



CHAPTER 1

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Vocabulary to Learn

Nouns; Pronouns

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Adverbs; Prepositions; Conjunctions



FIGURE 1.1 Romano-British mosaic of the wolf and twins. Shortly after the birth of the twins, Romulus and Remus, their uncle, who had usurped power, had them exposed so that they would not be able to challenge his rule. However, the boys were found by a shepherd and given to a she-wolf who raised them. When they grew to manhood, they established the city of Rome. © Leeds Museums and Galleries (Discovery Centre)

1.1 INFLECTED LANGUAGE

Latin is an inflected language. In effect this means that the sense of a sentence is determined to a large extent not by word order (as is usually the case in English) but by word endings (inflections).

The ending of a Latin noun changes depending, for example, on whether it is the subject of a verb or its object, and the ending of a Latin verb also changes to reflect, for example, person (1st, 2nd, or 3rd) and number (singular or plural).

Consider the following:

Our men (subject) *swiftly* (adverb) *took up* (verb) *the weapons* (object).

and

The weapons (subject) *swiftly* (adverb) *took up* (verb) *our men* (object).

When the word order is changed in English, the sense also changes and, as shown in this example, may become nonsense. However, in Latin, Caesar (*Caesar De Bello Gallico* 3.28.4) writes the following: **nostrī** (*subject*: “our men”) **celeriter** (*adverb*: “swiftly”) **arma** (*object*: “the weapons”) **cēpērunt** (*verb*: “took up”); he could also have written **arma** (*object*) **nostrī** (*subject*) **celeriter** (*adverb*) **cēpērunt** (*verb*) and the meaning would have been virtually the same. Notice that the endings of the words are the same in both sentences: word endings, not word order, determine the sense. Note also that Latin has neither a definite article (the) nor an indefinite article (a, an).

1.2 NOUNS

The function of a Latin noun in a sentence is determined by its case and each case has a specific ending (in the example above the object of the verb has the ending **-a**). In Latin there are six cases and each case has certain uses. The names and basic uses of cases are as follows:

Nominative – used for the subject of the sentence

Genitive – used to show possession

Dative – used for the indirect object of the sentence

Accusative – used for the direct object of the sentence

Ablative – used with the meanings “by,” “with,” “from,” “in,” or “on”

Vocative – used to address someone or something directly.

Latin nouns are said to decline: that is they change their forms for each of the cases in the order that they are listed above. Latin nouns belong to different declensions (there are

HINT! Note that English also has examples of inflection such as: I (subject); me (object); who (subject); whom (object); friend (singular); friends (plural); friend's (singular, possessive); friends' (plural, possessive).

five declensions in all, but in this chapter only one of these will be introduced). Latin nouns also have number (singular or plural) and gender (masculine, feminine, or neuter).

1.2.1 Vocabulary Lists

In vocabulary lists and dictionaries Latin nouns are presented as follows:

vīta, -ae (f.) – life. The first two items are called the principal parts and these are (1) the nominative singular and (2) the genitive singular; next comes the gender – in this case **vīta** is feminine (f. = feminine, m. = masculine, and n. = neuter); finally, the meaning of the word (here it should be noted that some Latin words have more than one English equivalent). The second principal part is regularly abbreviated, as in the example above. In full the principal parts for this noun are: **vīta, vītae**.

1.2.2 First Declension Nouns

As noted above, Latin has five different declensions: nouns that decline in the same way (that is, have the same case endings) belong to the same declension. The declension to which a noun belongs (and, hence, its case endings) is identified by the genitive singular (the second principal part of the noun in the vocabulary lists). For **vīta**, the genitive singular ends in **-ae**. This indicates that the noun belongs to the so-called first declension: all nouns with a genitive singular ending in **-ae** belong to the first declension. In order to decline a noun in full, it is necessary to establish the stem and this is done by removing the ending from the second principal part. A noun is declined by adding the case endings to the stem. The stem of **vīta, vītae** is **vīt-** and the noun is declined as follows:

	<u>SINGULAR</u>	<u>PLURAL</u>
Nom.	vīt-a	vīt-ae
Gen.	vīt-ae	vīt-ārum
Dat.	vīt-ae	vīt-īs
Acc.	vīt-am	vīt-ās
Abl.	vīt-ā	vīt-īs
Voc.	vīt-a	vīt-ae

The difference between the nominative singular and ablative singular is in the pronunciation. The ablative singular ends in long **ā**, whereas the nominative and vocative singular end in a short **a**.

