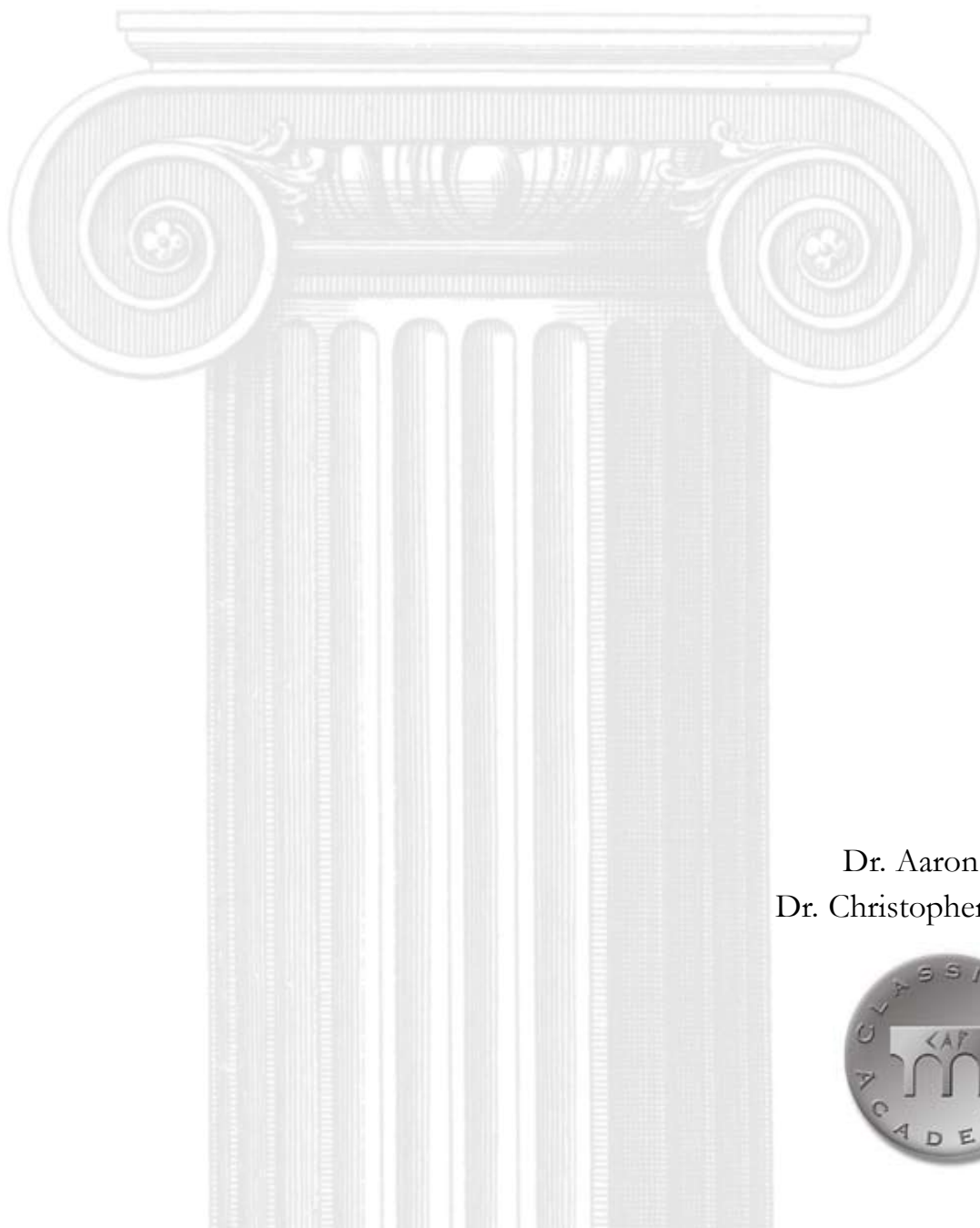


“Classical Latin Creatively Taught”

Latin for Children

Primer A



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Dr. Christopher Perrin



Latin for Children: Primer A

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CHAPTER 1

UNIT I

MEMORY PAGE:

CHAPTER MAXIM: *In principio erat verbum*
(*In the beginning was the Word—John 1:1*)

