LATIN

GRAMMAR

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PART 1

FORMS

INTRODUCTORY

1 **The Alphabet.** The Latin alphabet has no **w** or **y**; otherwise it is the same as the English.

Pronunciation.[1] The Latin letters are pronounced as follows:

2 **Vowels:**

Long	*Short*
ā as in *father;*	**a** as in *facility;*
ē as in *they;*	**e** as in *get;*
ī as in *machine;*	**i** as in *fit;*
ō as in *no;*	**o** as in *obey;*
ū as in *rule.*	**u** as in *put.*

3 **Note:** Very often in practice the difference between the long and short vowels is ignored, all of them being given the quality of long vowels. In reading poetry a quantitative difference alone is then maintained between long and short vowels.

4 **Diphthongs:**

ae, **oe** } like *e* in *they;*

au like *ou* in *out.*

5 **Consonants:**

Most of the consonants are pronounced as in English, but **c** and **g** are soft before **e, i, ae, oe**; otherwise hard.

Hard **c** as in *cat;* soft **c** as in *cell.*

Hard **g** as in *gun;* soft **g** as in *germ.*

j is pronounced like **y** as in *yet.*

[1]For the Roman and Italian systems see Nos. 1018-19. The system here given is called the Continental or Traditional System.

Division into Syllables.

6 a. A single consonant goes with the following vowel.

mā/ter; nau/ta; nō/men

7 b. Two or more consonants are divided after the first.

por/ta; exer/citus; pul/chra

8 **Note:** But when a mute (**c, g, p, b, t, d**) or **f** is followed by **r** or **l**, both consonants go with the following vowel.

la/crima; a/grum; pa/trem; va/fra; locu/plēs

Accent.

9 a. In words of two syllables the accent is on the first.

vía; béllum

10 b. In words of more than two syllables, if the second last syllable is long it is accented; otherwise the accent is on the third last syllable.

vidḗrunt; ágmĭne

Quantity of Syllables.

11 a. A syllable is short if it contains a vowel that is short by nature or that is followed by another vowel or diphthong.

regĕre; glŏria

12 b. A syllable is long if it contains a vowel that is long by nature[1] or a vowel that is followed by two consonants other than a mute (**c, g, p, b, t, d**) or **f** followed by a liquid (**r, l**).

studēre; regendus

13 **Note:** **x** and **z** each count as two consonants (*cs* and *ds*); **h** and the **u** in **qu** do not count as consonants.

[1]In this GRAMMAR and in its companion volumes all vowels *long by nature* are marked, as: *studēre*. Otherwise they are unmarked.

NOUNS

14 **Nouns** have gender, number, case, and declension.

15 **Gender.** There are three genders in Latin: masculine, feminine, neuter.

16 All nouns meaning individual male persons are masculine.

17 All nouns meaning individual female persons are feminine.

18 The gender of other nouns must be learned from their declension or from the vocabularies.

19 **Number.** There are two numbers in Latin: singular and plural.

20 The singular speaks of one: **via,** *a road.*

21 The plural speaks of more than one: **viae,** *roads.*

22 **Case.** There are six cases in Latin:

Nominative:	the case of the **Subject.**
Genitive:	the case of the **Possessor.**
Dative:	the case of the **Indirect Object**; the **'to' or 'for'** case.
Accusative:	the case of the **Direct Object.**
Ablative:	the **'by-with-from'** case [used *frequently* with prepositions].
Vocative:	the case of the **Person Addressed.**

23 **Declension.** Declension consists in adding the proper ENDINGS to the STEM to show the different genders, numbers, and cases.

24 **Stem.** The stem is found by dropping the ENDING of the GENITIVE SINGULAR.

vi-ae, *stem:* **vi-**

25 **The Five Declensions.** There are five declensions in Latin. They can be distinguished by the endings of the genitive singular.

1	2	3	4	5
-ae	**-ī**	**-is**	**-ūs**	**-eī**
vi-ae	**serv-ī**	**lēg-is**	**port-ūs**	**r-eī**

26 **How to Decline a Noun.** The nominative, genitive, and gender of a noun determine which model it follows. Add the endings of that model to the stem.

Note:

27 a. The **stem** is that part of the word which remains the same in spelling throughout the declension. It gives the **meaning** of the word. The **endings** show **what the word does** in the sentence, whether it is the subject, direct object, indirect object, *etc.*

28 b. The vocative of all nouns and adjectives is always like the nominative except in singular nouns in **-us** of the second declension: these have **-e. Serv-e!** *Slave!* **Exceptions:** Proper nouns in **-ius** and **fīlius,** *son,* have only **-ī** in the vocative singular. **Vergilius,** voc. **Vergilī; fīlius,** voc. **fīlī.** The vocative singular of **Deus,** *God,* is **Deus;** the vocative masculine singular of **meus** is **mī; fīlī mī!** *my son!*

29 c. The accusative of neuter nouns and adjectives is always like the nominative.

