ACCUSSATIVES, ABLATIVES, AND LOCATIVES OF PLACE

PLACE TO WHICH is generally expressed by the accusative with the preposition ad. But names of towns (like Roma, -ae; Tarentum, -i; Carthago, -ginis), small islands, domus (“home”), and rus, ruris (neuter, “country”) omit the preposition and express place to which with the bare accusative. Compare the common English construction, ‘I’m going home’ (but ‘I’m going to Rome’, never ‘I’m going Rome’). The word home in this construction is identical to the Latin domum; it is an old accusative of place to which. So:

a. Ad Italiam ambulo. I am walking to Italy.
   Romam ambulo. I am walking to Rome.

b. Ad villam ambulo. I am walking to the farmhouse.
   Domum ambulo. I am walking home.

c. Ad urben ambulo. I am walking to the city.
   Rus ambulo. I am walking to the country.

PLACE FROM WHICH is generally expressed by the ablative with the preposition ab (or ex with nouns for roads, water, buildings, i.e., things that one gets ‘out of’). Again, the names of towns, small islands, domus (“home”), and rus (“country”) omit the preposition and express place from which with the bare ablative. Hence:

a. Ab Italia ambulo. I am walking from Italy.
   Roma ambulo. I am walking from Rome.

b. Ab villa ambulo. I am walking from the farmhouse.
   Domo ambulo. I am walking from home.

c. Ab urbe ambulo. I am walking from the city.
   Rure ambulo. I am walking from the country.

PLACE AT WHICH is generally expressed by the ablative with the preposition in. But some nouns (again, the same towns, islands, domus and rus, with a few additions) express place at which with a special case, the locative (from locus, “place”). Its characteristic endings are:

- **FIRST DECLENSION**
  - locative singular: -ae (=genitive singular)
  - locative plural: -is (=ablative plural)

- **SECOND DECLENSION**
  - locative singular: -i (=genitive singular)
  - locative plural: -is (=ablative plural)

- **THIRD DECLENSION**
  - locative singular: -i or -e (=ablative singular)
  - locative plural: -ibus (=ablative plural)

a. In Italia vitam egi. I lived my life in Italy.
   Romae vitam egi. I lived my life in/at Rome.

b. In villa vixi. I lived in the farmhouse.
   Ruri vixi. I lived in the country.

c. In urbe remansi. I remained in the city. (remaneo, -ere, -si, -sus, ‘to remain’)
   Domi remansi. I remained at home.

Other commonly used locatives are:

- bellis, ‘at war’;
- militiae, ‘in service, at war’;
- humi, ‘on the ground’;
- foris, ‘out of doors, outside’;
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