

A Primer in Latin

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A Description of the Latin Language

Foreword

This is my second attempt to write a simple and concise and yet also practical guide to the acquisition of the basics of the Latin Language. The biggest problem I have faced has been to balance between the acquisition of grammar and the acquisition of vocabulary. In practice this means introducing new grammatical forms and terms at a rate at which the student can absorb them, and using subject material and textual content which engages rather than bores the student, something which is not always very easy to do.

Basic Grammar

NOUN = a naming word, e.g. Amelia, land, women, ideas.

VERB = a doing word, e.g. walk, gave (did give), playing, (will) agree.

ADJECTIVE = a describing word applied to a noun, e.g. fast, green, your, complex.

ADVERB = a describing word applied to a verb, e.g. fast, quickly, happily, simultaneously.

CONJUNCTION = a joining word, e.g. and, or, from, with.

DECLENSION = a group of nouns which follow the same rules of language.

CONJUGATION = a group of verbs which follow the same rules of language.

Introduction

Latin is an Indo-European language which has enormous influence on most current European languages, particularly the Romance group of languages – French, Spanish, Italian and Romanian. Romance, in this case, means being derived from the Romans.

As an aside, about 52% of English derives from Latin, 28% from Anglo-Saxon, 11% from Greek and 9% from other sources. I describe English as a bastard cousin of the Romance languages, sharing development from Latin and German.

The Latin Alphabet consists of 22 letters, namely the English alphabet less J, W, Y and Z.

J is a modern consonant form of I, such as in Iupiter *Jupiter*.

W is a modern consonant derived from V.

Y and Z are Greek letters, and do occur in words Latin borrowed from Greek, but are not strictly Latin letters.

U and V are also effectively one letter, U being the vowel form and V the consonant form, such as in unum *one* & video *I see*.

This primer is concerned with written and verbal language acquisition. The basis of both of these includes considerable memorising of nouns and verbs. Latin is regular enough in structure to define groups of words, particularly declensions of nouns and conjugations of verbs, which follow the same language rules. If you know the basic form of a noun or verb, and the rules of its declension or conjugation, then you may derive a set of all the different forms of that noun or verb, describing its possibilities in person, number, tense, etc. e.g. I run, it ran, you run, we run, they run, I ran (= I did run), I will run.

The Structure of Latin

In Latin nouns have a sex, that is they are either masculine, feminine or neuter, and they follow slightly different language rules in each case. There are five declensions of nouns. The first and second declensions are easy to use. The first declension is primarily feminine, the second primarily masculine and neuter. The fourth and fifth declensions are also relatively easy, but are relatively small collections of nouns, whereas the third declension is the largest group of nouns, but is also the most complicated.

In Latin there is no definite article, meaning that there is no word for “a”, “an” or “the”.

Like Malay or Māori, in Latin you would say “man walks” or “women walk” rather than “a man walks” or “the women walk”. The reason this is possible is because Latin nouns and verbs contain personal descriptive information in their structure which does the same job as a definite article.

There are four conjugations of verbs. However, the third conjugation contains two distinct subgroups, and four essential verbs are irregular.

IRREGULAR = a verb which does not follow one of the four regular conjugations e.g. sum I am, eo I go, volo I wish, I want and possum I am able, I can.

Pronunciation

Vowels

Letters	Ecclesiastical or Vulgar Latin	Classical Latin
A	As in bar	Long â as in bar, short a as in bat
E	As ea in pear	Long ê as ay in pay, short e as in pet
I	As ee in seen	Long î as ee in seen, short i as in sit
O	As in core	Long ô as in core, short o as in cot
U	As oo in food	Long û as oo in food, short u as oo in foot
AE	A, O and U are hard vowels;	As i in sigh
AU	E, I and diphthongs are soft vowels	As ow in how
OE		As oy in boy

Consonants

Letters	Ecclesiastical or Vulgar Latin	Classical Latin
BS, BT		Like p in turps
C	Hard like cat after A, O or U; or soft like in cent after E; or like ch in cheese after I	Hard like in cat
CH	Like ch in chorus	
G	Hard like in good after A, O or U; or soft like in gentle after E or I	Hard like in good
GN	G is silent, e.g. agnus = ah-nuss	
H	H is silent, e.g. hodie = oh-dee-ay	
I	Like y in yet	
NC, NG		Like ng in sing
PH		Like ph in taphouse
S	Long like ss in mass	
T		Short like t in ten
TH	Like th in thomas (H is silent)	
TI	Before another vowel like tsee, e.g. gratia = gra-tsee-ah	
V		Like w in wall

We will try to use Ecclesiastical (or Vulgar) Latin pronunciation, as opposed to Classical Latin pronunciation. This ought to be closer during the pronunciation in the medieval period, however both the medieval and antique forms are noted herein for completeness. where pronunciation does not differ from modern English, no notes have been included; thus the Ecclesiastical Latin V is pronounced like modern V.

