Language note 3+: Gender of nouns

1. Most **first declension** nouns are feminine.

    However, some first declension nouns refer to **occupations** which, in the Roman world, were usually carried out by men. These nouns are **masculine**. For example, **agricola** (*farmer*), **āthlēta** (*athlete*), **nauta** (*sailor*) and **poēta** (*poet*).

    If a man's name is first declension it will be masculine. For example, **Catalīna**, **Cinna** and **Seneca**.

2. Most **second declension** nouns which end **-us** in the nominative are masculine.

    However, many of those which refer to types of **trees** and **plants** are **feminine**. For example, **populus** (*poplar*), **laurus** (*bay*) and **fraxinus** (*ash*).

    Most second declension nouns referring to **cities**, **countries** and **islands** are also **feminine**. For example, **Corinthus** (*Corinth*), **Aegyptus** (*Egypt*) and **Rhodus** (*Rhodes*).

Check ✓

Place the nouns in the box below into the appropriate column:

Feminine	Masculine

Aegyptus	poēta	equus	fraxinus	cella
agricola	populus	popīna	Faustus	Seneca