

The Fourth Declension

Fourth declension nouns carry a characteristic **-u-** throughout their declension (except in the dative and ablative plural) and are identified by the **-ūs** in the genitive singular.

	Masculine		Neuter	
	Sing.	Plur.	Sing.	Plur.
Nom.	<i>cursus</i>	<i>cursūs</i>	<i>cornū</i>	<i>cornua</i>
Gen.	<i>cursūs</i>	<i>cursuum</i>	<i>cornūs</i>	<i>cornuum</i>
Dat.	<i>cursui (ū)</i>	<i>cursibus</i>	[<i>cornū</i>]	<i>cornibus</i>
Acc.	<i>cursum</i>	<i>cursūs</i>	<i>cornū</i>	<i>cornua</i>
Abl.	<i>cursū</i>	<i>cursibus</i>	<i>cornū</i>	<i>cornibus</i>

Arcus (*bow, arch*), *tribus* (*tribe*) and *quercus* (*oak*) always show *-ubus* in the dative and ablative plural. *Artus* (*joint*), *lacus* (*lake*), *partus* (*birth*), *verū* (*spit*), *genū* (*knee*) and a few others will occasionally show it.

Gender: Fourth declension nouns are generally **masculine**, although a few feminines and even fewer neuters appear. Feminine and masculine nouns are declined alike.

The following are the only common 4th Declension feminine nouns:

<i>acus, -ūs, needle</i>	<i>pecus, -ūs (also, -ī), food, provisions</i>
<i>anus, -ūs, old woman</i>	<i>porticus, -ūs, colonnade, porch</i>
<i>domus, -ūs, house</i>	<i>socrus, -ūs, mother-in-law</i>
<i>īdūs, -um (plural), the Ides</i>	<i>specus, -ūs, cave</i>
<i>manus, -ūs, hand</i>	<i>tribus, -ūs, tribe</i>
<i>nurus, -ūs, daughter-in-law, young girl</i>	

The following are the only 4th Declension neuter nouns:

<i>cornū, -ūs, horn</i>	<i>pecū, -ūs, herd, flock</i>
<i>genū, -ūs, knee</i>	<i>verū, -ūs, spit, tip of javelin</i>
<i>gelū, -ūs, frost, chill</i>	<i>specus, -ūs, cave (also masc. and fem.)</i>

Domus (f.), *house*, shows forms of both the 4th and 2nd declensions: