

Latin I notes

The Latin language is a classical language that was spoken all over the Roman Empire. Latin is about 2,700 years old.

Latin has greatly influenced the English language.

80% of English terms are borrowed directly from Latin, and the over 60% of English words have roots in Latin and Greek.

Inflection

Latin is an inflected language.

Inflection is changing the spelling of a word in order to change its function in the sentence

Inflected- the endings of words change their spelling based on the function of the word in the sentence (spelling of a noun that is a subject vs. direct object will be spelled differently). Whereas in English, it is about position/placement of the noun to show the subject of the direct object.

(English doesn't inflect much. Example: I see, you see, he sees – inflection)

(swim vs swam – inflection – you know from spelling if it is present or past tense)

Every noun, adjective, and verb form in Latin inflects

- Latin nouns and pronouns have different endings called declensions
- Latin verbs have different endings called conjugations
- Latin has no translation for articles *a*, *an*, and *the*. They are assumed in the sentence.
- In Latin, the verb is usually at the end of the sentence.

Verbs

Conjugation chart

1 st person singular	I		1 st person plural	We
2 nd person singular	You		2 nd person plural	You all
3 rd person singular	He/She/It		3 rd person plural	They

Verb endings:

1st Conjugation Present Tense

ō / m	mus
s	tis
t	nt

1st Conjugation Imperfect Tense

bam	bāmus
bās	bātis
bat	bant

1st Conjugation Future Tense

bō	bimus
bis	bitis
bit	bunt

1st Conjugation Perfect Tense

ī	imus
istī	istis
it	erunt

1st Conjugation Pluperfect Tense

eram	erāmus
erās	erātis
erat	erant

1st Conjugation Future Perfect Tense

erō	erimus
eris	eritis
erit	erint

Nouns & Gender

Singular & Plural

Gender (not same as biological sex- male/female)

In language it is a linguistic term

Latin has 3 genders: masculine, feminine, neuter

- Gender tells us what adjective might modify which word
- How to spell or decline adjectives correctly to modify gender

Natural gender – words about a male are masculine in gender (father, son, brother)

Words about a female are feminine (mom, daughter, sister)

Cases

Case is the function of a noun in a sentence.

Subjective

Objective

Genitive case- in English translates to have the word “of” in front of it

Cases → keywords – English words that always tell you what case you are translating from

Case order matters! (s.p.i.d.o.)

Nominative (n./nom.) – subject

Genitive (g./gen.) – possessive

Dative (d./dat.) – indirect object

Accusative (acc.) – direct object

Ablative (abl.) – object of the preposition

(if the noun is the subject of the sentence, it must be in the nominative case. The possessive must be in the genitive case, etc.)

Oblique cases (all but nominative)

Object of the preposition can be ablative or accusative.

Noun cases that are **always ablative**: without (sine), in (in), on (de), under (sub), away, from (ab), with (cum), out of (ex),

Prae & pro (before, in front of)

A noun names a person, place, thing, activity, or idea. (N)

To find a subject noun (SN), ask, "Who (verb)?" or "What (verb)?" For other usages, see the Question Confirmation.

NOUN USAGES

...the roles or jobs a noun can have in a sentence.

Parent Note:

On the EEL Practice Sentence Sheets, possessive pronouns are labeled as adjectives as this is the "job" they play in the sentence. Quid et Quo drills out the details.

Teaching Tip:

The first letters of the first five jobs of a noun spell "SPIDO." Pronounce it "speedo" to make it memorable.

Subject Noun (SN)
Possessive Noun Adjective (PNA)
Indirect Object (IO)
Direct Object (DO)
Object of the Preposition (OP)
Predicate Nominative (PN)
Object Complement Noun (OCN)
Noun of Direct Address (NDA)
Appositive (AP)

Latin Noun Cases:

Nominative

Genitive

Dative

Accusative

Ablative

NOUN ATTRIBUTES

...ways to describe a noun.

Parent Note:

Some nouns can also be described as being masculine, feminine, or neuter, but in English, gender does not affect the ending as it does in many other languages.

