Latin Verbs

The most important thing to know about Latin verbs is that the letter on the end tells us who is doing the action:

**The Present Tense**

- **-o** I  
- **-s** you  
- **-t** he, she, it  
- **-mus** we  
- **-tis** you (pl)  
- **-nt** they

These endings are true for most verbs. If a verb has just these endings on it, it is Present Tense.

So we translate it as: **amo** = I love / **monet** = (he) warns / **regemus** = we rule

**The Imperfect Tense**

This is a past tense. It translates as "I was -ing". It always has -ba- in the end.

- **-bam** I was -ing  
- **-bas** you were -ing  
- **-bat** he, she, it was -ing  
- **-bamus** we were -ing  
- **-batis** you (pl) were -ing  
- **-bant** they were -ing

So we translate it as: **amabam** = I was loving / **monebat** = (he) was warning / **regebamus** = we were ruling
**The Perfect Tense**

This is another past tense, and probably the most common (and the hardest to spot!). It translates as "I -ed".

- I -ed
- -ed
- you -ed
- -ed
- he, she, it -ed
- -ed
- we -ed
- you (pl) -ed
- they -ed

So we translate it as: *amavi* = I loved / *monuit* = (he) warned / *reximus* = we ruled

Note Bene: We can also spot the perfect tense by looking for a ‘v’ or a ‘u’.

Some verbs change their whole stem in the perfect such as rego, rexi.

**The Pluperfect Tense**

This is another past tense and is used less than the other two past tenses. It translates as “I had –ed”.

- I had –ed
- you had –ed
- he, she, it had –ed
- we had –ed
- you (pl) had –ed
- they had –ed

So we translate it as: *amaveram* = I had loved / *monuerat* = I had warned / *rexeramus* = we will rule

Note Bene: The pluperfect tense uses the same stem as the perfect tense. Therefore, *rego* changes to *rex*, so the stem is *rex* and then you add the pluperfect ending: *rexerat*. 

The Future Tense

The future tense has two sides to it. This is why it is important for us to understand what a conjugation is. A conjugation is a family of verbs and in the case of the future tense, the 1st and 2nd conjugation team up and so do the 3rd and 4th.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st and 2nd</th>
<th>3rd and 4th</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-bo</td>
<td>I will</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-bis</td>
<td>you will</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-bit</td>
<td>he, she, it will</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-bimus</td>
<td>we will</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-bitis</td>
<td>you(pl) will</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-bunt</td>
<td>they will</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>-am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>-es</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>-et</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>-emus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>-etis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>-ent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

So we translate it as: amabo = I will love/ monebit = he will warn / regemus = we will rule

One Final Thing....

If a verb has '-re' on the end of it, it is an infinitive.

We translate these as 'to ---'.

So: amare = to love / monere = to warn / regere = to send

If a verb has the same ending as the infinitive but without the 're' on the end, it is an imperative, or an order.

So: ama = love! / mone = warn! / rege = rule!

If we put 'te' on the end of the above words it becomes an order in the plural.

So: amate = love! (all of you) / monete = warn! (all of you) / regite = rule! (all of you)
Irregular Verbs

sum = I am

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Present</th>
<th>Future</th>
<th>Imperfect</th>
<th>Perfect</th>
<th>Pluperfect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1ps</td>
<td>sum</td>
<td>ero</td>
<td>eram</td>
<td>fui</td>
<td>fueram</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2ps</td>
<td>es</td>
<td>eris</td>
<td>eras</td>
<td>fuisti</td>
<td>fueras</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3ps</td>
<td>est</td>
<td>erit</td>
<td>erat</td>
<td>fuit</td>
<td>fuerat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1pp</td>
<td>sumus</td>
<td>erimus</td>
<td>eramus</td>
<td>fuimus</td>
<td>fueramus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2pp</td>
<td>estis</td>
<td>eritis</td>
<td>eratis</td>
<td>fuistis</td>
<td>fueratis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pp</td>
<td>sunt</td>
<td>erunt</td>
<td>erant</td>
<td>fuerunt</td>
<td>fuerant</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Infinitive = esse
Imperative = es (sing) este (plural)

possum = I am able/ I can

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Present</th>
<th>Future</th>
<th>Imperfect</th>
<th>Perfect</th>
<th>Pluperfect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1ps</td>
<td>possum</td>
<td>potero</td>
<td>poteram</td>
<td>potui</td>
<td>potueram</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2ps</td>
<td>potes</td>
<td>poteris</td>
<td>poteras</td>
<td>potuisti</td>
<td>potueras</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3ps</td>
<td>potest</td>
<td>poterit</td>
<td>poterat</td>
<td>potuit</td>
<td>potuerat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1pp</td>
<td>possumus</td>
<td>poterimus</td>
<td>poteramus</td>
<td>potuimus</td>
<td>potueramus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2pp</td>
<td>potestis</td>
<td>poteritis</td>
<td>poteratis</td>
<td>potuistis</td>
<td>potueratis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pp</td>
<td>possunt</td>
<td>poterunt</td>
<td>poterant</td>
<td>potuerunt</td>
<td>potuerant</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Infinitive = possere
Note Bene: possu- changes to pot-
The verb possum is accompanied by an infinitive.

