

Grammatical Summaries for Introductory Latin

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Latin Accentuation

General rules for Latin Accentuation:

1. Accent the **second-to-last syllable**, unless that syllable is short: for-tū-na, a-mā-mus, Ro-mā-ni.
2. Accent the **third-to-last syllable** if the second-to-last syllable is short: phi-lo-so-phi-a, pe-cū-ni-a, ho-mi-nis.

The essential rule is:

Accent long penultimates, otherwise antepenultimates.

☞ **Hint:** The last syllable is never accented. If the word has only two syllables, the accent must be on the first syllable: magna cum lau-de; car-pe di-em; ex post fac-to; al-ma ma-ter.

☞ **Hint:** With words of more than two syllables you will only have the choice of **second-to-last or third-to-last**. Pick the second-to-last if it is long. Remember the phrase **mystérium treméndum**. The **-ri-** is not a long syllable, so the accent falls back to the third-to-last syllable. The **-en-** is long by the rules below, so it takes the accent.

General rules for Syllable Length:

1. Syllables are long if they **contain a long vowel** (often indicated by a punctuation mark): ser-vā-re.
2. Syllables are long if they **contain a "double-vowel sound"** (diphthong): sae-pe; lau-das.
3. Syllables are long if their vowel sound is placed **before two consonants**: pu-el-la, ter-ra, a-du-les-cen-ti-a, sum-ma. But see the exceptions below.

Exceptions for the Syllable-length Rules

1. Double-sounds like the letter **X** count as **two** consonant-sounds.
2. Single-sounds even if written with two letters, count as **one** sound (**ch, ph, th**).
3. A stop (**p, b, t, d, c, g**) plus a liquid (**l, r**) can count as **one** consonant: te-nebra.

☞ **Hint:** Learn the principles in the first box above before you go on to learn the second; learn the third box last. But you will need to know all these boxes to apply the rules correctly.

First Declension Endings

Case Name	1st Decl. Endings		Basic Meaning of the case	Example
	Sing.	Plural		
Nominative Nom. or N.	-A	-AE	the "subject" case: indicates what performs the action of the verb.	porta porta est magna . The gate is large.
Genitive Gen. or G.	-AE	-ÂRUM	the "possession" case: indicates ownership, as apostrophe + s does in English.	portae magnitudo portae = the gate's size, the size of the gate magnitudo portarum = the gates' size
Dative Dat. or D.	-AE	-ÎS	the "indirect object" case: indicates what receives the action of the verb indirectly.	portae make a bolt portae (for the gate) make bolts portis (for the gates)
Accusative Acc.	-AM	-ÂS	the "direct object" case: indicates what receives the action of the verb directly. Used with some prepositions.	portam, portâs specta portam! Look at the gate! specta portas! Look at the gates!
Ablative Abl.	-Â	-ÎS	the "by-with-from" case: shows some kind of special relationship to something else in the sentence. Used with some prepositions.	portâ, portîs de portâ = down from the gate de portis = down from the gates

General rule for forming Declension 1:

1. The root form given will be the nominative and genitive endings (-a, -ae) : porta, -ae; fama, -ae; fortuna, -ae.
2. Add the above endings to the root: the genitive minus the -ae: **port-**

There are adjectives that follow the same pattern of endings: antiqua, tua, mea, magna, multa. The endings of adjectives must agree with the gender and the number of the nouns they modify.

magna portâ

tuas filias

meam patriam amo.

☞ **CLUE:** Most of these words are feminine. Exceptions like **agricola** (farmer) and **nauta** (sailor) take the regular 1st declension endings, but the adjectives that modify them must be masculine in form.

N.B.! Some of the endings are the same for different cases; you must know the context to tell which case is being used.

-ae = gen. sg., dat. sg., nom. pl.

-îs = dat. pl., abl. pl.

N.B.! You must remember to which declensions nouns belong. Knowing the nominative and genitive forms is most helpful.

