LATIN: Masculine and feminine nouns and adjectives

In Latin, nouns have gender. There are masculine (male) words and feminine (female) words. In many cases, the gender of a word has nothing to do with its meaning. For example, the word "table" is feminine. What's girl-ish about a table? Nothing!

Masculine nouns			Feminine nouns	
puer	*boy*		puella	*girl*
vir	*man*		femina	*woman*
pater	*father*		mater	*mother*
frater	*brother*		soror	*sister*
filius	*son*		filia	*daughter*
discipulus	*male student*		discipula	*female student*
magister	*male teacher*		magistra	*female teacher*
amicus	*male friend*		amica	*female friend*
ludus	*school*		epistula	*letter*
lupus	*wolf*		mensa	*table*
equus	*horse*		fabula	*story*

_____   _____   _____   _____

_____   _____   _____   _____

_____   _____   _____   _____

_____   _____   _____   _____

Do you see a pattern? Most feminine words end with the letter "a." (Mater and soror do not, but you can guess that they are feminine because of their meaning.) Masculine words end in "s" or "r."

Put these words in the correct column, along with their meaning:

silva, terra, canis, mons, avis, aqua, arbor, stella

NOTE: Latin does not have the word "the." The word "ludus" can mean either "school" or "the school."

USING ADJECTIVES:

When you use an adjective you must make it have the same gender as the noun. This is called "agreement." You can change the ending of the adjective to make it agree with the subject noun. Here are some adjectives, shown first with their masculine ending, then with their feminine ending.

novus, nova	*new*		antiquus, antiqua	*old*
parvus, parva	*little*		magnus, magna	*big*
laetus, laeta	*happy*		iratus, irata	*angry*
bonus, bona	*good*		malus, mala	*bad*
primus, prima	*first*		ultimus, ultima	*last*
longus, longa	*long*		brevis, brevis	*short*

(brevis is a "rule breaker" because it does not change)

You are now ready to read and write some simple sentences! All you need to know is the word for "is."

est = *is*

What do these sentences mean?

1) Lupus est magnus.   2) Discipulus est novus.   3) Mensa est longa.   4) Fabula est antiqua.

Now it's time to write some Latin sentences. Translate these into Latin:

Tell who is first and last in this picture:

_____

_____

Tell which is big and which is small.
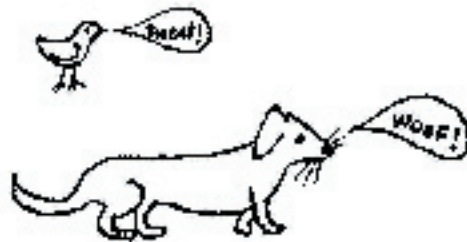

_____

_____

Tell who is happy and who is angry:

_____

_____

Tell which is long and which is short.

_____

_____

Translate these sentences into Latin.

1) The wolf is bad. _____

2) The female friend is happpy. _____

3) The letter is good. _____

4) The story is old. _____

5) The man is happy. _____

6) The woman is happy. _____

7) The male teacher is angry. _____

8) The water is good. _____