Common	non-specific	Examples dog
Proper	specific, requires a capital letter	Rover
Singular	one	dog
Plural	more than one	dogs
Concrete	can be experienced with the five senses	paw
Abstract	concept, quality, or condition that cannot be experienced with the five senses	loyalty
Collective	a group composed of members	pack (of dogs)
Compound	two words joined together	doghouse

Noun Declensions:

Latin nouns are divided into 5 groups called declensions, which are numbered and grouped by ending and grammatical gender. Declensions tell us grammatical case, number and gender. Nouns, pronouns, and adjectives are declined (verbs are conjugated), and a given pattern is called a declension. Each noun follows one of the five declensions, but some irregular nouns have exceptions. There are 10 common declensions for every Latin noun.

Declensions- declining a noun is how you inflect a noun, by changing the endings on the noun to change its function in the sentence

Memorize both the Nominative singular (lexical or dictionary form) and the genitive form of nouns

All Latin nouns show their stem in the genitive singular. The stem is the part of the word that never changes. If you take off the genitive singular ending off a noun – you can find the stem. We know which declension group a noun is in by its singular genitive case ending.

All Declension charts:

Nominative singular	Nominative plural	Subject – the (noun/nouns)
Genitive singular	Genitive plural	Possessive – of the (noun/nouns)
Dative singular	Dative plural	Indirect Object – to/for the (noun/nouns)
Accusative singular	Accusative plural	Direct Object – the (noun/nouns) – object of verb
Ablative singular	Ablative plural	Object of Preposition – by, with, from the (noun/nouns)

Also: there is *vocative* (which we aren't learning yet); this is used for a noun/adjective of direct address

The vocative case is identical to the nominative case

All cases below nominative are known as *oblique cases*

1st Declension Noun Endings

(all are feminine unless it names a male person, then – masculine)

(masc. exceptions: *nauta, pirata, agricola, poeta*)

singular	plural
-a	-ae
-ae	-ārum
-ae	-īs
-am	-ās
-ā	-īs

2nd Declension Noun Endings

(masculine or neuter)

(all nouns whose genitive ends in \bar{i} are 2nd declension nouns)

(singular nominative form tells if a noun is masculine (-us) or neuter (-um))

masculine	
singular	plural
-us	-ī
-ī	-ōrum
-ō	-īs
-um	-ōs
-ō	-īs

neuter	
singular	plural
-um	-a
-ī	-ōrum
-ō	-īs
-um	-a
-ō	-īs

3rd Declension Noun Endings

All Latin nouns whose genitive case ends in *-is* is from 3rd declension

All nouns in 3rd declension that name females or end in *-s*, *-o*, and *-x* are feminine

All nouns in 3rd declension that name males or end in *-er* and *-or* are masculine

If a noun in the 3rd declension names a male or female it is always that specific gender even if the ending doesn't match the *-s* *-o* *-x* or *-er/-or* rules

Most neuter nouns in 3rd declension end in *-l*, *-a*, *-n*, *-c*, *-e*, *-t*

Neuter: nom. & acc. endings are the same

Neuter: plural nom. & plural acc. end in *-a*

Fem./masc.	
singular	plural
(varies)	-ēs
-is	-um
-ī	-ibus
-em	-ēs
-e	-ibus

Neut.	
singular	plural
(varies)	-a
-is	-um
-ī	-ibus
(same as nom. s.)	-a
-e	-ibus

4th Declension Noun Endings

(mostly masculine)

singular	plural
-us	-ūs
-ūs	-uum
-uī	-ibus
-um	-ūs
-ū	-ibus

5th Declension Noun Endings

(mostly feminine)

singular	plural
-ēs	-ēs
-ēī	-ērum
-ēī	-ēbus
-em	-ēs
-ē	-ēbus

Macrons

Macra (macrons) are long marks. Henle makes a big deal about long-mark placement. However, they are typically very complicated and not a skill to worry about mastering until graduate school. Ironically, by the time one masters their placement, texts no longer contain macrons.

Because of this, it is a skill I completely ignore with my Latin students. There are two places where macrons are absolutely necessary:

1. 1st declension ablative singular, to distinguish it from the 1st declension nominative singular, and
2. Over the first "e" in the 2nd conjugation infinitive, to distinguish it from the short "e" of the 3rd conjugation infinitive.