eo = I go

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Present</th>
<th>Future</th>
<th>Imperfect</th>
<th>Perfect</th>
<th>Pluperfect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1ps</td>
<td>eo</td>
<td>ibo</td>
<td>ibam</td>
<td>ivi</td>
<td>iveram</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1ps</td>
<td>is</td>
<td>ibis</td>
<td>ibas</td>
<td>ivisti</td>
<td>iveras</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3ps</td>
<td>it</td>
<td>ibit</td>
<td>ibat</td>
<td>ivimus</td>
<td>iverat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1pp</td>
<td>imus</td>
<td>ibimus</td>
<td>ibamus</td>
<td>ivimus</td>
<td>iveramus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2pp</td>
<td>itis</td>
<td>ibitis</td>
<td>ibatis</td>
<td>ivistis</td>
<td>iveratis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pp</td>
<td>eunt</td>
<td>ibunt</td>
<td>ibant</td>
<td>iverunt</td>
<td>iverant</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Infinitive = ire
Imperative = i!
Note Bene: This verb is an ‘i’ followed by the usual endings.
How to work out which case a noun is in!

On the other sheets, we have already looked at why nouns have different cases and what those different cases mean.

This sheet will tell you how to spot them!

Unfortunately, this involves learning which letters go on the end of the nouns to form the different cases.

**Nominative:** This is the thing doing the action.
For nouns like *servus*, the nominative endings are: -us / -r (singular), -i (plural)
For nouns like *femina*, the nominative ending are: -a (singular), -ae (plural)

Remember: nouns in the nominative are almost always at the beginning of the sentence!

**Accusative:** This is the thing having something done to it.
For nouns like *servus*, the accusative endings are: -um (singular), -os (plural)
For nouns like *femina*, the accusative ending are: -am (singular), -as (plural)

**Genitive:** This is the possessive. It means 'of ------.'
For nouns like *servus*, the genitive endings are: -i (singular), -orum (plural)
For nouns like *femina*, the genitive ending are: -ae (singular), -arum (plural)

**Dative:** This is the one that means 'to' or 'for'.
For nouns like *servus*, the dative endings are: -o (singular), -is (plural)
For nouns like *femina*, the dative ending are: -ae (singular), -is (plural)

Remember: We often see this case with verbs of giving or speaking or telling!

**Ablative:** This is the one that means 'by', 'with', or 'from'. But it is almost always seen with prepositions.
For nouns like *servus*, the ablative endings are: -o (singular), -is (plural)
For nouns like *femina*, the ablative ending are: -a (singular), -is (plural)

Remember: Many of the different cases share the same letters for their ending. For example, a noun with '-i' on the end of it could be a genitive singular or a nominative plural. It is up to you to decide which is the most appropriate translation. If you are asked in your exam which case it is in, then list every possible case it could be. Unless the word is in a sentence where it is very clearly one rather than the other. For example, if a word at the beginning of a sentence has a letter 'i' on the end then it's almost certainly going to be the nominative plural!

Here is a table for all of your noun endings:
### Prepositions

Prepositions are small words which tell you something’s location or movement. Some examples in English are: under, above, through, against, by, with, towards, from, against.

They are used in the same way in Latin. The only difference is, in Latin the word that comes straight after the preposition must be in either the accusative or the ablative case.

We only know which one it is by learning what case goes with each preposition:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Preposition</th>
<th>Nominative</th>
<th>Accusative</th>
<th>Genitive</th>
<th>Dative</th>
<th>Ablative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>de</td>
<td>puella</td>
<td>servam</td>
<td>puellae</td>
<td>puellae</td>
<td>puellis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cum</td>
<td>servi</td>
<td>servum</td>
<td>servi</td>
<td>servis</td>
<td>servis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ab / a</td>
<td>bellum</td>
<td>leonem</td>
<td>bellum</td>
<td>bello</td>
<td>bello</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ex / e</td>
<td>bellum</td>
<td>leonem</td>
<td>belli</td>
<td>bello</td>
<td>bello</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in</td>
<td>leones</td>
<td>leones</td>
<td>leonis</td>
<td>leoni</td>
<td>leoni</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pro</td>
<td>puellas</td>
<td>servos</td>
<td>servorum</td>
<td>bellis</td>
<td>bellis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sine</td>
<td>servos</td>
<td>servorum</td>
<td>servorum</td>
<td>leonibus</td>
<td>leonibus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sub</td>
<td>bellam</td>
<td>leones</td>
<td>leones</td>
<td>leonibus</td>
<td>leonibus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ante</td>
<td>leonum</td>
<td>leonum</td>
<td>leonum</td>
<td>leonibus</td>
<td>leonibus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>propter</td>
<td>leonibus</td>
<td>leonibus</td>
<td>leonibus</td>
<td>leonibus</td>
<td>leonibus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>super</td>
<td>leones</td>
<td>leones</td>
<td>leones</td>
<td>leonibus</td>
<td>leonibus</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note Bene: The examiners love to ask the question of why the noun is in this case. Look to see if it follows a preposition! This is usually the answer they are looking for.
Adjectives

As you know, adjectives describe nouns and, in Latin, ‘agree’ with the noun they describe in noun, gender and number.

