

2024 5th Grade Latin Jump Start Guide

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! 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 has 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>

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

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

2nd Declension Neuter Noun Endings

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

*****Can you find the 2nd declension neuter endings which are different from 2nd declension masculine?**

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 (of the noun)

Dative-indirect object (to/for the noun)

Accusative-direct object

Ablative-object of the preposition (by, with, from the noun)

In English, word order gives meaning to sentences; in Latin, the endings give the meaning, so word order isn't as 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=fLrXz9XoQqg&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 as there are different tenses (times) for verbs in English (past, present, future), there are different Latin tenses. The imperfect tense in Latin refers to an ongoing action which happened in the past and is translated “was/were verbing” or “used to verb.”

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)

Imperfect Conjugation of *amo*

	Singular	Plural
1st Person	amābam (I was loving)	amābāmus (we were loving)
2nd Person	amābās (you were loving)	amābātis (y'all were loving)
3rd Person	amābat (he, she, it was loving)	amābant (they were loving)

The future tense of any Latin verb is translated “will verb” or “will be verbing.”

Future tense 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)

Future Conjugation of *amo*

	Singular	Plural
1st Person	amābo (I will love)	amābimus (we will love)
2nd Person	amābis (you will love)	amābitis (y'all will love)
3rd Person	amābit (he, she, it will love)	amābunt (they will love)

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.

Present tense conjugation of *esse*-to be

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

Fifth grade Latin will begin with a review of information covered in fourth grade, but you will be much more successful if you spend some time working on this memorization before you begin fifth grade. Use songs and chants to learn them-the sillier, the better. Make up your own or look them up online. Learning these songs and endings will give you confidence starting out and lessen the amount of new material you have to memorize in the fall.

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

Vale! (Bye!)
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