

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.	cursus	cursūs	cornū	cornua
Gen.	cursūs	cursuum	cornūs	cornuum
Dat.	cursū (ū)	cursibus	[cornū]	cornibus
Acc.	cursum	cursūs	cornū	cornua
Abl.	cursū	cursibus	cornū	cornibus

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:

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

The following are the only 4th Declension neuter nouns:

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

Domus (f.), *house*, shows forms of both the 4th and 2nd declensions (but is always feminine in gender).