Second Declension Masculine Endings

Case Name	2st Decl. Masc. Endings		Meanings	Examples
	Sing.	Plural		
Nominative Nom. or N.	-US / -ER	-Ī	subject	> amīcus, amīcī puer, puerī ager, agrī puer amicus est. = the boy is a friend. puerī amicī sunt. ager magnus est. = The field is large. agrī magnī sunt. = The fields are large.
Genitive Gen. or G.	-Ī	-ŌRUM	possession	> amīcī, amīcōrum puerī, puerōrum agrī, agrōrum amicus puerōrum = the friend of the boys agrī magnitudo = the field's size
Dative Dat. or D.	-Ō	-ĪS	indirect object	> amīcō, amīcīs puerō, puerīs agrō, agrīs pater agrum puerō dat. = The father is giving the field to (his) boy. amicō aquam puer dat. = The boy is giving water to his friend.
Accusative Acc.	-UM	-ŌS	direct object	> amīcum, amīcōs puerum, puerōs agrum, agrōs multōs amīcōs desiderat. = He /she wants many friends. puellae agrum vident. = The girls see the field.
Ablative Abl.	-Ō	-ĪS	"by-with-from"	> amīcō, amīcīs puerō, puerīs agrō, agrīs in agrō stat puer. = The boy is standing in the field. cum amicō agrum servat puella. = The girl is saving the field with her friend.

General rule for forming Declension 2:

- The root forms given will be the nominative and genitive endings (-us, -ī; sometimes: -er, -ī)

amicus, -ī; puer, puerī; ager, agrī

- Add the above endings to the root: the genitive minus the -ī: **amic-** , **puer-** , **agr--**

There are adjectives that follow the same pattern of endings: antiquus, tuus, meus, magnus, multus. The endings of adjectives **must agree** with the **gender** and the **number** of the nouns they modify.

magnus ager

tuōs amīcōs

multōs puerōs video.

☞ **CLUE:** Almost all of these words are MASCULINE in gender.

N.B.!: Some of the endings are the same for different cases; you must know the context to tell the case.

-ī = gen. sg., nom. pl.

-ō = dat. sg., abl. sg

-īs = dat. pl., abl. pl.

Second Declension Neuter Endings

Case Name	2st Decl. Neuter. Endings		Meanings	Examples
	Sing.	Plural		
Nominative Nom. or N.	-UM	-A	subject	> donum, dona templum, templa templum magnum est. = The temple is big. dona magna sunt. = The gifts are great.
Genitive Gen. or G.	-Ī	-ŌRUM	possession	> donī, donōrum templī, templōrum portās templī video. = I see the gates of the temple.
Dative Dat. or D.	-Ō	-ĪS	indirect object	> donō, donīs templō, templīs magna dona templīs sunt. = The big gifts are for the temple.
Accusative Acc.	-UM	-A	direct object	> donum, dona templum, templa multa dona dant. = They give many gifts. puellae agrum vident. = The girls see the field.
Ablative Abl.	-Ō	-ĪS	"by-with-from"	> donō, donīs templō, templīs ex templō currit vacca. = A cow is running out of the temple.

General rule for forming Declension 2, neuter nouns:

- The root forms given will be the nominative and genitive endings (-um, -ī).

templum, -ī donum, -ī consilium, -iī officium, -iī

- Add the above endings to the root (the genitive minus the -ī) **templ-** , **don-** , **consili-**, **offici-** .

There are adjectives that follow the same pattern of endings: antiquum, tuum, meum, magnum, multum. The endings of adjectives **must agree** with the **gender** and the **number** of the nouns they modify.

magnum templum

multa dona

consiliis bonis

☞ **CLUE: Neuter nominatives and accusatives are always the same form:**

nom. sg.: **templum**

nom. pl.: **templa**

acc. pl.: **templum**

acc. pl.: **templa**

N.B.! Some of the endings are the same for different cases; you must know the context to tell the case.

-um = nom. sg., acc. sg.

-ō = dat. sg., abl. sg.

-a = nom. pl., acc. pl.

-īs = dat. pl., abl. pl.

Third Declension Endings

Case	3d Decl. Masc. / Fem. Endings		Examples of MASCULINE and FEMININE 3d declension nouns
N.	Sing.	Plural	> rex, reges virtus, virtutes <u>rex bonus multas virtutes praebet.</u> = The good king shows many virtues. <u>virtutes civitatem servant.</u> = Virtues save the state.
	-----	-ES	
G.	-IS	-UM	> regis, regum virtutis, virtutum <u>regis patria antiqua est.</u> = The king's fatheland is ancient. <u>praemia virtutum omnes desiderant.</u> = All want the rewards of the virtues.
D.	-I	-IBUS	> regi, regibus virtuti, virtutibus <u>magna dona regi dabant.</u> = They used to give great gifts to the king. <u>virtutibus student.</u> = They are eager for the virtues.
Acc.	-EM	-ES	> regem, reges virtutem, virtutes <u>regem vident feminae.</u> = The women see the king. <u>puellae virtutes multas habent.</u> = The girls have many virtues.
Abl.	-E	-IBUS	> rege, regibus virtute, virtutibus <u>virtute potest inimicos superare.</u> = By means of virtue, she can overcome her enemies. <u>de regibus cogitant nautae.</u> = The sailors are thinking about the kings.