Bibliography

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How to meet and greet in Latin

Instructions to the teacher:

This section deals with how to say hello and goodbye to people, and also how Latin nouns have a gender, and how it can be observed that many words of the form -a, -us, -um, follow very similar formats. There will also be a primer of simple concepts such as please and thank you and how to ask questions, as well as basic mathematics and logic (see part III).

ave, heus, salve, salvete	<i>bail, bello, greetings, greetings to all</i>
quam estis?	<i>how are you all?</i>
bene estis?	<i>are you all well?</i>
male es?	<i>are you badly?</i>
bene sum	<i>i am well</i>
nunc Latina studemus. si?	<i>now we study latin. yes?</i>
si, sic, vero	<i>yes</i>
ne, non, nego	<i>no</i>
salvete stefano sum	<i>greetings to all I am stefano</i>
tu es? vos estis?	<i>you are? you're all?</i>
salve (nomen discipuli)	<i>greetings (name of the student)</i>
salvete (nomen primus) et (nomen secundus)	<i>greetings to (first name) and (second name)</i>
quid est tua nomen?	<i>what is your (female) name?</i>
estne tuus nomen (nomen)?	<i>is your name (male) name?</i>
nota bene; verborum lingua Latina verborum habet genus; vel masculus vel femina vel neuter.	<i>note well, the verbs of Latin language have gender; either masculine or feminine or neuter.</i>
hic dominus est	<i>here is a lord</i>
hic domus est	<i>this is a house</i>
haec domina est	<i>here is a lady</i>
haec mensa est	<i>this is a table</i>
hoc aedificium est	<i>here is a building</i>

hoc verbum est	<i>here is a word</i>
hi digiti sunt	<i>these are fingers</i>
hi nummi sunt	<i>here are coins</i>
hae sellae sunt	<i>these are chairs</i>
hae chartae sunt	<i>here are cards</i>
haec verba sunt	<i>these are words</i>
haec volumen sunt	<i>here are books</i>

nota bene; verba primii vel secundii declinatii finis cum -a vel -ae sunt femina, finis cum -us vel -i sunt masculus, et finis cum -um vel -a sunt neuter.	<i>note well, words of the first or second declension ending with -a or -ae are feminine, words ending with -us or -i are masculine, and words ending with -um or -a are neuter.</i>
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nota bene, verba primii vel secundii declinatii finis cum -a vel -us vel -um sunt singularis, finis cum -ae vel -i vel -a sunt pluralis	<i>note well, words of the first or second declension ending with -a or -us or -um are singular, ending with -ae or -i or -a are plural</i>
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nota quomodo verba similis hic et hae et est et sunt mutariunt congruere numerus et genus aliorum verborum	<i>note how words like here and it is and they are change to match the number and gender of the other words</i>
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nota quomodo faciorum verba habent similis trunci sed dissimilis fini hic est quod fini tempum verborum notant	<i>note how doing words have similar stems but different endings; this is because the endings denote the tense of the verb</i>
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recita	<i>recite, read aloud</i>
recitare, cum alius homini (dominus vel domina)	<i>all read aloud with, another person (lord or lady)</i>
itero, iteras	<i>I repeat, you repeat</i>
iterum place	<i>again please</i>
facio, facis	<i>I do/make, you do/make</i>
place, placete	<i>please</i>
bene facis	<i>well you make, thank you</i>
vale, valete	<i>farewell, farewell to all</i>

First Conjugation Verbs

Latin verbs use a stem and an ending, or inflexion. The stem describes what sort of action is being done, and the inflexion describes the verb's person, number, tense, mood, and/or voice. We will concern ourselves, for the moment, primarily with person and number.

