

# **PRIMA LATINA**

**An Introduction to Christian Latin**

**Second Edition**



## **STUDENT BOOK**

**By Leigh Lowe**

**CLASSICAL TRIVIUM CORE SERIES**

**Your Next Latin Program**  
*Latina Christiana I*  
by Cheryl Lowe

Once you complete *Prima Latina*, the next recommended course is *Latina Christiana I*.  
*Latina Christiana* flashcards may be used with *Prima Latina*

**Prima Latina: Student Book**  
**By Leigh Lowe**

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# Prima Latina



2ND EDITION

PREFACE .....	IV
GRAMMAR OVERVIEW .....	V
STUDENT GOALS FOR PRIMA LATINA .....	VII
PRONUNCIATION RULES .....	VIII
LESSON 1 – THE ALPHABET .....	10
LESSON 2 – CONSONANTS AND DIPHTHONGS .....	14
LESSON 3 – VERBS .....	18
LESSON 4 – INVISIBLE VERBS .....	22
LESSON 5 – LATIN VERBS .....	26
<b>REVIEW LESSON 1 (LESSONS 1-5) .....</b>	<b>30</b>
LESSON 6 – NOUNS .....	34
LESSON 7 – LATIN NOUNS .....	38
LESSON 8 – DERIVATIVES .....	42
LESSON 9 – NUMBERS 1-5 .....	46
LESSON 10 – NUMBERS 6-10 .....	50
<b>REVIEW LESSON 2 (LESSONS 6-10) .....</b>	<b>54</b>
LESSON 11 – PROPER NOUNS .....	58
LESSON 12 – PREPOSITIONS .....	62
LESSON 13 – PRONOUNS .....	66
LESSON 14 – ADJECTIVES .....	70
LESSON 15 – ADVERBS .....	74
<b>REVIEW LESSON 3 (LESSONS 11-15) .....</b>	<b>78</b>
LESSON 16 – CONSTELLATIONS .....	82
LESSON 17 – MORE CONSTELLATIONS .....	86
LESSON 18 – TO BE VERB .....	90
LESSON 19 – TO BE ABLE TO / I CAN .....	94
LESSON 20 – FUTURE TENSE .....	98
<b>REVIEW LESSON 4 (LESSONS 16-20) .....</b>	<b>102</b>
LESSON 21 – OTHER WORDS .....	106
LESSON 22 – QUESTION WORDS .....	110
LESSON 23 – THE FIRST DECLENSION .....	114
LESSON 24 – DECLENSIONS .....	118
LESSON 25 – FIRST CONJUGATION .....	120
<b>REVIEW LESSON 5 (LESSONS 21-25) .....</b>	<b>124</b>
VOCABULARY APPENDIX - ALPHABETICAL .....	130
VOCABULARY APPENDIX - PART OF SPEECH .....	131
PRACTICAL LATIN SAYINGS APPENDIX .....	132

*Prima Latina* (A Latin precursor for young children)

*Prima Latina* is a preparatory course for Cheryl Lowe's *Latina Christiana*. It is intended for teachers with no background in Latin, and was developed for children in first through fourth grade. The course was designed for students who are still becoming familiar with English grammar but are competent readers. Its goal is to teach and reinforce an understanding of the basic parts of speech while introducing Latin vocabulary and grammar. This course provides a solid foundation in grammar before moving on to more advanced language and Latin skills. *Prima Latina* is an ideal precursor to *Latina Christiana*, as the vocabulary and format are taken directly from the *Latina Christiana I* text. The book is accompanied by an audio CD for pronunciation guidance. *Latina Christiana I Flashcards* are an ideal study aid for *Prima Latina* and a great investment for the parent or teacher who intends to use *Latina Christiana I* and *II* as successor courses.

A great study aid is available from Memoria Press: *Prima Latina Instructional DVDs*, taught by Leigh Lowe. Call your favorite curriculum provider or visit [www.MemoriaPress.com](http://www.MemoriaPress.com) for information on these DVDs and other great Memoria Press books.

*Prima Latina* uses the clear and systematic format developed in *Latina Christiana* to introduce Latin to young students. The course teaches students seven parts of speech, 125 Latin vocabulary words, numbers 1 through 10, basic constellations, and simple introductions to tenses, derivatives, conjugations, and declensions. Each of the 25 lessons consists of a new grammar skill, five vocabulary words that correspond with the lesson, a practical Latin phrase, and one line of a prayer that is learned in totality by the end of the chapter. The exercises that accompany each lesson are thorough and provide constant review of materials learned throughout the course. The book includes five review lessons, five tests, an appendix, and an answer key.

I hope that *Prima Latina* inspires in your child a love of the Latin language and provides a foundation that proves helpful in many areas of study. I wish you the best of luck as you begin what will hopefully be an enjoyable and fruitful study of Latin.

Ora et labora,



Leigh Lowe

## GRAMMAR OVERVIEW

*This grammar overview is designed for the teacher who has no background in Latin. It is not necessary to understand it fully. Read carefully and then go on to the Teacher Guidelines. The content of this section will become clear as you teach the course.*

Ancient languages such as Latin and Greek are highly **inflected**. This means that the relationship between words (syntax) is shown by changing the endings of the words. In modern languages like English, which have little inflection, the relationship between words is shown by **word order and prepositions**.

### Cases of Nouns

In English we can change the end of a noun to make it plural or possessive. So girl can also be written *girls*, *girl's*, or *girls'*. In pronouns we use different forms, such as *he* or *him*, for subject and object. These are examples of inflection in English. In Latin there is much more **inflection**. The endings of nouns change depending on their **function** in the sentence. The different functions a noun can perform in a sentence are called **cases**.

**Nominative case:** nouns that are subjects or predicate nouns

**Genitive case:** nouns that are possessive

**Dative case:** nouns that are indirect objects

**Accusative case:** nouns that are direct objects / prep. ob.

**Ablative case:** nouns that are prepositional objects

### Declensions

Writing a noun with all of its case endings in both the singular and plural is called **DECLINING** a noun. The **DECLENSION** of *puella* (girl) in Latin is:

	Singular	Plural
Nom.	<i>puella (girl)</i>	<i>puellae (girls)</i>
Gen.	<i>puellae (of the girl / girl's)</i>	<i>puellarum (of the girls / girls')</i>
Dat.	<i>puellae (to or for the girl)</i>	<i>puellis (to or for the girls)</i>
Acc.	<i>puellam (girl)</i>	<i>puellas (girls)</i>
Abl.	<i>puella (by, with, or from the girl)</i>	<i>puellis (by, with, or from the girls)</i>

In Latin there are **FIVE DECLENSIONS**—groups of nouns that have the same or similar case endings. The declension above is the **FIRST DECLENSION**. Students will learn two declensions in this book and will learn the next three declensions in Book II.

### Latin Word Order

Word order is very important in English because it indicates the function of the noun. The subject comes first in the sentence.

The girl sees the queen.  
*sub. d.o.*

The queen sees the girl.  
*sub. d.o.*

## GRAMMAR OVERVIEW

In Latin the subject and direct object are indicated by the case endings of the nouns, **not the order of the words**. Both of the Latin sentences below mean the same thing even though the word order is different.

Puella reginam videt.  
Girl queen sees  
sub. d.o.

Reginam puella videt.  
Queen girl sees  
d.o. sub.

Both translate: *The girl sees the queen*. The direct object, *reginam* (queen), is signaled by the accusative ending *am*, not by its position following the subject and verb.

## Verbs

In Latin, the different forms of verbs are constructed by inflection, adding different endings to the verbs rather than by adding helping verbs, as in English.

voco	I call
vocabo	I will call
vocabam	I was calling

There are six tenses of verbs in Latin and English. This year we will learn three tenses.

Writing a verb with its endings which indicate *person, number, tense*, etc. is called conjugating a verb. There are four groups of verbs that have the same or similar endings and they are called conjugations. We will learn the first two CONJUGATIONS this year. Here is the **FIRST CONJUGATION**.

## Present Tense

	Singular		Plural	
<b>1st Person</b>	voco	<i>I call</i>	vocamus	<i>we call</i>
<b>2nd Person</b>	vocas	<i>you call</i>	vocatis	<i>you call</i>
<b>3rd Person</b>	vocat	<i>he, she, it calls</i>	vocant	<i>they call</i>

## STUDENT GOALS FOR PRIMA LATINA

1. Learn basic Latin alphabet and pronunciation of vowels and consonant sounds.
2. Pronounce, spell, and translate approximately 125 Latin words.
3. Learn 25 practical Latin expressions and 4 prayers in full.
4. Learn numbers 1 through 10.
5. Learn names of popular constellations.
6. Understand concept of derivatives, English words that are derived from Latin.
7. Grammar
  - A. Learn to identify basic parts of speech including verbs, nouns, prepositions, pronouns, adjectives, adverbs, and conjunctions.
  - B. Recognize that conjugating is associated with verbs.
  - C. Recognize that declining is associated with nouns.
  - D. Memorize 1<sup>st</sup> declension noun endings.
  - E. Memorize 1<sup>st</sup> conjugation verb endings.

