

Both Latin and Polish are inflected languages and the use of nouns in a sentence is indicated not by position (as it is in English) but by case ending. Word position in a Latin or Polish sentence does not necessarily indicate how the word is being used in the sentence. It is the ending that is of paramount importance. The following Latin sentences all have the same meaning regardless of word order.

1) Puer puellam pulchram vidit. 2) Puer vidit puellam pulchram. 3) Pulchram puellam puer vidit. 4) Vidit pulchram puellam puer. All mean: The boy saw the pretty girl.

| | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|---|
| Polish Cases | Latin Cases | English Use |
| Nominative | Nominative | Subject |
| Genitive | Genitive | Possession |
| Dative | Dative | Indirect Object |
| Accusative | Accusative | Direct Object, Object of Prepositions, etc. |
| Vocative | Vocative | Direct Address |
| Locative* | Ablative* | Multiple uses |
| Instrumental* | | Multiple uses |

*The ablative in Latin combines the uses of the earlier Latin Locative & Instrumental Cases and functions like the Polish Locative & Instrumental Cases.

LATIN DECLENSION CASE ENDINGS

| Case | 1 st Decl. | 2 nd Decl. | 3 rd Decl. | 4 th Decl. | 5 th Decl. |
|-----------------|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>SINGULAR</i> | | | | | |
| Nom. | a | us, er,ir,um | var. | us, u | es |
| Gen. | ae | i | is | us | ei |
| Dat. | ae | o | i | ui, u | ei |
| Acc. | am | um | em, im | um, u | em |
| Voc. | <i>Generally the same as the nominative except 2nd Decl. Nouns in us—where the Voc. ends in e</i> | | | | |
| Abl. | a | o | e, i | u | e |
| <i>PLURAL</i> | | | | | |
| Nom. | ae | i, a | es, a | us, a | es |
| Gen. | arum | orum | um | uum | erum |
| Dat. | is | is | ibus | ibus | ebus |
| Acc. | as | os, a | es, a | us, a | es |

| | | | | | |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|----|------|------|------|
| Voc. | <i>The same as the nominative</i> | | | | |
| Abl | is | is | ibus | ibus | ebus |

First names generally belong to the First, Second or Third Declensions and for genealogical purposes are generally found in the Nominative, Genitive, Accusative and Ablative cases.

| | 1st Decl. | 2nd Decl. | 3rd Decl |
|-------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Nom. | <u>Marianna</u> | <u>Jacobus</u> | <u>Joannes</u> |
| Gen. | <u>Mariannae</u> | <u>Jacobi</u> | <u>Joannis</u> |
| Acc. | <u>Mariannam</u> | <u>Jacobum</u> | <u>Joannem</u> |
| Abl. | <u>Marianna</u> | <u>Jacobo</u> | <u>Joanne</u> |

Latin nouns all have gender which is sometimes determined by sex, but most often is grammatical. Latin adjectives agree with the noun they modify in case, number and gender. They are grouped together as First, Second, and Third Declension adjectives and do not necessarily belong to the same declension as the noun they modify. Participles are verbal adjectives and also agree with the noun or pronoun they modify in case, number, and gender. Adjectives of the First & Second Declensions use the endings of First Declension Nouns for their Feminine endings and the “us” endings of Second Declension Masculine Nouns for their Masculine endings and the “um” endings of Second Declension Neuter Nouns for their Neuter endings.