

LATIN PREP FOR NEW STUDENTS

Welcome to St. Benedict's, and welcome to Latin!

To prepare for success in Latin, please read (and reread) the following packet. It contains (1) a description of Latin nouns; (2) a description of Latin verbs; and (3) about 60 key vocabulary words. If you have not studied English grammar in depth, or have not studied a foreign language before, much of it will be new to you, and most of it will be confusing. **That's okay!** There are really only a handful of things you need to learn this summer:

1. Latin is very different from English.
2. Success in Latin, as in other subjects, requires time, patience, and hard work.
3. The forms of the noun *puella*, the forms of the verbs *ambulo* and *sum*, and the key vocabulary.

15 minutes every weekday should be dedicated to learning forms and vocabulary. **That's just 15 minutes every weekday.** Writing out the forms is helpful in learning them, and flashcards are a great way to memorize the vocabulary. You can either use a program like [Quizlet.com](https://quizlet.com) (good) or handwritten flashcards (better.)

Remember that you should spend only 15 minutes every weekday on Latin, and if you're pressed for time, you should focus on memorizing the key vocabulary. If, however, you have plenty of time on your hands, you can try reading through chapters 1-10 of our textbook, *Lingua Latina: Familia Romana*.

If you or your parents have any questions, please don't hesitate to email me at jcronheim@saintbenedictschool.org.

NOUNS

A noun is a part of speech that names a person, place, or thing. Every Latin noun has **gender**, **number**, **case**, and **declension**.

Gender

Latin nouns belong to one of three genders: **masculine**, **feminine**, or **neuter**. Naturally masculine things like men belong to the masculine gender; naturally feminine things like women belong to the feminine gender; and several things belong to the neuter gender. For most words, however, gender is just a category. For example, the Latin word for “table,” *mensa*, is feminine, even though there’s nothing particularly feminine about a table.

Number

Latin nouns, like English nouns, have **number**. Number indicates if there is one thing (a boy) or more than one thing (boys). The numbers are **singular** and **plural**.

Cases

Latin is very different from English. In a Latin sentence, the relationship among the words is shown by **cases**, and word order is much less important than in English.

Latin has 6 cases, and the job of the cases and their **case-endings** is to show the relationship among the words.

1. The **nominative case** and its endings tell us that the noun is the subject of the sentence and that it performs the action of the verb:

Puella rosas puero dat, The girl (subject) gives roses to the boy

2. The **genitive case** and its endings tell us that a noun possesses something:

Puellae amica rosas puero dat, The girl's (possession) friend gives roses to the boy

3. The **dative case** and its endings tell us that the noun is the indirect object of a verb:

Puellae rosas puer dat, The boy gives roses to the girl (indirect object)

4. The **accusative case** tells us that the noun is the direct object of a verb:

Puellam puer amat, The boy loves the girl (direct object)

5. The **ablative case** tells us (among other things) that the noun accompanies another noun:

Cum puellā puer ad ludum ambulat, *The boy walks to school with the girl (accompaniment)*

6. The **vocative case** tells us that the noun is being directly addressed:

O puella, cur rosas puero das? *O girl (direct address), why do you give roses to the boy?*

Declension

Every noun belongs to a **declension** or family of nouns that resemble one another.

Puella and *puellae*, “the girl” and “of the girl,” resemble *amica* and *amicae*, “the friend” and “of the friend,” because their case-endings are the same. Every noun whose case-endings resemble those of *puella* and *amica* belongs to the 1st declension or family of nouns.

Every noun, whatever declension it belongs to (and there are 5 declensions), has the same job—to name a person, place, or thing.

Now that you know what case-endings do, you must memorize them. Here are the case-endings for the 1st declension:

puella, puellae, f.				
I.	Latin sg.	English sg.	Latin pl.	English pl.
n.	puella	girl	puellae	girls
g.	puellae	of the girl	puellarum	of the girls
d.	puellae	to or for the girl	puellis	to or for the girls
ac.	puellam	girl (direct object)	puellas	girls (direct object)
ab.	puellā	in/by/with the girl	puellis	in/by/with the girls
v.	puella	O girl!	puellae	O girls!

VERBS

A verb is a part of speech that describes an action. Every Latin verb has **person, number, tense, voice, mood, and conjugation.**

Person

Person refers to who is performing the action. The **first person** is *I* or *we*; the **second person** is *you* and *you (pl.)*; and the **third person** is *he, she, it* and *they*.

Number

Number refers to how many persons are performing the action, either one (**singular**) or more than one (**plural**.)