Note that in the 3rd person singular, the gender (he, she or it) is given by the gender of the noun that the verb is describing the action of. This gender is also a clue to what the correct of engendered pronoun would be, e.g. hic, haec, hoc, this (male gendered thing), this (female gendered thing), this (neuter gender thing). Also note that the imperative tense is meant as a command, e.g. portate *I command you all to carry!*

First Conjugation

Present Indicative Tense (Active)

1st person	porto	<i>I carry</i>
2nd person	portas	<i>you carry</i>
3rd person	portat	<i>he, she, or it carries</i>
1st person pl.	portamus	<i>we carry</i>
2nd person pl.	portatis	<i>you all carry</i>
3rd person pl.	portant	<i>they carry</i>

Imperative Tense (Active)

Singular	porta	<i>(you) carry!</i>
Plural	portate	<i>(you all) carry!</i>

Infinitive Tense (Active)

ambulare	<i>to walk</i>
amare	<i>to like, to love</i>
cogitare	<i>To think</i>
dare	<i>to give</i>
habitare	<i>to live</i>
laborare	<i>to work</i>
laudare	<i>to praise</i>
ludere	<i>to play</i>
monstrare	<i>to show</i>
negare	<i>to disagree</i>
portare	<i>to carry</i>
recitare	<i>to recite / read aloud</i>
spectare	<i>to look at / examine</i>
stare	<i>to stand</i>
verare	<i>to agree</i>
vetare	<i>to forbid</i>

First Declension Nouns

Latin nouns have a stem and an inflexion. The stem describes what sort of thing is being talked about, the inflexion describes its number, case and gender. These need careful explanation.

Number

Singular = e.g. domina *a lady, the lady*
 Plural = e.g. dominae *the ladies*

Case (Singular, then Plural)

Nominative = the subject, e.g. domina portat, dominae portant *the lady carries, the ladies carry*

Vocative = as an address, e.g. domina porta! dominae portate! *Carry lady! carry ladies!*

Accusative = the object, e.g. domina sellam portat, dominae sellas portant *the lady carries the table, the ladies carry the tables*

Genitive = as a possession, e.g. dominae sella, dominarum sellae, *the chair of the woman (woman's chair), the chairs of the women (women's chairs)*

Dative = to or for the subject in a personal sense rather than a directional sense, e.g. dominae sellam porto, dominis sellas portamus *I carry the chair to the lady (wherever she is), we carry the chairs for the ladies*

Ablative = frequently meaning by, with, to or from, when used with certain conjunctions, e.g. ad domina sellam portas, e dominis sellas portamus *I carry the chair to the lady (in a specific place), we carry the chairs from the ladies*

Gender

Feminine = villa, *f. country-house*

Masculine = domus, *m. town-house*

Neuter = aedificium, *n. building*

First Declension

	domina, -ae	<i>f. lady</i>
Case	Singular	Plural
Nominative	domina	domin-ae
Vocative	domina	domin-ae
Accusative	dominam	domin-as
Genitive	dominae	domin-arum
Dative	dominae	domin-is
Ablative	domina	domin-is

aqua, -ae	f. water
culina, -ae	f. kitchen, food
epistula, -ae	f. letter, writing
domina, -ae	f. lady
femina, -ae	f. woman
sella, -ae	f. chair
cena, -ae	f. dinner
hirnea, -ae	f. jug, pitcher
insula, -ae	f. island
puella, -ae	f. girl
regina, -ae	f. queen
silva, -ae	f. forest
scriba, -i	m. scribe
stella, stellae	f. star
taberna, -ae	f. shop, tavern
terra, -ae	f. earth, land
via, -ae	f. road
villa, -ae	f. country-house

Nouns are normally defined by quoting their nominative singular and genitive singular forms. Almost all first declension nouns are feminine.

Irregular Verbs: sum I am; eo I go

Sum *I am* and eo *I go* are two important verb forms which do not fit neatly into any conjugation or set of word rules, and are said to be:

Irregular Verbs

Present Indicative Tense (Active)

1 st person	sum <i>I am</i>	eo <i>I go</i>
2 nd person	es <i>you are</i>	is <i>you go</i>
3 rd person	est <i>he/she/it is</i>	it <i>he/she/it goes</i>
1 st person pl.	sumus <i>we are</i>	imus <i>we go</i>
2 nd person pl.	estis <i>you all are</i>	itis <i>you all go</i>
3 rd person pl.	sunt <i>they are</i>	eunt <i>they go</i>

Imperative Tense (Active)

Singular	es, <i>(you) be!</i>	i, <i>(you) go!</i>
Plural	este, <i>(you all) be!</i>	ite, <i>(you all) go!</i>

Infinitive Tense (Active)

infinitive	esse, <i>to be</i>	ire, <i>to go</i>
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Note that the “i” in is, imus, itis, i, ite, & ire is long, and pronounced like “ee” in *deep*.