30 d. Names of towns, and **domus,** *home,* and **rūs,** *country,* have another case—the locative—expressing place where. In singulars of the first and second declensions the locative is like the genitive: **Rōmae,** *at Rome.* In all others it is like the ablative: **Carthāgine (Carthāgō, Carthāginis),** *at Carthage.* But **rūs,** *country,* has **rūrī** or **rūre,** *in the country.* See No. 915.

31 **The First Declension.**

	Form	*Meaning*	*Use*
S. *Nom.*	terr-a	*land, the (a)*[1] *land*	*subject*
Gen.	terr-ae	*of the (a) land*	*possessive*
Dat.	terr-ae	*to or for the (a) land*	*indirect object*
Acc.	terr-am	*the (a) land*	*direct object*
Abl.	terr-ā	*by, with, from the (a) land*	
P. *Nom.*	terr-ae	*lands, the lands*	*subject*
Gen.	terr-ārum	*of the lands*	*possessive*
Dat.	terr-īs	*to or for the lands*	*indirect object*
Acc.	terr-ās	*lands, the lands*	*direct object*
Abl.	terr-īs	*by, with, from the lands*	

Gender:[2]

32 a. All nouns naming individual male persons are masculine.

nauta, ae, *a sailor,* masculine. (Sailors are usually *men.)*

33 b. All others are feminine.

terra, ae, *land,* feminine.

[1]There is no article, definite *(the)* or indefinite *(a, an)* in Latin. *Terra,* therefore, translates 'land,' 'a land,' 'the land.'

[2]No gender will be indicated in the vocabularies for nouns following the rules given in the GRAMMAR; all others will have their gender indicated and should be so learned.

34 Masculine Nouns of the Second Declension.

		Form	*Meaning*	*Use*
S.	*Nom.*	serv-us	*the slave*[1]	*subject*
	Gen.	serv-ī[2]	*of the slave, the slave's*	*possessive*
	Dat.	serv-ō	*to or for the slave*	*indirect object*
	Acc.	serv-um	*the slave*	*direct object*
	Abl.	serv-ō	*by, with, from the slave*	
P.	*Nom.*	serv-ī	*the slaves*	*subject*
	Gen.	serv-ōrum	*of the slaves, the slaves'*	*possessive*
	Dat.	serv-īs	*to or for the slaves*	*indirect object*
	Acc.	serv-ōs	*the slaves*	*direct object*
	Abl.	serv-īs	*by, with, from the slaves*	

35 **Gender:** Generally masculine.

36 **Note:** Proper names in **-ius** and **fīlius,** *son,* form their vocative singular in **-ī. Vergilius, Vergilī; fīlius, fīlī.**

[1]*Servus,* of course, may be translated either 'slave,' 'the slave,' or 'a slave.'

[2]Nouns in *-ius* and *-ium* more properly have *ī* in the genitive in place of *ii* (as *fīlius,* gen. *fīlī; ingenium,* gen. *ingenī*) but in the first two years of this course the full form in *ii* will be used. The accent in the contracted form remains where it was in the uncontracted form: *ingénii, ingénī.*

37 Neuter Nouns of the Second Declension.

		Form	*Meaning*	*Use*
S.	*Nom.*	bell-um	*the war*[1]	*subject*
	Gen.	bell-ī	*of the war*	*possessive*
	Dat.	bell-ō	*to or for the war*	*indirect object*
	Acc.	bell-um	*the war*	*direct object*
	Abl.	bell-ō	*by, with, from the war*	
P.	*Nom.*	bell-a	*the wars*	*subject*
	Gen.	bell-ōrum	*of the wars*	*possessive*
	Dat.	bell-īs	*to or for the wars*	*indirect object*
	Acc.	bell-a	*the wars*	*direct object*
	Abl.	bell-īs	*by, with, from the wars*	

38 **Gender:** All neuter.[2]

39 **Note:** The accusative is like the nominative in all neuter nouns and adjectives. Thus, singular nom. **bellum,** acc. **bellum;** plural nom. **bella,** acc. **bella.** (Cf. **flūmen,** No. 64, **gravis, e,** No. 78, *etc.*)

[1]*Bellum,* of course, may be translated 'war,' 'the war,' or 'a war.'

[2]There are no exceptions.

40 **Vir, virī,** *man,* and words like **ager, agrī,** *field,* and **puer, puerī,** *boy,* belong to the second declension. (Note the genitive in **-ī**.) They are declined like **servus** except in the nominative (and vocative) singular. Thus:

41		42		43	
	vir		ager		puer
	vir-ī		agr-ī		puer-ī
	vir-ō		agr-ō		puer-ō
	vir-um		agr-um		puer-um
	vir-ō		agr-ō		puer-ō
	vir-ī		agr-ī		puer-ī
	vir-ōrum		agr-ōrum		puer-ōrum
	vir-īs		agr-īs		puer-īs
	vir-ōs		agr-ōs		puer-ōs
	vir-īs		agr-īs		puer-īs

44 **Deus, ī,** *God,* shows peculiarities in the underlined forms. The vocative singular is **Deus.**

	Sing.	*Plural*
Nom.	deus	dī (deī, diī)[1]
Gen.	deī	deōrum (deūm)
Dat.	deō	dīs (deīs, diīs)
Acc.	deum	deōs
Abl.	deō	dīs (deīs, diīs)

[1]The forms in parentheses occur in some writers.

45 **The Third Declension.** The nominative singular of the third declension has no model ending. Thus **lēx,** *law,* **pars,** *part,* **flūmen,** *river,* **hostis,** *enemy,* are all nouns of the third declension. The genitive ending (for the third declension, always **-is**) shows the declension and gives the stem.

Gender:[1]

46 Nouns naming individual male persons are masculine:
mīles, mīlitis, *m., soldier*

47 Nouns naming individual female persons are feminine:
māter, mātris, *f., mother*

48 **Note:** These two rules (Nos. 46, 47) should always be applied before Nos. 49 to 52. Thus **mīles** would be feminine by the SOX rule (No. 50), but rule No. 46 is applied first, hence **mīles** is masculine.

49 Nouns ending in **-er, -or** (ERROR) are masculine.

50 Nouns ending in **-s, -o, -x** (SOX) are feminine.

51 Nouns ending in **-l, -a, -n, -c, -e, -t** (LANCET) are neuter.

52 **Note:** But masculīnī generis
are words in **-os, -nis, -guis,** and **-cis,**
in **-es** (**-itis**) and **-ex** (**-icis**);
as neuter mark the **-us** (with **-ris**).

53 **Declension.** First find the gender of the noun. Then find the stem from the genitive.

54 For masculine and feminine nouns, add the endings of **lēx** or **pars** according to the rules in Nos. 59-63.

55 For neuter nouns add the endings of **flūmen.**[2]

56 The vocative is always like the nominative.

[1]When the gender of nouns follows rules Nos. 44 to 51, no gender will be given in the companion volumes; thus, *pars, partis* (sox). When nouns follow rule No. 52 or are altogether exceptional the gender will be given, thus, *tempus, temporis, n.*

[2]For the few exceptions see the footnote on No. 64.

Masculine and Feminine Nouns of the Third Declension.

		57		58	
S.	*Nom.*	lēx	*the law*	pars	*the part*
	Gen.	lēg-is	*of the law*	part-is	*of the part*
	Dat.	lēg-ī	*to (for) the law*	part-ī	*to (for) the part*
	Acc.	lēg-em	*the law*	part-em	*the part*
	Abl.	lēg-e	*by, etc., the law*	part-e	*by, etc., the part*
P.	*Nom.*	lēg-ēs	*the laws*	part-ēs	*the parts*
	Gen.	lēg-um	*of the laws*	part-ium	*of the parts*
	Dat.	lēg-ibus	*to (for) the laws*	part-ibus	*to (for) the parts*
	Acc.	lēg-ēs	*the laws*	part-ēs	*the parts*
	Abl.	lēg-ibus	*by, etc., the laws*	part-ibus	*by, etc., the parts*

59 **Note:** All masculine and feminine nouns of the third declension are declined like **lēx** except the following nouns which have **-ium** in the genitive plural like **part-ium:**

60 1. Nouns that have the same number of syllables in the genitive singular as in the nominative singular, as: **hostis, hostis (host-ium)**, *enemy.*

61 2. Nouns whose stem ends in two consonants, as: **gēns, gentis,** *tribe,* stem, **gent-**, hence **gentium.**

Exceptions:

62 a. With **-um** instead of **-ium: senum, patrum, mēnsum, mātrum, canum, juvenum,** and **frātrum.**[1]

63 b. With **-ium** instead of **-um: vīrium, līrium, faucium, Penātium, imbrium** and **nivium, Samnītium, optimātium.**[2]

[1]of old men, fathers, months and mothers, of dogs and youths, and brothers.

[2]of strength and quarrels, of jaws and household gods, of rains and snows, of Samnites and aristocrats.

64 Neuter Nouns of the Third Declension.

S.	*Nom.*	flūmen[1]	*the river*
	Gen.	flūmin-is	*of the river*
	Dat.	flūmin-ī	*to or for the river*
	Acc.	flūmen	*the river*
	Abl.	flūmin-e	*by, with, from the river*
P.	*Nom.*	flūmin-a	*the rivers*
	Gen.	flūmin-um	*of the rivers*
	Dat.	flūmin-ibus	*to or for the rivers*
	Acc.	flūmin-a	*the rivers*
	Abl.	flūmin-ibus	*by, with, from the rivers*

[1]All neuter nouns of the third declension are declined like *flūmen* except the very few which end their nominative with *-e, -al, -ar.* These have *-ī* in the ablative singular, *-ia* in the nominative and accusative, plural, and *-ium* in the genitive plural. Thus *mare, maris* has ablative singular *mar-ī*, nominative and accusative plural *mar-ia,* and genitive plural *mar-ium.*