

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