

Teaching notes on 4.03 'A' nouns

Slide 1

Learning objective: To extend our knowledge of Latin nouns that end in '-a'. So far, we've seen the singular subject and object endings, but in this lesson, we'll see the plural ones.

Mouse-click on this slide will also make lucundus say 'salvete!' ('sal-way-tay') to the class. This means 'hello!' The pupils can reply by saying 'salve!' ('sal-way'). 'Salve' is the greeting used to one person and 'salvete' is a greeting to more than one.

A further mouse-click makes lucundus ask, 'quid agistis?' ('how are you?') (NB the -tis on the end of 'agistis' shows us that he's asking all of us. If he was just asking one person, it would be, 'quid agis?') Mouse-clicks model two replies, one for if the pupil is feeling 'bene' (well) and one for if the pupils is doing 'male' (badly). Lucundus will then catch his 'Roman register' and will ask, 'quis adest?' ('Who is here?'). You can now take the register using the pupils' new Roman names, to which they can call, 'adsum!' ('I am here!') in response.

Slide 2



This lesson's warm-up is a game of Ecce Centurio, with one student at the front being the centurion and barking out the Latin words to which the rest of the class must mime appropriately. The words displayed are all 'A' nouns, some familiar, some not seen for a while, one totally new:

aqua (water), stella (star, seen in Unit 1), vacca (cow), rota (wheel, seen in the last lesson), femina (woman), villa (house, seen in Unit 1), maga (witch) and regina (queen – new – derivatives include regent, reign, regal)

Slide 3



Quick Fire Sentences. The vocabulary is picture-cued at the top of the screen, but you may want to check the class remember the English meanings of the words. The pupils are cued to start the o-s-t chant by the appearance (on mouse-click) of the familiar picture in the top right-hand corner.

The next mouse-click will bring up a series of verb only and object noun + verb sentences – they are:

amo [I love], aquam amo [I love the water], vides [you see], reginam vides [you see the queen], maga curat [the witch looks after], maga feminam curat [the witch looks after the woman].

Slide 4

This slide recaps the pupils' understanding of subject (noun doing the action in a sentence) and object (noun having something done to it). Last week, we saw that Latin nouns change their ending depending on whether they're the subject or object in the sentence. This slide illustrates how it works for nouns ending in 'a'. The first three mouse-clicks bring up the vocabulary we'll be using for this demonstration (maga, vacca and videt): check the pupils understand the meanings of these words.

The next mouse-click brings up the sentence, 'The witch sees the cow' with an illustration, and the following mouse-click shows its Latin translation. Get the pupils to identify the subject and object in the sentence. The next mouse-clicks bring up the same sentences, but with the subject and object reversed. Again, get the pupils to identify the subject and object.

Prompt the pupils to spot what has changed with the words in these two sentences? [The endings of the nouns. Some pupils will also spot that the word order has also changed. Latin does have the habit of putting the subject at the beginning of a sentence and the verb at the end, but not reliably!]

Slide 5

This slide is analogous to the previous one but illustrates how the endings change in the plural. Pupils may be able to spot the endings pattern in the first sentence and apply it to the second.

Slide 6

A summary of how Latin 'a' nouns change their ending depending on whether they are subject or object, singular or plural. Mouse-clicks reveal the useful reminder that we already know the 'ae' ending as we use it in English with 'antennae', and we also use 's' to denote plural for English nouns.



Mouse-click then prompts the pupils to move onto their written exercise.

Slide 7

The plenary slide:

Question 1 Can you remember what 'regina' means in English? [queen]

Question 2 When a Latin noun ends in 'ae', is it singular (one) or plural (more than one)? [plural, like antennae]

Question 3 When a Latin noun ends in 'as', is it the subject of the sentence doing the action or the object having the action done to it? [object]