

The Formation of Latin Diminutives of Nouns and Adjectives

Compiled by Ian Andreas Miller

Introduction

A Latin diminutive is a word that expresses smallness, affection, pity, or contempt. The substantive or adjective from which the diminutive derives is called the primitive.

The Latin diminutive *puellula*, for example, means "little girl," while its Latin primitive *puella* means "girl"; the diminutive *muliercula*, from the primitive *mulier* (meaning "woman"), means "poor woman"; the diminutive *Graeculus*, from the primitive *Graecus* (meaning "Greek"), means "miserable Greek."

This tutorial shows the common procedures for the formation of such words.

Part 1: Diminutive Suffix Forms

1. Formation of the Most Common Diminutive Suffixes

The forms of most common diminutive suffixes in Latin are:

Diminutive Suffix Stem	Base	Nom. Sg. Form(s)	Nom. Pl. Form(s)
-ulā-	-ul-	-ula	-ulae
-ulo-	-ul-	-ulus, -ulum	-ulī, -ula
-ellā-	-ell-	-ella	-ellae
-ello-	-ell-	-ellus, -ellum	-ellī, -ella
-illā-	-ill-	-illa	-illae
-illo-	-ill-	-illus, -illum	-illī, -illa
-culā-	-cul-	-cula	-culae
-culo-	-cul-	-culus, -culum	-culī, -cula
-cellā-	-cell-	-cella	-cellae
-cello-	-cell-	-cellus, -cellum	-cellī, -cella
-cillā-	-cill-	-cilla	-cillae
-cillo-	-cill-	-cillus, -cillum	-cillī, -cilla

All of these were formed from the primitive suffix **-l-*, or syllabic *l*:

I. *-ulā-*, *-ulo-*

The primitive suffix originally appeared in Latin as **-elā-*, **-elo-*, but became *-ulā-*, *-ulo-* in accordance with the old Italic laws of accent: e.g. *rīvulo-* (*rīvulus*) for **rīvelo-* from *rīvo-* (*rīvus*). These *-ulā-*, *-ulo-* suffixes were usually also added to *ā*-stems and certain consonant stems: e.g. *arculā-* (*arcula*) from *arcā-* (*arca*); *rēgulo-* (*rēgulus*) from *rēg-* (*rēx*). When a vowel sound appeared immediately before *-ulā-*, *-ulo-*, the *-u-* appears as *-o-*: *gladiolo-* (*gladius*) for **gladiulo-* from *gladio-* (*gladius*); *bestiolā-* (*bestiola*) for **bestiulā-* from *bestiā-* (*bestia*).

II. *-ellā-*, *-ello-*

The aforementioned suffixes *-elā-, *-elo-, were added to stems in -rā-, -ro-, -inā- (for *-enā-), -ino (for *-eno-), -ulā- (for *-elā-), -ulo- (for *-elo-), and after syncope of the -e- in the suffixes, -e- appeared or was added through anaptyxis before the preceding -r-, -n-, -l-, and the preceding -r-, -n-, -l-, assimilated to the -l- of the suffix, resulting in -ellā-, -ello-: e.g. *agello-* (*agellus*) for **agerelo* from *agro-* (*ager*); *tenello-* (*tenellus*) for **tenerelo-* from *tenero-* (*tener*); *asello-* (*asellus*) for **asenelo-* from *asino-* (*asinus*), for **aseno-*; *porculo-* (*porculus*) for *porcelelo-* from *porculo-* (*porculus*), for **porcelo-*. Then these -ellā-, -ello- forms became productive suffixes themselves: e.g. *novello-* (*novellus*) from *novo-* (*novus*).

III. -illā-, -illo-

The aforementioned suffixes *-elā-, *-elo-, were added to stems in -nā-, -no-, -lā-, -lo-, and after syncope of the -e- in the suffixes, -i- was added through anaptyxis before the preceding -n-, -l-, and the -n-, -l-, assimilated to the -l- of the suffix, resulting in -illā-, -illo-: e.g. *sigillo-* (*sigillum*) for **siginelo-* from *signo-* (*signum*); *axillā-* (*axilla*) for *agsillā-* from *ālā-* (*āla*), for **agslā-*; *mamillā-* (*mamilla*) for *mamilelā-* from *mammulā-* (*mammula*), for **mammelā-*. Then these -illā-, -illo- forms became productive suffixes themselves: e.g. *moechillo-* (*moechillus*) from *moecho-* (*moechus*); *nepōtilla-* (*nepōtilla*) from *nepōt-* (*nepōs*).

IV. -culā-, -culo- and -cellā-, -cello- and -cillā-, -cillo-

Formed by adding the suffixes -ulā-, -ulo-, -ellā-, -ello-, -illā-, -illo-, to adjectives in -cā-, -co-, that have been formed from stems in -n- and -s-: e.g. *iuvenculo-* (*iuvenculus*) from *iuvenco-* (*iuvencus*). Then these new forms -culā-, -culo-, -cellā-, -cello-, -cillā-, -cillo-, became productive suffixes themselves: e.g. *arbusculā-* (*arbuscula*) from *arbor-* (*arbor*); *breviculo-* (*breviculus*) from *brevi-* (*brevis*); *homunculo-* (*homunculus*) from *homin-* (*homō*); *mūsculo-* (*mūsculus*) from *mūr(i)-* (*mūs*); *anicula* (*anicula*) from *anu-* (*anus*); *rēculā-* (*rēcula*) from *rē-* (*rēs*); *ōscillo-* (*ōscillum*) from *ōr-* (*ōs*); *pānicello-* (*pānicellus*) from *pāni-* (*pānis*).

2. Diminutive Suffixes and Stem Changes

It should always be kept in mind that a diminutive suffix, like all other suffixes in Latin, properly is added to the *stem* of a word.

However, because the stems of the words often undergo various changes (often by analogy) when these suffixes are added, and those changes are very often revealed by the bases and nominative forms of the words, it is convenient also to consider these other forms. The procedures below take into consideration the stems, the bases, and the nominative singular forms of the primitives whenever applicable.

Thus, in the formation of *puellula*, the diminutive suffix -ula- should be added to the stem, but the stem undergoes changes before that suffix, and it is convenient to consider *puell-*, the base of the word. In the formation of *corpusculum*, the diminutive suffix -culum is added to the stem *corpor-*, but the stem appears before the base in a way that looks exactly like *corpus*, the nominative singular form.