Case	3d Decl. Neuter Endings		Examples of NEUTER 3d declension nouns
N.	Sing.	Plural	> corpus, corpora tempus, tempora <u>tempus fugit.</u> = Time is fleeing. <u>Tempora bona sunt.</u> = The times are good.
	-----	-A	
G.	-IS	-UM	> corporis, corporum temporis, temporum <u>corporis magnitudo</u> = the size of the body
D.	-I	-IBUS	> corpori, corporibus tempori, temporibus <u>corporibus nostris</u> = for our bodies
Acc.	-----	-A	> corpus, corpora tempus, tempora <u>corpora in agris videbant feminae.</u> = The women saw the bodies in the fields.
Abl.	-E	-IBUS	> corpore, corporibus tempore, temporibus <u>ex tempore dicebat.</u> = He spoke "out of that moment" (ex tempore).

Notice: (1) Neuter **nominatives** and **accusatives** are the same, as usual. (2) The stem is the genitive singular **minus the -is**: **reg-**, **virtut-**, **tempor-**. You must know it to form the cases.

Present Imperatives for Conjugations I and II

I	laudare = to love	lauda! = (you) love!	laudate! = (you pl.) love!
II	moneo = to advise	mone! = (you) warn!	monete! = (you pl.) advise!
III	currere = to run	curre! = (you) run	currite! = (you pl.) run!
III-io	capere = to take	cape! = (you) take!	capite! = (you pl.) take!
IV	audire = to hear	audi! = (you) hear!	audite! = (you pl.) hear!

General rule for forming Conjugation I and II present imperatives, singular and plural:

1. **Take the "present stem"** (the part to which the endings are added, e.g., lauda-, da-, ama-, mone-, vide-).
2. **By itself**, it is the present **singular** imperative: **lauda! da! ama! mone! vide!**
3. **Add "-te"** and you have the present **plural** imperative: **laudate! date! amate! monete! videte!**

First two parts of the verb		Pres.imp.sg.	Pres.imp.pl.
laudo	laudare	lauda	laudate
moneo	monere	mone	monete
do	dare	da	date
erro	errare	erra	errate
servo	servare	serva	servate
conservo	conservare	conserva	conservate
valeo	valere	vale	valete
video	videre	vide	videte
voco	vocare	voca	vocate
amo	amare	ama	amate
cogito	cogitare	cogita	cogitate
debeo	debere	debe	debete

First Conjugation words like **amo, erro, cogito, do, laudo, servo**, etc., have stems that end in **-a**.

Second Conjugation words like **video, valeo, timeo, debeo, moneo**, etc., have stems that end in **-e**.

You can identify the conjugation of a verb by learning the present infinitive and removing the final **-re**: if the last vowel is a long a, the verb is probably first conjugation (**amare – re = ama**), if it is long e, it is probably second conjugation (**monere – re = mone**).

☞ **CLUE:** Second Conjugation words tend to have **-EO** in the 1st sg present indicative active form: moneo, video, debeo, valeo, timeo.

N.B.! You must remember to which conjugations the verbs belong. This will be a great and necessary help for many forms. The more reading and exercise you do, the less of a problem this will be.

Declensions 1, 2, and 3 Endings

1st Decl. Feminine		2nd Decl. Masc.		2nd Decl. Neuter.		3d Decl. Masc. / Fem.		3d Decl. Neuter	
Sing.	Plural	Sing.	Plural	Sing.	Plural	Sing.	Plural	Sing.	Plural
-A	-AE	-US / -ER	-Ī	-UM	-A	-----	-ES	-----	-A
-AE	-ĀRUM	-Ī	-ŌRUM	-Ī	-ŌRUM	-IS	-UM	-IS	-UM
-AE	-ĪS	-Ō	-ĪS	-Ō	-ĪS	-I	-IBUS	-I	-IBUS
-AM	-ĀS	-UM	-ŌS	-UM	-A	-EM	-ES	-----	-A
-Ā	-ĪS	-Ō	-ĪS	-Ō	-ĪS	-E	-IBUS	-E	-IBUS

Sing.	Plural	Sing.	Plural	Sing.	Plural	Sing.	Plural	Sing.	Plural
puella	puellae	puer	pueri	templum	templa	homo	homines	corpus	corpora
puellae	puellarum	pueri	puerorum	templi	templorum	hominis	hominum	corporis	corporum
puellae	puellis	puero	pueris	templō	templis	homini	hominibus	corpori	corporibus
puellam	puellas	puerum	pueros	templum	templa	hominem	homines	corpus	corpora
puellā	puellis	puero	pueris	templo	templis	homine	hominibus	corpore	corporibus

Notice the similarities and differences across the table for each case, especially the accusative:

Singulars

nominative	puella	puer	templum	homo	corpus
genitive	puellae	pueri	templi	hominis	corporis
dative	puellae	puero	templō	homini	corpori
accusative	puellam	puerum	templum	hominem	corpus
ablative	puellā	puero	templo	homine	corpore

Plurals

nominative	puellae	pueri	templa	homines	corpora
genitive	puellarum	puerorum	templorum	hominum	corporum
dative	puellis	pueris	templis	hominibus	corporibus
accusative	puellas	pueros	templa	homines	corpora
ablative	puellis	pueris	templis	hominibus	corporibus

All Declension Endings Compared

SINGULAR

I	II		III		IV		V
***	m	n	m/f	n	m/f	n	***
-a	-us*	-um	(various)	(various)	-us	-û	-ês
-ae	-î	-î	-is	-is	ûs	-ûs	-êî
-ae	-ô	-ô	-î	-î	-ui	-û	-êî
-am	-um	-um	-em	(= nom.)	-um	-û	-em
-â	-ô	-ô	-e / -î**	-e / -î**	û	-û	-ê

* sometime -er, as in puer, ager
and V are almost all feminine.

** -î for adjectives of the third declension and special neuter nouns like mare

*** The nouns of I

PLURAL

I	II		III		IV		V
***	m	n	m/f	n	m/f	n	***
-ae	-î	-a	-es	-a / -ia	-ûs	-ua	-ês
-ârum	-ôrum	-ôrum	-um / -ium	-um / -ium	-uum	-uum	-êrum
-îs	-îs	-îs	-ibus	-ibus	-ibus	-ibus	-êbus
-âs	-ôs	-a	-ês	-a / -ia	-ûs	-ua	-ês
-îs	-îs	-îs	-ibus	-ibus	-ibus	-ibus	-êbus

Remember: (1) Neuter nominative and accusative forms are identical. (2) Neuter plural nominatives and accusatives usually end in -a.

Hic / Ille / Iste and Adjectives with -IUS Genitives

The pronouns **hic**, **ille**, **iste** also have **-ius** and **-i** in the genitive and dative singulars (but **huic** for the dative singular for **hic**, **haec**, **hoc**). Practice saying aloud the following tables until you become very familiar with the sounds of these forms. Notice especially the forms that are underlined. The plurals are regular, just like the plurals for **bonus**, **bona**, **bonum** except for **haec** as neuter plural nominative / accusative.

hic	haec	hoc
huius	huius	huius
<u>huic</u>	<u>huic</u>	<u>huic</u>
<u>hunc</u>	<u>hanc</u>	<u>hoc</u>
<u>hōc</u>	<u>hāc</u>	<u>hōc</u>

ille	illa	<u>illud</u>
illius	illius	illius
illi	illi	illi
illum	illam	<u>illud</u>
illō	illā	illō

iste	ista	<u>istud</u>
istius	istius	istius
isti	isti	isti
istum	istam	<u>istud</u>
istō	istā	istō

hī	hae	<u>haec</u>
hōrum	hārum	hōrum
hīs	hīs	hīs
hōs	hās	<u>haec</u>
hīs	hīs	hīs

illi	illae	illa
illōrum	illārum	illōrum
illis	illis	illis
illōs	illās	illa
illis	illis	illis

isti	istae	ista
istōrum	istārum	istōrum
istis	istis	istis
istōs	istās	ista
istis	istis	istis

hic, **haec**, **hoc** = this hic vir = this man, haec puella = this girl, hoc studium = this eagerness

N.B: haec can also be neuter plural nom/acc: haec vitia, haec basia

ille, **illa**, **illud** = that ille liber = that book, illa civitas = that state, illud tempus = that time

iste, **ista**, **istud** = "that (x) of yours" ista sententia = "that opinion of yours (which I do not share)"

"-ius adjectives"

Everything is regular about the following important adjectives, except **singular genitives (-ius)** and **singular dative (-i)** forms. Remember these words through the mnemonic "unus nauta":

N.B.: Alius, a, um usually becomes alterius in the genitive, but alius is also possible.