## PRONUNCIATION RULES

### The Alphabet

The Latin alphabet has no *w*. Words with *y* are of Greek origin.

### Vowels

In Christian Latin vowels are usually long.

<u>Vowel</u>	<u>Long</u>	<u>Example</u>
a	<i>father</i> (ah)	ambulo
e	<i>they</i> (ay)	deus
i	<i>machine</i> (ee)	via
o	<i>no</i> (oh)	toga
u	<i>rule</i> (oo)	luna

Sometimes the vowels *e* and *i* tend toward the short vowel sounds (*Ed, it*) as in *mensa* and *et*.

### Diphthongs and Digraphs

<u>Digraph</u>	<u>Pronunciation</u>	<u>Example</u>
ae	like <i>e</i> in <i>they</i> (ay)	caelum
oe	like <i>e</i> in <i>they</i> (ay)	proelium
<u>Diphthong</u>		
au	like <i>ou</i> in <i>cow</i> (ow)	laudo, nauta

### Consonants

Most of the consonants are pronounced as in English, with the following exceptions.

<u>Consonant</u>	<u>Pronunciation</u>	<u>Examples</u>
c	soft before <i>e, i, ae, oe</i> , like <i>ch</i> in <i>charity</i>	decem, caelum
c	hard before other letters, like <i>c</i> as in <i>cut</i>	clamo, corona
g	soft before <i>e, i, ae, oe</i> , like <i>g</i> as in <i>germ</i>	regina, gemini
g	hard before other letters like <i>g</i> as in <i>go</i>	toga, navigo
gn	like <i>gn</i> as in <i>lasagne</i>	pugno
j	like <i>y</i> as in <i>yet</i>	Jesus, judico
s	like <i>s</i> as in <i>sing</i> (never like <i>z</i> )	tres, mensa
sc	like <i>sh</i>	discipulus
t	like <i>tsee</i> when followed by <i>i</i> and a vowel	etiam





# **Prima Latina Lessons**



## Practical Latin

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Salve!  
Salvete!

– Hello! (to one person)  
– Hello! (to more than one person)

## Lesson – The Alphabet

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The building blocks of any language are the letters used to make words.

### The English Alphabet

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There are 26 letters in the English alphabet.

The alphabet is made up of two types of letters:

vowels and

consonants

A, E, I, O, U

BCD FGH JKLMN PQRST VWXYZ  
(all letters that are not vowels)

### The Latin Alphabet

---

The Latin alphabet looks like the English alphabet EXCEPT:

There are only 25 letters in the Latin alphabet.

The Latin alphabet has no W.

Latin has the same vowels as English, A, E, I, O, U, but they sound a little different. Here are the Latin vowel sounds.

Vowel	Latin Sound
A	<i>ah</i> , as in <i>father</i>
E	<i>ay</i> , as in <i>way</i>
I	<i>ee</i> , as in <i>see</i>
O	<i>oh</i> , as in <i>no</i>
U	<i>oo</i> , as in <i>boo</i>

**\*\* Remember**

Latin E sounds like an English long A.

Latin I sounds like an English long E.



## Vocabulary

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Practice saying the Latin **vowels** in each word.

1. ambulo	I walk
2. via	road
3. Deus	God
4. toga	toga
5. luna	moon

## Latin Prayers

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**Oremus**

Say this before each prayer.

**Let us pray**

## Derivatives

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<i>ambulance</i>	a vehicle to carry those who cannot walk to the hospital (n.)
<i>viaduct</i>	a roadway or bridge on piers (n.)
<i>deity</i>	a god (n.)
<i>lunar</i>	having to do with the moon (adj.)



