To have full control, it is common practice to define three base paragraph styles for lists: *List Start* for the first element of the list, *List Continue* for the subsequent elements of the list, and *List End* for the last element of the list. You could also define a paragraph style to be used for unnumbered list items (one for each nested level you intend to use) as well as an introductory style for the paragraph preceding the start of the list, to allow for keeping the introductory paragraph with the first list item or for specifying spacing before the first list item that is different from the spacing between other paragraphs.

Nesting lists

A nested list – a list within a list – is a numbered or bulleted list with subordinate (usually indented) numbered or bulleted lists. Rather than being just a list of numbered items (1, 2, 3...), a nested list may have item 1, then indented items numbered a, b, c or i, ii, iii or some other numbering or bulleted method before the main number 2. With numbering styles, you can achieve any combination of numbering formats you want. A nested list may even combine numbered items with bulleted items.

To nest a list, you have two choices. The first is to create a list style, and set up two or more list levels with different formatting choices on the *Position* and *Customize* tabs. The advantage of list levels is that each level can be formatted separately, but all the levels remain connected. You can switch to the next level below by pressing the *Tab* key, or to the one above by pressing *Shift+Tab*.

The preview pane can help you set up each list level, and the customized list style is associated with a paragraph style for use. To switch to a lower list level while using the associated paragraph style, press the *Tab* key before entering content; to switch to a higher list level, press *Shift+Tab*.

The second choice is to create two list styles, then associate each list style with a separate paragraph style.

Neither choice has any advantage over the other, since you are still dealing with the same options. However, in both cases, each nested list is typically indented more than the list level above it. Typically, too, each list level will use a different bullet style or numbering system.

Style names like *Bulleted* and *Bulleted 2* or *Nested* will help to remind you of the relation between the two paragraph styles. For convenience, use the same names for both the Paragraph and List styles, since they cannot be mixed up.
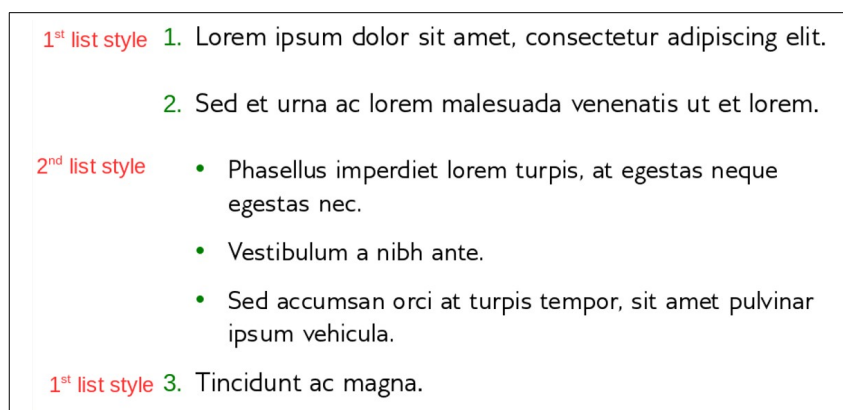

Figure 271: Nested lists created using two separate list styles

Outlining with paragraph styles

LibreOffice has several ways to outline using paragraph styles. With **Tools > Chapter Numbering***, you can choose a numbering style for each paragraph style, making it part of the outline levels. Alternatively, you can associate each Heading style with a separate list style using the Styles deck on the Sidebar.