However, in the formation of many diminutives using these suffixes, it is more convenient to think of Latin diminutives as being formed by first adding the combinations -ul-, -ell-, -ill-, -cul-, -cell-, and -cill- (the bases of the twelve diminutive suffixes mentioned above) to the appropriate forms of the primitives, and

then adding the appropriate terminations to these diminutive bases. In some of the procedures below, these combinations will be called diminutive bases.

3. Gender and Endings of Diminutives

I. Diminutive Adjectives

A diminutive adjective follows the default gender-to-termination assignment found regularly among adjectives of three terminations from the first two declensions, so *-us* as in *bonus* is used by the diminutive when it is masculine, *-a* as in *bona* is used when it is feminine, and *-um* as in *bonum* is used when it is neuter: e.g. *breviculus*, masculine, "rather short"; *brevicula*, feminine; *breviculum*, neuter.

II. Diminutive Substantives

The primitive substantive imparts its grammatical information onto its diminutive substantive, and the diminutive attempts to match its primitive as much as possible according to that grammatical information. Thus, diminutives regularly take the gender of their primitives, and the terminations that they take are determined in two ways.

In situations where the grammatical information may be common to both the primitive and diminutive, such that the gender and termination may be the same, that grammatical commonality is retained in the formation of the diminutive from the primitive, so that the terminations that the diminutive takes agree with its primitive in terms of gender, number, case, and declension: e.g. primitive *equus*, masculine, "horse," and diminutive *equulus*, masculine, "small horse"; primitive *puella*, feminine, "girl," and diminutive *puellula*, feminine, "little girl"; primitive *scurra*, masculine, "clown," and diminutive *scurrula*, masculine, "small clown"; primitive *oppidum*, neuter, "town," and diminutive *oppidulum*, neuter, "small town."

In situations where the grammatical information cannot be common, such that the primitive and diminutive cannot have the same gender or termination, the diminutive follows the default gender-to-termination assignment found regularly among adjectives of three terminations from the first two declensions, so *-us* as in *bonus* is used by the diminutive when it is masculine, *-a* as in *bona* is used when it is feminine, and *-um* as in *bonum* is used when it is neuter: e.g. primitive *rex*, masculine, "king," and diminutive *regulus*, masculine, "petty king"; primitive *merces*, feminine, "pay," and primitive *mercedula*, feminine, "poor pay"; primitive *corpus*, neuter, "body," and diminutive *corpusculum*, neuter, "small body."

Thus, when the terminations are common, the primitive *has* a gender-to-termination assignment, but when the terminations are not common, the primitive *assumes* a gender-to-termination assignment. Since words like *scurra* do not follow the default gender-to-termination assignment found among adjectives of the aforementioned type (i.e. as in *bonus*, *bona*, *bonum*), a diminutive ending in *-us* or *-i* is not necessarily masculine, a diminutive ending in *-a* or *-ae* is not necessarily feminine, and a diminutive ending in *-um* or *-a* is not necessarily neuter.

III. Note on the Addition of Terminations in the Procedures

For the sake of brevity, the procedures below will not include the “add the appropriate terminations to the diminutive bases and diminutive suffixes” step in every case, but it should be understood as the final step in each case.

IV. Diminutives from Primitives of the Last Three Declensions

Those created from primitives of the third, fourth, and fifth declensions decline like *bonus* when masculine, *bona* when feminine, and *bonum* when neuter.

Primitive			Diminutive		
Declension	Word	Gender	Word	Gender	Declines Like
Third	rēx	Masculine	rēgul <u>us</u>	Masculine	bon <u>us</u>
Third	mercēs	Feminine	mercēdu <u>la</u>	Feminine	bon <u>a</u>
Third	corpus	Neuter	corpuscul <u>um</u>	Neuter	bon <u>um</u>
Third	mōs	Masculine	mōscill <u>ī</u>	Masculine	bon <u>ī</u> [plural]
Fourth	artus	Masculine	articul <u>us</u>	Masculine	bon <u>us</u>
Fourth	anus	Feminine	anicul <u>a</u>	Feminine	bon <u>a</u>
Fourth	cornū	Neuter	cornicul <u>um</u>	Neuter	bon <u>um</u>
Fifth	rēs	Feminine	rēcul <u>a</u>	Feminine	bon <u>a</u>

V. Diminutives from Primitives of the First Two Declensions

Those created from primitives of the first and second declensions also take the declensions and stem vowels of their primitives. Whenever they and their primitives can have common terminations (*-us*, *-a*, *-um* in the nominative singular, or *-ī*, *-ae*, *-a* in the nominative plural), they take their primitives' terminations. But whenever they and their primitives cannot have common terminations, they decline like *bonus* when masculine, *bona* when feminine, and *bonum* when neuter.

Primitive				Diminutive		
Declension	Stem Vowel	Word	Gender	Word	Gender	Declines Like
First	-ā-	puell <u>a</u>	Feminine	puellul <u>a</u>	Feminine	puell <u>a</u>
First	-ā-	scurr <u>a</u>	Masculine	scurrul <u>a</u>	Masculine	scurr <u>a</u>
First	-ā-	tenebrae	Feminine	tenebell <u>ae</u>	Feminine	tenebrae [plural]
First	-ā-	tener <u>a</u>	Feminine	tenell <u>a</u>	Feminine	tener <u>a</u>
Second	-o-	tener	Masculine	tenell <u>us</u>	Masculine	bon <u>us</u>
Second	-o-	loc <u>ī</u>	Masculine	locul <u>ī</u>	Masculine	loc <u>ī</u> [plural]
Second	-o-	puer	Masculine	puerul <u>us</u>	Masculine	bon <u>us</u>
Second	-o-	oppid <u>um</u>	Neuter	oppidul <u>um</u>	Neuter	oppid <u>um</u>
Second	-o-	tener <u>um</u>	Neuter	tenell <u>um</u>	Neuter	tener <u>um</u>

4. Diminutives from Diminutives

Diminutives, and non-diminutive forms imagined as diminutives, may themselves be the primitives in the formation of new diminutives. These new diminutives may be created in two ways.

I. Usual Procedures

The diminutive follows the usual procedures of creating diminutives:

Diminutive		New Diminutive
Word	From Primitive	
agellus	ager	agellulus
agnicellus	agnus	agnicellulus
rubellus	ruber	rubellulus

The new diminutive is sometimes called a double diminutive.

