

# LESSON XV – A Gossipy Letter from Rome



Let's review the fifth declension! Try the following analogies.



1. annus : annōrum :: diēs : \_\_\_\_\_
2. hic diēs : huic diēi :: hī diēs : \_\_\_\_\_
3. media nox : mediā nocte :: ille merīdiēs : \_\_\_\_\_
4. temporis : temporī :: merīdiēi : \_\_\_\_\_
5. locus : loca :: rēs : \_\_\_\_\_
6. reī pūblicae : rēbus pūblicis :: rē pūblicā : \_\_\_\_\_
7. genera : genus :: speciēs : \_\_\_\_\_
8. prō fōrmā : contrā fōrmam :: prō speciē : \_\_\_\_\_
9. amor : amōris :: spēs : \_\_\_\_\_
10. ūna spēs : ūnam spem :: duae spēs : \_\_\_\_\_



Let's practice with new material! Complete the following exercise with the subjunctive forms of *sum* or one of its compounds.

*Indicative*

*Subjunctive*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. sumus</li> <li>2. estis</li> <li>3. erās</li> <li>4. potestis</li> <li>5. poterās</li> <li>6. _____</li> <li>7. _____</li> <li>8. _____</li> <li>9. _____</li> <li>10. _____</li> </ol> | <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>sit</p> <p>essent</p> <p>abessem</p> <p>adsīs</p> <p>possēmus</p> |
|---|---|



Let's expand! The ablative of degree of difference occurs with comparative forms and words that involve comparison, such as *ante*, *post*, *īnfrā*, and *suprā*.



*Exemplōrum Grātiā:*

*tribus annīs ante*  
three years earlier

[*Notā Bene:* This is *ante* the adverb.]

*paucīs pedibus brevior*  
a few feet shorter

To properly practice with this construction, however, you need to know a few more of the Latin words that will regularly use it.

*Exemplōrum Grātiā:*

*dīmidium, dīmidī, n.* half

*nihilum, nihilī, n.* nothing\*

*paulum, paulī, n.* a little

*quantō . . . tantō . . .* the . . . the . . . (by that . . . by so much . . .)

*quō . . . eō . . .* same meaning as *quantō . . . tantō . . .*

\*This is not the indeclinable noun *nihil*. It is a noun that is used primarily in the ablative case to mean "not at all."

Translate the following.

1. *dīmidīō altior* \_\_\_\_\_

2. *nihilō celerior* \_\_\_\_\_

3. *paulō ūtilior* \_\_\_\_\_

4. *quantō faciliior tantō melior* \_\_\_\_\_

5. *Quō maiōrēs sunt eō dūrius cadunt.*

*Notā Bene:* Don't confuse the ablative of degree of difference with the ablative of comparison. In the following sentence, adapted from Cicero, you can see both. Which is which?

*Patria mea multō cārior mihi vītā meā est.*