Chapter 16: Third-Declension Adjectives.

Chapter 16 covers the following: the formation of third-declension adjectives; the agreement between adjectives and nouns of the first, second or third declension; and at the end of the lesson, we'll review the vocabulary which you should memorize in this chapter.

There are two important rules to remember here. (1) Third-declension adjectives are *i*-stem. That means their ablative singulars will end *–i*, their genitive plurals will end *-ium*, and neuter nominative and accusative plurals will end *-ia*. (2) Third-declension adjectives can be one-, two-, or three-termination.

<u>Third-declension adjectives</u>. And here's another chapter full of good news. There's all but nothing new to learn here. The basic principle of this lesson is very simple. Just like some Latin nouns, some Latin adjectives are third-declension. That is, they have third-declension endings: *, -is, -i, -em, -e*, and so on. But unlike third-declension nouns, third-declension adjectives are all *i*-stem. They have a genitive plural ending *-ium*, a neuter nominative and accusative plural ending *-ia*, and an ablative singular ending in all genders, *-i*.

Here's an example of a third-declension adjective: *brevis, breve*, meaning "short." Its *i*-stem forms have been highlighted. You should recognize all these endings and have no problem memorizing them. The only real complication in formation with third-declension adjectives centers on their nominative singular forms. Isn't it always the nominative singular? Some third-declension adjectives have two nominative singular forms, for instance, *fortis, forte. Fortis* is the masculine and feminine form; *forte* is the neuter. This is called a two-termination adjective. Other third-declension adjectives, especially those which have *-r* at the end of their base, have three nominative singular forms, such as *acer, acris, acre.* These are called three-termination adjectives.

Yet others have only one nominative singular form, such as *potens, potentis*, where *potens* is the masculine, feminine, and neuter form. *Potentis* is the genitive singular. It's necessary to provide this form in order to show that the base is *potent-*. Even with this complication, finding the stem of a third-declension adjective is easy. For any adjectives which are two- or three-termination, all you do is drop the *–is* from the nominative singular feminine form and you have the base.

Take, for example, the two-termination adjective *fortis, forte. Fortis* is the nominative singular feminine form; drop the *–is* and you can see that the base is *fort-*. For a three-termination adjective, do the same. For example, *acer, acris, acre*: the nominative singular feminine form is *acris*; drop the *–is*, and you can see that the base is *acr-*. For one-termination adjectives, as we just noted, the genitive singular is required. So, for instance, the base of *potens* is *potent-*, which you get when you drop the *–is* ending from the genitive singular form.

The major difficulty this chapter entails is the integration of third-declension adjectives into the larger scheme of nouns and adjectives we've studied so far. Third-declension adjectives always use third-declension endings, never first/second. And when they are matched with first/second-declension nouns, the endings will not look alike, but they will, in fact, agree. Therefore, you need to practice matching third-declension adjectives with first/second-declension nouns, or nouns of any declension.

Let's do an exercise where you get to practice this. We'll take the adjective *dulcis* — it's third declension, and it means "sweet" — and match it with a variety of nouns from different declensions, always following this procedure. First, we'll determine the declension of the noun; second, its number, gender, and case; third, what is the correct third-declension ending for that same number, gender, and case, then add that ending on to the base *dulc-* to create the proper form of *dulcis* that would agree with that particular noun.

We'll start simple: *puella*. What declension is it? First, of course. And what is its case, number and gender? That's right: nominative singular feminine. So, look on the chart. What's the nominative singular feminine ending in third declension? It's -*is*. So the proper form of *dulcis* that agrees with *puella* is *dulcis*. *Dulcis puella*, or *puella dulcis* — in either case, "sweet girl."

Next word: *corpus*. What declension and gender is it? Be careful! Not all -*us* forms are second-declension masculine nominative singular. In case you missed it, that was a hint. It's third-declension neuter, which means what case and number is it? It's nominative singular, and because it's neuter, it's also accusative singular. So what is the nominative or accusative singular ending in third-declension? Look on the chart. Hello, it's right there! Yes! It's -*e*. So what would be the proper form of *dulcis*? That's right, *dulce*. *Corpus dulce*, "sweet body."

