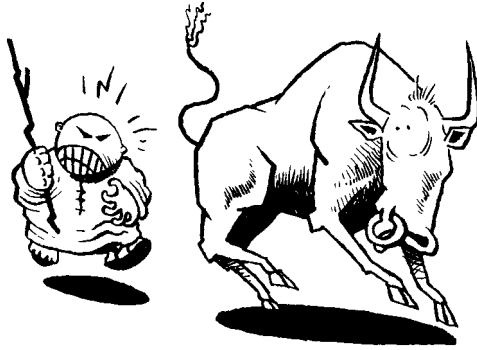# Nouns: subjects and objects

agricola taurum fugat
the farmer chases/is chasing the bull
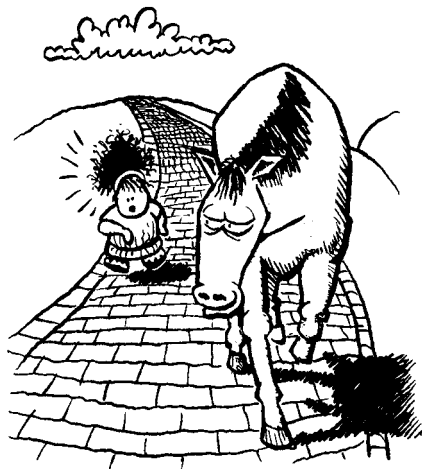

agricolam taurus fugat
the bull chases/is chasing the farmer

The Latin word for *chases,* **fugat,** appears at the end of the sentence. *The farmer,* **agricola,** comes first, and *the bull,* **taurum,** is second.

1 **puell........equ........fugat.**

The farmer is the active one, the person doing the chasing, and so is the subject. *The bull* is the object, because he is on the receiving end, i.e. he is being chased.

Now *the bull* is the subject, while *the farmer* has become the object. To make this clear, the English words have been moved. The Latin words, however, have not changed their position, but their endings.

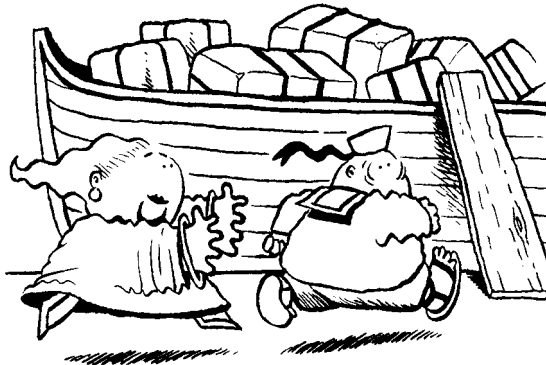| The Latin for *farmer* as subject is | **agricola** |
and as object	**aqricolam**
The Latin for *bull* as subject is	**taurus**
and as object	**taurum**

English also has a few words which change according to whether they are subject or object: *she/her, he/him, I/me, we/us, they/them, who/whom*. These words are all pronouns, words which are used in the place of nouns.

2 **serv........domin........fugat.**

3 **naut........femin........fugat.**

The cases

The technical name for these different endings of a noun is 'case'. Each case has a particular function: it may be to show that the noun is the subject or object. The subject ending is called the <u>nominative</u> case, and the object ending is called the <u>accusative</u> case. There are other cases too:

The English preposition *of* is used to translate the genitive case:

  e.g. **taurus agricolae**   *the bull <u>of</u> the farmer*

We might leave out *of* and use an apostrophe instead: 'the farmer's bull'. Centuries ago, before the Norman Conquest, English had a genitive ending too. The 'e' of the genitive ending '-es' has since given way to the apostrophe.

  taurus agricolae

4 **de.........poet.........fugat.**

the bull __of__ the farmer (the farmer's bull)
oculus tauri
the eye __of__ the bull (the bull's eye)
equus puellae
the horse __of__ the girl (the girl's horse)

The dative case

The dative case is used for the indirect object. The English preposition *to* is commonly used (and sometimes *for*):

agricola tauro faenum dat
the farmer gives/is giving hay __to__ the bull
femina equum puellae ostentat
the woman shows/is showing the horse __to__ the girl

Note that in each of the above two examples there are two objects, one direct (accusative), the other indirect (dative).