II. Interchange of Diminutive Bases

Words of the first two declensions, with bases ending in *-ul-*, *-ell-*, *-ill-*, may interchange those letter combinations (i.e. *-ul-*, *-ell-*, *-ill-*) among themselves to create new diminutives; words of the first two declensions, with bases ending in *-cul-*, *-cell-*, *-cill-*, may interchange those letter combinations (i.e. *-cul-*, *-cell-*, *-cill-*) among themselves to create new diminutives:

Diminutives and the Interchange of Base Endings		
Ending in <i>-ul-</i> , <i>-cul-</i>	Ending in <i>-ell-</i> , <i>-cell-</i>	Ending in <i>-ill-</i> , <i>-cill-</i>
flōsculus	flōscellus	[flōscillus]
monticulus	monticellus	[monticillus]
oculus	ocellus	[ocillus]
porcula	porcella	porcilla
porculus	porcellus	[porcillus]
pēniculus	[pēnicellus]	pēnicillus

The distinction among the diminutive bases is one of emotional nuance rather than one of progressively diminutive meaning (e.g. "small," "very small," "tiny").

Note: The forms in brackets in the table apparently do not occur, but they follow the regular formation procedures. *Oculus* is not a diminutive, but it is treated as such in the formation of diminutives.

III. No Limits to the Changes

Although Latin generally stops creating diminutives at double diminutives, there is theoretically no upper limit to the number of diminutive bases that can be added to diminutives to create even more diminutives.

Thus, the diminutives that may be created from *puella*, for example, include the following: *puellula* (*puell-ul-a*), *puellella* (*puell-ell-a*), *puellilla* (*puell-ill-a*), *puellulula* (*puell-ul-ul-a*), *puellellula* (*puell-ell-ul-a*), *puellillula* (*puell-ill-ul-a*).

IV. Diminutive Bases *-UL-* and *-CUL-* as Defaults

In the procedures below, the diminutive bases *-ul-* and *-cul-* are the defaults. Any instance of the diminutive base *-ul-* may be interchanged by using the diminutive bases *-ell-* and *-ill-* instead; any instance of the diminutive base *-cul-* may be interchanged by using the diminutive bases *-cell-* and *-cill-* instead.

Part 2: Procedures

1. First and Second Declensions

I. Regular Procedure

By default, all stems in *-ā-* and *-o-* have their final vowel replaced by the diminutive base *-ul-*; if a letter representing a vowel *sound* (usually *-e-* or *-i-*) appears immediately before the final vowel, the *-u-* in *-ul-* becomes *-o-*:

Stem Ending	Nom. Sg. Ending	Base Ending	Examples	
			Primitive	Diminutive
<i>-ā-</i>	-	[vowel sound]	bestia	bestiola
<i>-ā-</i>	-	[consonant sound]	equa	equula
<i>-ā-</i>	-	[consonant sound]	opera	operula
<i>-ā-</i>	-	[consonant sound]	puella	puellula
<i>-o-</i>	-	[vowel sound]	calceus	calceolus
<i>-o-</i>	-	[consonant sound]	equus	equulus
<i>-o-</i>	-	[consonant sound]	hortus	hortulus
<i>-o-</i>	-	[consonant sound]	puer	puerulus
<i>-o-</i>	-	[consonant sound]	servus	servulus

Note: The *-ul-* form of the diminutive base is used before consonantal *-i-* and *-u-*. (Sometimes consonantal *-i-* is written as *-j-*.) So, for *equus* and *equa*, since the *-u-* before the final vowels of the stems represents a consonantal sound instead of a vowel sound, their diminutives have *-u-* instead of *-o-*. Stems in *-vā-*, *-vo-* originally used the *-ol-* form of the diminutive base, but later they started using *-ul-* as usual: e.g. *servolus*, later *servulus*.

II. Stems in *-lā-*, *-nā-*, *-rā-*, *-lo-*, *-no-*, *-ro-*

Stems in *-lā-*, *-nā-*, *-rā-*, *-lo-*, *-no-*, *-ro-*, commonly drop their stem vowels and add the old suffixes **-ela-*, **-elo-*, to form diminutives. When the *-e-* of **-ela-*, **-elo-*, and the letters *-r-* and *-n-* appear immediately before the *-l-* of the suffixes, they assimilate to *-l-*. Additional changes may or may not occur besides this elision of the stem vowel and appropriate assimilation of consonants.

The additional changes and lack thereof are:

- a. Stems ending in *-rā-* and *-ro-*, with a consonant appearing immediately before that *-r-*, add *-e-* (sometimes *-i-*) immediately before that *-r-* of the stem; stems ending in *-nā-* and *-no-*, with a consonant appearing immediately before that *-n-*, add *-e-* or *-i-* immediately before that *-n-* of the stem:

Stem Ending	Nom. Sg. Ending	Base Ending	Examples	
			Primitive	Diminutive
<i>-ā-</i>	-	[consonant] + r	umbra	umbella
<i>-o-</i>	-	[consonant] + r	liber	libellus
<i>-o-</i>	-	[consonant] + r	rōstrum	rōstellum
<i>-o-</i>	-	[consonant] + r	trānstrum	trānstillum
<i>-o-</i>	-	[consonant] + r	veretra	veretilla
<i>-ā-</i>	-	[consonant] + n	columna	columella
<i>-o-</i>	-	[consonant] + n	pugnus	pugillus
<i>-o-</i>	-	[consonant] + n	signum	sigillum
<i>-o-</i>	-	[consonant] + n	tignum	tigillum

- b. Stems in *-ulā-*, *-inā-*, *-ulo-*, *-ino-*, change the *-i-* and *-u-* before the *-l-* or *-n-* to other vowel letters, either *-e-* or *-i-*. The phonetic changes are:

Stem Ending	Suffixes	Resultant Diminutive Endings
-inā-, -ino-	-lā-, -lo-	-ellus, -ella, -ellum
-ulā-, -ulo-	-lā-, -lo-	-illus, -illa, -illum; -ellus, -ella, -ellum

Specific examples of diminutives showing such phonetic changes are:

Stem Ending	Nom. Sg. Ending	Base Ending	Examples	
			Primitive	Diminutive
-ā-	-	-in-	pāgina	pāgella
-ā-	-	-ul-	fābula	fābella
-ā-	-	-in-	fēmina	fēmella
-ā-	-	-ul-	porcula	porcilla
-o-	-	-in-	asinus	asellus
-o-	-	-ul-	oculus	ocellus
-o-	-	-ul-	porculus	porcellus
-o-	-	-ul-	baculum	bacillum

Note: The vowel changes seen in the chart above reflect the phonetic changes that were at work in the creation of the suffixes *-ellā-*, *-ello-*, *-illā-*, *-illo-*, as described above. The *-e-* in the resultant diminutive endings derives from the *-e-* in *-enā-*, *-eno-*, *-elā-*, *-elo-*, old forms of the stem endings *-inā-*, *-ino-*, *-ulā-*, *-ulo-*; the *-i-* in the resultant diminutive endings derives from anaptyxis between two consonants.

