

Latin Notes: Chapter 1-5

Chapter 1

Nouns: A noun is a word for a person, place or thing or idea. All nouns have three characteristics in Latin: Gender, number and case.

Gender: Masculine, Feminine and Neuter. This is grammatical gender and does not depend on what the object is. Gender for nouns must be memorized. Hint: Most female things are feminine and male things are masculine. In animate objects can be any gender, whereas in English inanimate things are neuter. There is no pattern for inanimate objects. Abstract ideas are mostly feminine.

Number: Singular (ONE) and Plural (more than one)

Case: In Latin there are 5 cases. A case shows the use of a word in a sentence. English has vestige of case for personal pronouns: Nominative, Objective and Possessive: I, me, my, you, he, him, his, she, her, we, us, our, they, them, it, its. (Remember these from grade school?) Case is shown by the endings on the words.

Subjects: Subjects are the MUSCLE of the sentence. They are the doers of the action. Subjects are in the **nominative** case. Nominative case is used for subjects. Nominative case ending is **a**.

Predicate Nominatives: Hey, do you remember these? Nouns that follow a verb of being are predicate nominatives. These occur after verbs of being. (What is a verb of being?) Verbs of being are is, am, was, were, will be, has been, will have been, had been (All the forms of to be).

Example: Mary is a firefighter. Firefighter is the predicate nominative, the verb is an equal sign.

Example: Paul is a baker. Baker is the predicate nominative following a verb of being (=).

Remember that if there is a transitive action verb the word following is probably a direct object. But that is another chapter.

Predicate adjective: See notes on Predicate nominatives: except substitute the word adjective for noun. All same rules apply.

Examples: Margarita is tall. Or Sven is terrific.

Verbs: So far all the verbs (Action words) end in the letter "t." This indicates that the subject is singular and 3rd person. The subject is either HE, SHE or IT or a singular noun. Verbs are translated "Verbs" or "is verbing" She runs or she is running. (More on verbs later!!)

Chapter 2

Direct objects: A direct object receives the action of the verb. (Think of your fist hitting the open palm of your other hand. The palm receives the hit.) Direct objects are in the **accusative** case. Accusative is the Latin word for objective case that you learned about in grade school. Accusative endings is **am**.

Example: Scintilla puell**am** salut**at**. Scintilla greets the girl. Puell**am**/girl is the direct object and receives the action of the verb salut**at**/greets.

Object of preposition: is a word that is part of a phrase which provides some modification to another word in the sentence. Some prepositions indicate that their objects are in the **accusative** case. Prepositions ad (towards), in (into) take accusative. Most prepositions take the accusative case.

Examples: Ambulat **ad** casam. She walks to the house.
Ambulat **in** casam. She walks into the house.

Chapter 3

Nouns are divided into groups called **declensions**. Nouns of the same declension do the same things in similar ways. Nouns in the same declensions all have the same endings.

1st Declension nouns: end in **-a**: subject ending: **a** object ending (DO or OP): **am**

2nd Declension nouns: ends in **-us** or **-r** Subject ending: **us** or **r** object ending (DO or OP): **um**

Cave: for some words the ending in -er the e might drop out or stay.

ager, agrum (e drops) puer, puerum (e stays) magister, magistrum (e drops)

Verbs: Verbs have 5 characteristics: person, number, tense, voice and mood.

Person: This shows who is the subject.

1st person: the speaker, (I, we)

2nd person: the spoken to (you),

3rd Person: spoken about: he, she, it, they or a noun or pronoun.

Person is indicated by the ending on the verb.

Number: Singular (ONE) Plural (More than ONE)

Tense: shows when a verb happens and how often. Present, past, future, Perfect, past perfect, future perfect (We will change the names of these later.)

Voice: Active: the subject does the action Passive: the subject is acted upon.

Mood: Shows the attitude of the speaker:

Indicative: states a fact, asks a question.

Imperative: gives a command.

Infinitive: the essence of the verb. The verbiness of the verb. The plain unadulterated action. The idea of the verb without a person and number or in Latin without the ending

Participles: a way to talk about verbiness in a sentence using the verbiness idea as an adjective

Gerund: the verbiness used as a noun.

Subjunctive: used in uncertain circumstances, unreal situations, wishes.

Hardly used in English, used a lot in Latin.

CONJUGATIONS: Verbs are divided into nifty groups called **conjugations:** Verbs in the same conjugation share a vowel.

1st conjugation: **A.** intrat
 2nd conjugation: **E.** monet
 3rd conjugation: **I.** regit
 4th conjugation: **I.** audit.

How do you tell the difference between 3rd and 4th conjugation: wait and find out. It is easier than you think!

Gender of nouns: As mentioned previously, Genders of nouns has to be memorized but there are patterns. Most first declension nouns are feminine. Second declension nouns are Masculine and neuter. Masculine nouns end in -us or -r. Neuter nouns end in -um. We haven't had neuter nouns yet. But that gives you something to look forward to!!!