Next word: *regum*. Declension? Third! Case, number and gender? Genitive plural masculine. So, what's the genitive plural masculine third-declension ending? For adjectives — hint hint, what are they? they are *i*-stem! — good, it's -*ium*. What then would be the proper form of *dulcis* so that is agrees with *regum*? That's right: *dulcium*. *Regum dulcium*, "of the sweet kings."

Next word: *filio*. What declension is *filio*? Second. And what case, number and gender is it? Ablative/dative, singular, masculine. What's the dative singular masculine ending in third declension? -*i*. So what's the proper form of *dulcis*? *Dulci*. *Filio dulci*, "for/from the sweet son."

Next word. *donis*. What declension is it? Second. What case, number and gender is it? Dative/ablative plural neuter. So what is the dative/ablative plural ending in third declension? -*ibus*. So what is the proper form of *dulcis* that would agree with *donis*? *Dulcibus*. *Dulcibus donis*, "with/for sweet gifts."

Next word. *Vergili*. What declension? Second. Case, number, gender? Genitive singular masculine. What's the genitive singular masculine ending in third-declension? -*is*. But wait a second. This can also be another case, number and gender. It can be vocative singular masculine. In which case, what would the ending be then? What's the vocative singular masculine ending in third declension? Oh, it's the same as the nominative and genitive: -*is*. So what's the proper form of *dulcis* to attach to *Vergili,* whether it's genitive or vocative? That's right: *dulcis*. *Dulcis Vergili*, "of sweet Vergil," or "O sweet Vergil!"

Next word: *amicum*. What declension is it? Second. And what case, number and gender? Accusative singular masculine. What's the accusative singular masculine ending in third declension? -*em*. So what is the proper form of *dulcis* in order that it agree with *amicum*? *Dulcem. Amicum dulcem*, "sweet friend."

And one last word: *cives*. What declension is it? Third! What case, number and gender is it? Nominative/accusative plural masculine/feminine. What would be the proper third-declension ending to put on this adjective then? *-es*. So what form of *dulcis* would be used with *cives*? Too easy. *Dulces*. *Cives dulces*, "sweet citizens."

Matching third-declension adjectives to nouns of any declension is a vital skill for anyone who wants to read and understand Latin. I and Mr. Wheelock and many Roman authors will give you plenty of opportunity to practice doing this. Thus, to the end of this presentation I've attached some additional exercises of the sort we just did in hopes that you'll master this all-important skill as quickly as possible.

Vocabulary. The first word is *aetas, aetatis*, f., meaning "life, period of life, age," as in "a period of time." It's a third-declension feminine noun. The base is *aetat-* which you derive from dropping the *-is* from the genitive singular. And remember the pattern: any word that goes *-tas, -tatis* will be feminine in gender. This word is often used as an ablative of time, meaning "in an age, in that age, in a particular period of time."

The next word is *memoria, memoriae*, f., meaning "memory, recollection." It's a first-declension feminine noun. This word is often used as an ablative of means, rendering the sense "by or from memory."

The next word is *beatus, beata, beatum*, meaning "happy, fortunate, blessed." It's a first/second-declension adjective.

And the next word is *brevis, breve*, meaning "short, small, brief." It's a third-declension adjective which means it is by nature *i*-stem. Also, it's two-termination, meaning *brevis* represents both the masculine and feminine nominative singular, and *breve* the neuter. So, what will be the ablative singular? Good for you: *brevi*. *-i* is the ending for third-declension adjectives across all three genders.

The next word is *celer, celeris, celere*. It means "swift, quick, rapid." It's a third-declension adjective and therefore *i*-stem, and like *brevis*, it's two-termination. Please note that the base does not contract: *celer-*. That's why we have the word "ac*celer*ate."