Almost all nouns of the first declension are feminine; there are a few masculine nouns of the first declension, but they decline in precisely the same way as the feminine nouns of this declension; there are no neuter nouns in the first declension. An example of a masculine first declension noun is **poēta, -ae** (m.) – poet (here **oe** is not a diphthong). It is worth pointing out here that although nouns may belong to different declensions and have

different case endings, the uses of the cases remain the same. It is also important to note that the rule for forming the cases (stem + endings) is the same as for all declensions and that the stem is found by removing the ending from the second principal part.

Declension of *Poēta*, -ae

	SINGULAR	PLURAL
Nom.	poēt-a	poēt-ae
Gen.	poēt-ae	poēt-ārum
Dat.	poēt-ae	poēt-īs
Acc.	poēt-am	poēt-ās
Abl.	poēt-ā	poēt-īs
Voc.	poēt-a	poēt-ae

Notice that **poēta**, although masculine in gender, has the same endings as **vīta**. Both have genitive singular ending **-ae** and so both belong to the first declension.

All first declension masculine nouns decline in this way. As will be obvious, some cases have exactly the same form but usually this does not present a problem as the context makes the sense (and accordingly the case) clear. Notice that the nominative and vocative, both singular and plural, are exactly the same in form. This is true for all first declension nouns.

TRY THIS

Identify the following noun forms, giving all the possible answers:

e.g., *puellae* – genitive singular, dative singular, or nominative plural of *puella*
– girl

Remember that vowel lengths are not normally printed in Latin texts; so the form **agricola** could be either nominative, ablative, or vocative singular of **agricola**, **-ae** – farmer.

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| (i) <i>fortuna</i> | (vi) <i>vitae</i> |
| (ii) <i>poetarum</i> | (vii) <i>puellis</i> |
| (iii) <i>Galliae</i> | (viii) <i>poetas</i> |
| (iv) <i>gloriam</i> | (ix) <i>poenarum</i> |
| (v) <i>fama</i> | (x) <i>pecunia</i> |

1.3 VERBS

Like nouns, verbs also change their endings to reflect their use in a Latin sentence. The main verb in a Latin sentence or clause is usually a finite verb. Finite verbs are defined as having five qualities: **person** (1st, 2nd, 3rd), **number** (singular, plural), **tense** (present, future, perfect, future perfect, imperfect, pluperfect), **mood** (indicative, subjunctive, imperative),

and **voice** (active, passive). We begin with the present indicative active: simply stated the indicative is the mood used to express a fact; active voice is used when the subject is performing the action of the verb.

Whereas nouns are said to decline, verbs are said to conjugate. To conjugate simply means to list the forms of a verb in all persons, singular and plural. Latin verbs belong to different conjugations (there are five conjugations in all, but in this chapter only one will be introduced).

HINT! Note that English verbs also have principal parts: sing, sang, sung.

Like nouns, verbs also have principal parts. For regular verbs, these are four in number; just as is true for nouns, so the principal parts of Latin verbs offer much in the way of information. First though, it is important to define the principal parts of a Latin verb. For the verb **amō**: its principal parts are **amō, amāre, amāvī, amātum**. The first principal part is the first person singular present indicative active (*I love, I am loving, I do love*); the second is the present infinitive active (*to love*); the third is the 1st person singular perfect indicative active (*I loved, I did love, I have loved*); the fourth is called the supine (English does not have a supine; its use in Latin is explained in Chapter 15). For the moment we will be using only the first two principal parts; however, it is worthwhile to memorize the principal parts of all verbs in the learning vocabularies now in order to save time later. Generally (for example, in dictionaries) principal parts are given in abbreviated form: **amō, -āre, -āvī, -ātum**. In the first 12 chapters of this text principal parts of verbs are written out in full; however, most first conjugation verbs follow the pattern **-ō, -āre, -āvī, -ātum**; from Chapter 13 on and in the consolidated vocabulary at the end of the text only the first two principal parts of regular first conjugation verbs are given.