c. Other Stems in *-lā-*, *-nā-*, *-rā-*, *-lo-*, *-no-*, *-ro-*, with vowels appearing immediately before those *-l-*, *-n-*, and *-r-*, regularly do not have those vowels change:

Stem Ending	Nom. Sg. Ending	Base Ending	Examples	
			Primitive	Diminutive
-ā-	-	-ān-	Messāna	Messālla
-ā-	-	-ēn-	catēna	catēlla
-ā-	-	-er-	camera	camella
-ā-	-	-er-	opera	opella
-ā-	-	-īr-	hīra	hīllae
-ā-	-	-ōn-	corōna	corōlla
-o-	-	-ān-	Hispānus	Hispāllus
-o-	-	-ār-	rārus	rāllus
-o-	-	-en-	benus	bellus
-o-	-	-er-	puer	puellus
-o-	-	-er-	tener	tenellus
-o-	-	-īn-	pulvīnus	pulvīllus
-o-	-	-ūn-	ūnus	ūllus
-o-	-	-ur-	purus	pullus
-o-	-	-ur-	satur	satullus

Note: There seems to be some disagreement about the lengths of the vowels *-i-* and *-e-* before *-ll-* in a number of diminutives, as in *catēlla*. Some sources show them long, others show them short. There are cogent arguments for both lengths of the vowels: 1) In favor of the long vowels, we see no change in the other vowel letters *-ā-*, *-ō-*, *-ū-*; 2) In favor of the short vowels, the change in length is on analogy of the suffixes *-ellā-*, *-ello-*, *-illā-*, *-illo-*. For these reasons, we will consider the length of the vowel as variable.

d. Stems in *-lā-*, *-nā-*, *-rā-*, *-lo-*, *-no-*, *-ro-*, with the long vowels *-ē-* and *-ī-* appearing immediately before those *-l-*, *-n-*, and *-r-*, sometimes shorten those vowels on the analogy of the suffixes *-ellā-*, *-ello-*, *-illā-*, *-illo-*:

Stem Ending	Nom. Sg. Ending	Base Ending	Examples	
			Primitive	Diminutive
-ā-	-	-ēn-	catēna	catella
-ā-	-	-īn-	crumīna	crumilla
-ā-	-	-īr-	hīra	hillae
-o-	-	-īn-	pulvīnus	pulvillus

III. Diminutives with the Diminutive Base **-XILL-**

Stems in *-cā-*, *-co-* or *-lā-*, *-lo-*, may drop their stem vowels, replace that final *-c-* or *-l-* with the diminutive base *-xill-*, and a single long vowel (i.e. a vowel not part of diphthong) that appears immediately before that *-x-* shortens:

Stem Ending	Nom. Sg. Ending	Base Ending	Examples	
			Primitive	Diminutive
-ā-	-	[long vowel] + -l-	āla	axilla
-ā-	-	[diphthong] + -l-	aula (olla)	auxilla
-ā-	-	[long vowel] + -l-	māla	maxilla
-o-	-	[long vowel] + -l-	pālus	paxillus
-o-	-	[diphthong] + -l-	paulus	pauxillus
-o-	-	[long vowel] + -l-	tālus	taxillus
-o-	-	[long vowel] + -l-	vēlum	vexillum

Note: The diminutives of this type were created by older forms of their primitives, which used to contain letter combinations *-gs-* or *-cs-* before the final *-l-* of their bases; these letter combinations eventually disappeared in the primitives: e.g. *axillā-* (*axilla*) for *agsillā-* from *agslā-*, the older form of *ālā-* (*āla*).

IV. Diminutives with the Diminutive Base **-ASTR-**

The diminutive base *-astr-* may be used instead of the normal base *-ul-*; the nominative singular forms are *-aster*, *-astra*, *-astrum*:

Stem Ending	Nom. Sg. Ending	Base Ending	Examples	
			Primitive	Diminutive
-ā-	-	-	fīlia	fīliastra
-o-	-	-	fīlius	fīliaster
-o-	-	-	surdus	surdaster
-o-	-	-	pallium	palliastrum

V. Diminutives (Proper Names) with the Diminutive Base **-ILL-**

The rare diminutive base *-ill-* is added like a normal suffix beginning in *-i-*:

Stem Ending	Nom. Sg. Ending	Base Ending	Examples	
			Primitive	Diminutive
-ā-	-	-i-	Līvia	Līvilla
-ā-	-	-i-	Sulpicia	Sulpicilla
-ā-	-	-i-	Terentia	Terentilla

Note: This suffix is found used only with feminine names, but it could theoretically also be used with others words, e.g. a masculine form of *Līvilla* would be *Līvillus*.

VI. Diminutives with the Diminutive Base **-ULE-**

Some diminutives are formed the same way as those are formed with the diminutive base *-ul-* according to the regular procedure, but the difference is that an *-e-* appears immediately after the *-l-*:

Stem Ending	Nom. Sg. Ending	Base Ending	Examples	
			Primitive	Diminutive
-ā-	-	-	hinna	hinnulea
-o-	-	-	equus	equuleus
-o-	-	-	hinnus	hinnuleus

VII. Diminutives with the Diminutive Base **-IŌN-**

The rare diminutive base *-iōn-*, nominative singular *-iō*, is added like a normal suffix beginning in *-i-*:

Stem Ending	Nom. Sg. Ending	Base Ending	Examples	
			Primitive	Diminutive
-o-	-	-	Graeculus	Graeculiō
-o-	-	-	pūsus	pūsiō

VIII. Diminutives (Proper Names) with the Diminutive Base **-TT-**

The rare diminutive base *-itt-*, used in Later Latin, is added like a normal suffix beginning in *-i-*:

Stem Ending	Nom. Sg. Ending	Base Ending	Examples	
			Primitive	Diminutive
-ā-	-	-i-	Iūlia	Iūlitta
-ā-	-	-	Pōlla	Pōllitta

Note: This suffix is found used only with feminine names, but it could theoretically also be used with others words, e.g. a masculine form of *Iūlitta* would be *Iūlittus*.