Other than that, I don't bother, and I would encourage you not to get hung up on it either. It will not affect your student's ability to translate in either direction fluently.

Parsing -process of analyzing a single word to know exactly how it is functioning in a sentence

Adjectives & Prepositions

The adjective is often after the noun it modifies

Adjectives must agree with the noun they modify – they must have the same case, gender, and number (if the noun is masculine, plural, and genitive – then the adjective must also be)

2 types of adjectives:

Adjectives of the 1st & 2nd declensions (use same endings and 1st & 2nd declension nouns)

Adjectives of 3rd declension (endings derived from 3rd declension nouns)

Adjectives of 1st & 2nd Declension

	Masc. / Singular	Fem. / Singular	Neuter / Singular
Nominative	us	a	um
Genitive	ī	ae	ī
Dative	ō	ae	ō
Accusative	um	am	um
Ablative	ō	ā	ō
	Masc. / Plural	Fem. / Plural	Neuter / Plural
Nominative	ī	ae	a
Genitive	ōrum	ārum	ōrum
Dative	īs	īs	īs
Accusative	ōs	ās	a
Ablative	īs	īs	īs

Adjectives of 3rd Declension

	Masc./Fem. Singular	Neuter / Singular
Nominative	is	e
Genitive	is	is
Dative	ī	ī
Accusative	em	e
Ablative	ī	ī
	Masc./Fem. Plural	Neuter / Plural
Nominative	ēs	ia
Genitive	ium	ium
Dative	ibus	ibus
Accusative	ēs	ia
Ablative	ibus	ibus

Adjectives of size & quantity generally come *before* the noun.

Adjectives of quality generally come *after* the noun.

Predicate adjectives:

A predicate adjective is in the predicate of the sentence- the part of the sentence that has the verb. Predicate adjectives must still agree in gender, number, and case. However, generally, predicate adjectives are in the nominative case because they refer back to the subject of the sentence.

Prepositions

Preposition- a word that relates a noun or pronoun to another word in a sentence

Usually comes right before a noun

The noun following a preposition is either in ablative or accusative case

Ablative

cum with

dē concerning/about

in in/on

prō on behalf of/in front of

sine without

Accusative

ante before

contra against/opposite

in in/into/against/upon/on

inter between/among

per through

post after/behind

propter on account of

trans across

Verbs

Verbs: show action, state of being, or link words together
They indicate what takes place and when

Verb tense refers to the time period in which an action occurs: past, present, future

Person identifies whether the subject is speaking about oneself, to someone, or about someone

Number identifies whether the person is singular or plural

1 st person singular	I		1 st person plural	We
2 nd person singular	You		2 nd person plural	You all
3 rd person singular	He/She/It		3 rd person plural	They

The subject and verb of a sentence need to agree with each other in person and number

Latin verbs must agree with the nominative of the sentence

Verb endings in Latin are called “personal signs” because they indicate person (relationship of subject to the verb) and number (singular or plural)

Latin verbs are grouped into 4 groups called conjugations

Active & Passive Voice:

Voice refers to whether the subject of a sentence is doing the action or is being acted upon by something or someone else

Active- This is the form of the verb we use when someone or something has carried out an action. The subject does the action. We use this voice to say *what the subject does*.
For example: *Cartam confirmat* – He confirms the charter.

Passive- This is the form of the verb we use when an action is done to the subject of a sentence. We use this voice to say *what happens to the subject*.
For example: *Carta confirmatur* – The charter is confirmed.
(hint for passive voice: there is often, but not always, a phrase referring to an agent who did the action and this phrase is preceded with the preposition “by”)

The verb ending shows if it is using active or passive voice.

Mood:

The mood of a verb asserts the speaker's attitude as either a fact, a command, a possibility, or wish

Indicative – This mood simple expresses a fact/statement (I am strong.)

We are focusing on indicative mood only for now

Imperative – This mood expresses a command (Be strong!)

Subjunctive – The subjunctive expresses an element of uncertainty as in a wish, hope, desire, doubt, or hope; possibility. A sentence with “may or might” signals subjunctive.

(I wish I was strong)

For indicative & subjunctive, each tense in active & passive has a set of personal signs (number & person such as first person singular), and can be present, past, or future.

For imperative, it is only present tense (active or passive), and 2nd person only.

Latin verbs have 4 principal parts. These are essential to learning the different tenses and moods of a Latin verb. In a Latin-English dictionary, all 4 are listed for each verb. The second principal part is how to find the stem for the past (imperfect), present, and future tense in the indicative mood, active voice. Later, you will use other principal parts to form other moods and tenses of each verb.

4 principal parts for Latin verbs:

- 1st person singular, present indicative active
- Present infinitive active
- 1st person singular, perfect indicative active
- Perfect participle passive

Example:

laudō, laudāre, laudāvī, laudātus

to praise

Latin does not have helping verbs, so multiple translations are possible - (laudāre can mean praise, do praise, am praising)

1st conjugation: laudō, laudā**re**, laudāvī, laudātus

2nd conjugation: moneō, monē**re**, monuī, monitus

3rd conjugation: mittō, mitter**e**, mīsī, missus

4th conjugation: audio, aud**ire**, audīvī, audītus

Verb Tenses:

The **present tense** is used to describe actions or states which are taking place now.

The **imperfect tense** is used to show action going on in the past over a period of time or frequently; an incomplete past action. It should be translated into English using the words ‘was’ or ‘used to’.

For example: We were biking/We used to ride bikes.

The **future simple tense** is used to describe actions that will be completed in the future.

For example: I will arrive.

The **perfect tense** is used to describe a simple completed action in the past; a completed action

For example: I wrote a letter.

The **pluperfect tense** (or past perfect in English) is used to describe finished actions that have been completed at a definite point in time in the past. It is easiest to understand it as a past ‘past’ action. For example: I had given...

The **future perfect tense** is used to describe actions that will be completed before a definite time in the future. For example: I will have finished.

Verb Conjugation chart

1 st person singular	I	1 st person plural	We
2 nd person singular	You	2 nd person plural	You (all)
3 rd person singular	He/She/It	3 rd person plural	They

First Conjugation Present Tense (indicative, active)

ō / m	mus
s	tis
t	nt

First Conjugation Verb stem vowel is ā

In the first conjugation, the stem vowel “ā” is added before the personal sign (so the ā indicates that the verb is from the first conjugation)

Laud + ā + mus = we praise
(stem) + 1st conjugation stem vowel + personal sign 1st personal plural

Since Latin doesn’t have helping verbs, several translations are possible

Example:

laudō, laudāre, laudāvī, laudātus - to praise

1 st person sing.	laudō	I praise, I am praising, I do praise
2 nd person sing.	laudās	You praise, you are praising, you do praise
3 rd person sing.	laudat	He/she/it praises, he/she/it is praising, he/she/it does praise
1 st person plural	laudāmus	We praise, we are praising, we do praise
2 nd person plural	laudātis	You (plural) praise, you are praising, you do praise
3 rd person plural	laudant	They praise, they are praising, they do praise

First Conjugation Imperfect Tense (active indicative)

bam	bāmus
bās	bātis
bat	bant

Imperfect tense- a past tense- used when expressing an action that was in progress but not completed in the past

An ongoing action in the past (I was running, I was fighting)

In the first conjugation, the stem vowel “ā” is added before the personal sign (so the ā indicates that the verb is from the first conjugation)

Laud + ā + bā + mus = we were praising
 (stem) + 1st conjugation stem vowel + imperfect personal sign 1st personal plural

1 st person sing.	laudā bam	I was praising
2 nd person sing.	laudā bās	You were praising
3 rd person sing.	laudā bat	He/she/it was praising
1 st person plural	laudā bāmus	We were praising
2 nd person plural	laudā bātis	You (plural) were praising
3 rd person plural	laudā bant	They were praising

First Conjugation Future Tense

(indicative, active)

bō	bimus
bis	bitis
bit	bunt

Laud + ā + bi + mus = we will praise
 (stem) + 1st conjugation stem vowel + future personal sign 1st personal plural

