Chapter 1   The boy from Spain

Foreword to Chapter 1

Graeculus was the name which his friends gave to the emperor Hadrian. It means 'Little Greek', reflecting the fact that Hadrian had a lifelong fascination with Greece and the Greeks. Hadrian was one of the most interesting of all the Roman emperors and it certainly seems time that somebody used his life story as the basis for a new Latin language course.

So here goes...

Ex. 1.1   *Translate the following sentences into English.*

familia est in Hispania.	
Hadrianus est puer Romanus.	
Paulina est mater Hadriani.	
Afer est pater Hadriani.	
Domitia Paulina est soror Hadriani.	
Hadrianus in Hispania habitat.	
Hispania est provincia Romana.	
Afer est senator Romae.	
Hadrianus est filius Afri et Paulinae.	
Paulina est uxor Afri.	

Basic Vocabulary
These words are given here to get you started for now.
After this, you will need to look up all words in the back of this book.

Afer - Afer
est - is
et - and
familia - family
filius - son
habitat - lives
Hadrianus - Hadrian
Hispania - Spain
mater - mother
pater - father

Paulina - Paulina
provincia - province
puer - boy
Roma - Rome
Romana - Roman (feminine)
Romanus - Roman (masculine)
senator - senator
soror - sister
uxor – wife

Nouns and endings

You should already know that a *noun* is a word used as a name of a person or thing and a *verb* is a word of doing or being. There are nouns in more or less every Latin sentence. Latin nouns make use of different endings, which tell us how their meanings change in different sentences.

For example, *Hadrianus* is used where *Hadrian* is the subject of the verb, going in front of the verb in English, whereas *Hadriani* means *of Hadrian*. *Hadriani* is actually in a case called the *Genitive*, while *Hadrianus* is in a case called the *Nominative*. We will do more work on this later.

Ex. 1.2   *Write a letter N or G beside the nouns below, to show if they are Nominative or Genitive. It may help to look back at Ex. 1.1 to see what the words meant when they were in a sentence. The first one has been done for you.*

familia	N
familiae	
senator	
Romae	
Paulinae	
uxor	
Hispaniae	
mater	
filius	
pater	
Hadrianus	

Complements and compliments

When you say that someone *is* something, as in the statement *Hadrian is a boy*, the something – in this case, the word *boy* - is called a complement, which really just means a completing word. Don't confuse the word *complement* with the word *compliment*! A compliment is when somebody says you look nice, are generally quite wonderful, or something particularly special!

Moral message

Always try to pay somebody a compliment at least once a day.

Articles

A Latin word can mean different things at different times. In the sentence *Afer est pater*, *pater* can mean "*father*", "*a father*", or "*the father*". The words *a* and *the* are called articles - and basically not used in Latin. You may want to remember this later on...

Ex. 1.3   *Translate the following sentences into Latin.*

Paulina is a Roman wife.	
Hadrian is the son of Paulina.	
The mother of Hadrian lives in Spain.	
The father of Hadrian is a senator.	
Afer's family lives in the province of Spain.[*]	

[*] *In Latin, you would normally say, 'in the province Spain'. Don't put the word Spain into the Genitive case, because in this sentence **Spain** is the **province** and the **province** is **Spain.** The name for this is apposition.*

Declensions

The word *declension* just refers to a group of nouns, which follow a similar pattern of endings. There are five *declensions* of nouns in Latin. In the fullness of time, you will meet numbers four and five but control your excitement if you can for now with just the first three.

Words in the first declension usually end in *-a*, when they appear in the Nominative case. These include *Paulina, Hispania* and *Roma*. Most of the nouns in the first declension are feminine.

Words in the second declension often end in *-us* or *-er*, when they appear in the Nominative case. Most of these nouns are masculine, such as *Hadrianus, puer* and *filius.*

Words in the third declension end in *-er* or *-or*, or just about any other letters imaginable, when they appear in the Nominative case. It is often quite hard to know when a word comes from the third declension, if you just look at its first part in a dictionary listing. The second word which appears when you look at a noun from the third declension gives you the stem of the word, eg, *mater, matris, f*, where the stem of the word *mater* is actually *matr-*.

So this means that when you look at *pater*, *mater* and *puer*, they could come from declensions 2 or 3 and you wouldn't be able to tell the difference.

There has to be a better way than this.

There is...

When we look up a noun in a dictionary or word listing, it always appears with four pieces of information given, as in: *puer, pueri, m - boy*

1. The first form of the noun is the Nominative form.
2. The second form is the Genitive.
3. The third thing is a letter, m for masculine, f for feminine, or n for neuter. Once in a while you may also see c, meaning common. This can be used when something, e.g. *a human being*, can be masculine or feminine.
4. The fourth thing to appear is the meaning of the noun in English.

In order to know what declension a noun comes from, you should look at the **Genitive** endings, not the Nominative. The table below may help.

	1st declension	**2nd declension**	**3rd declension**
Nominative Singular	familia	Hadrianus Afer	pater uxor
Genitive Singular	familiae	Hadriani Afri	patris uxoris

Rules to help

All first declension nouns have a genitive singular ending in *-ae.*
All second declension nouns have a genitive singular ending in *-i.*
All third declension nouns have a genitive singular ending in *-is*.
To identify the stem of a noun, remove *-ae*, *-i*, or *-is*, depending on the declension.

These rules never ever change in Latin!

Ex. 1.4 *Using the words as listed below, mark down which declension each one belongs to. Your answer should be a number between 1 and 3. The first one has been done for you.*

Afer, Afri, m - Afer	*2*
familia, familiae, f - family	
filius, filii, m - son	
Hadrianus, Hadriani, m - Hadrian	
pater, patris, m - father	
Paulina, Paulinae, f - Paulina	
provincia, provinciae, f - province	
puer, pueri, m - boy	
Roma, Romae, f - Rome	
senator, senatoris, m - senator	
uxor, uxoris, f - wife	

Background   Hadrian's childhood

The future Roman emperor Hadrian was born on January 24th, AD 76, in Rome, or perhaps in Spain: we don't know this for sure. We know that his father, Aelius Hadrianus Afer was a Roman senator, who owned land in Spain, in the area of Italica, near modern day Seville. Italica was a wealthy and important town: if you go there today, you will see it has a theatre, an amphitheatre and several large houses with mosaics.
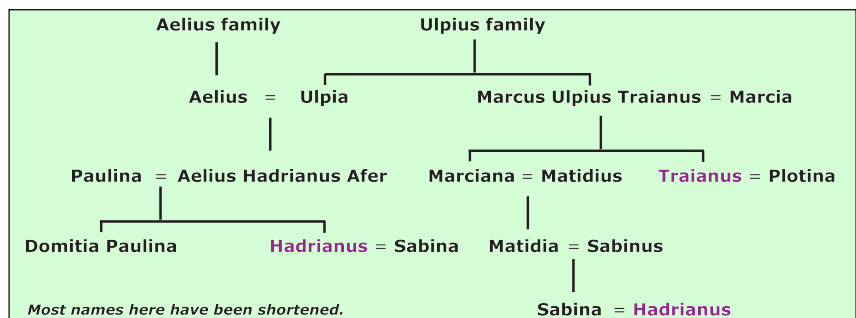

Afer was successful in politics and eventually became a praetor in Rome. This is more or less equivalent to being a government minister today.

Hadrian's mother was called Paulina, who came from the coastal town of Cadiz, called Gades in Roman times. They had had a daughter about one year before Hadrian was born, called Domitia Paulina.

Hadrian grew up in the area of Italica, where he showed a keen ability and a real passion for study. He was a clever boy, who quickly learned Latin and Greek, as did most children of wealthy Roman families. He became interested in philosophy and architecture at an early age.

Hadrian's grandmother on his father's side (Afer's mother) was a member of the Ulpius family, whom we will simply call Ulpia. She was the sister of Marcus Ulpius Traianus, whose son was Traianus, the man who became emperor of Rome in AD 98. So Hadrianus Afer and Traianus were cousins. This family connection explains a lot about how Hadrian got promoted to such high authority so young.

Our more normal name for Traianus is Trajan, whose wife, Plotina, was always very fond of Hadrian: as long as she lived, she always tried to help him. Sometimes, some people thought, she tried a little too hard.

sine qua non

(In vocabulary listings, verbs such as habito appear with multiple endings. Don't worry about this for now: it will all be explained later in the course. Just learn what appears in the lists.)

familia, familiae, f	family
filius, filii, m	son
habito, habitare, habitavi, habitatum	I live
mater, matris, f	mother
pater, patris, m	father
provincia, provinciae, f	province
puer, pueri, m	boy
senator, senatoris, m	senator
soror, sororis, f	sister
uxor, uxoris, f	wife

Declension is the name given to a group of nouns.
Nominative is the name of a case, used for the subject of a verb.
Genitive is the name of a case, used to express "of".
A **case** is something which changes in a noun, affecting how the noun should be translated into another language.
A **complement** is a word which completes the sense where the verb *to be* is used.

Genitive endings in vocabulary listings:

1st declension	*-ae*
2nd declension	*-i*
3rd declension	*-is*

Hispania est provincia Romana.