

Lesson 1.3: Latin Nouns Have Different Endings

So, now we know what nouns are and that Latin nouns have gender. The next thing we need to learn is that Latin nouns can have 10 different endings. This means that the first part of the word stays the same and the last part changes. Look at the forms of noun, *puella* (girl), with all its endings:



<i>puella</i>	<i>puellae</i>
<i>puellae</i>	<i>puellārum</i>
<i>puellae</i>	<i>puellīs</i>
<i>puellam</i>	<i>puellās</i>
<i>puellā</i>	<i>puellīs</i>

You can see that the first part of each word stays the same: *puell-*. This first part that stays the same can be called either the *base* or the *stem* of the noun.

- **Underline the base of noun in each of the forms of *puella* listed above.**

The last part that changes is called the *ending*.

- **Circle the endings on the forms of *puella* above.**

Do the endings look familiar to you? They should! They're your first set of chants.

The endings change depending on how the noun is used in the sentence and whether it is one girl or more than one girl that the sentence is talking about. Even the endings that look alike are used in different ways.

- When a language changes the endings of words according to how the words are used in a sentence, it's called ***inflection***. We say that Latin is an ***inflected language***.

Let's try out that definition. Fill in the blanks.

_____ is when a language _____ the _____ of

words according to how the _____ are used in the _____.

Lesson 1.3 (continued): Latin Nouns Have Different Endings

English has a few inflections. For instance, we add the ending *-s* to make a word plural, showing that there's more than one: *girls*. Or, we may add *'s* to show that something belongs to someone: *girl's*. Mostly, however, English uses word order to show different ways a word is being used. So English is **not** considered an inflected language.

Because Latin is an inflected language, we will be learning lots of endings and what each of them is used for. As we do this, you will learn a great deal about English grammar and your mind will become sharper as you learn to notice and figure out (or analyze) how each ending is used. Soon, you will learn the names for each of the endings.

Your Turn!

In the forms below,

- Underline the base of the noun.

<i>silva</i>	<i>silvae</i>
<i>silvae</i>	<i>silvārum</i>
<i>silvae</i>	<i>silvīs</i>
<i>silvam</i>	<i>silvās</i>
<i>silvā</i>	<i>silvīs</i>

- Write the base here _____.
- Now, circle the 10 endings.
- Now, chant the endings 3 times.

Draw a small *silva* here:

The state of *Pennsylvania* was founded by William Penn. Use your knowledge of Latin to tell what *Pennsylvania* means: "*Penn's* _____."

Circle Pennsylvania. Then see if you can name the other states. Tricky, isn't it?