Some Useful Conjunctions and Adverbs

si, sic, vero	yes
ne, non, nego	no
et	and
vel	or
a, ab	from, by
ad	to, towards
e, ex	from, out of
in	in, on, into
de	about, concerning, of
sed	but, yet
cum	with
quod	because

Literally, vero = *I agree*, nego = *I disagree*, non = *not*. non is a logical negator e.g. non recita do not read aloud, non chartae iterum not cards again.

a and ab are really the same word, as are e and ex. a and e are used before nouns starting with a consonant, ab and ex are used before nouns starting with a vowel.

The noun referred to by cum *with* must be in the ABLATIVE case e.g. cum epistulis ambulamus *we walk with letters*.

The meaning of in = *into* if it is in the ACCUSATIVE case, or *in* or *on* if it is in the ABLATIVE case, depending upon the context, or what is being done to, the noun. E.g. in villam ambulas *you walk into the house*; in via ambulatis *you all walk on the road*; in silvis ambulat *they walk in the forests*.

Worked Examples

- epistulam porto *I carry the letter*
- epistulam monstras *you show the letter*
- epistulam spectat *he examines the letter/ she examines the letter/ it examines the letter*
- epistulam damus *we give the letter*
- epistulam amatis *you all like the letter*
- epistulam recitant *they read the letter aloud*

In 1-6, the letter is the object (thus is in the accusative case) and the people involved (I, you, we, etc.) are the subject.

7. femina tabernam amat *the woman [she] likes the shop*
8. feminae insula amat *the women [they] like the island*
9. non puella tabernas amant *the girls [they] do not like the shops*
10. puellae insulas non amant *the girls [they] do not like the islands*

Note how noun endings change a noun's meaning; from subject to object and from singular to plural. Also note how the positioning of non *not* can change, yet still has the same effect on the verb.

11. villa feminae *the house of the woman, the woman's house*
12. villae feminae *the houses of the woman, the woman's houses*
13. villam puellarum amas *you like the house of the girls, you like the girl's house*
14. puella villas feminarum amat *the girl likes the houses of the women; the girl likes the women's houses*

Note the possessive, genitive case requires careful reading of singular and plural endings. Normally, the possession is given first and the possessor second. Also note the differences where the possession is the subject or the object.

15. in insulis villas spectant *they examine the houses on the island*
16. insula villarum spectant *they examine the houses of the island; they examine the island's houses*

Note how the first sentence is written in terms of location, the second in terms of possession.

17. cena puellae *the dinner for the girl*
18. cenae puellae *the dinners for the girl*
19. cenas puellis dant *they give the dinners to the girls*
20. feminae cenas puellis dant *the women [they] give the dinners to the girls*

Note that the dative case is personal or causal, not possessive. The use of *to* or *for* to translate is purely for context.

Exercises

21. ambulo means *I walk*; ambulas means ?

22. damus means *we give*; dant means?

23. spectat means *she examines*; spectatis means?

24. laborare means *to work*; labora means?

25. feminam means *the woman*; feminas means?

26. silvae means *of the forest*; silvarum means?

27. cum hirnea means *with the jug*; cum hirneis means?

28. in viam means *into the road*; in vias means?

29. in villa means *in the house*; in villis means?

30. Puella means *the girl*; puellae means? (*puellae has two possible meanings)

Translate into good English.

31. lusito, lusitas, lusitat

32. veramus, veratis, verant

33. recita, recitate, recitare

34. monstro, spectas, amat

35. vetamus, habitatis, portant

36. epistulam recito, epistulas recitas

37. puella amat, feminas amat

38. lusitare amamus, non laborare amamus

39. aquam da, silvas laborate

How to ask and answer questions in Latin

Instructions to the teacher:

This section deals with how to ask and answer questions, how to talk about how we feel, and also about basic logical and mathematical concepts. It continues in our discussion of how Latin nouns have a gender, and how they can be observed that many words of the form -a, -us, -um, follow very similar formats.