IX. Diminutives with the Diminutive Bases **-CUL-** and **-ICUL-**

On the analogy of *i*-stems, the forms *-cul-* and *-icul-* were used with words of the first two declensions; *-icul-* is added like a normal suffix ending in *-i-*; *-cul-* is added to the stem after the final vowel of the stem has been changed to *-i-*:

Stem Ending	Nom. Sg. Ending	Base Ending	Examples	
			Primitive	Diminutive
-ā-	-	-	āla	ālicula
-o-	-	-	pannus	panniculus
-o-	-	-	thyrsus	thyrsiculus
-o-	-	-	galērum	galēriculum

X. Diminutives with the Diminutive Bases **-UNCUL-**

Rarely, on the analogy of the *n*-stems that form diminutives of *-uncul-*, this *-uncul-* is used as a suffix itself; it is added like a normal suffix ending in *-u-*:

Stem Ending	Nom. Sg. Ending	Base Ending	Examples	
			Primitive	Diminutive
-o-	-	-	avus	avunculus

XI. Irregular Formation

There is a number of unusually-formed diminutives. They were formed by various analogies and different forms of the diminutive suffixes. Some are:

Stem Ending	Examples				
	Primitive			Diminutives	
	Word	Stem	Base	Attested	Regular
-ā-	amphora	amphorā-	amphor-	ampulla	ampholla, amphorula
-ā-	māchina	māchinā-	māchin-	māchilla	māchella
-ā-	rana	ranā-	ran-	ranunculus	ranula
-o-	ramus	ramo-	ram-	ramusculus	ramulus

Note: *Ampulla* may in fact be not a diminutive, but rather a compound of *ambi-* and *olla*. If it is a diminutive of *amphora*, then the expected diminutive *ampholla* dropped its h, and underwent the unusual phonetic change of *-oll-* to *-ull-*, as seen in a few words such as *homullus* for *homollus* (*homon-* + *-lus*), from *homō*, where *homon-* is used as the stem instead of the normal stem *homin-*. The form *māchilla* appears to be uncertain, and is apparently a substitution for the regular *māchella*, created to distinguish it from *macella*. In the creation of *ranunculus* to *rana*, the former changed its gender and termination. *Ramusculus* was formed by treating *ramus* as if it were an s-stem, and adding the base *-cul-*.

2. Third Declension

I. "Pure" I-Stem Substantives & Adjectives of Two and Three Terminations

"Pure" i-stems (parisyllabic masculines and feminines ending in *-is*, and neuters ending in *-e*, *-al*, *-ar*), nouns and adjectives, including the adjectives of two and three terminations (but not comparatives), take the diminutive base *-cul-*:

Stem Ending	Nom. Sg. Ending	Base Ending	Examples	
			Primitive	Diminutive
-i-	-is	-	īgnis	īgniculus
-i-	-is	-	pānis	pānicellus
-i-	-is	-	ovis	ovicula
-i-	-e	-	rēte	rēticulum
-i-	-er	-	venter	ventriculus
-i-	-ālis	-	aquālis	aquāliculus
-i-	-is	-	mollis	molliculus
-i-	-er	-	ācer	ācriculus

Note: These diminutives were created by adding the suffixes *-culā-*, *-culo-* to the stems of the primitives.

II. Consonant Stems: Mute Stems in *-C-*, *-G-*, *-D-*, *-T-*

Stems ending in a mute consonant (*-c-*, *-d-*, *-g-*, *-t-*), including adjectives of one termination with bases in *-c-*, *-d-*, *-g-*, *-t-*, take the diminutive base *-ul-*:

Stem Ending	Nom. Sg. Ending	Base Ending	Examples	
			Primitive	Diminutive
-c-	-	-c-	vōx	vōcula
-c-	-	-c-	cornīx	cornīcula
-c-	-	-c-	radīx	radīcula
-c-	-	-c-	tōnstrīx	tōnstrīcula
-g-	-	-g-	rēx	rēgulus
-d-	-	-d-	mercēs	mercēdula
-t-	-	-t-	ariēs	arietillus
-t-	-	-t-	caput	capitulum
-t-	-	-t-	nepōs	nepōtulus
-t-	-	-t-	sacerdōs	sacerdōtula
-c-	-	-c-	ferōx	ferōculus
-c-	-	-c-	dicāx	dicāculus
-c-	-	-c-	loquāx	loquāculus
-t-	-ns	-nt-	adulēscēns	adulēscētulus
-t-	-ns	-nt-	blandiloquēns	blandiloquentulus
-t-	-ns	-nt-	dolēns	dolentulus
-t-	-ns	-nt-	īnfāns	īfantulus
-t-	-ns	-nt-	valēns	valentulus

III. Consonant Stems: Most Stems in *-R-*; Stems in *-S-*; Stems in *-L(L)-*

Most r-stems (i.e. r-stems and rr-stems) and s-stems add *-cul-* to their nominative singular forms; l-stems (i.e. l-stems and ll-stems) do the same:

Stem Ending	Nom. Sg. Ending	Base Ending	Examples	
			Primitive	Diminutive
-r-	-	-r-	amātor	amātorculus
-rr-	-	-r-	fār	fārculum
-r-	-	-r-	uxor	uxorcula
-r-	-	-r-	soror	sororcula
-r-	-	-r-	mulier	muliercula
-r-	-	-r-	vēr	vērculum
-r-	-	-r-	pater	paterculus
-r-	-	-r-	pauper	pauperculus
-ll-	-	-ll-	mēl	mēlculum
-s-	-	-s-	vās	vāsculum

Note: These diminutives were created by adding *-culā-*, *-culo-* directly to the appropriate form of the stems of the primitives (same as their nominative singular forms). Among the r-stem words that denote male and female beings, and have corresponding diminutives, almost all are etymological r-stems rather than etymological s-stems (e.g. agent nouns in *-tor*, and words like *pater* and *māter*), and their diminutive forms use *-r-* before the base *-cul-*. The use of this *-r-* for diminutives from r-stem words denoting male and female beings was so common and consistent that it was carried over to the original s-stem *mulier*, and so the diminutive *muliercula* was formed instead of the otherwise expected *muliescula*.

IV. Consonant Stems: Stems in *-R-* with Diminutives in *-USCUL-*

There are three types of stems in *-r-* (originally *-s-*) in which the stems have their final *-r-* appear as the original *-s-* before the diminutive base *-cul-*:

a. Noun and adjective stems in *-r-* (originally *-s-*), with nominative singular forms in *-s* and bases ending in *-r-*, add the base *-cul-* to their nominative singular forms:

Stem Ending	Nom. Sg. Ending	Base Ending	Examples	
			Primitive	Diminutive
-r-	-s	-r-	corpus	corpusculum
-r-	-s	-r-	flōs	flōsculus
-r-	-s	-r-	ōs	ōsculum
-r-	-s	-r-	iūs	iūsculum
-r-	-s	-r-	plūs	plūsculus

b. Noun stems in *-r-* (originally *-s-*) that do not denote male and female beings, with nominative singular forms in *-or*, *-ur*, and *-ōs*, and with bases ending in *-or-* and *-ōr-*, form diminutives using the diminutive base *-cul-*. They change their final two letters of their bases (i.e. *-or-*, *-ōr-*) to *-us-*, and the diminutive base *-cul-* is added.

