

Salve! Hello and welcome to the study of Latin!

We will learn 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.

In eighth grade, we begin the year by a brief review of basic concepts, so you will have the opportunity to learn while your classmates are reviewing. It will take work on your part to “catch up” with your peers in Latin. You will help yourself tremendously if you get most of that catch up work done over the summer when you are not doing other subjects. Here are some Latin basics that I strongly encourage you to master before school starts 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, second, and third declension endings, and you can learn them too with the help of these songs.

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J9cSmMREQDg>

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 |

Third Declension Noun Endings (neuter)

| Case | Singular | Plural |
|------------|----------|--------|
| Nominative | various | -a |
| Genitive | -is | -um |
| Dative | -ī | -ibus |
| Accusative | various | -a |
| 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 these cases and their associated noun jobs 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.

We can identify three characteristics about every noun in Latin: **case**, **number** (singular or plural), and **gender** (masculine, feminine, neuter).

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 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=fLrXz9XoQgg&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) |

The future tense refers to something that will happen in the future. For the verb *amo*, the future forms would become *amabo*, *amabis*, *amabit*, etc.

Future Tense Verb Endings

| | Singular | Plural |
|------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1st Person | -bo (I will verb) | -bimus (we will verb) |
| 2nd Person | -bis (you will verb) | -bitis (y'all will verb) |
| 3rd Person | -bit (he, she, it will verb) | -bunt (they will verb) |

Your classmates have also memorized the present, imperfect, and future tense conjugations 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.

Present tense of esse

| | 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) |

Imperfect tense of esse

| | Singular | Plural |
|------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1st Person | <i>eram</i> (I was) | <i>eramus</i> (we were) |
| 2nd Person | <i>eras</i> (you were) | <i>eratis</i> (y'all were) |
| 3rd Person | <i>erat</i> (he, she, it was) | <i>erant</i> (they were) |

Future tense of esse

| | Singular | Plural |
|------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1st Person | <i>ero</i> (I will be) | <i>erimus</i> (we will be) |
| 2nd Person | <i>eris</i> (you will be) | <i>eritis</i> (y'all will be) |
| 3rd Person | <i>erit</i> (he, she, it will be) | <i>erunt</i> (they will be) |

We should be able to identify the following characteristics about every Latin verb: **person** (1st, 2nd, 3rd), **number** (singular, plural), and **tense** (for now present, imperfect, or future).

Again, eighth grade Latin will begin with a limited review, but it will take work on your part to catch up with your classmates. I cannot encourage you strongly enough to spend some time outside of class memorizing this material.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. I am happy to help!

Vale!

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