The next word is *difficilis, difficile*, meaning "hard, difficult, troublesome." It's another third-declension, two-termination *i*-stem adjective. *Difficilis* is the negative of another third-declension adjective *facilis* which you would be wise to memorize. It's a compound of the prefix *dis-* ("not") added onto *facilis* ("easy"), thus "not easy." Both come from the same root that gives Latin the verb *facio*, meaning "make, do." Here it appears in its vowel-gradated form *-fic-*. So what *facilis* actually means is "do-able," and *difficilis* "not do-able."

The next word is *dulcis, dulce*, meaning "sweet, pleasant, agreeable." It's yet another two-termination third-declension *i*-stem adjective. It can mean "sweet" in several different senses, such as taste, appearance or behavior.

The next word is *fortis, forte*, meaning "strong, brave." And just like *dulcis, difficilis* and *brevis*, it's third-declension, *i*-stem, two-termination.

The next word is *longus, -a, -um*, meaning "long." It's a first/second-declension adjective.

And the next word is *omnis, omne*, meaning "all, every." It's a third-declension two-termination yadda-yadda-yadda adjective. Believe me, I'm as tired of saying it as you are of hearing it. Let's move on. Like "much" and "many," English uses two adjectives for one concept. "All" is used in the plural, for instance, "all the students" when they're seen as a group. And "every" is used in the singular, for example, "every student" when the students are seen as individuals.

The next word is *iuvo* or *adiuvo*, *(ad)iuvare, (ad)iūvi, (ad)iutum*, meaning "help, aid, assist, please." It's a first-conjugation verb. Please note its perfect. It ought to be *iuvavi*, but what dignified language can have a verb like *iuvavi*? Therefore, the base contracts to *iūv*- which makes it look a whole lot like the present base which is *iŭv-*. But there are actually no forms between the present and the perfect that overlap, so that long mark in the perfect is not mandatory! Yay! How then would you translate *iuvamus*? That's right: it's the present: "we help." So what about *iuvimus*? How would you translate that? That's right: it's the perfect: "we have helped, we did help." The *ad-* prefix serves only to intensify the sense of "help." It doesn't add any special separate meaning. And finally there are some derivatives from this verb worth noting: "adjuvant" or "adjutant," both meaning "assisting," or in its substantive sense "an assistant."

The next word is *femina, feminae*, f., meaning "woman." It's a first-declension feminine noun. Literally, it means "the one who gives suckle to a baby," that is, breastfeeds it. Compare *fetus* where the same base *fe-* shows up as "the thing suckled." The *-mina* following the *fe-* base is a fascinating piece of historical linguistics. It's one of the last remnants in Latin of a very old and widely-attested Indo-European ending, *-mena* which meant simply "-ing." Thus, *femina* meant originally "the suckling one" ─ in the feminine gender, obviously.

The next word is *mater*, *matris*, f., meaning "mother." It's a third-declension feminine noun. Is it *i*-stem? Hmmm. It's not monosyllabic. It's not neuter, ending *-e*, *-al*, or *-ar*. But it is parisyllabic….but wait! It doesn't end *-is* or *-es* in its nominative singular. So, no! It's not a monosyllabic *i*-stem. So what's its genitive plural? *O discipule bone!* You're right: no *-i-*: *matrum*.

And the last word in this vocabulary list is *quam,* meaning "how." It's an adverb and can be used in questions such as "How did you do that?" or in exclamations such as "How I love Latin!"

Okay fine, do the rules that were cited at the beginning of this chapter now make sense to you? If not, please review this presentation. If so, please proceed to the next slide.

For the next class exercise, please print out a copy of the sentences for Chapter 16. You'll find them on page 77 of Wheelock.

That's the end of the formal presentation for Chapter 16. Here are the additional exercises that were promised earlier, played to the accompaniment of selections from Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana*, a modern musical masterpiece with a Latin text.