Agreement of nouns and adjectives: Nouns and the adjectives that modify them agree in Gender, number and case. So if a noun is Accusative, feminine and plural, the adjective has to be accusative, feminine and plural. That makes perfect sense, doesn't it? A predicate adjective always agrees with the subject.

Cave: although nouns and adjectives agree in Gender, number and case, they do not always have the same ending:

Example: Puer est fessus. The boy is tired.

Flaccus est miser. Flaccus is sad.

But in each example the noun and adjective are both Nominative, Singular, Masculine.

Chapter 4

Verbs: Singular and plural: Verbs can be singular or plural depending on how many subjects there are.

	Singular 3rd Person		Plural 3rd Person	
1st conjugation	Parat	he/she/it prepares	parant	they prepare
2nd conjugation	Monet	hsi warns	monent	they warn
3rd conjugation	Regit	hsi rules	regunt	they rule
4th conjugation	Audit	hsi hears	audiunt	they hear
Irregular:	Est	hsi is	sunt	hsi are

Nouns also can be singular or plural. The ending indicates whether it is Singular of plural.

1st declension	Singular		Plural	
Nominative (subj)	fabula	story	fabulae	stories
Accusative (DO)	fabulam	story	fabulam	stories
2nd Declension				
Nominative (subj)	colonus	farmer	coloni	farmers
Accusative (DO)	colonum	farmer	colonos	farmers

Agreement of Subjects and verbs: Just like in English, subjects and verbs must agree. If a subject is plural, the verb must be plural; if the subject is singular, the verb must be singular.

Examples: Pullae fabulam narrant. The girls tell a story.

Coloni vident pueros. The farmers see the boys.

Notice in each sentence the plural subject has a plural ending and therefore a plural verb.

Ille and Illa: Ille (He) and Illa (She) are often used to indicate a change of subject in the sentence. If no subject is stated, then the subject is the same as the previous sentence. If ille and illa are used it indicates that the subject has changed without explicitly renaming the subject. Pop quiz time: what is the name for a word that replaces a noun? Don't look yet: It is a pronoun.

Chapter 5

Verbs Present Tense: Present tense indicates that a verb is happening now.

Now we will see how verbs are fully conjugated (written out) in the present tense.

A verb ENDING indicates what the subject is and indicates person (1, 2, 3) and number (Sing and plural). The front part of the verb indicates the meaning and the ending indicates the person, number, tense, voice and mood. As you know already, verbs share endings but different conjugations have different vowels.

1st Conjugation	Singular		Plural	
1st	clamo	I shout	clamamus	We shout
2nd	clamas	You shout	clamatis	You shout
3rd	clamat	HSI shouts	clamant	They shout

2nd Conjugation	Singular		Plural	
1st	sedeo	I sit	sedemus	We sit
2nd	sedes	You sit	sedetis	You sit

3rd	sedet	HSI sits	sedent	They sit
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3rd Conjugation	Singular		Plural	
1st	trado	I hand over	tradimus	We hand over
2nd	tradis	You hand over	traditis	You hand over
3rd	tradit	HSI hands over	tradunt	they hand over

3rd io Conjugation 4th Conjugation	Singular		Plural	
1st	dormio	I sleep	dormimus	We sleep
2nd	dormis	You sleep	dormittis	You sleep
3rd	dormit	HSI sleeps	dormunt	they sleep

Notice: the personal endings are the same for each conjugation: o, s, t, mus, tis, nt. Only the vowel changes.

Cave: the i in 3rd and 4th conjugations changes to a u in 3rd plural.

Notice that the order of the subjects is always the same. (memorize this now) Singular: I, you, he, she, or it Plural: We, you, they.

Personal endings always correspond to subjects o=I, s=You, t=he, she, or it, mus=we, tis=you, nt=they

Irregular Verb: Sum	Singular		Plural	
1st	sum	I am	sumus	We are
2nd	es	You are	estis	You are
3rd	est	HSI is	sunt	they are

The Subject of a verb does not have to be mentioned in Latin. -s always indicates You and -mus always indicates We. In English we always need to state the subject but not in Latin.

There are also two ways to translate a Latin verb: dormimus = we sleep or we are sleeping. You do not have to translate: we are sending as sumus mittimus. "Are" in English is a sort of helping verb. mittimus is enough! English is much more difficult than Latin.

Ablative Case: Ablative case is used for many things, but mostly for object of prepositions: We already used Accusative case to indicate objects of prepositions, but there are two handfuls of prepositions whose object is in the Ablative case:

Ablative Endings: 1st declension: -**ā** (a with macron) and -**is**
2nd declension: -**o** (singular) and -**is** (plural)

The SIDSPACE prepositions take the Ablative case: **S**ub, **I**n, **D**e, **S**ine, **P**ro, **A**/ab, **C**um, and **E**/ex. The object of these prepositions will take the Ablative case. In when it means IN takes Ablative and when it means INTO takes the Accusative case.