1 st person sing.	laudā bō	I will praise, I will be praising
2 nd person sing.	laudā bis	You will praise, you will be praising
3 rd person sing.	laudā bit	He/she/it will praise / will be praising
1 st person plural	laudā bimus	We will praise, we will be praising
2 nd person plural	laudā bitis	You (plural) will praise / will be praising
3 rd person plural	laudā bunt	They will praise, they will be praising

First Conjugation Perfect Tense (active indicative)

ī	imus
istī	istis
it	ērunt

First Conjugation Pluperfect Tense (active indicative)

eram	erāmus
erās	erātis
erat	erant

First Conjugation Future Perfect Tense (active indicative)

erō	erimus
eris	eritis
erit	erint

Second Conjugation Verbs – stem vowel is ē

Second Conjugation Present Tense (indicative, active)

ō / m	mus
s	tis
t	nt

mon + ē + mus = we warn/advise
(stem) + 2nd conjugation stem vowel + personal sign 1st personal plural

Example:

moneō, monēre, monūi, monitus – to warn/advise

1 st person sing.	moneō	I warn, I am warning, I do warn
2 nd person sing.	monēs	You warn, you are warning, you do warn
3 rd person sing.	monet	He/she/it warns, he/she/it is warning, he/she/it does warn
1 st person plural	monēmus	We warn, we are warning, we do warn
2 nd person plural	monētis	You (plural) warn, you are warning, you do warn
3 rd person plural	monent	They warn, they are warning, they do warn

Second Conjugation Imperfect Tense (indicative, active)

bam	bāmus
bās	bātis
bat	bant

mon + ē + bā + mus = we were warning
 (stem) + 2nd conjugation vowel + imperfect personal sign 1st personal plural

1 st person sing.	mon ēbam	I was warning
2 nd person sing.	mon ēbās	You were warning
3 rd person sing.	mon ēbat	He/she/it was warning
1 st person plural	mon ēbāmus	We were warning
2 nd person plural	mon ēbātis	You (plural) were warning
3 rd person plural	mon ēbant	They were warning

Second Conjugation Future Tense (indicative, active)

bō	bimus
bis	bitis
bit	bunt

mon + ē + bi + mus = we will warn
 (stem) + 2nd conjugation vowel + future personal sign 1st personal plural

1 st person sing.	mon ēbō	I will warn, I will be warning
2 nd person sing.	mon ēbis	You will warn/will be warning
3 rd person sing.	mon ēbit	He/she/it will warn/will be warning
1 st person plural	mon ēbimus	We will warn/will be warning
2 nd person plural	mon ēbitis	You (plural) will warn/will be warning
3 rd person plural	mon ēbunt	They will warn/will be warning

Third Conjugation Verbs – stem vowel is e (no macron) and i
 3rd conjugation has some irregular endings

Third Conjugation Present Tense (indicative, active)

ō / m	mus
s	tis
t	nt

mitt + i + mus = we send
 (stem) + 3rd conjugation vowel + personal sign 1st personal plural

1 st person sing.	mittō	I send, am sending, do send
2 nd person sing.	mittis	You send, are sending, do send
3 rd person sing.	mittit	He/she/it sends, is sending, does send
1 st person plural	mittimus	We send, are sending, do send
2 nd person plural	mittitis	You (plural) send, are sending, do send
3 rd person plural	mittunt	They send, are sending, do send

(3rd personal plural has a “u” instead of an “i,” breaking the pattern)

Third Conjugation Imperfect Tense (indicative, active)

bam	bāmus
bās	bātis
bat	bant

mitt + ē + bā + mus = we were sending
 (stem) + 3rd conjugation vowel + imperfect + personal sign 1st personal plural

1 st person sing.	mittēbam	I was sending
2 nd person sing.	mittēbās	You were sending
3 rd person sing.	mittēbat	He/she/it was sending
1 st person plural	mittēbāmus	We were sending
2 nd person plural	mittēbātis	You (plural) were sending
3 rd person plural	mittēbant	They were sending

Imperfect tense endings of both 2nd & 3rd conjugations are the same. To discern what conjugation the verb is in, look to the second principal part (infinitive)

