS OF THIRD DECLENSION ADJECTIVES

So you've seen that adjectives of the third declension follow the analogy of first and second declension adjectives : stem + case endings.
And you've studied their case endings.
Now let's look at the stems of these adjectives and see how they're going to be listed in the dictionary.

First, here's a last look at a good old fashioned adjective of the first and second declensions:

        bellus, -a, -um
        vester, -tra, -trum

The entry tells you
  (1) which case endings the adjective uses for the different genders, cases, and numbers, and
  (2) whether the stem is the not what it appears to be in the masculine nominative singular.
Remember that an adjective listing in the dictionary does not start to decline the adjective, as it does for a noun. Instead it gives you the nominative forms, from which you deduce the declension and any stem changes. These are the things an entry for any adjective must tell you.
So how does this work with third declension adjectives?

But before I show you that - do you get the feeling I'm trying to put this off - let me give you some good news.
There are only two kind of adjectives in the Latin language :
     those of the first and second declensions,
     and those of the third.
There are non other possibilities.
Either an adjective uses the "-us (-er), -a, -um" endings or those of the third declension.
So if you see an adjective in the dictionary and the adjective is not of the first and second declensions, then it must be a third declension adjective.
There are no adjectives of the fourth and fifth declensions. That's the good news.

Now the bad news.
There are three different types of adjectives of the third declension, but the difference is only in the nominative singular. All three adjectival types of the third declension use the case endings you studied above for all the case except the nominative singular.
We need to focus now on the nominative singulars of these three types of adjectives.
The different classes are:

  (1)   adjectives of two terminations
  (2)   adjectives of one termination
  (3)   adjectives of three terminations

The distinguishing feature among these declensions is how many different endings are possible in the nominative singular.
Type (1) adjectives have one ending in the nominative singular for the masculine and feminine genders, and one ending for the neuter gender; that makes two endings, hence "adjective of two terminations".
Type (2) has only one ending in the nominative singular for all three genders, hence "adjective of one termination".
Finally, obviously, type (3) has one ending in the nominative singular for the masculine gender, one for the feminine, and another for the neuter; that makes endings, hence "adjective of three terminations".
Now, before we zero in on these different types, let me repeat :
after the nominative singular, these differences among the three types of adjectives disappear entirely.
All three types use the normal case endings you're already good friends with.

ADJECTIVES OF TWO TERMINATIONS

Now, unlike nouns, an entry for an adjective (normally) lists only the nominative case.
You know this: in "magnus, -a, -um" the "-us, -a, -um" endings are only the nominatives.
Nouns, you remember, list the genitive singular ending after the nominative, and that's for a good reason.
You have to be told (1) what a noun's declension is, and (2) whether there is a stem change. For nouns, because they can't change gender, the next possible form after the nominative singular is the genitive singular. So, in effect, the dictionary must start declining the noun for you so that you can get the information you need.
But adjectives, because they can have different genders, need not be "declined" for you.
You can get all the information you need about stem changes and case endings by simply looking at the noun in a gender different form the first gender - the masculine.
The entry, therefore, of adjectives typically does not include the genitive singular; it instead moves across the genders in the nominative case. So what does this mean for our third declension adjectives?

   All adjectives of two terminations look like this : "stemis, -e".
e.g.

omnis, -e	"all; each, every"
fortis, -e	"strong"
dulcis, -e	"sweet"
difficilis, -e	"difficult"
brevis, -e	"short [in time]; swift"

Now think. I told you that adjectives typically will move across the genders in the nominative case, and here you have only two different forms indicated. This means that two of the genders will have identical forms in the nominative.
For adjectives listed like this, the "-is" ending is used both for the masculine and feminine genders;
the "-e" is used for the neuter in the nominative singular.
And, as you can see, the stem does not change.
It's evident in the nominative singular of the masculine and feminine genders. You just drop off the "-is".
Decline the following expressions :

	every boy	every girl	every war
N/V.	_____ _____	_____ _____	_____ _____
Gen.	_____ _____	_____ _____	_____ _____
Dat.	_____ _____	_____ _____	_____ _____
Acc.	_____ _____	_____ _____	_____ _____
Abl.	_____ _____	_____ _____	_____ _____
N/V.	_____ _____	_____ _____	_____ _____
Gen.	_____ _____	_____ _____	_____ _____
Dat.	_____ _____	_____ _____	_____ _____
Acc.	_____ _____	_____ _____	_____ _____
Abl.	_____ _____	_____ _____	_____ _____

ADJECTIVES OF ONE TERMINATION

These adjectives have only one form in the nominative singular for all three genders.
This creates an interesting problem. What will its dictionary entry look like?
Most adjectives, remember, simply move across the nominative entries.
But an adjective of only one termination in the nominative singular has only one form in the nominative singular. It must give you the information you need about it - stem changes and declension - by beginning its declension. Just like a noun, the second entry for an adjective of one termination is the genitive singular. You drop off the genitive singular ending "-is" to find the stem.

Now wait a minute.
If an adjective of one termination is listed in the dictionary just like a noun, with the genitive singular as its second entry, how do you know whether the entry you're looking at is telling you the word is a noun or an adjective. Look :

potens, -ntis	"powerful"	
dens, dentis (m)	"tooth"	

Here you see the nominative singular entry "potens" followed by the genitive singular "potentis".
The stem of the word is "potent-", but a noun of the third declension is listed just like this.
Look at the word for tooth.
How do you know, even before you see the translation, that "potens" is an adjective and not a noun?
Right! "Potens" has no gender listed; the noun "dens" does.
The form "potens" can be masculine, feminine, or neuter. It's an adjective of one termination.
Except in the nominative singular, adjectives of one termination operate just like all the other adjectives of the third declension; they all use the same case endings and obey the same laws.
     HINT: don't forget the laws of the neuter! Decline the following :

	powerful tooth	powerful money	powerful plan
N/V.	_____ _____	_____ _____	_____ _____
Gen.	_____ _____	_____ _____	_____ _____
Dat.	_____ _____	_____ _____	_____ _____
Acc.	_____ _____	_____ _____	_____ _____
Abl.	_____ _____	_____ _____	_____ _____
N/V.	_____ _____	_____ _____	_____ _____
Gen.	_____ _____	_____ _____	_____ _____
Dat.	_____ _____	_____ _____	_____ _____
Acc.	_____ _____	_____ _____	_____ _____
Abl.	_____ _____	_____ _____	_____ _____

ADJECTIVES OF THREE TERMINATIONS

As the name tells you, these are third declension adjectives which have three nominative singular endings, one ending for each gender.
But there is an added twist.
These adjectives end in "-er" in the masculine singular, and you know what that means. It means that the "-e-" of the "-er" might not be part of the true stem.
Remember this problem with first and second declension adjectives like "miser, -a, -um" and "noster, -tra, trum"?

Look at these two entries for third declension adjectives of three terminations :

　　　　celer, celeris, celere　　　"swift"
　　　　acer, acris, acre　　　　　"keen; fierce"

Do you see what the dictionary is telling you? The first listing is the masculine nominative singular.
The second is the feminine nominative singular, and it's here you need to look for stem changes.
As you can see the stem of "celer" is "celer-"; the stem of "acer", however, is "acr-".
So in all its forms except the masculine, nominative singular, the root of "acer" to which the case endings will be added is "acr-".
The final entry is the neuter nominative singular. Now, don't forget, the only place where these adjectives have different forms for the three genders is right here, in the nominative singular.
After the nominative singular, these adjectives use the normal endings of third declension adjectives.
Decline the following.

	swift	death	keen	memory	fierce	war
N/V.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Gen.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Dat.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Acc.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Abl.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
N/V.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Gen.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Dat.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Acc.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Abl.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

DRILLS

The third declension adjectives can often help you out of some problems.
As you'll see once you start reading is that one of the main difficulties with Latin is that it has too few discrete case endings, not too many. The case endings overlap in so many places that it's often difficult to tell what case a noun is in. Having yet another set of endings helps you identify the case of the nouns of nouns these adjective are modifying.
For example, look at the form "sapientiae". What case is "sapientiae" ?
Well, it could be (1) genitive singular, (2) dative singular, or (3) nominative plural.
The "-ae" ending in the first declension is used for three different cases.
But suppose you see a third declension adjective next to it with an ending "-es".
The "-es" ending in the third declension can only be nominative or accusative plural.
"X"es must be agreeing with "sapientiae", so "sapientiae" must be nominative plural since that's the only number, gender, and case the two words have in common.
What you've done is this :

　　　　　　　　　　The noun "sapientiae" can be
　　　　　　　　　　　　genitive singular
　　　　　　　　　　　　dative singular
　　　　　　　　　　　　nominative plural

　　　　　　　　　　The adjective "x"es must agree with "sapientiae" and its form can be
　　　　　　　　　　　　nominative plural
　　　　　　　　　　　　accusative plural

Therefore "'x'es sapientiae" must be nominative plural, since it is the only case and number where the case endings of the noun and adjective overlap.

Write out the possible number(s) and case(s) of the following nouns and adjectives.
Don't worry about the translations for now, just focus on the endings.

		Number(s)	Gender	Case(s)
1.	omnium puerorum	_____	_____	_____
2.	celerem puellam	_____	_____	_____
3.	potenti regi	_____	_____	_____
4.	potentibus viris	_____	_____	_____
5.	fortes feminae	_____	_____	_____
6.	fortis feminae	_____	_____	_____
7.	forti feminae	_____	_____	_____
8.	acres mortes	_____	_____	_____
9.	acri memoria	_____	_____	_____
10.	acri bello	_____	_____	_____

VOCABULARY PUZZLES

adiuvo   Despite its appearance, the verb is not a regular first conjugation.
Look carefully at its principal parts: "adiuvo, -are, -iuvi, -iutus".
The "ad-" prefix only adds a little extra emphasis, as with the difference in English between "to help" and "to help out".)

quam   This adverb is used to emphasize an adjective.
It doesn't mean "how" as in "in what way".
It's used to modify adjectives and means "how" as in "How sweet it is!" or "How tall that young man is!"

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