Why do we need to know principal parts? They are important because it is possible to create all Latin verb forms from the principal parts of each verb. The first principal part gives the present stem on which the forms of the present, imperfect, and future tenses are built. The second principal part defines the conjugation to which a verb belongs: all verbs whose second principal part ends **-āre** belong to the first conjugation (as noted above there are five conjugations in all), and all first conjugation verbs conjugate in the same way. The third principal part provides the stem for all active forms of the perfect tenses. More detail about the use of the perfect stem and uses of the fourth principal part will be explained in later chapters.

1.3.1 First Conjugation: Present Indicative Active

In order to conjugate a verb of the first conjugation in the present indicative active, the simplest method is to remove the **-ō** from the first principal part (the 1st person singular) then add the following endings: **-ō, -ās, -at, -āmus, -ātis, -ant**.

So for the verb **amō**:

HINT! In effect the personal endings **-ō, -s, -t, -mus, -tis, -nt** are added to the characteristic **a**-stem of the first conjugation. Notice that the letter **a**, called the connecting vowel, is sometimes long (marked with a macron), sometimes short. Look for this in other conjugations.

	SINGULAR	PLURAL
1 st person	am-ō – I love, am loving, do love	am-āmus – we love, etc.
2 nd person	am-ās – you love, etc.	am-ātis – you love, etc.
3 rd person	am-at – he, she, it loves, etc.	am-ant – they love, etc.

Notice the following points: there is no need for the pronoun subject as in English (I, you, he, etc.); rather the subject of the verb in Latin is denoted by the ending. The subject of the 3rd person singular may be “he,” “she,” or “it” – the context usually will make clear which is appropriate; all regular verbs of the first conjugation form the present indicative active in this way.

1.3.2 Irregular Verbs

Latin has very few irregular verbs; most follow a set pattern depending on the conjugation to which they belong and their tense, mood, and voice. The most important and common of the irregular verbs is the linking or copulative verb “to be”: **sum** – I am; **esse** – to be. The present indicative is conjugated as follows:

	SINGULAR	PLURAL
1 st person	sum – I am	sumus – we are
2 nd person	es – you are	estis – you are
3 rd person	est – he, she, it, there is	sunt – they, there are

Related to the verb **sum** is the verb **possum** – *I am able; I can*; **posse** – *to be able*. The present indicative conjugates as follows:

	SINGULAR	PLURAL
1 st person	possum – I am able	possumus – we are able
2 nd person	potes – you are able	potestis – you are able
3 rd person	potest – he, she, it is able	possunt – they are able

Notice that the endings are **-sum**, **-es**, **-est**, **-sumus**, **-estis**, **-sunt** (that is the present of the verb **sum**); **po-t** + endings for the endings beginning with a vowel and **po-s** for endings beginning with the letter “s.”

Possum is frequently followed by an infinitive in Latin:

In Catilinam (Against Catiline), delivered in four parts by Cicero in 63 BC against the senatorial candidate for the following year, Lucius Sergius Catilina, accusing him of a plot aimed at the seizure of government and the cancellation of debts. Parts I and IV of the speech were delivered before the senate and parts II and III before the assembly of the people. As a result of his speeches before the senate the city was in effect placed under martial law and Cicero, as consul, had the conspirators, including Catiline, executed in summary fashion.

THE BIGGER PICTURE

sed ea . . . **dissimulāre nōn possum** (Cicero *In Catilinam* 4.14): **but I cannot/am unable to conceal these things.**

FYI For a list of some verbs followed by a complementary infinitive see Appendix I.

Dissimulāre is called a complementary infinitive because it complements or completes the meaning of the verb **possum**. There are a number of verbs in Latin that are followed by a complementary infinitive.