Stem Ending	Nom. Sg. Ending	Base Ending	Examples	
			Primitive	Diminutive
-or-	-or	-or-	marmor	marmusculum
-or-	-or/-ōs	-or-	arbor/arbōs	arbusculus
-ōr-	-or/-ōs	-ōr-	rūmor [*rūmōs]	rūmusculus
-or-	-ur	-or-	iecur	ieculusculum

c. The comparative forms of adjectives in *-ior* and *-ius* have their final two letters of their bases (*-ōr-*) appear as *-us-* and the diminutive base *-cul-* is added.

Stem Ending	Nom. Sg. Ending	Base Ending	Word Example	Diminutive Form
-ōr-	-ior, -ius	-ōr-	grandior, -ius	grandiusculus
-ōr-	-ior, -ius	-ōr-	longior, -ius	longiusculus

Note: These r-stem primitives were originally s-stems, and when the suffixes *-culā-*, *-culo-* suffixes are added to these r-stems, the final *-r-* of the stems is changed back to the original *-s-*. Additionally, the primitives of the second and third types above never had any specific affinity toward the denotation of male and female beings, unlike the great number of original r-stem words (e.g. agent nouns in *-tor*, and words like *pater* and *māter*), and as such the final *-r-* (originally *-s-*) found in forms of the stems used in Classical Latin never managed to intrude in the formation of their diminutives. So, *mulier* (stem *mulier-*, originally *mulies-*) gives *muliercula*, not *muliescula*, on the analogy of words like *mātercula* and *amatorculus*, but *arbor* (stem *arbor-*, originally *arbōs-*) gives *arbuscula*, not *arborcula*, on the analogy other words that do not denote male and female beings, as *corpusculum* and *flōsculus*.

V. Consonant Stems: Stems in *-ōn-*, *-on-*, *-in-*; Stems *-n-*, Nom. Sg. in *-ō-*

Stems in *-ōn-*, *-on-*, *-in-*, change the last two letters of their stems to *-un-* and add the diminutive base *-cul-*; stems in *-n-* with nominative singular forms in *-ō* change that *-ō* to *-un-* and add the diminutive base *-cul-*:

Stem Ending	Nom. Sg. Ending	Base Ending	Examples	
			Primitive	Diminutive
-in-	-	-in-	pecten	pectunculus
-ōn-	-	-ōn-	ratiō	ratiuncula
-on-	-	-on-	īcon	īcuncula
-n-	-ō	-n-	carō	caruncula

Note: The *-uncul-* formation in these diminutives was originally created by adding *-culā-*, *-culo-* to stems in *-on-*, where the *-o-* became *-u-* by phonetic change (cf. *hunc*, earlier *honc*). Some original stems in *-nō-* (*-on-*) later became stems in *-in-* (e.g. *homin-*, earlier *homon-* or *homōn-*) with nominative singular endings in *-ō*, and through the power of analogy the *-uncul-* formation was used with other stems in *-in-* (e.g. *pecten*, stem *pectin-*) and stems in *-n-* with nominative singular forms in *-o* (e.g. *caro*, stem *carn-*) even if they do not actually have stems in *-in-* or *-on-*.

The diminutive base *-ciōn-*, nominative singular *-ciō*, is also added to these kinds of stems with the same phonetic changes as those that occur with *-cul-*:

Stem Ending	Nom. Sg. Ending	Base Ending	Examples	
			Primitive	Diminutive
-n-	-	-n-	homō	homunciō

Note: The base *-ciōn-* was formed by replacing the *-ul-* in the diminutive base *-cul-* with *-iōn-*. Allen and Greenough state that this suffix is used masculine primitives only, and yet the example that they give, *homō*, may be masculine or feminine.

VI. Mixed I-Stems: Present Participle Forms, Stems with Bases in *-TĀT-*

Present participle forms used as nouns and stems with bases ending in *-tāt-* take the diminutive base *-ul-*:

Stem Ending	Nom. Sg. Ending	Base Ending	Examples	
			Primitive	Primitive
-t-/i-	-ns	-nt-	cliēns	clientulus
-t-/i-	-tās	-tāt-	aetās	aetātula
-t-/i-	-tās	-tāt-	civitās	civitātula
-t-/i-	-tās	-tāt-	facultās	facultātula
-t-/i-	-tās	-tāt-	paupertās	paupertātula

Note: Nouns with bases ending in *-tāt-* and participle forms used as nouns are classified as mixed i-stems and thus should take the *-iculā-*, *-iculo-* suffixes, but these words are in origin stems ending in a mute consonant, and their diminutive forms reflect that fact.

VII. Mixed I-Stems: Parisyllables with Nom. Sg. in *-ĒS*

Mixed i-stem parisyllabic words with nominative singular ending in *-ēs* drop that *-s* and add the diminutive base *-cul-*:

Stem Ending	Nom. Sg. Ending	Base Ending	Examples	
			Primitive	Diminutive
[consonant]/i-	-ēs	-	lābēs	lābēcūla
[consonant]/i-	-ēs	-	nūbēs	nūbēcūla
[consonant]/i-	-ēs	-	vulpēs	vulpēcūla
[consonant]/i-	-ēs	-	vēprēs	vēprēcūla

Note: These use *-ē-* instead of the *-i-* seen in diminutives formed from many other mixed i-stems. The *-ē-* appears for two reasons: 1) it is a common vowel representing both the *-ē-* in the consonant inflection of the singular, as seen in the nominative singular ending *-ēs*, and the *-ē-* in the i-stem inflection of the plural, as seen in the nominative plural ending *-ēs*; 2) it is used on the analogy of the real fifth-declension *ē-*stems and their diminutives: *rēcūla* from *rēs*, *spēcūla* from *spēs*, *diēs* from *diēcūla*. The very common word *plēbēs*, with the diminutive form *plēbēcūla*, is sometimes of the third declension and sometimes of the fifth, and might have been instrumental as the catalyst in the introduction of the analogy.