salvete	<i>greetings to all</i>
salve	<i>greetings</i>
stefano sum	<i>i am stefano</i>
placete sedete	<i>all please sit</i>
benefacis	<i>well you make, thank you</i>
iterum place	<i>again please</i>
nunc studemus de quo modo quaerere et respondere	<i>now we study about how to ask and to answer (questions)</i>
quid est tuus nomen?	<i>what is your (male) name?</i>
estne tuus nomen (nomen)?	<i>is your name (male) name?</i>
quam es?	<i>how are you?</i>
quam estis?	<i>how are you all?</i>
quid novi	<i>what's new?</i>
quid agis	<i>how are you?</i>
scio	<i>i know</i>
nescio	<i>i don't know</i>
bene sum	<i>i am well</i>
bonus sum	<i>i am good</i>
male sum	<i>i am poorly</i>
defessus sum	<i>i am tired</i>
beatus sum	<i>i am happy</i>
placeo	<i>i am pleased</i>
gaudeo	<i>i rejoice</i>
maestus sum	<i>i am sad</i>
iratus sum	<i>i am angry</i>
irritaro	<i>i am enraged</i>
sum, sumne	<i>i am, i am?</i>
es, tu es, esne	<i>you are, you are, you are?</i>
est, is est, estne	<i>he is, he is, he is?</i>
est, ea est, estne	<i>she is, she is, she is?</i>

est, id est, estne	<i>it is, it is, it is?</i>
sumus, sumusne	<i>we are, we are?</i>
estis, estisne	<i>you're all, you all are?</i>
sunt, suntne	<i>they are, they are?</i>

cur	<i>why</i>
de	<i>about, concerning, of</i>
quis, quae	<i>who</i>
quam	<i>how (expressive)</i>
quando	<i>when</i>
quid	<i>what</i>
quo	<i>whither</i>
quo tempore	<i>when, what time</i>
quomodo	<i>how</i>
quot	<i>how many</i>
ubi	<i>where</i>

mea, meus, meum	<i>my (f.), my (m.), my (n.)</i>
tua, tuus, tuum	<i>your (f.), your (m.), its</i>
sua, suus, suum	<i>his, her, its, their</i>
nostra, noster, nostrum	<i>our</i>
vestra, vester, vestrum	<i>your (all)</i>

numerus, numeri	<i>number, numbers</i>
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uno	<i>one</i>
duo	<i>two</i>
tres	<i>three</i>
quattuor	<i>four</i>
quinque	<i>five</i>
sex	<i>six</i>
septem	<i>seven</i>
octo	<i>eight</i>
novem	<i>nine</i>
decem	<i>ten</i>

omni	<i>all</i>
multi	<i>many</i>
aliqui	<i>some</i>
pauci	<i>few</i>

duo et tres est quinque	<i>two and three is five</i>
duo multiplica ad tres est sex	<i>two multiply by three is six</i>
duo vel tres sunt non quattuor	<i>two or three (they) are not four</i>
vale, valete	<i>farewell, farewell to all</i>

Adverbs: Questions & Answers

Adverbs can be used individually as exclamations, or at the start of a sentence as interrogations or questions, and frequently change to match the gender of the noun being sought after.

quis	(<i>m.sing.</i>)	
quae	(<i>f.sing.</i>)	
quod	(<i>n.sing.</i>)	<i>who, which</i>
qui	(<i>m.plur.</i>)	
quae	(<i>f.plur.</i>)	
quae	(<i>n.plur.</i>)	

Interrogative adverbs are very mutable in meaning. Quam *how* is more often used in an exclamatory sense; quomodo *how* is more often used in an interrogative sense; however, qui and quo sometimes also mean *how*.

Quomodo *how* is a complex adverb. It made up of two simple adverbs, quo *where to, what for* and modo *only, at all*. There are many complex adverbs, such as:

quispiam, quaequam, quodquam, quidquam,	<i>some, someone, something</i>
quisquam, quaequam, quodquam, quidquam,	<i>any, anyone, anything</i>
quisque, quaeque, quodque, quidque,	<i>every, everyone, everything</i>

e.g. video cum meo parvo oculo quidquam initium cum... *I spy with my little eye something beginning with...*

Another way to ask a question is to add the suffix "-ne" to (the end of) a verb. This interrogative verb form, like an adverb, is used at the start of a sentence, unlike the regular verb form, which is at the end of a sentence.

e.g. dedeo, quid videsne? *I give up, what do you see?*

Neuter 2nd Declension Nouns

All the nouns of the second declension are masculine or neuter. The easiest to decline are the neuter nouns because they are more regular. They are similar to the nouns of the first declension, except the noun endings are based on "-um" instead of "-a".

