

## Summary of Nihil

### 1. Basic Uses of Nihil

- 1.1. **Nihil** is among “the indeclinable nouns used only as nominative and accusative singular.” (AG, 103a)
- 1.2. **Nīl** is a contraction of **nihil** and is likewise indeclinable
- 1.3. Both should be translated **nothing**
  - 1.3.1. I gave him nothing: **nihil eō dedi.**
  - 1.3.2. She gave me nothing: **nīl mihi dedit.**
  - 1.3.3. Nothing is needed: **nihil necesse est.**

### 2. Declined uses of Nihil

- 2.1. The genitive **nihilī** or **nīlī** and ablative **nihilō** are rare constructions, from an imagined noun **nihilum**
- 2.2. **Nihilī** and **nīlī** appear in statements that describe a **genitive of value**
- 2.3. Their use is colloquial, and rare
  - 2.3.1. O, that I cared nothing for this being done by you: **utiman ego istuc abs tē factum nīlī penderem.**
  - 2.3.2. Out of nothing comes nothing: **ex nihilō nihil fit.**

## The Essential AG: 103a

Famous Phrase: **omnia mutānut, nihil interit** (everything changes, nothing perishes)  
[Ovid, *Metamorphoses*, XV.165]