NEW CHANT: *Amō*

	singular	plural
1st person	amō	amāmus
2nd person	amās	amātis
3rd person	amat	amant

VOCABULARY:

LATIN	ENGLISH
amō, amāre, amāvī, amātum	I love, to love, I loved, loved
dō, dāre, dedī, dātum	I give, to give, I gave, given
intrō, intrāre, intrāvī, intrātum	I enter, to enter, I entered, entered
laborō, laborāre, laborāvī, laborātum	I work, to work, I worked, worked
narrō, narrāre, narrāvī, narrātum	I tell, to tell, I told, told
aqua, aquae	water
fabula, fabulae	story
porta, portae	gate
silva, silvae	forest
terra, terrae	earth



VERBS: Verbs? What are Verbs? They are a part of speech. A part of speech is a type of word. There are 8 parts of speech in English and Latin has the same 8 parts of speech, too! For now though, we will just concentrate on verbs. Verbs are very important, since without a verb, there will not be a complete sentence in either English or Latin. Verbs have a very special job: a **verb names the action or state of being in a sentence.**

**ENDINGS,
ENDINGS,
ENDINGS!**

In Latin, we will be translating many words and sentences. When translating sentences, verbs must be recognized before any other word. There are two ways we can recognize verbs. First, if you know what a Latin word means, you can figure its part of speech by what it is in English. On the other hand, it is not necessary to translate the verb to know it is a verb. How can that be? It's quite easy, really! You can recognize Latin verbs by their endings.

Notice that on the facing page there is a chart. It shows one of the most common verbs with all of its endings. When we show a verb together with its endings, that is called **conjugating** a verb.

One thing that we need to know about Latin is that it is a language of many, many endings. Don't worry, though. All the endings allow us to use fewer words. So... **Latin is a language of many endings, but fewer words.**

For example: in Latin we say “amo.” In English we say “I love.” We must use two words to say it in English, but it only takes one to say it in Latin. All of the endings work in the same way.

For example:

	singular	plural
1st person	amō: I love	amāmus: we love
2nd person	amās: you love	amātis: you all love
3rd person	amat: he, she or it loves	amant: they love

As you can see, each ending replaces a pronoun and allows for full use of the verb in any situation. Because of this, we don't need to use pronouns nearly as often in Latin!¹

¹Pronouns are words that fill in for nouns. For example, instead of saying “Titus wins” we could say “He wins.”

A. TRANSLATION:

- 1. amō _____
- 2. intrō _____
- 3. dō _____
- 4. laborō _____
- 5. fabula _____
- 6. aqua _____
- 7. porta _____
- 8. narrō _____
- 9. silva _____
- 10. terra _____
- 11. In principiō erat Verbum. _____

B. CHANT:

Conjugate the verb **amō**.
See if you can remember how to label the boxes

amō	



C. GRAMMAR:

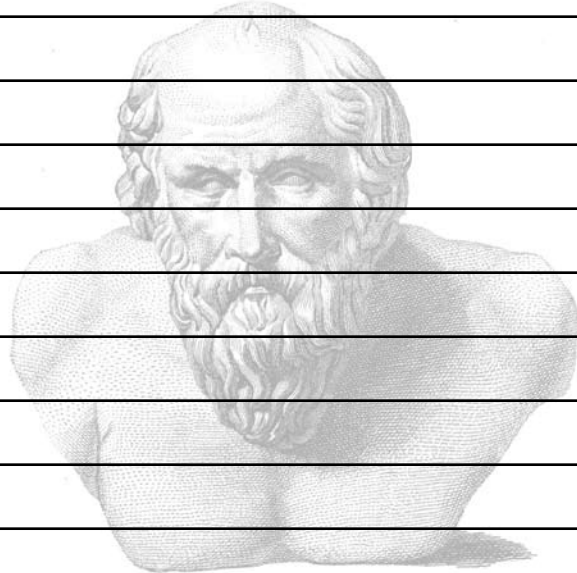
- 1. A _____ of _____ is a type of _____.
- 2. Latin is a language of many _____ and fewer _____.
- 3. A _____ names the _____ or _____ of _____ in a sentence.
- 4. To _____ a verb is to _____ all of its _____.

