1ST DECLENSION

General medicine 03

OUTLINE

- Grammatical cases.

- Latin declensions.

- How to distinguish between declensions.

- 1st declension – paradigm.

- Vocabulary.

GRAMMATICAL CASES

- In an ordinary sentence noun can play various roles. Example: *John* [subject] *sees* [verb] *Mary* [object].

- English is able to distinguish between different roles of subject "John" and object "Mary" because of fixed word order.

- In a declarative sentence subject comes first, verb follows, and object is put after the verb.

- Therefore sentence *Mary sees John* differs in meaning from *John sees Mary*.

- Many languages do not use fixed word order in a sentence. For those we have to use another way to express the difference between "John" and "Mary" – declension.

- "Declension" means that we have to change ending of the word a bit to indicate its role.

- Various endings and their functions (roles) are called grammatical cases.

Compare following

- John sees Mary.
- Mary sees John.
- Giovanni vede Maria.
- Maria vede Giovanni.
- Johann sieht Maria.
- Maria sieht Johann.

- Jan vidí Mari**i**.
- Mari**e** vidí Jan**a**.
- Ян видит Мари**ю**.
- Мария видит Ян**а**.
- Joannes videt Mari**am**.
- Maria videt Joann**em**.

Why do we make it so difficult?

- Languages which use declension do not have to follow the word order. Next sentences have all roughly similar meaning:
  - Jan vidí Marii.
  - Jan Marii vidí.
  - Vidí Marii Jan.
  - Marii vidí Jan.
- This can't be reproduced in English:
  - John sees Mary.
  - Mary sees John.
  - Mary John sees.
  - Sees Mary John.

- Latin language uses six grammatical cases (*nominativus, genitivus, dativus, accusativus, vocativus, ablativus*).

- During the winter term of Basic medical terminology only first two will be required:

  - Nominative (Nom.),
  - Genitive (Gen.).

What is the function of grammatical cases in Medical terminology?

- Nominative – the basic form of word.

- Genitive – connects two nouns together. It is used to express attribute where a dominant noun is further specified by another noun (called attribute) that has to be in genitive grammatical case.

- Latin nouns can be divided to five declensions and further to groups according "paradigms".

- One paradigm has only one set of endings.

- To tell apart words belonging to different declensions we must first identify so called "dictionary form" of word.

Dictionary form of a noun

- Example:
  - *musculus, -i* m.;
  - *caput, -itis* n.;
  - *fractura, - ae* f.
- The dictionary form contains:
  - **whole nominative singular form** of the word followed by
  - **genitive singular ending** and
  - a letter (m, f, n) indicating the **gender**.
- None of those three pieces of information can be reliably guessed from the rest. You have to memorize them.

Identification of declensions

- In the dictionary form look at genitive ending:
  - If the ending is **-ae** the word belongs to the 1st declension.
  - If the ending is **-i** the word belongs to the 2nd declension.
  - If the ending is **-is** the word belongs to the 3rd declension.
  - If the ending is **-us** the word belongs to the 4th declension.
  - If the ending is **-ei** the word belongs to the 5th declension.

- In other words: all nouns in your vocabulary with genitive ending **-ae** must belong to the 1st declension. All nouns having genitive **-i** belong to the 2nd declension and so on.

- This "genitive ending" rule has no exception.

1ˢᵗ declension

Case	Singular	Case	Plural
Nom.	*ven -a*	Nom.	*ven -ae*
Gen.	*ven -ae*	Gen.	*ven -arum*

Stems and suffixes

- As you can see every word is divided into two parts:
  - stem (basal part of the word)
  - suffix (ending)
- In the 1st declension it is very easy to tell them apart, simply remove final -a from the whole word in singular and you get the stem.
- To create the genitive form you have to take the stem and add "-ae".

- The stem does not change, therefore:
  - *vena* (stem is "*ven*") makes *venae* in genitive,
  - *via* (stem is "*vi*") makes *viae* in genitive,
  - *diphtheria* (stem is "*diphtheri*") makes *diphtheriae* in genitive.
- Plural forms are created from singular. So if Nom. Sg. is *vena*, stem is *ven-*, for Nom. Pl. (veins in English) we add -ae (similar to Gen. Sg.) and get *venae* which is both Gen. Sg. and Nom. Pl.
- Adding *-arum* makes Gen. Pl.

Test (10 min)

- Use your vocabulary and create Gen. Pl. from: *mandibula, rima, lacrima, lympha, sutura, iunctura*

- Use genitives to express attribute in following expressions, pay attention to Sg./Pl.:

- fracture of vertebra   fractures of elbow

- epidemic of smallpox   marrow of ribs

- bend of artery   bursts of bladders

Homework ...

- For the next lesson memorize all the words belonging to the 1st declension.

- Create all the grammatical cases from all the words at least once (i.e. *vena*, *venae*, *venae*, *venarum*).

- Read all the words from the 1st declension aloud with a proper pronunciation.