TRY THIS

Identify (i.e., give person, number, tense, mood, and (where appropriate) voice) and translate the following verb forms, giving all the possible answers:

e.g., *potes* – present indicative 2nd person singular (active – see FYI) – you can; you are able

Remember that the present indicative of most verbs can be translated into English in three ways, so the form **sperant** could mean they hope, they are hoping, or they do hope.

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| (i) <i>es</i> | (vi) <i>exspectant</i> |
| (ii) <i>possumus</i> | (vii) <i>superatis</i> |
| (iii) <i>paras</i> | (viii) <i>pugnamus</i> |
| (iv) <i>spero</i> | (ix) <i>portat</i> |
| (v) <i>dat</i> | (x) <i>amas</i> |

HINT! Technically the verbs *sum* and *possum* are neither active nor passive. Try putting the verb “to be” into the passive in English (= I am been). Is this correct English?

1.4 PRONOUNS: *HIC, HAEC, HOC*

Of the pronouns in Latin three of the most common are the demonstrative pronouns **hic, haec, hoc** – this, **ille, illa, illud** – that (introduced in Chapter 3), and the rather weaker demonstrative **is, ea, id** – this; that; he; she; it, which is introduced in the next chapter. Each has a slightly irregular declension (and none has a vocative case). **Hic** is declined as follows:

	SINGULAR			PLURAL		
	m.	f.	n.	m.	f.	n.
Nom.	hic	haec	hoc	hī	hae	haec
Gen.	huius	huius	huius	hōrum	hārum	hōrum
Dat.	huic	huic	huic	hīs	hīs	hīs
Acc.	hunc	hanc	hoc	hōs	hās	haec
Abl.	hōc	hāc	hōc	hīs	hīs	hīs
Voc.	NO VOCATIVE			NO VOCATIVE		

HINT! Note the use of the accusative neuter singular and plural of pronouns such as *haec* = these things (as in *haec dant* – they are giving these things). You do not need a word for “things.” The singular is also used in this way: *hoc dant* – they give this (thing).

1.5 PREPOSITIONS

Latin has a number of prepositions, which, you will be pleased to learn, neither decline nor conjugate – their forms do not change! In general, prepositions are followed by the accusative or ablative case. Some prepositions that take the accusative case only are: **ad** – to; **ante** – before; **post** – after; the following take the ablative case only: **ab** – from; by; **cum** – with. The prepositions **in** and **sub** take the accusative when they are used to express motion and the ablative when there is no motion involved: **in** (+ acc.) – into: **in Ītaliā** contendit (Caesar *De Bello Gallico* 1.10.3): *he is marching into Italy*; **sub** (+ acc.) – under: exercitum **sub iugum** [mittit] (Caesar *De Bello Gallico* 1.12.6): *he [Caesar] sends the army under the yoke*; **in** (+ abl.) – in (on): castra **in Ītaliā** sunt (Cicero *In Catilinam* 1.5): *there is a camp in Italy*; **sub** (+ abl.) – under; beneath: **sub monte** consēdit (Caesar *De Bello Gallico* 1.48.2): *he halted beneath/at the foot of a mountain*.

FIGURE 1.2 Casa dei Cervi (House of the Stags – named for a statue found in the garden of the house), Herculaneum. An ancient Roman looking out from this vantage point would have been able to see the sea. Herculaneum, along with Pompeii, was destroyed by the volcanic eruption of Mt Vesuvius in AD 79. Source: courtesy Sally Baume



1.6 ADVERBS

Adverbs in Latin as in English are used to modify verbs, adjectives, and other adverbs. Like prepositions they do not decline. Adverbs may express time, **tum** – then; at that time; place, **ibi** – there; in that place, **hīc** – here; in this place; manner, **sīc** – so; thus. More adverbs will be introduced as we proceed through the course.

1.7 CONJUNCTIONS

Conjunctions are used to join nouns, adjectives, or clauses together: *I went to Rome and I saw my friends there*. Like adverbs and prepositions, conjunctions do not decline. Some examples: **et** – and; **et . . . et** – both . . . and; **sed** – but.