Second Declension (Neuter)

Case	Singular	Plural
Nominative	forum	fora
Vocative	forum	fora
Accusative	forum	fora
Genitive	fori	fororum
Dative	foro	foris
Ablative	foro	foris
	argentum, -i	<i>n. silver, money</i>
	bellum -i	<i>n. war</i>
	campa, -orum	<i>n. camp</i>
	epulum, -i	<i>n. banquet</i>
	ferrum, -i.	<i>n. iron, implement, sword</i>
	ientaculum, -i	<i>n. breakfast</i>
	initium, -i	<i>n. beginning</i>
	oppidum, -i	<i>n. town</i>
	plaustrum, i	<i>n. wagon, cart</i>
	poculum, -i	<i>n. cup</i>
	prandium, -i	<i>n. lunch</i>
	proelium, -i	<i>n. battle</i>
	scutum, -i	<i>n. shield</i>
	tabernaculum, -i	<i>n. tent (communal)</i>
	tentorium, -i	<i>n. pavilion (personal)</i>
	verbum, -i	<i>n. word</i>
	vinum, -i.	<i>n. wine</i>

2nd Conjugation Verbs

Like the 1st Conjugation follows the pattern -o, -as, -at, et cetera *and so on*, the 2nd Conjugation follows the pattern -eo, -es, -et, etc.

video, videre *see, look*

Present Indicative Tense (Active)

1 st person s.	video	<i>I see</i>
2 nd person s.	vides	<i>you see</i>
3 rd person s.	videt	<i>he, she, it sees</i>
1 st person p.	videmus	<i>we see</i>
2 nd person p.	videtis	<i>you all see</i>
3 rd person p.	vident	<i>they see</i>

Imperative Tense (Active)

Singular	vide	<i>(you) see!</i>
Plural	videte	<i>(you all) see!</i>

Infinitive Tense (Active)

Present	videre	<i>to see</i>
	debere	<i>ought, should, must</i>
	dedere	<i>to give up, forfeit</i>
	docere	<i>to teach</i>
	exercere	<i>to exercise, to work, to drill</i>
	favere	<i>to befriend, to favour</i>
	fovere	<i>warm, to keep warm, to cherish</i>
	gaudere	<i>to rejoice, to be happy</i>
	habere	<i>have, hold, possess, (passive tense) take</i>
	laudere	<i>to praise</i>
	movere	<i>to move</i>
	placere	<i>to please</i>
	quaerere	<i>to ask</i>
	respondere	<i>to answer</i>
	salvere	<i>to greet</i>
	sedere	<i>to sit</i>
	sugere	<i>to suck</i>
	tacere	<i>to be quiet, to be silent</i>
	timere	<i>to fear</i>
	valere	<i>to farewell</i>

Exercises

Translate into good English.

40. in villam ambulas, in villis amulatis

41. in vias lusitamus, in taberna laboro

42. femina cathedram portat, puellae cathedras portant

43. puella silvarum spectat, puellae silvarum spectant

44. epistulam puellae recita, epistulam feminis non recitate

45. villam insulae spectas, silvas viarum spectatis

46. cenam feminarum dat, cenas feminae dant

47. villas feminarum da et non feminas villarum da

48. feminae in tabernarum vel in villarum laborant

49. cum cathedris in viam ambulatis, in insulas et silvas ambulat

50. femina insulae epitulas puellae silvarum in viis et in tabernis villarum recitat

Translate into good Latin.

51. they walk

52. we examine the land

53. the girl likes the forest

54. I do not work on the island

55. it plays with the water or the dinner

56. the girls like to look at the shops

57. the woman does not like the tavern

58. the women walk in the street

59. you all like water in the jug with dinner

60. give the chair to the women of the villa for the dinner in the forest (*for the dinner; use the dative sense)

Getting (better and worse) acquainted in Latin

Instructions to the teacher:

This section deals with how to tell people what you really think about them, in a caring, sharing sort of way. Note the use of the words *imusne do we go*, *ibusne shall we go* – *ibusne* is an example of future perfect tense. Also note that several nouns such as *facies face* and *canis dog* are third declension nouns, and we have not covered them yet. Finally, most if not all words ending in *-us* or *-er* are in the masculine adjective form, and the feminine and neuter forms end in *-a* or *-um* respectively.