Thankfully adjectives decline exactly like nouns.

To agree with feminine nouns it declines like puella

To agree with masculine nouns it declines like servus

To agree with neuter nouns it declines like bellum

Therefore bonus, bona, bonum.

Comparatives: A comparative is an adjective that compares two things:

E.g Cats are better than the dogs.

A comparative declines like a normal adjective, but it has an –ior, followed by 3rd declension endings.

Superlatives: A superlative is an adjective at the highest quality or degree:

E.g Cats are best.

A superlative declines like a normal adjective but it has an –errimus, illimus or issimus, followed by the 1st and 2nd declension endings.

Adverbs

Adverbs are words that describe the verb. We must not confuse these with adjectives in Latin. Here is a list of adverbs that we need to know:

bene.............................well
etiam.............................even, also
fortiter.............................bravely
hic.................................here
ibi.................................there
igitur...............................therefore
magnopere........................greatly
non.................................not
numquam............................never
saepe.............................often
semper.............................always
sic.................................thus
tamen..............................however
tandem..............................at last
celeriter.............................quickly
eo.................................there, to there
forte...............................by chance
frustra.............................in vain
nonne.............................surely?
non.................................surely.....not?
quoque.............................also
Adverbs of time
dinde...............................then, next
diu...............................for a long time
iam...............................now, already
mox...............................soon
olim...............................once
statim..............................at once, immediately
subito..........................suddenly
ut.................................then
ubi ..............................................when
cras ........................................tomorrow
heri ........................................yesterday
hodie.......................................today
nunc.....................................now
postea .....................................afterwards

Question words (Interrogative adverbs)
cur? ...........................................why?
ne? ..............................introduces a question
ubi? ...........................................where?

Pronouns

The pronouns you have to know in Latin are Personal pronouns and hic/is/ille.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nominative</th>
<th>Accusative</th>
<th>Genitive</th>
<th>Dative</th>
<th>Ablative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S I N G</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>You</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Person</td>
<td>ego</td>
<td>tu</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nominative</td>
<td>me</td>
<td>te</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accusative</td>
<td>mei</td>
<td>tui</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genitive</td>
<td>mihi</td>
<td>tibi</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dative</td>
<td>me</td>
<td>te</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ablative</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nominative</td>
<td>nos</td>
<td>vos</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nominative</td>
<td>nos</td>
<td>vos</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nominative</td>
<td>nostrum</td>
<td>vestrum</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dative</td>
<td>nobis</td>
<td>vobis</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dative</td>
<td>nobis</td>
<td>vobis</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hic/haec/hoc = this
Ille/illa/illud = that
Is/ea/it = that (unless it doesn’t agree with a noun in the sentence, then it means he/she/it)

Note Bene: If you can remember all the different endings, that’s great! But otherwise make educated guesses. Look at the noun that is next to it and see if it agrees with it.
Translation Process

Verb
– who is doing it
- what is happening
- when is it happening

Nouns
- Find a noun in the Nominative case, if you need one (Remember the subject of the sentence may be hidden at the end of the verb)
- Find a noun in the Accusative Case – the object
- Identify other cases of nouns to see if there is a genitive, dative or ablative.

Others
- Adjectives – you usually find these next to the noun they are describing and have to agree in gender, number and case. Therefore they usually have the same ending.
- Prepositions – little words which may help you understand why a noun is in the ablative case.
- Imperatives – Usually found in speech and do not have someone ‘doing the verb’
  E.g smile boy!
- Infinitives – Usually found after a verb of ordering or wanting. For example: iubeo – I order; cupio – I want.
Things to remember when translating Latin

- When we use the verb 'to be' (est, sunt, erat, erant) we don’t have an accusative. Instead there’s usually 2 nominatives!
- When we see the word 'quod' we have a clause which is going to have a result! So something is going to happen because of something else
- If 'ubi' is not in a question it tells us when something is occurring. If we see 'ubi' in a question then it means where.
- Latin didn’t have question marks, so when they wanted to indicate that a question was happening they put '-ne' on the end of a word. For example; “clamas puerum” means you are shouting at the boy. But, “clamasne puerum?” means are you shouting at the boy?
- Don’t be frightened by long sentences! Quite often we can divide long sentences up into smaller chunks. For example, everything coming after quod/igitur/sic/tamen/sed is part of a separate bit, and the same when a verb has 'et' after it!
- If you don’t know a word (you should though – because they’ll only be ones in the vocab list!) then don’t panic. First of all, look really hard at it. Does it look like any other Latin word you know; it might be an unfamiliar form of a familiar word. Secondly, does it look like an English word you know; we might get a word from it in English which has a similar meaning. Lastly, what word would it make sense to have in there? Using what you know from the rest of the sentence, can you make an educated guess as to what might come next?
- Always read the title of the translation, and the English bit in italics giving you an overview of the story. You might find clues in there to words you don’t know, and it should give you a good idea of what your translation should sound like if it’s correct. If the title is about a man fighting a battle, but your translation is about sheep, you may have made a mistake!