FIGURE 1.3 Romano-British flagon (date unknown). Pottery was produced in Britain at various locations; flagons came in various shapes and sizes – their main use was for pouring wine. © Leeds Museums and Galleries (Discovery Centre)



VOCABULARY TO LEARN

Nouns; Pronouns

agricola, -ae (m.) – farmer
 audācia, -ae (f.) – boldness
 cōpia, -ae (f.) – supply; plenty (in the plural (military) forces)
 dea, -ae (f.) – goddess
 fāma, -ae (f.) – report; rumor; fame
 fēmina, -ae (f.) – woman
 fortūna, -ae (f.) – fortune
 Gallia, -ae (f.) – Gaul
 glōria, -ae (f.) – glory; honor
 hic, haec, hoc – this; this man; this woman; this thing
 insula, -ae (f.) – island
 patria, -ae (f.) – homeland
 pecūnia, -ae (f.) – money
 poena, -ae (f.) – penalty; punishment
 poēta, -ae (m.) – poet
 puella, -ae (f.) – girl
 Rōma, -ae (f.) – Rome
 vīta, -ae (f.) – life

Verbs

amō, amāre, amāvī, amātum – love
 dō, dare, dedī, datum – give
 exspectō, exspectāre, exspectāvī, exspectātum (+ acc.) – wait for; await

parō, parāre, parāvī, parātum (+ inf.) – prepare (to)
 portō, portāre, portāvī, portātum – carry
 possum, posse, potuī (+ inf.) – be able (to); can
 pugnō, pugnāre, pugnāvī, pugnātum – fight
 spērō, spērāre, spērāvī, spērātum (+ acc.) – hope; hope for
 sum, esse, fuī – be; exist (note: *est* can mean “there is” and *sunt* can mean “there are”)
 superō, superāre, superāvī, superātum – overcome; surpass

Adverbs; Prepositions; Conjunctions

ab (+ ablative) – from; by (sometimes written **a** before a consonant)
 ad (+ acc.) – to; towards; against
 cum (+ abl.) – with
 et – and
 ex (+ abl.) – from; out of; in accordance with (sometimes written **e** before a consonant)
 hīc – here; in this place
 in (+ abl.) – in; on
 in (+ acc.) – into; onto
 post (+ acc.) – after
 sed – but
 ubi – when; where; where?



English Derivations

From which Latin roots do the following English words derive?

- e.g., patriotic from *patria*
 (i) possible
 (ii) porter
 (iii) pecuniary
 (iv) copious

REVIEW: CHAPTER 1

1. What are the eight parts of speech in Latin?
2. In your own words describe what is meant by the term “inflected language.”
3. Decline the following: *hic*, *haec*, *hoc* in the masculine and feminine singular and neuter plural; *dea* in the singular; *copia* in the plural.
4. Conjugate the verb *possum* in the present indicative and *do*, *dare* in the present indicative active; give translations for all forms.
5. Give all possible meanings for the following:
 - (i) huic
 - (ii) poetae
 - (iii) Italia
 - (iv) puellis
 - (v) estis
 - (vi) exspectant

6. For the following English sentences parse each word and, without translating, state how you would express each in Latin:

Example: (Poets) (are not able) (to fight) (but) (they are able) (to love) (girls).

poets: noun; subject of the verb; in Latin, nominative case, masculine, plural

are able: finite verb; 3rd person plural present indicative (active); in Latin as in English

not: adverb; in Latin as in English

to fight: present infinitive active; in Latin as in English (complementary infinitive)

but: conjunction

they: pronoun; subject of the verb; in Latin it is not necessary to translate; remember the ending is sufficient to indicate the person and number (review the definition of inflected language)

are able: 3rd person plural present indicative (active) – 3rd person plural because the subject is “they”

to fight: present infinitive active; in Latin as in English (complementary infinitive)

girls: direct object of the infinitive “to love”; in Latin accusative case, feminine plural

- (i) This man is giving money to the girls.
- (ii) When a poet praises boldness, he hopes for fame.
- (iii) They are preparing to carry these things to the island.
- (iv) I can overcome the forces of Gaul.

FYI Parsing is a time-honored tradition; simply put to parse means to identify each part (from Latin *pars* = part) of speech in a sentence and to define its grammatical function.