salvete	<i>greetings to all</i>
placete sedete	<i>all please sit</i>
benefacis	<i>(well you make) thank you</i>
iterum place	<i>again please</i>
paenitens, mea culpa	<i>sorry, my fault</i>
nunc studemus de quo modo laudere et maledicere in latina	<i>now we study about how to praise and to insult in latin</i>
quid est tua nomen?	<i>what is your (female) name?</i>
ille est pulchra nomen decora nitida muliercula es	<i>that is a beautiful name you are a fine buxom wench</i>
mea domina, imusne ad taberna?	<i>my lady, do we go to the tavern?</i>
paenitens, <u>ibusne</u> ad taberna	<i>sorry, shall we go to the tavern?</i>
veniesne hic saepe?	<i>do you come here often?</i>
bibesne vinum?	<i>do you drink wine?</i>
dua magna pocula rufi vini, si tu place fermentum deferresne?	<i>two large glasses of red wine, if you please you prefer beer?</i>
mea culpa, dua sextarii fermenti, tabernarius	<i>my fault, two pints of beer, bartender</i>
[a] ut [b]	<i>as [a] as [b]</i>
[c] similis [d]	<i>[c] like [d]</i>
obesus ut porcus	<i>as fat as a pig</i>
stultus ut saccus malleorum	<i>as dumb as a bag of hammers</i>
spina similis gelatina	<i>a backbone like jelly</i>
facies habiet similis	<i>you have a face like the back</i>
fundus agni	<i>end of a sheep</i>

st!	<i>shush!</i>
sile, silete	<i>shut up, everyone shut up</i>
homo ineptus	<i>simpleton</i>
caput porcus	<i>pighead</i>
me morde	<i>bite me</i>
me aeger facies	<i>you make me sick</i>
tunica puellae debilis ut urinus	<i>puiss weak girl's blouse</i>

caput	<i>head</i>
facies	<i>face</i>
spina	<i>backbone</i>
fundus	<i>bottom</i>

pater, mater	<i>father, mother</i>
frater, soror	<i>brother, sister</i>
filius, filia	<i>son, daughter</i>

aeger	<i>sick</i>
agnus	<i>lamb, sheep</i>
brassica	<i>cabbage</i>
canis	<i>dog</i>
enervatus	<i>spineless</i>
fera	<i>beast</i>
foedus	<i>nasty, fetid</i>
ignobilis	<i>ignoble</i>
impurus	<i>nasty, impure</i>
incestus	<i>sinful, adulterous</i>
ineptus	<i>inept, stupid</i>
inhumanis	<i>inhuman</i>
macer	<i>skinny</i>
maledicus	<i>slanderous</i>
malodorous	<i>evil-smelling</i>
malus	<i>evil</i>
miser	<i>wretched</i>
monstrum	<i>freak, monster</i>
nothus	<i>bastard</i>
obesus	<i>fat</i>
porcus	<i>pig</i>
sordidus	<i>dirty, sordid</i>
stultus	<i>silly, stupid</i>
truncus	<i>blockhead</i>

Masculine 2nd Declension Nouns

All the nouns of the second declension are masculine or neuter. The masculine nouns possess one of three different (nominative singular / vocative singular) types, but decline the same way in all other cases. Like the first and neuter second declensions, the noun endings define number, gender and case. Note again how the nouns are defined by their nominative and genitive singular forms.

SECOND DECLENSION (MASCULINE)

Type I	domin-us, domin-i, m. <i>lord, master</i>
Type II	gladi-us, gladi-i m. <i>sword</i>
Type III	puer, puer-i, m. <i>boy</i>
Type IV	magister, magist-ri, m. <i>teacher, captain</i>

Case	Singular	Plural
Nominative	domin-us	domin-i
Vocative	domin-e	domin-i
Accusative	domin-um	domin-os
Genitive	domin-i	domin-orum
Dative	domin-o	domin-is
Ablative	domin-o	domin-is

amicus, -i, m. *ally, (male) friend*
 ager, -ri, m. *field*
 armiger, -i, m. *armour-bearer, squire*
 assius, -i, m. *ass, beast of burden*
 cibus, -i, m. *food*
 coquus, -i, m. *cook*
 discipulus, -i, m. *student*
 faber, -ri, m. *craftsman, artisan, smith*
 focus, -i, m. *hearth, fireplace, (fig) home*
 fluvius, -i, m. *stream, river*
 inimicus, -i, m. *enemy, foe*
 malleus, -i, m. *hammer, forge-tool*
 lectus, -i, m. *bed*
 portus, -i, m. *harbour, stronghold*
 saccus, -i, m. *bag, sack*
 servus, -i, m. *slave, servant*
 stilus, -i, m. *quill, pen*

- Type III & IV nominative singular endings and type II, III & IV vocative singular endings are omitted; e.g. (I) domin-us, domin-e, but (II) gladi-us, gladi, (III) puer, puer and (IV) magister, magister.