Unus , una, unum	one	Neuter , neutra, neutrum	neither
Nullus , nulla, nullum	none	Alius , alia, aliud	other, another
Ullus , ulla, ullum	any	Uter , utra, utrum	either, which (of two)
Solus , sola, solum	alone, only	Totus , tota, totum	whole, entire
		Alter , altera, alterum	the other (of two)

Examples for First Person Endings in the Indicative Mood, All Conjugations

Simple Tenses

	I	II	III	III-IO	IV
present active	AMO	MONEO	MITTO	CAPIO	AUDIO
present passive	AMOR	MONEOR	MITTOR	CAPIOR	AUDIOR
imperfect active	AMABAM	MONEBAM	MITTEBAM	CAPIEBAM	AUDIEBAM
imperfect passive	AMABAR	MONEBAR	MITTEBAR	CAPIEBAR	AUDIEBAR
future active	AMABO	MONEBO	MITTAM	CAPIAM	AUDIAM
future passive	AMABOR	MONEBOR	MITTAR	CAPIAR	AUDIAR

Perfect Tenses

	I	II	III	III-IO	IV
present perfect active	AMAVI	MONUI	MISI	CEPI	AUDIVI
present perfect passive	AMATUS/-A SUM	MONITUS/-A SUM	MISSUS/-A SUM	CAPTUS/-A SUM	AUDITUS/-A SUM
past perfect active	AMAVERAM	MONUERAM	MISERAM	CEPERAM	AUDIVERAM
past perfect passive	AMATUS/-A ERAM	MONITUS/-A ERAM	MISSUS/-A ERAM	CAPTUS/-A ERAM	AUDITUS/-A ERAM
future perfect active	AMAVERO	MONUERO	MISERO	CEPERO	AUDIVERO
future perfect passive	AMATUS/-A ERO	MONITUS/-A ERO	MISSUS/-A ERO	CAPTUS/-A ERO	AUDITUS/-A ERO

Active and Passive Endings for the First Conjugation in the Indicative Mood

Simple Tenses

Tense-Voice	Principal Part Used	Sign	Ending	EXAMPLE	Possible translations
PRESENT ACTIVE	present stem, taken from the second principal part	(depends on conjugation)	-o	AMO	I love, I do love, I am loving
PRESENT PASSIVE	present stem, taken from the second principal part	(depends on conjugation)	-r	AMOR	I am loved, I am being loved
IMPERFECT ACTIVE	present stem, taken from the second principal part	-ba-	-m	AMABAM	I was loving, I used to love, I would love
IMPERFECT PASSIVE	present stem, taken from the second principal part	-ba-	-r	AMABAR	I was loved, I used to be loved, I would be loved
FUTURE ACTIVE	present stem, taken from the second principal part	-b-	-o	AMABO	I will love
FUTURE PASSIVE	present stem, taken from the second principal part	-b-	-r	AMABOR	I will be loved

Perfect Tenses

Tense-Voice	Principal Part Used	Sign	Ending	EXAMPLES	Possible translations
PRESENT PERFECT ACTIVE	perfect stem, taken from the third principal part		-î	AMAVI	I have loved, I did love, I loved
PRESENT PERFECT PASSIVE	past participle, which is the fourth principal part	(perfect participle) +	sum	AMATUS/-A SUM	I have been loved, I was loved
PAST PERFECT ACTIVE	perfect stem, taken from the third principal part	-era-	-m	AMAVERAM	I had loved
PAST PERFECT PASSIVE	past participle, which is the fourth principal part	(perfect participle) +	eram	AMATUS/-A ERAM	I had been loved
FUTURE PERFECT ACTIVE	perfect stem, taken from the third principal part	-er-	-o	AMAVERO	I will have loved
FUTURE PERFECT PASSIVE	past participle, which is the fourth principal part	(perfect participle) +	ero	AMATUS/-A ERO	I will have been loved