Third Conjugation Future Tense (indicative, active)

mitt + ē + mus = we will send
 (stem) + 3rd conjugation vowel (no tense sign) personal sign 1st personal plural

1 st person sing.	mittam	I will send, will be sending
2 nd person sing.	mittēs	You will send, will be sending
3 rd person sing.	mittet	He/she/it will send, will be sending
1 st person plural	mittēmus	We will send, will be sending
2 nd person plural	mittētis	You (plural) will send, will be sending
3 rd person plural	mittent	They will send, will be sending

3rd conjugation future tense is much different. It looks like present tense, but isn't. The tense sign is missing (no "bi") to show that it is future tense

Fourth Conjugation Verbs – stem vowel is ī

4th conjugation has some irregular endings

Fourth Conjugation Present Tense (indicative, active)

Stem vowel: mostly "i"

ō / m	mus
s	tis
t	nt

aud + ī + mus = we hear
 (stem) + 4th conjugation vowel (no tense sign) personal sign 1st personal plural

1 st person sing.	audiō	I hear, do hear, am hearing
2 nd person sing.	audīs	You hear, do hear, are hearing
3 rd person sing.	audit	He/she/it hears, does hear, is hearing
1 st person plural	audīmus	We hear, do hear, are hearing
2 nd person plural	audītis	You (plural) hear, do hear, are hearing
3 rd person plural	audiunt	They hear, do hear, are hearing

Fourth Conjugation Verbs Imperfect Tense (indicative, active)

bam	bāmus
bās	bātis
bat	bant

aud + iē + bā mus = we were hearing
 (stem) + 4th conjugation vowel imperfect personal sign 1st personal plural

1 st person sing.	audiēbam	I was hearing
2 nd person sing.	audiēbās	You were hearing
3 rd person sing.	audiēbat	He/she/it was hearing
1 st person plural	audiēbāmus	We were hearing
2 nd person plural	audiēbātis	You (plural) were hearing
3 rd person plural	audiēbant	They were hearing

Fourth Conjugation Verbs Future Tense (indicative, active)

aud + iē + mus = we will hear
 (stem) + 4th conjugation vowel (no tense sign) personal sign 1st personal plural

1 st person sing.	audiam	I will hear, will be hearing
2 nd person sing.	audiēs	You will hear, will be hearing
3 rd person sing.	audiet	He/she/it will hear, will be hearing
1 st person plural	audiēmus	We will hear, will be hearing
2 nd person plural	audiētis	You (plural) will hear, will be hearing
3 rd person plural	audient	They will hear, will be hearing

Fourth Conjugation Irregular Verbs (indicative, active)

Do not follow the pattern with verb endings; no stem

Indicative active irregular verb – sum, esse, fuī, futūrus = to be

	Present	Imperfect	Future
1 st person sing.	sum I am	eram I was	erō I will be
2 nd person sing.	es you are	erās you were	eris you will be
3 rd person sing.	est he/she/it is	erat he/she/it was	erit he/she/it will be
1 st person plural	sumus we are	erāmus we were	erimus we will be
2 nd person plural	estis you are	erātis you were	eritis you will be
3 rd person plural	sunt they are	erant they were	erunt they will be

Subjunctive

The **subjunctive** expresses an element of uncertainty, often a wish, desire, doubt or hope. (I wish I were happy.)

Present Tense (active subjunctive) – used to express wishes (let us, may you...)

1st conjugation

em	ēmus
ēs	ētis
et	ent

2nd conjugation

eam	eāmus
eās	eātis
eat	eant

3rd conjugation

am	amus
as	atis
at	ant

4th conjugation

iam	iāmus
iās	iātis
iat	iant

Imperfect Tense (active subjunctive) – used in subordinate clauses (that he might)

1st conjugation

ārem	ārēmus
ārēs	ārētis
āret	ārent

2nd conjugation

ērem	ērēmus
ērēs	ērētis
ēret	ērent

3rd conjugation

ērem	ērēmus
ērēs	ērētis
ēret	ērent

4th conjugation

irem	irēmus
irēs	irētis
iret	irent