- The final vowel in type IV stems is also omitted in all cases except the nominative singular and vocative singular; e.g. (II) puer, puer-i, puer-um, etc. but (III) magister, magist-ri, magist-rum, etc.
- *(female) friend* would be amica, -ae, f., and *mistress or lady* would be domina, -ae, f.

4th Conjugation Verbs

The fourth conjugation is like the first, except that the verb endings are based on "-i-" instead of "-a-".

FOURTH CONJUGATION

aud-io, aud-ire, *hear, learn*

Present Indicative Tense (Active)

1 st person sing.	aud-io	<i>I hear</i>
2 nd person sing.	aud-is	<i>you hear</i>
3 rd person sing.	aud-it	<i>he, she, it hears</i>
1 st person plur.	aud-imus	<i>we hear</i>
2 nd person plur.	aud-itis	<i>you all hear</i>
3 rd person plur.	aud-iunt	<i>they hear</i>

Imperative Tense (Active)

Singular	aud-i	<i>(you) hear!</i>
Plural	aud-ite	<i>(you all) hear!</i>

Infinitive Tense (Active)

Present	aud-ire	<i>to hear</i>
	abeo, -ire,	<i>go away, depart</i>
	adeo, -ire,	<i>go to, approach</i>
	bibio, -ire,	<i>drink</i>
	custodio, -ire,	<i>guard</i>
	conficio, -ire,	<i>make, complete</i>
	dormio, -ire,	<i>sleep</i>
	exeo, -ire,	<i>go out, leave</i>
	invenio, -ire,	<i>find</i>
	nescio, -ire,	<i>not know</i>
	redeo, -ire,	<i>return</i>
	scio, -ire,	<i>know</i>
	venio, -ire,	<i>come</i>

Note that some 1st person singular tenses of this conjugation use the form of eo *I go* instead of "io".

Possum I can & Volo I want

Possum *I can* / *I am able* & Volo *I want* / *I wish* are another two important IRREGULAR verb forms which do not fit neatly into any conjugation or set of word rules.

Present Indicative Tense (Active)

1 st person s.	possum, <i>I can</i>	volo, <i>I want</i>
2 nd person s.	potes, <i>you can</i>	vis, <i>you want</i>
3 rd person s.	potest, <i>he, she, it can</i>	volt, <i>he, she, it wants</i>
1 st person p.	possumus, <i>we can</i>	volumus, <i>we want</i>
2 nd person p.	potestis, <i>you all can</i>	voltis, <i>you all want</i>
3 rd person p.	possunt, <i>they can</i>	volunt, <i>you want</i>

Imperative Tense (Active)

Singular	-	-
Plural	-	-

Infinitive Tense (Active)

Present	Posse, <i>to be able</i>	Velle, <i>to want</i>
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Vult & vultis are also acceptable as alternative forms of volt & voltis respectively.

There is no direct translation of the imperative tense for these verbs. Possible figurative or indirect translations are es posse, *(you) be able!*, este posse, *(you all) be able!*, debes velle, *(you) must want!* & debetis velle, *(you all) must want*, respectively.

1st & 2nd Declension Adjectives

Adjectives are words which add themselves to, and help describe, nouns, e.g. the red cat. Adjectives in Latin must be the same in form to the number, case and gender of the noun they are describing.

For these adjectives, to describe feminine nouns, they have the same endings as the first declension. To describe neuter nouns, they have the same endings as neuter nouns of the second declension. To describe masculine nouns, they have the same endings as masculine nouns of the second declension.

1ST & 2ND DECLENSION ADJECTIVES

Type I	bon-a, bon-um, bon-us, <i>good</i>
Type III	miser-a, mis-erum, mis-er, <i>wretched</i>
Type IV	pulchr-a, pulch-rum, pulch-er, <i>beautiful</i>

calida, -um, -us, *hot*
callida, -um, -us, *clever*
clara, -um, -us, *clear, loud*
frigidus, -um, us, *cold*
magna, -um, -us, *big, great*
mala, -um, -us, *bad, evil*
multa, -um, -us, *many*
nova, --um, -us, *new*
parva, -um, -us, *small*
pauca, -um, -us, *few*
praeclara, -um, -us, *famous*
stulta, -um, -us, *stupid, foolish*

mea, -um, -us, *my, mine*
nostra, -rum, -er *our*
sua, -um, -us *his, her, its, their*
tua, -um, -us, *your*