

Salve! Hello and welcome to the study of Latin!

We will learn fun facts about Ancient Rome, skills that help reinforce English grammar and English word meanings as well as skills that will prepare you to learn other languages in the future. Plus, most students think it's just plain fun!

Your classmates will be transitioning into Logic School Latin which meets everyday. This will be new for them too! Here are some tips that will help you feel "up to speed" when you join your peers in the fall.

In Latin, nouns are grouped into families called **declensions**. Each of these declensions have certain endings which are associated with different noun jobs in a sentence. Your classmates have learned the first and second declension endings, and you can learn them too with the help of this song.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EBOFgHFQMLc>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J9cSmMREODg>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n6_CZKy_5xg

First Declension Noun Endings

Case	Singular	Plural
Nominative	-a	-ae
Genitive	-ae	-ārum
Dative	-ae	-īs
Accusative	-am	-ās
Ablative	-ā	-īs

Second Declension Noun Endings (masculine)

Case	Singular	Plural
Nominative	-us	-ī
Genitive	-ī	-ōrum
Dative	-ō	-īs
Accusative	-um	-ōs
Ablative	-ō	-īs

Second Declension Noun Endings (neuter)

Case	Singular	Plural
Nominative	-um	-a
Genitive	-ī	-ōrum
Dative	-ō	-īs
Accusative	-um	-a
Ablative	-ō	-īs

Third Declension Noun Endings (masculine/feminine)

Case	Singular	Plural
Nominative	various	-ēs
Genitive	-is	-um
Dative	-ī	-ibus
Accusative	-em	-ēs
Ablative	-e	-ibus

You'll also notice those new words listed in the chart under case. **Case** is the word that is associated with each of the noun jobs in a sentence.

Nominative-subject

Genitive-possessive

Dative-indirect object

Accusative-direct object

Ablative-object of the preposition

Memorizing that the **nominative case is used for the subject** and the **accusative case is used for the direct object** would be helpful. In English, word order gives meaning to sentences; in Latin, the endings give the meaning, so word order isn't that important.

Now, let's look at verbs. Latin verbs are grouped into families called **conjugations**. Latin verbs have different endings based on who is doing the action and how many are doing the action. We have something similar in English. Compare "I jump" to "he jumps." The ending of the verb changed because the person doing the action changed. Here are the present tense verb endings.

Present Tense Verb Endings

	Singular	Plural
1st Person	-o (I verb)	-mus (we verb)
2nd Person	-s (you verb)	-tis (y'all verb)
3rd Person	-t (he, she, it verbs)	-nt (they verb)

Here is the present tense conjugation of the Latin verb *amo*. Memorizing it would be helpful. Here is a silly song/video to help you.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fLrXz9XoQg&t=13s>

	Singular	Plural
1st Person	-amō (I love)	-amāmus (we love)
2nd Person	-amās (you love)	-amātis (y'all love)
3rd Person	-amat (he, she, it loves)	-amant (they love)

Just like we have different tenses in English, Latin has different tenses as well. The **imperfect** tense represents an ongoing action in the past and is translated *was verbing* or *were verbing*. Notice that for most endings the letters "ba" have been added. For the *amo*, in the imperfect it would become *amabam*, *amabas*, *amabat*, etc.

Imperfect Tense Verb Endings

	Singular	Plural
1st Person	-bam (I was verbing)	-bamus (we were verbing)
2nd Person	-bas (you were verbing)	-batis (y'all were verbing)
3rd Person	-bat (he, she, it was verbing)	-bant (they were verbing)

Your classmates have also memorized the present tense of the irregular verb *sum, esse* (to be). It is irregular because it doesn't retain the same verb stem all the way through the conjugation just changing the endings.

	Singular	Plural
1st Person	<i>sum</i> (I am)	<i>sumus</i> (we are)
2nd Person	<i>es</i> (you are)	<i>estis</i> (y'all are)
3rd Person	<i>est</i> (he, she, it is)	<i>sunt</i> (they are)

Sixth grade Latin will begin with a review of these concepts, but it will take work on your part to catch up with your classmates. Spending some time this summer memorizing these basics will help you tremendously in the fall.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Vale!

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