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The Genitive Case:

The primary use of the genitive case is to show possession.

In English we often use an apostrophe s ('s) or the word (of) or a possessive pronoun or adjective (his) to show possession. Latin relied most of the time on the genitive case. This case comes with a built in possessive meaning. (s' is plural)

We also use the genitive to pinpoint declensions: 1-ae 2-i 3-is 4-us 5-ei

There is a structure called the Partitive Genitive that we will deal with later.

Other structures to show possession include the Dative of possession and a variety of pronouns and adjectives that show ownership. For now, I want to keep it simple. Genitives show ownership. Genitive endings show the declension of the word. Follow the placement hint when you are getting started.

Finding the genitive in a busy sentence can be difficult as it sometimes looks like the nominative.

However, many decades ago a teacher told us to put the genitives in front of the subject and after the objects. Even though you won't see a lot of that in Latin texts, it is a good way to get started.

If you see two words at the beginning of a sentence and they look the same but are not connected by a conjunction you might well be looking at a genitive and a nominative subject. If that happens, assume that the first word might be a genitive and if it is, your translation will just sound right.

Subject with Genitive

the lieutenant's sons **legati filii** the sons of the lieutenant

the soldier's horse **militis equus** the horse of the soldier

the girl's country **puellae patria** the country of the girl

Direct Object with Genitive

He saw the lieutenant's son. Vidit filium legati.

We saw the soldier's horse Vidimus equum militis.

The enemy attack the girl's country. Hostes patriam puellae oppugnaverunt.

Drills: Order: (1--5) genitive+ nominative / (1-5) accusative + genitive:

Genitive + Nominative

- 1)The man's horse is near the water _____
- 2)The soldiers' weapons are in the tent. _____
- 3)The town's leader is very ill. _____
- 4)The boys' dogs are hungry. _____
- 5)My sister's friend is here. _____

Accusative + Genitive

- 1)He saw my sister's friend _____
- 2) He called the man's horse _____
- 3)They elected the town's leader. _____
- 4) I fed the boys' dogs. _____
- 5) He collected the soldiers' weapons. _____

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">1. viri equus2. militum tela3. oppidi dux4.puerorum canes5. sororis amicus
1. amicum sororis2. equum viri3. ducem oppidi4. canes puerorum5. tela militum |
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