D. DERIVATIVES:

- 1. Aesop is famous for his _____ (**fabula**)
- 2. Reward will follow hard _____ (**laborō**)

A. VOCABULARY

amō, amāre, amāvī, amātum	
dō, dāre, dedī, dātum	
intrō, intrāre, intrāvī, intrātum	
laborō, laborāre, laborāvī, laborātum	
narrō, narrāre, narrāvī, narrātum	
aqua, aquae	
fabula, fabulae	
porta, portae	
silva, silvae	
terra, terrae	



B. CHANT:

Conjugate the verb **amō**.

See if you can remember how to label the boxes

amō	



C. GRAMMAR:

Define the following words.

1. Conjugation _____

2. Verb _____

CHAPTER 3

UNIT I

MEMORY PAGE:

CHAPTER MAXIM: *Armavirumque canō*
(Of arms and the man I sing—Virgil's Aeneid)

NEW CHANT: Declension of *Mēnsa*

Case	Noun Job	Singular	Plural
Nominative	SN, PrN	<i>mēnsa</i> - "table"	<i>mēnsae</i> - "tables"
Genitive	PNA	<i>mēnsae</i> - "of the table"	<i>mēnsārum</i> - "of the tables"
Dative	IO	<i>mēnsae</i> - "to, for the table"	<i>mēnsīs</i> - "to, for the tables"
Accusative	DO, OP	<i>mēnsam</i> - "the table"	<i>mēnsās</i> - "the tables"
Ablative	OP	<i>mēnsā</i> - "by, with, from the table"	<i>mēnsīs</i> - "by, with, from the tables"

VOCABULARY:

LATIN	ENGLISH
<i>errō, errāre, errāvī, errātum</i>	I wander, to wander, I wandered, wandered
<i>stō, stāre, stētī, stātum</i>	I stand, to stand, I stood, stood
<i>parō, parāre, parāvī, parātum</i>	I prepare, to prepare, I prepared, prepared
<i>spectō, spectāre, spectāvī, spectātum</i>	I look at, to look at, I looked at, seen
<i>sum, esse, fuī</i>	I am, to be, I was
<i>ancilla, ancillae</i>	maid-servant
<i>glōria, glōriae</i>	glory
<i>īra, irae</i>	anger
<i>unda, undae</i>	wave
<i>fenestra, fenestrae</i>	window

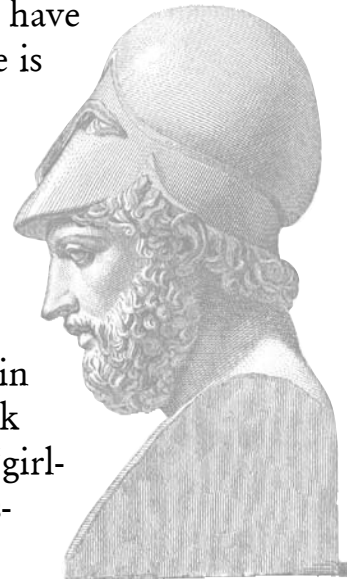


NOUN DECLENSIONS

Do you remember what a noun is from your English grammar class? Just in case you forgot, a **noun** is a word that names a person, place, thing or **sometimes an idea**. Do you remember how in the last chapter we found that verbs have all sorts of different endings? Well, nouns have a whole set of endings all their own. When we put together all of the different forms of a verb, we call it “**conjugating**” a verb, but when we do the same thing for a noun, we call it “**declining**” a noun.

Take a look at the declension of **mēnsa** on the facing page above. Notice how, just like with the verbs, the chart has two “columns” going up and down. Just like with the verbs, the column on the left is for the singular forms of the noun (which means just one, remember?) and on the right are all the plural forms. No problem so far, right? We call the difference between singular and plural in nouns their “number,” just like we do for verbs.