Tense

Tense refers to the time at which the action of the verb occurs. Latin has 6 tenses:

1. **Present tense:** the action of the verb occurs in the present, *I walk my dog.*
2. **Imperfect tense:** the action of the verb occurred continuously or repeatedly in the past, *I was walking my dog.*
3. **Future tense:** the action of the verb will occur in the future, *I will walk my dog.*
4. **Perfect tense:** the action of the verb occurred once in the past and is complete, *I walked my dog.*
5. **Pluperfect tense:** the action of the verb occurred in the past before another past action, *I had walked my dog before I gave him dinner.*
6. **Future Perfect tense:** the action of the verb will occur and be completed before another action in the future, *I will have walked my dog before I give him dinner.*

Voice

Voice refers to whether the subject of the verb actively performs the action or passively receives the action. Latin, like English, has two voices:

1. **The active voice:** *The boy loves the girl.*
2. **The passive voice:** *The boy is loved by the girl.*

Mood

Mood refers to how the action of the verb is viewed. The Latin verb has four moods:

1. **The indicative mood:** John is a good boy.
2. **The imperative mood:** Be good, John!
3. **The infinitive mood:** John wants to be good.
4. **The subjunctive mood:** John may be good.

Conjugation

Conjugation refers to the family or group to which a verb belongs. Latin verbs have four conjugations: the first, the second, the third, and the fourth:

1. amo, amare, amavi, amatus and other verbs that resemble it.
2. moneo, monēre, monui, monitus and other verbs that resemble it.
3. rego, regere, rexi, rectus and other verbs that resemble it.
4. audio, audīre, audivi, auditus and other verbs that resemble it.

Verb Formation

English and Latin describe actions in very different ways. English tends to use verb phrases that contain a pronoun, a helping verb, and a main verb or participle, for example, *I (pronoun) will (helping verb) walk (main verb)*.

Latin, however, uses **stems**, **tense signs**, and **personal endings** to form its verbs. For example, the Latin verb *ambulabo* contains the stem *ambula-* (walk), the future tense sign *-b-* (will), and the personal ending *-o* (I). When you put these parts together, you get *ambulabo*, which means “I will walk.” Note the similarity of the personal endings below:

ambulo, ambulare, ambulavi, ambulatus: present tense				
	Latin sg.	English sg.	Latin pl.	English pl.
1	ambulo	I walk	ambulamus	we walk
2	ambulas	you walk	ambulatis	you (pl.) walk
3	ambulat	he, she, it walks	ambulant	they walk

sum, esse, fui, futurus: present tense				
	Latin sg.	English sg.	Latin pl.	English pl.
1	sum	I am	sumus	we are
2	es	you are	estis	you (pl.) are
3	est	he, she, it is	sunt	they are

KEY VOCABULARY

Verbs

advenit, *he, she, it arrives*
amat, *he, she, it loves*
est, *he, she, it is*
eunt, *they go*
habet, *he, she, it has*
it, *he, she, it goes*
sunt, *they are*
venit, *he, she, it comes*
videt, *he, she, it sees*
vocat, *he, she, it calls*

Nouns

amicus, -i (m.), *friend*
ancilla, -ae (f.) *maidservant*
dominus, -i (m.) *master*
familia, -ae (f.) *household*
femina, -ae (f.) *woman*
filius, -i (m.) *son*
mensa, -ae (f.), *table*
pater, patris (m.) *father*
puella, -ae (f.) *girl*
puer, -i (m.) *boy*
servus, -i (m.) *slave*
vir, -i (m.) *man*

Pronouns

cui, *to whom*
cuius? *whose? of whom?*
me, *me*
hic, haec, hoc, *this*
ille, illa, illud, *that*
is, ea, id, *he, she, it*
quam, *whom (f.)*
quem, *whom (m.)*
se, *himself, herself, themselves*
te, *you*

Adjectives

bonus, -a, -um, *good*
magnus, -a, -um, *great, large*
malus, -a, -um, *bad*
meus, -a, -um, *my, mine*
multus, -a, -um, *much, many*
nullus, -a, -um, *none, no one, no*
parvus, -a, -um, *small*
suus, -a, -um, *his, hers, its*
tuus, -a, -um, *your, yours*

Conjunctions

et, *and, also*
itaque, *and so*
nam, *for*
quia, *because*
quoque, *also, too*
sed, *but*

Prepositions

ab, a, *from*
ad, *to*
ante, *before*
apud, *with, among, at*
cum, *with*
ex, e, *out of*
in, in, on
inter, *among, between*
per, *through*
sine, *without*

Interrogatives

cur?, *why?*
quid?, *what?*
ubi?, *where?*