

LANGUAGE FACT IV

VOCATIVE CASE

In the chapter reading, Demea shouts, *mī fili*, “my son,” and calls Syrus *mī bone vir*, “my good fellow.” These forms are in the vocative case. The vocative case is used to address someone.

The vocative case is usually identical in form to the nominative, except for the vocative singular of second declension nouns of the type ending in *-us*. These nouns have the vocative singular ending *-e*.

Example:

Nominative: *amīcus*

Vocative: *amīce*

Vocative Case, First and Second Declensions

	First Declension	Second Declension Masculine <i>-us</i> Nouns	Second Declension Masculine <i>-er, -ir</i> Nouns
Singular	<i>puella</i>	<i>amīce</i>	<i>ager, puer, vir</i>
Plural	<i>puellae</i>	<i>amīcī</i>	<i>agrī, puerī, virī</i>



BY THE WAY

The Latin word for “son,” *filius*, has an irregular vocative *fīlī*, as do all second declension nouns that end in *-ius*. The irregular vocative of *meus*, “my,” is *mī*.

EXERCISE 7

Complete each sentence with the correct form of the word in parentheses.

Example: Dēmea _____ (*filius*) vocat.

Dēmea *filium* vocat.

1. Syrus is asking Demea: “Quis es tū, _____ (*amīcus*)?”

2. Demea is answering: “Habitō in _____ (*agrī*).”

3. Syrus is saying to Demea: “_____ (*filius*) nōn videō.”

4. Dēmea dēbet ambulāre ad casam _____ (*amīcus*).

5. Filius nōn est cum _____ (*amīcus*).

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