

Clues to Latin Verb-Forms

Latin verb-forms usually have a **tripartite structure**. The **first part** is the **base** or **root** of the word. It carries the basic meaning or idea of the word:

vid- = see **curr-** = run **iuv-** = help

The **third part** is the **personal ending**. This part tells you **WHO** is being highlighted as **performing or receiving or governing** the action implied by the verb; that is, the personal ending indicates the **subject of the clause**:

You see. **They** run. **We** are being helped.

The Latin personal endings are taken from one of only **three sets of six endings** (three persons in singular and three in plural). These endings give you the **person** and the **voice**.

<i>Personal Endings:</i>	<i>Active</i>	<i>Passive / Deponent</i>	<i>Perfect Indicative Active</i>	<i>These endings usually mean:</i>
1ST SINGULAR	- m / -ô	- r	- î	I you (singular) he / she / it
2D SINGULAR	- s	- ris (= -re)	- istî	
3D SINGULAR	- t	- tur	- it	
1ST PLURAL	- mus	- mur	- imus	we you (plural) they
2D PLURAL	- tis	- minî	- istis	
3D PLURAL	- nt	- ntur	- êrunt (= -êre)	

Whereas the **active and passive / deponent personal endings** are used in many different tenses, and in both **indicative and subjunctive** moods, the **perfect indicative active endings do not occur elsewhere** in the table of verb-forms. Therefore, perfect indicative active endings attached to the stem of the third part of the verb (the perfect stem) give you a sure clue to recognizing the form. But usually the **tense and mood clues** are embedded in the **middle part of the verb**. Learn how to register these clues automatically by becoming aware of **the letter or letters that immediately precede the personal ending**.

-A- -Â-	present subjunctive for II, III, III-io, IV →	moneâtis, ponâtur, capiant, audiam
	present indicative for I →	laudant, precâminî, stat, fatur, amâtis
	future indicative, 1st singular for III, III-io, IV →	pônâ, dúcâ, capiâr, audiam, legâr
-E- -Ê-	present subjunctive for I →	amem, adôrêmus, stet, dê, hortêmur
	present indicative for II →	monet, tenêmur, continent, fatêminî
	future indicative for III, III-io, IV →	dúcêmus, capient, audiêris, sequêris
	pres ind passive / deponent 2d sg for III, III-io →	caperis, dúcêris, sequeris, loqueris
-I- -Î-	present indicative for III, III-io, IV	premitur, capit, audîris, sequimur, dúcis
-U- -IU-	present indicative 3d pl for III, III-io, IV	regunt, nesciunt, loquuntur, veniunt
-B- -BI- -BE- -BU-	future indicative for I, II	laudâbô, conâberis, amâbuntur, dêbêbit, monêbitur
- BA-	imperfect indicative for all conjugations	clamâbam, timêbat, regêbâmus, iungêbâmur, agêbam, monêbantur

-ERA- -ERÂ-	pluperfect indicative active for all conjugations	amâverâmus, didicerâtis, polîverant
-ER- -ERI- -ERÎ-	future perfect indicative active → [-erô in 1st sg.] perfect subjunctive active → [-erim in 1st sg.; î in 2d sg, 1st and 2d plural]	cantâverô, cênâverimus, dixêrint, monueris amaverim, responderîs, incêperîmus
-ÂRE- -ÊRE- -ERE- -ÎRE-	imperfect subjunctive NOTE: This form looks like a present active infinitive with a personal ending attached.	ôrârêmus, dûcerentur, audîret, tenerêtur, caperêmur, sequerêtur, hortârêtur, servîrêminî
-ISSE-	pluperfect subjunctive active NOTE: This form looks like a perfect active infinitive with a personal ending attached.	mansissêmus, timuissent, amâvissês, cecinissêtis

When verbs have **two parts**, the past participle (ppl.) and a part taken from the verb *to be* (**esse**), they are usually **PERFECT** and **PASSIVE / DEPONENT**. (Other two-part forms are future infinitives like **actûrus esse, monitum îrî.**)

(PAST PPL.) + SUM	perfect indicative passive / deponent	amâtî sunt, locûta est, mentîtî sumus
(PAST PPL.) + ERAM	pluperfect indicative passive / deponent	ductus eram, recitâtum erat, secûtae erâtis
(PAST PPL.) + ERÔ	future perfect indicative passive / deponent	inventî erint, amâta eris, superâtus erô
(PAST PPL.) + SIM	perfect subjunctive passive / deponent	laudâtus sit, dêsîderâta sint, hortâtî sîmus
(PAST PPL.) + ESSEM	pluperfect subjunctive passive / deponent	sublâta essent, victus essem, ingressus esset

Other verbal forms also have easily noticeable clues:

-TUS / -SUS	perfect participle [endings change with case, 1 / 2 declension]	amâta, datô, dictîs, laudâtârum
-NS / -NT-	present participle [endings change with case, 3d declension]	currêns, audientis, venientibus
-ND-	gerundive (future passive participle) or gerund [endings change with case, 1 / 2 declension]	dêlenda, agenda, mittendî
-ÛR-	future active participle [endings change with case, 1 / 2 declension]	moritûrî, vîsûrus, mixtûrôrum