“Number” is the only thing that both verbs and nouns have in Latin, though. Another thing that Latin nouns have is gender, and verbs don't have that. English nouns have gender, too. In English, “boy” is a **masculine** noun and “girl” is a **feminine** noun and “table” is a **neuter** noun, meaning that it's not really either a “boy-table” or a “girl-table” because tables aren't boys or girls... they're just tables. Well, I know that this will surprise you, but in Latin, all tables are girls! At least they are in Latin grammar. In fact, all of the nouns from this week and last week are feminine, which means that they're “girl-nouns” (Don't worry, boys; we'll give you lots of masculine nouns next chapter.) In Latin, nouns ending in “**a, ae**” (we call them “1st declension” nouns) are almost always feminine. Make sure that you learn those endings and whether they are masculine or feminine because it's important to always know a noun's gender.



A. TRANSLATION (NEW AND REVIEW VOCABULARY):

- 1. *errō* _____
- 2. *spectō* _____
- 3. *stō* _____
- 4. *īra* _____
- 5. *unda* _____
- 6. *fossa* _____
- 7. *cēna* _____
- 8. *patria* _____
- 9. *mēnsa* _____
- 10. *vīa* _____
- 11. *Arma virumque canō!* _____

B. CHANT:

Fill in the endings and translate the forms of **mēnsa** given below:

CASE	SINGULAR	PLURAL
Nominative	<i>mēns</i> _____	<i>mēns</i> _____
Genitive	<i>mēns</i> _____	<i>mēns</i> _____
Dative	<i>mēns</i> _____	<i>mēns</i> _____
Accusative	<i>mēns</i> _____	<i>mēns</i> _____
Ablative	<i>mēns</i> _____	<i>mēns</i> _____



C. GRAMMAR:

- 1. A _____ names a _____, _____, _____ or _____.
- 2. Singular and _____ are the two options for _____.
- 3. "Number" answers the question " _____?"
- 4. Masculine, _____ and neuter are the three options for _____.
- 5. Giving all of the endings for a verb is called "conjugating" it, whereas listing all the forms of a noun is called _____ it.

D. DERIVATIVES:

- 1. If you study, you should _____ to do well. (*spectō*)
- 2. To _____ something is to throw it out the window. (*fenestra*, preceded by "de" for "out")

A. NEW VOCABULARY

LATIN	ENGLISH
errō, errāre, errāvī, errātum	
stō, stāre, stētī, stātum	
parō, parāre, parāvī, parātum	
spectō, spectāre, spectāvī, spectātum	
sum, esse, fuī	
ancilla, ancillae	
glōria, glōriae	
īra, īrae	
unda, undae	
fenestra, fenestrae	

B. CHANT: Give the chant for the declension of **mensa** and label the boxes

Case	Noun Job	Singular	
Nominative	SN, PrN		
Genitive	PNA		
Dative	IO		
Accusative	DO, OP		
Ablative	OP		

C. GRAMMAR: Define the following terms:

1. Noun:
2. Declension:
3. What question does the “number” of a noun answer?
4. What are the two options for number?
5. What are the three options for gender?

CHAPTER 5

UNIT 1

REVIEW CHAPTER:



Now that you have learned 40 Latin words (10 words in each chapter), it is time to review them to make sure you won't forget them. Remember to practice reciting these words for 5 to 10 minutes every day. Try to give the English words for each Latin word on the list. For each word that you miss, put a check in the box next to that word. Then work really hard on those "checked" words until you have them mastered! If you want to, write the English words by the Latin words. Remember to chant or sing the words several times every day. Review this list at least once every day this week.

VERBS:

- amō _____
- dō _____
- intrō _____
- laborō _____
- narrō _____

NOUNS:

- aqua _____
- fabula _____
- porta _____
- silva _____
- terra _____
- via _____
- fossa _____
- mensa _____
- meta _____
- pagina _____
- cena _____
- patria _____
- aura _____
- regina _____
- insula _____

VERBS:

- errō _____
- stō _____
- parō _____
- spectō _____
- sum _____

NOUNS:

- puella _____
- femina _____
- germina _____
- filia _____
- magistra _____
- discipula _____
- domina _____
- famula _____
- serva _____
- amica _____
- ancilla _____
- glōria _____
- ira _____
- unda _____
- fenestra _____

DERIVATIVE STUDY

“Derivatives” are English words that come from Latin words. For example, “aquatic” is an English derivative word that comes from the Latin word **aqua** (which means “water”). Then there is the strange English derivative word “defenestration,” which means the act of throwing something out the window! This word comes from the Latin “root” word **fenestra** (which means window). The English derivative “amicable” comes from the Latin word **amicus** (friend). During this review week, we will learn many more derivatives that help you learn the Latin words better and learn some more about English too! Review the lists below that contain your Latin vocabulary for the last two chapters along with some English derivatives.

