

LESSON III.

1. Latin nouns have five cases: Nominative, Accusative, Genitive, Dative and Ablative.¹

2. The first three are distinguished from each other thus:

Nominative—*nauta*, a sailor.

Accusative—*nautam*.

Genitive—*nautae*.

3. (a) A noun is in the Nominative when it is the subject of a verb.

(b) A noun is in the Accusative when it is the object of the action described in the sentence.

(c) When in English a phrase composed of a preposition and a noun depends on another noun, the noun in the prepositional phrase stands in the Genitive. The English preposition is not translated.²

N.B.—The Possessive Case in English is always equal to such a prepositional phrase, *e.g.*, Minerva's temple is equal to the "the temple of Minerva." Therefore the Genitive in Latin will translate the English Possessive.

¹The Vocative and Locative will be considered later.

²The Genitive may be regarded as the *Adjective Case*. Examine the following: The temple of Minerva, the war against the Helvetii, grief for his son. The phrases "of Minerva," "against the Helvetii," "for his son," have all the value of an *adjective*, and the noun in each of them would stand in the Genitive.