

## Latin grammar - REVISION AID

### The basics covered in Year 6:

#### 1. NOUNS

Nouns in Latin have a **gender**. They are either masculine, feminine or neuter (we look mainly at masculine & feminine in Y6)

**masculine nouns** usually end in **-us** e.g. Augustus, elephantus, hortus (garden)

**feminine nouns** usually end in **-a** e.g. Helena, vacca (cow), villa (house)

N.B. some nouns are irregular and you just have to learn their gender

E.g. feles (cat) is feminine      canis (dog) is masculine

**There is no article (a / the) in Latin** so 'servus' could be **a** slave or **the** slave

Noun endings change depending on their job in the sentence. The ending will show if the noun is the **subject** (nominative) or **object** (accusative) of the sentence

'a' noun endings	one (singular)	more than one (plural)
subject	a	ae
object	am	as

'us' noun endings	one (singular)	more than one (plural)
subject	us	i
object	um	os

E.g. vacca porc**um** videt – The cow sees the pig

porcus vacc**am** videt – The pig sees the cow

**English relies on word order to convey meaning whereas Latin uses noun endings**

## 2. ADJECTIVES

If you put an adjective with a noun then you must choose the right ending for the adjective

E.g. porcus malus = a / the bad pig (you cannot say porcus mala)

vacca bona = a / the good cow (you cannot say vacca bonus)

horti squalidi = messy gardens (you cannot say horti squalidae)

viae sordidae = dirty streets (you cannot say viae sordidi)

**The adjective must 'agree' with the noun they describe in gender & number**

N.B. servus callidus = a / the clever slave BUT servus callidus **est** = The slave **is** clever

## 3. VERBS

There are **no pronouns** (I, you we, they) in Latin.

To find out who is doing the action you need to look at the ending

The **present tense**

e.g. 'amare' to love

amo = I love

amamus = we love

amas = you (singular) love

amatis = you (plural) love

amat = he /she/ it loves

amant = they love

'laborare' to work

laboro = I work

laboramus = we work

laboras = you (singular) work

laboratis = you (plural) work

laborat = he / she/ it works

laborant = they work

N.B. In English we can translate the present tense 'laboro' as '**I work**' OR '**I am working**'. Both actions are happening now. You choose the one which sounds best in your translation

**Look at the ending of the verb to identify WHO is doing the action**

'o' = I 's' = you (s), 't' = he/she/it 'mus' = we, 'tis' = you (pl), 'nt' = they

The **most important verb**, as in all languages, is '**esse**' – **to be**

Learn this verb BY HEART. It is irregular (does not obey the rules)

**sum** = I am      **es** = you are (s)      **est** = he/she/it is, there is

**sumus** = we are      **estis** = you are (pl)      **sunt** = they are

Generally the verb comes at the end of the sentence in Latin

If the sentence is very simple the word 'est' can have the same order as English

e.g. Flavia est mater = Flavia is the mother

### **The imperfect (past continuous)**

This is an action of the past that is still continuing.

It translates as '**I was -ing**'. It always has **-ba** in the end so easy to recognise!

e.g. clamare –to shout

clamab**am** – I was shouting

clama**bamus** – we were shouting

clamab**as** – you were shouting

clama**batis** – you (pl) were shouting

clamab**at** – he / she was shouting

clama**bant** – they were shouting

**Again look at the ending of the verb to identify WHO is doing the action**

**-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)

Here is '**to be**' (the most important verb) in the imperfect. It is irregular so just learn it!

**eram** = I was      **eras** = you were (s)      **erat** = he/she/it was

**eramus** = we were    **eratis** = you were (pl)    **erant** = they were

### Impersonal verbs

These are verbs that has 'it' as the subject. Examples include:

necesse es – it is necessary/must,    difficile es – it is difficult,    pluit – it is raining

### The infinitive

This is the verb in its basic form. The infinitive form of the verb in Latin usually ends in **-are**, **-ere**, **-ire** and we translate these as 'to ...' e.g. 'amare' to love, regere to rule, 'audire' to hear    N.B 'esse' – to be, is irregular and does not follow this pattern

In the Minimus glossary, verbs were listed in the first person present tense & infinitive.

e.g. bibo, -ere I drink;    canto, -are I sing

Many famous quotations / mottoes contain an infinitive:

Tottenham Hotspur    *audere est facere* (to dare is to do)

If a verb has the same ending as the infinitive but no "re" it is an **imperative**, or order

ama – love!    rege – rule!    audi – listen!

If there is a 'te' at the end of the above words it becomes an order in the plural

amate – love! (all of you)    redite – rule ! (all of you)    audite – listen ! (all of you)

The verb is the most important word in the sentence. Ask yourself three questions when translating verbs:

**WHAT** is the action? (What does the vocabulary mean?)

**WHO** is doing the action? (Which person? Look at the ending)

**WHEN** is it happening? (What tense? present or imperfect?)

#### 4. ADVERBS

An adverb 'adds' to a 'verb', telling us more about how, when, where or why something happened

Many adverbs in English end in – **ly** e.g. quickly, carefully

Many adverbs in Latin end in – **ter** e.g. celeriter, diligenter

There are exceptions to the rule just as there are in English e.g. male (badly), bene (well)

examples using adverbs

**celeriter** currunt – they run **quickly** / they are running **quickly**

**diligenter** laborat – s/he works **carefully** / s/he is working **carefully**

#### 5. PREPOSITIONS

Prepositions are small words which tell you the position of someone or something

**in** onto, into, **ad** to, towards, **trans** across, **prope** near, **circum** around

**sub** under, **super** above, **pro** in front of, **per** through, **inter** between

e.g. equus **per** aquam currit – The horse runs **through** the water

**circum** villam laboras – You work **around** the house

#### 6. CONJUNCTIONS

Conjunctions are often called joining words. They can make sentences longer and more interesting by joining them together.

**quod** because, **et** and, **sed** but, **quamquam** although, **tamen** however

e.g. Claudia laeta est **quod** Lepidina visitat - Claudia is happy **because** Lepidina is visiting

Candidus laborat **sed** Corinthus dormit – Candidus is working **but** Corinthus sleeps