These words have real or hypothetical "pure" i-stem variant forms with the nominative singular ending *-is*; these variant forms follow the usual procedure for the creation of diminutives from "pure" i-stem primitives:

Stem Ending	Nom. Sg. Ending	Base Ending	Examples	
			Primitive	Diminutive
-i-	-is [for -ēs]	-	*aedis [for aedēs]	aedicula
-i-	-is [for -ēs]	-	*fidis [for fidēs]	fidicula
-i-	-is [for -ēs]	-	*sordis [for sordēs]	sordicula

Note: Some of these words do have "pure" i-stem forms that are sometimes used: e.g. *fēlis* for *fēlēs*. Moreover, the *Appendix Probi*, as Sihler points out, proscribes *cladis*, *prolis*, *vātis*, and others, indicating that as a class these words were liable to remodeling into "pure" i-stems.

VIII. Mixed I-Stems: Nom. Sg. in -S, Bases in -R

Mixed i-stems, with nominative singular forms in *-s* and bases in *-r*, add the diminutive base *-cul-* to their nominative singular forms:

Stem Ending	Nom. Sg. Ending	Base Ending	Word Example	Diminutive Form
-r-/-i-	-s	-r-	mās	māsculus
-r-/-i-	-s	-r-	mūs	mūsculus

Note: These primitives were original s-stems, and when the suffixes *-culā-*, *-culo-* suffixes are added to these stems, the stems rebuild themselves with the original final *-s*. The diminutive *māsculus* is an adjective while its primitive *mās* is a noun.

IX. Mixed I-Stems: All Others

All other mixed i-stems (i.e. all of those that do not apply to the descriptions under vi., vii, and viii above) normally take the diminutive base *-cul-*.

Rarely, mixed i-stems with bases ending in *-c-*, *-g-*, *-d-*, *-t-*, take *-ul-*:

Stem Ending	Nom. Sg. Ending	Base Ending	Examples		
			Primitive	Diminutive	
				-cul-	-ul-
-b-/-i-	-	-b-	plēbs	plēbīcula	
-b-/-i-	-	-b-	scrobs	scrobīculus	
-b-/-i-	-	-b-	trabs	trabīcula	
-c-/-i-	-	-c-	lanx	lancīcula	lancula
-c-/-i-	-	-c-	falx	falcīcula	falcula
-c-/-i-	-	-c-	calx	-	calculus
-d-/-i-	-	-d-	glāns	glandīcula	glandula
-t-/-i-	-	-t-	cohors	cohorticulus	
-t-/-i-	-	-t-	dēns	denticulus	
-t-/-i-	-	-t-	fōns	fonticulus	
-t-/-i-	-	-t-	lēns	lenticula	
-t-/-i-	-	-t-	mōns	monticellus	
-t-/-i-	-	-t-	mōns	monticulus	
-t-/-i-	-	-t-	pars	particula	
-t-/-i-	-	-t-	pōns	ponticulus	

-t-/-i-	-	-t-	puls	pulticula	
-t-/-i-	-	-t-	sors	sorticula	

Note: These mixed i-stems, since they are classified as a subset of the i-stems, take the diminutive bases *-culo-*, *-cula-* just like the "pure" i-stems. The mixed i-stems that take the diminutive bases *-ula-*, *-ulo-* instead of the aforementioned bases do so for two reasons: 1) the stems were originally stems ending in the mute consonants *-c-*, *-d-*, *-g-*, *-t-*, and so follow the formation of diminutives from the mute consonants instead (e.g. *calculus* from *calx*, originally a consonant stem), 2) the singular form of their stems, which are consonantal, are used in the formation of their diminutives, and by analogy, follow the formation of the mute consonants *-c-*, *-d-*, *-g-*, *-t-*.

X. Stems in *-ū-* and *-OV-* (*-OU-*)

Stems in *-ū-* shorten that final vowel to *-u-* and add the diminutive base *-cul-*; stems in *-ov-* (*-ou-*) change those two letters to *-ū-* and add the diminutive base *-cul-*:

Stem Ending	Nom. Sg. Ending	Base Ending	Examples	
			Primitive	Diminutive
<i>-ū-</i>	-	<i>-u-</i>	sūs	sucula
<i>-OV-</i> (<i>-OU-</i>)	-	<i>-OV-</i>	bōs	būcula

Note: It appears that these diminutives were created by adding the suffixes *-cula-*, *-culo-* to the form of the stems seen before the *-bus* ending in *subus* and *būbus*.

XI. Any Stem (I-Stem, Consonant, Mixed I-Stem)

On the analogy of i-stems, the form *-icul-* was used as a suffix itself with words of other stems; it is added like a normal suffix ending in *-i-*:

Stem Ending	Examples			
	Primitive			Diminutive
	Word	Stem	Base	
-	anas	anat-	anat-	anaticula
-	thōrāx	thōrāc-	thōrāc-	thōrāciculus
-	opes	op-	op-	opicillum
-	os	oss(i)-	oss-	ossiculum

In a very few cases, *-ī-* is used instead of *-i-* before *-cul-*:

Stem Ending	Examples			
	Primitive			Diminutive
	Word	Stem	Base	
-	canis	can-	can-	canīcula
-	cutis	cuti-	cut-	cutīcula

Rarely, on the analogy of the n-stems that form diminutives of *-uncul-*, this *-uncul-* is used as a suffix itself; it is added like a normal suffix ending in *-u-*:

Stem Ending	Examples			
	Primitive			Diminutive
	Word	Stem	Base	
-	fūr	fūr-	fūr-	fūrunculus

-	nux	nuc-	nuc-	nucunculus
-	pēs	ped-	ped-	pedunculus

The rare diminutive base *-iōn-*, nominative singular *-iō*, is added like a normal suffix ending in *-i-*:

Stem Ending	Example			
	Primitive			Diminutive
	Word	Stem	Base	
-	senex	sen(ec)-	sen(ec)-	seneciō

XII. Irregular Formation

There is a number of unusually-formed diminutives. They were formed by various analogies and different forms of the diminutive suffixes. Some are:

Stem Ending	Examples				
	Primitive			Diminutives	
	Word	Stem	Base	Attested	Regular
-	animal	animāli-	animāl-	animalculum	animāliculum
-	cor	cord-	cord-	corculum	cordulum
-	corbis	corbi-	corb-	corbula	corbicula
-	dulcis	dulci-	dulc-	dulciola	dulcicula
-	homō	homin-	homin-	homullus	homunculus
-	lapis	lapid-	lapid-	lapillus	lapidulus
-	lucuns	lucunt(i)-	lucunt-	lucunculus	lucunticula
-	nux	nuc-	nuc-	nuculeus/nucleus	nucula
-	pēs	ped-	ped-	pediolus	pedulus
-	sanguis	sanguin-	sanguin-	sanguiculus	sanguunculus
-	vetus	veter-	veter-	vetulus	vetusculus
-	viridis	viridi-	virid-	viridulus	viridiculus
-	vītis	vīti-	vīt-	vītēcula	vīticula