The most common use of the ablative is instrumental *(by, with)* or with a preposition (e.g. **in**). English prepositions used to translate this case are: *by, with, from, in, on.*
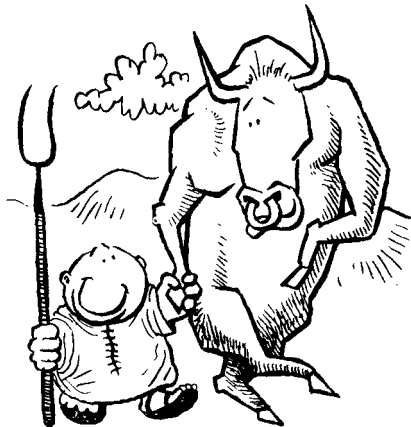
agricola cum equo ambulat
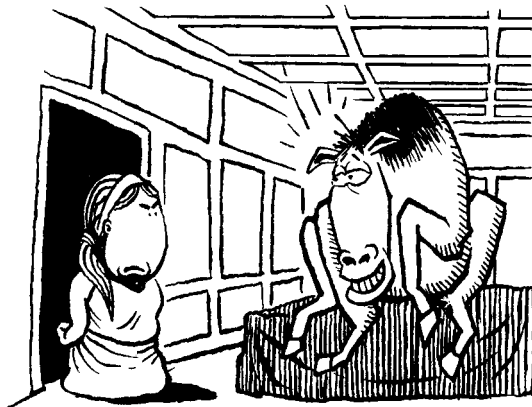   *the farmer walks/is walking <u>with</u> the horse*
agricola a tauro videtur
   the farmer is seen by the bull

1 **agricol.....cum taur..... ambulat.**

2 **equus in vill.....est.**

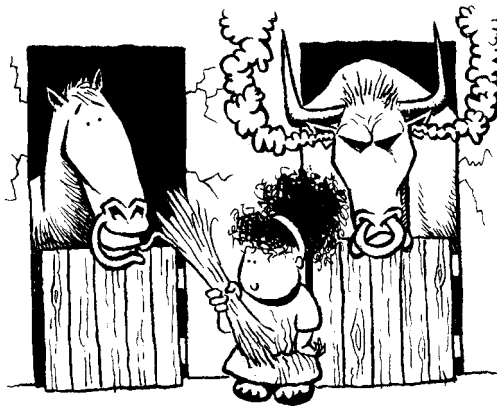**agricola in equo est**
the farmer is on the horse
femina equum faeno pascit
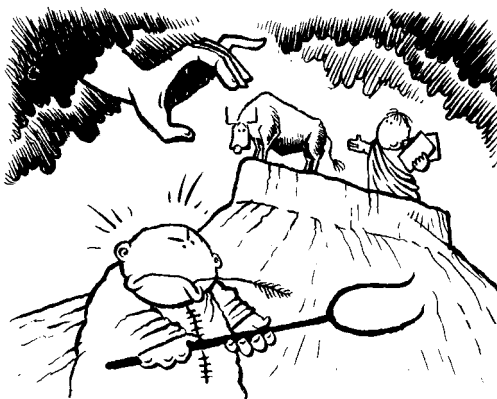*the woman feeds/is feeding the horse with hay*
servus e villa ambulat
the slave walks/is walking from (out of) the villa

3 **puella tauri faenum equ..... dat.**

4 **poeta agricolae taur.....deo dat.**

Case	Function	**fēmina**	**servus**
		woman	*slave*
Nominative	subject	**fēmina**	**servus**
Accusative	object	**fēminam**	**servum**
Genitive	*of*	**fēminae**	**servī**
Dative	*to, for*	**fēminae**	**servō**
Ablative	*in, on, with, from, by*	**fēminā**	**servō**