

# LINGVA LATINA I

## SYLLABVS PARS PRIMA

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We propose to use the Wheelock Series. This will provide initial grammar, reading and exercise material which will work primarily on Automatic. It is my intention to make these materials available in both paper and electronic media. Furthermore, I intend to make the entire program test and evaluate on line. Everything will be available in pdf format with the written portions available in fill in the blanks or outline items from the pdf reader of the student's choice directly.

Initially, the two required texts are:

1. Wheelock's Latin ISBN 0-06-467179-8
2. The Complete Idiot's Guide to Learning Latin ISBN 0-02-863922-7

Both of these books are available from Amazon in paper and from Ebooks.com. \

The First assignment is:

1. Chapter 1 Verbs; First and Second Conjugations:
  1. Present Infinitives, Indicative and Imperative Active; Translations
    1. Infinitive, Stems and endings. Concepts of stem carrying meaning and ending or inflected portion of the word conveying sentence function.
    2. Pronunciation. Many Latin textbooks make a major deal that the letter "v" sounds like the English "w" in classical Latin. It would be better to understand that the early Latin alphabet possessed only the letters, a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, k, l, m, n, o, p, q, r, s, t, u, x, z. Of these, the "u" looks like the "v" and that should take care of the entire u and v issue.

Assignment: Complete Sententiae Page 6. There will be a quiz on verbs, stems and endings concepts as well.

Chapter 2:

1. Declensions, cases, adjectives.
2. Latin is an inflected (bent) language. This means that the use portion of the nouns and adjectives is conveyed by the ending on the word. While modern Western languages have long abandoned the complex grammatical ending structure, other language families have not. Slavic languages, for example, have an equally elaborate structure of this.
3. In chapter two, the student is introduced to concepts of case and the first declension. Along with this the concept of grammatical gender takes on a whole new meaning unless you have had previous language training. It is absolutely important to note that four things must be known about a Latin noun. These are:
  1. the nominative singular (usually what is looked up in a dictionary (lexicon)
  2. the genitive singular – the determiner of which declension the noun belongs to
  3. the gender – there are the usual three; masculine, feminine and neuter

4. the meaning(s) this is very best learned by reading and context.

It would be best to remember that, as long as the endings are left intact the meaning is unchanged. Nero Agrippinam interfecit and Agrippinam Nero interfecit mean the same thing. This is Nero killed Agrippina (his mother). There is a marked difference between Kennedy killed Oswald and Oswald killed Kennedy in English, at least, to Kennedy and Oswald.

Assignment: Catullus bids his Girlfriend Farewell. Page 15.

Please note: The quiz will draw upon the whole chapter.

Chapter 3:

1. The Second Declension, nouns in apposition and word order. It is essential to note that Latin, like most ancient written languages often wrote in a manner which modern writers would consider obscene today, the frequent use of the run on sentence.
2. The verb, to be – sum, esse, fui, futurus. Introduction to the present indicative
3. It would be well, at this point, to keep in mind the following points of a verb:
  1. moods:
    1. indicative – factual statements
    2. subjunctive – wishes, contrary to fact, subordinate ideas as well as the encourage function (hortative).
    3. imperative – command
  2. voice:
    1. active – subject does or completes the action
    2. passive – subject receives the action
  3. tense (time):
    1. Present
    2. Imperfect
    3. Future
    4. Present Perfect
    5. Pluperfect (plus quam perfect)
    6. Future Perfect
  4. Person:
    1. First Person (I, we)
    2. Second Person (thou, thee, you, ye)
    3. Third Person (he, him, she, her, it, they, them)

Enough for verbs for now.

Assignment: Practice and Review Page 28 and The rarity of Friendship Page 29.

First Test: