

Latin Grammar

You must know the basic scheme of noun endings. Below you will find endings for the first three **declensions**, excluding the vocative, which does not really count. To keep things simple, we have left out the fourth and fifth declensions.

| | | 1 st decl | 2 nd decl | 3 rd decl |
|----------|-----|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| singular | nom | - a | - us or - er or - um | |
| | acc | - am | - um | - em (unless neuter) |
| | gen | - ae | - i | - is |
| | dat | - ae | - o | - i |
| | abl | - a | - o | - e |
| plural | nom | - ae | - i or - a | - es or - a |
| | acc | - as | - os or - a | - es or - a |
| | gen | - arum | - orum | - um or - ium |
| | dat | - is | - is | - ibus |
| | abl | - is | - is | - ibus |

Remember that these endings are also used for **participles**. If a participle has a third declension ending, it is a present participle. If it has any other ending, it is a perfect participle. For example:

- **trahens** (third declension) means **dragging** (present)
- **tractus** (second declension) means **having been dragged** (perfect)

And of course, these endings are used for **adjectives**. Here are some important things about adjectives that you need to remember:

- adjectives need not have the same ending as the noun they describe (e.g. **ancilla bona** but **mater bona**)
- - **ior** - is the mark of the comparative (e.g. **longior** = longer)
- - **issim** - (sometimes - **illim** - or - **errim** -) is the mark of the superlative (e.g. **longissimus** = longest/very long)
- - **ius** can be either a neuter comparative adjective (e.g. **templum altius** = a higher temple) or a comparative adverb (e.g. **diligentius laboravit** = he worked harder)

As for verbs, make sure you know the following **essential tense endings**. They are all **active**.

| | present | imperfect | future | perfect | pluperfect |
|-----------------|---------|-----------|-------------------|---------|------------|
| I | - o | - bam | - bo or - am | - i | - eram |
| you (s.) | - s | - bas | - bis or - es | - isti | - eras |
| he or she or it | - t | - bat | - bit or - et | - it | - erat |
| we | - mus | - bamus | - bimus or - emus | - imus | - eramus |
| you (pl.) | - tis | - batis | - bitis or - etis | - istis | - eratis |
| they | - nt | - bant | - bunt or - ent | - erunt | - erant |

Passive and **deponent** endings are as follows:

| | present | imperfect | future | perfect | pluperfect |
|-----------------|---------|-----------|---------------------|-----------|------------|
| I | - or | - bar | - bor or - ar | - us sum | - us eram |
| you (s.) | - ris | - baris | - beris or - eris | - us es | - us eras |
| he or she or it | - tur | - batur | - bitur or - etur | - us est | - us erat |
| we | - mur | - bamur | - bimus or - emur | - i sumus | - i eramus |
| you (pl.) | - mini | - bamini | - bimini or - emini | - i estis | - i eratis |
| they | - ntur | - bantur | - buntur or - entur | - i sunt | - i erant |

As for the **subjunctive**, remember that the imperfect looks a bit like an infinitive, while the pluperfect active looks like a superlative (it has - iss - in the ending). The pluperfect passive is **participle + essem**. For example:

- **portare** is infinitive and **portare-t** is imperfect subjunctive
- **portavisset** is pluperfect active
- **portatus esset** is pluperfect passive

The INFINITIVES look like this:

| | 1 st conj | 2 nd conj | 3 rd conj | 4 th conj |
|-----------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| present active | – are | – ere | – ere | – ire |
| present passive | – ari | – eri | – i | – iri |
| future active | | – urus esse | | |
| perfect active | | – isse | | |
| perfect passive | | – us esse | | |

Remember that **futurus esse** is the future infinitive of the verb ‘to be’. You will meet it in indirect statements, where it should be translated ‘will be’ or ‘would be’.

And the **imperatives** look like this:

| | 1 st conj | 2 nd conj | 3 rd conj | 4 th conj |
|------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| active | – a / ate | – e / ete | – e / ite | – i / ite |
| passive/deponent | – are / amini | – ere / emini | – ere / emini | – ire / imini |

There are a number of nasties in Latin, otherwise known as **irregular verbs**. Easily the most common are these:

| | | | |
|------------------------|--------------|------------------|----------------|
| | I am | I am able | I want |
| I | sum | possum | volo |
| you (s.) | es | potes | vis |
| he or she or it | est | potest | vult |
| we | sumus | possumus | volumus |
| you (pl.) | estis | potestis | vultis |
| they | sunt | possunt | volunt |

Here is a selection of other important bits and pieces of these verbs:

| | I am | I am able | I want |
|-------------------------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|
| imperfect | erat | poterat | volebat |
| perfect | fuit | potuit | voluit |
| future | erit | poterit | volet |
| infinitive | esse | posse | velle |
| present subjunctive | sit | possit | velit |
| imperfect subjunctive | esset | posset | vellet |
| pluperfect subjunctive | fuisset | potuisset | voluisset |