Mnemonic Madness!

These silly sentences will help you remember the endings for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd declension Latin nouns.

You’ll notice that the word endings highlighted correspond to the endings in the 5 primary Latin Cases. They occur in the order in which we decline them on tests and in the grammatical context appropriate to the case. For instance, take the sentence for the 1st declension singular:

subject          possession   indirect obj.   direct obj.   obj. of preposition
Maria, queen of reggae, gave Fannie Mae some jam for her banana.
nom: -a,         gen: -ae,       dat: -ae,       acc: -am,       abl: -ā

So, here are the sentences:

1st declension:

Singular: Maria, queen of reggae, gave Fannie Mae some jam for her banana.
Plural: Fannie Mae, fond of ārum, gave the Israelīs some bananaīs from the delīs.

2nd declension:

Singular: Gus and Peter, friends of Luigi, gave Mariō some gum for his burrito.
Plural: He and Ī, kings of the quōrum, gave the Israelīs some burritoīs from the delīs.

3rd declension:

Singular: The Black Hole Gang*, friends of Beavis, gave Bambī a gem from Chile.

* (The 3rd decl. nom. sg. is the "black hole of endings")

Plural: The Apachēs, masters of the drum, gave the minibūs some tamalēs from the omnibus.

Noun Endings Summary

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<th>1st declension:</th>
<th>2nd declension:</th>
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<td>G -ae ārum</td>
<td>G -ī ōrum</td>
<td>G -ēs -um</td>
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<td>D -ae īs</td>
<td>D -āō īs</td>
<td>D -ī -ibus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ac -am ās</td>
<td>Ac -um -ēs</td>
<td>Ac -em -ēs</td>
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Sentences by Ann Martin