

The Genitive Case

Genitive Case

In Latin, possession is most often shown using the genitive case.

Examples:

via urbis

the city's road

the road of the city

mater servi

the slave's mother

the mother of the slave

When showing possession, the genitive case can generally be translated with 's (apostrophe + s).

When the genitive does not show possession, it *must* be translated **of the** _____.

Example: una puellārum one of the girls

Genitives are usually **right after** the noun they describe.

99% of the time, you can translate the genitive as **of the** _____.

The Genitive Case

Genitive Case in a Paradigm

Here is a noun paradigm containing the genitive case:

	puella, puellae <i>f.</i> : girl		servus, servi <i>m.</i> : slave		pater, patris <i>m.</i> : father
	Singular		Singular		Singular
Nominative	puella		servus		pater
Genitive	puellae		servī		patris
Dative	puellae		servō		patrī
Accusative	puellam		servum		patrem
Ablative	puellā		servō		patrē
	Plural		Plural		Plural
Nominative	puellae		servī		patrēs
Genitive	puellārum		servōrum		patrum
Dative	puellīs		servīs		patribus
Accusative	puellās		servōs		patrēs
Ablative	puellīs		servīs		patribus

These are all the cases of the first 3 declensions.

Note that there are now several ambiguous forms:

ae can be A. Gen. Sing. B. Dat. Sing. C. Nom. Pl.	ī can be A. Gen. Sing. B. Nom. Pl. C. Dat. Sing. (3rd Dec)	um can be A. Acc. Sing (2nd Dec) B. Gen. Pl. (3rd Dec) C. Nom. Sing. (neuters)
---	--	--

Keep this in mind when translating. Use your verb endings (singular vs. plural) to eliminate options and try what else works.