Note: The Neo-Latin *animalculum* was formed on the analogy of l-stems. *Corculum* was formed by removing the final *-d-* and then following the analogy of stems in *-r-*; *homullus* was formed by adding *-elo-* to the stem *homin-* with assimilation; *dulciola* was created by adding *-ol-* to the stem *dulci-*; *lapillus* was formed by adding *-lo-* to the stem *lapid-* with assimilation; *lucuncula* was probably formed by haplogy from **lucuntuncula*; *corbula* and *viridulus* were formed by replacing the stem vowel *-i-* with *-ul-* instead of just taking *-cul-*; *nuculeus*, *nucleus* were formed with *-ule-* with gender change; *pediolus* uses an uncommon diminutive base *-iol-*; *sanguiculus* was formed by treating *sanguis* as a "pure" i-stem; *vetulus* was formed by treating *vetus* as an o-stem; *vītēcula* was formed from a mixed i-stem primitive **vītēs*.

3. Fourth Declension

Stems of the fourth declension change their stem vowel to *-i-* and add *-cul-*:

Stem Ending	Nom. Sg. Ending	Base Ending	Examples	
			Primitive	Diminutive
-u-	-us	-	artus	articulus
-u-	-us	-	anus	anicula
-u-	-ū	-	cornū	corniculum

The irregular diminutive base *-le-* is rarely added to these stems:

Stem Ending	Nom. Sg. Ending	Base Ending	Examples	
			Primitive	Diminutive
-u-	-us	-	acus	aculeus

4. Fifth Declension

Stems of the fifth declension add *-cul-*:

Stem Ending	Nom. Sg. Ending	Base Ending	Examples	
			Primitive	Diminutive
-ē-	-ēs	-	diēs	diēcūla
-ē-	-ēs	-	rēs	rēcūla
-ē-	-ēs	-	spēs	spēcūla

Part 3: New Diminutives

Some other examples of diminutives that may be formed are:

Primitive			Possible Diminutives	
Word	Stem	Base		
bicorpor	bicorpor-	bicorpor-	bicorporculus	bicorporiculus
Capys	Capy-	Capy-	Capyculus	Capycellus
Celtibēr	Celtibēro-	Celtibēr-	Celtibērulus	Celtibēllus
grūs	grū-	gru-	gruculus	gruiculus
Glycerium	Glycerio-	Glyceri-	Glyceriolum	Glycericulum
herōs	herō-	herō-	herōiculus	herōicellus
iecur	iecor-/iecinor-	iecor-/iecinor-	iecinoriculum	iecoriculum
iter	itiner-	itiner-	iterculum	itinericulum
Iuppiter	Iov- (Iou-)	Iov-	Iūculus	Ioviculus
nix	niv(i)-	niv-	nivicula	nivicella
Orpheus	Orpheu-/Orptheo-	Orphe-	Orpheolus	Orpheiculus
os	oss(i)-	oss-	osculum	ossicellum
Paegnum	Paegnio-	Paegni-	Paegniolum	Paegniculum
pārs	pār-	pār-	pārculus	pāriculus
Pompēius	Pompēio-	Pompēi-	Pompēiulus	Pompēiculus
prīnceps	prīncip-	prīncip-	prīncipiculus	prīncipicellus
senex	sen-	sen-	seniculus	senicellus
speciēs	speciē	speci	speciēcūla	speciēcēlla
supellēx	supellēcti-	supellēct-	supellēcticulus	supellēcticellus
ūber	ūber-	ūber-	ūberculus	ūbericulus
vīrēs	vīri-	vīr-	vīricellae	vīricillae
vīrus	vīro-	vīr-	vīrulus	vīriculus
vīs	vī-	v-	vīcula	vicula

Note: The original stem of the adjective *bicorpor* was *bicorpos*, but it follows the normal rules for r-stems in creating diminutives; the diminutives of *Glycerium*, *Paegnum*, *vīrus* retain the endings of their primitives; *Pompēiulus* appears instead of *Pompēiolus* because the *-i-* in *Pompēio-* is consonantal, and so sometimes *Pompēius* is written *Pompējus*, stem *Pompējo-*; *vīs* is treated as a "pure" i-stem, even with the long vowel, and therefore follows the same procedure as the other "pure" i-stems in forming diminutives.

Bibliography

- Allen, Joseph Henry, and James Bradstreet Greenough. *Allen and Greenough's New Latin Grammar*. 2001 ed. Boston: Ginn and Company, 1903.
- Andrews, E. A. and S. Stoddard. *A Grammar of the Latin Language*. Boston: Houghton, Osgood and Company, 1878.
- Bedford, Edward Henslowe. *The Preliminary, Army and Civil Service Guide to Latin Grammar*. London: Stevens & Sons, 1872.
- Donaldson, John William. *A Complete Latin Grammar*. 2nd ed. Cambridge: Deighton, Bell, and Co., 1860.
- Lane, George Martin. *A Latin Grammar for Schools and Colleges*. 1903 ed. New York: American Book Company, 1898.
- Madvig, I. N. *A Latin Grammar*. Translated by George Woods. Boston: Ginn Brothers and Company, 1870.
- Miller, D. Gary. *Latin Suffixal Derivatives in English and their Indo-European*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006.
- Perseus Digital Library. "Perseus Project Online Latin Lexicon."
<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/cgi-bin/resolveform?lang=Latin> (May 17, 2009).
- Schmitz, Leonhard. *Grammar of the Latin Language*. London: William and Robert Chambers, 1862.
- Strodach, George Kleppinger. *Latin Diminutives in -ello/a- and -illo/a-*. Doctorial Dissertaton, University of Pennsylvania, 1933.
- Smith, William and Theophilus D. Hall. *A Grammar of the Latin Language*. 13th ed. London: John Murry, 1885.
- Stearn, William T. *Botanical Latin*. 4th ed. Newton Abbot: David and Charles, 1966.
- Vicipaedia Libera Encyclopaedia. "Diminutivum (Latinum)."
[http://la.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diminutivum_\(Latinum\)](http://la.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diminutivum_(Latinum)) (May 17, 2009).
- White, John Tahourdin. *White's Latin Suffixes*. London: Longman, Brown, Green, Longmans, and Roberts, 1858.