VERBS	VERBS
Amō: amity (friendship), amorous (showing love to someone)	Errō: error, erroneous (to be in error)
Dō: donate, donation	Stō: stationary, station, static (not moving)
Intrō: entrance, introduction	Parō: the best derivative is prepare--what the word itself means
Laborō: laboratory (a place where you...work!)	Spectō: spectator, spectacle (a sight to be seen!). A Roman gladiator fight was called a spectacula!
Narrō: narrate, narration (a story, something told)	Sum: no derivatives
NOUNS	NOUNS
Aqua: aquatic (having to with water)	Puella: no derivatives
Fabula: fable, fabulous	Fēmina: feminine, female
Porta: portable (something you can carry), port (a place where things are carried--often in ships!)	Germana: germane (closely related--like a brother!)
Silva: Pennsylvania (William Penn's woods)	Filia: filial (having to do with a parent and child relationship).
Terra: extra-terrestrial (from another planet), terrain (the lay of the land)	Magistra: magistrate (a ruler or judge)
Via: way	Discipula: disciple (someone who follows and learns from another)
Fossa: fossil	Domina: dominate (to control)
Mēnsa: mesa (large flat plain...like a huge table)	Famula: family, familiar
Mēta: no derivatives for this word!	Serva: servant, serve
Pagina: page	Amica: amicable (friendly)
Cēna: cenacle (a fancy name for a dining room)	Ancilla: ancillary (helpful)
Patria: patriot, patriotic	Glōria: glory, glorify
Aura: aroma (something in the air that smells good)	Īra: irritate, irritable, irascible (easily angered)
Rēgīna: reign (to rule), regal (like a king or queen)	Unda: undulate (moving up and down), undulation (a wave or something like a wave)
Insula: insular (all alone like an island), insulate (to surround something--like an island is surrounded by water).	Fenestra: defenestration (the act of throwing someone or something out of a window)

WORKING WITH DERIVATIVES

Did you know that in some English dictionaries (usually thick ones) you can find Latin words as part of the definition for English words? Here is an example from the *Meriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*, using the word fable:

Fable: n. [ME, fr. MF, fr. L fabula conversation, story, play...]: a fictitious narrative or statement as : a legendary story of supernatural happenings.

The “ME” means Middle English and the “MF” means Middle French. The two little letters “fr.” mean “from.” Guess what the “L” means? Yes, it is an abbreviation (a short way of saying something) for Latin! You already know what **fabula** means! So the word fable is from Middle English, from Middle French and originally from Latin (from **fabula**). This dictionary also tells us that **fabula** can be defined as “conversation, story, play”...but you already knew that. The Latin words in these definitions can be called “roots” since the English word grew up out of the “root” of the Latin word. The Latin “root” for fable is **fabula**. The “derivative” of **fabula** is fable.

Now choose one English derivative from each column and look them up. Try to find them in a good dictionary that has Latin roots (your teacher or parent can help you). Can you see how the dictionary gives you the Latin root? List the derivatives you looked up below:

- 1. English Derivative: _____ Latin Root: _____
- 2. English Derivative _____ Latin Root: _____

Try writing a sentence that uses at least two derivatives that you have learned. Underline the derivative and put the Latin root in parentheses right after it. Here is an example:

John was irritated (ira) after losing his fossil (fossa).

Now write your sentence:

Now try writing a short little story using as many derivatives as you can. Be creative, this could be fun. Underline the derivatives you use and put the Latin root it comes from in parentheses, just like you did in your sentence above.

THE LATIN FAMILY TREE

Study the Latin family tree and see where Latin came from and what languages came from Latin! The oldest language is listed on the bottom of the tree and our language (English!) is listed on the top.