## Review Questions

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1. How many letters are in the English alphabet? \_\_\_\_\_
  2. How many letters are in the Latin alphabet? \_\_\_\_\_
  3. What letter is missing from the Latin alphabet? \_\_\_\_\_
  4. What are the two kinds of letters in the English alphabet? \_\_\_\_\_
- 

## Translation

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1. toga \_\_\_\_\_
2. Deus \_\_\_\_\_
3. ambulo \_\_\_\_\_
4. luna \_\_\_\_\_
5. via \_\_\_\_\_

## Speaking Latin

Listen to the Lesson 1 track on your Prima Latina CD.

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- Practice saying the Latin vowel sounds in order: *ah, ay, ee, oh, oo*  
Can you say them five times in a row?  
How fast can you correctly say them?
- Practice saying "Salve" or "Salvete" to your parents, brothers and sisters, or friends this week.
- Begin the prayer before each meal with "Oremus."
- Say each vocabulary word and its meaning five times.



**Write and Learn**

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1. Write out the English alphabet.

Circle the vowels and underline the consonants.

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2. Write out the Latin alphabet for practice. Make sure to leave out or cross out the W!

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3. Write each vocabulary word and its meaning twice.

1.	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<hr/>	<hr/>
2.	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<hr/>	<hr/>
3.	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<hr/>	<hr/>
4.	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<hr/>	<hr/>
5.	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<hr/>	<hr/>

**Fun Practice:** Draw a line to match the letter with its Latin sound. 

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A	ah
I	ee
U	ay
E	oh
O	oo



Practical Latin

Magister – Teacher (male)

Magistra – Teacher (female)

Lesson – Consonants and Diphthongs

Consonant Sounds:

Consonants	Latin Sound
c (before <i>e, i, ae, &amp; oe</i> is soft)	<i>ch</i> , as in <i>charity</i>
c (before all other letters is hard)	<i>k</i> , as in <i>cat</i>
g (before <i>e, i, ae, &amp; oe</i> is soft)	<i>g</i> , as in <i>germ</i>
g (before all other letters is hard)	<i>g</i> , as in <i>good</i>
j	<i>y</i> , as in <i>yes</i>
s	<i>s</i> , as in <i>soap</i>

Compare the soft and hard sounds of **c** and **g** in Latin & English:

- The soft **c** in Latin sounds like **ch** as in *charity*.
- The soft **c** in English sounds like **s** as in *ceiling*.
- The hard **c** is the same in Latin and English.
- The soft and hard **g** are the same in Latin and English.

Diphthongs:

In Latin, sometimes two letters have only one sound.

These letter pairs are called **diphthongs**.

Diphthongs	Latin Sound
ae	<i>ay</i> , as in <i>way</i> (English long A)
oe	<i>ay</i> , as in <i>way</i> (English long A)
au	<i>ow</i> , as in <i>loud</i>



## Vocabulary

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Practice saying the **consonant** sounds and **diphthongs**.

1. gloria	glory
2. Jesus	Jesus
3. laudo	I praise
4. clamo	I shout
5. caelum	heaven

## Latin Prayers (The Sanctus)

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\*Each week, learn the bold portion of the prayer and add it to what you know.

**Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus  
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.**

Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria Tua.

Hosanna in excelsis.

Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini.

Hosanna in excelsis.

**Holy, Holy, Holy**

**Lord God of Hosts.**

Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

## Derivatives

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*glorious*

wonderful (adj.)

*glorify*

to exalt, worship, or honor (v.)

*Jesuit*

a Roman Catholic order for men, called the Society of Jesus (n.)

*laud*

to praise (v.)

*proclamation*

an official announcement (n.)

*celestial*

heavenly (adj.)



**Review Questions**

1. How many letters are in the English alphabet? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What are the letters **A, E, I, O, U** called? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What does a Latin **E** sound like? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What does a Latin **I** sound like? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What does a Latin **O** sound like? \_\_\_\_\_

**Lesson 2 Questions**

1. How many letters are in the Latin alphabet? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What consonant is missing in the Latin alphabet? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What do you call two vowels that make one sound? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What does a **J** sound like in Latin? \_\_\_\_\_
5. List three diphthong pairs. \_\_\_\_\_

**Translation**

1. caelum \_\_\_\_\_
2. gloria \_\_\_\_\_
3. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_
4. laudo \_\_\_\_\_
5. clamo \_\_\_\_\_

**Speaking Latin** Listen to the Lesson 2 track on your Prima Latina CD.

Think of an English word that uses the following Latin consonant sounds:

- hard **g**, as in *gloria* \_\_\_\_\_
- soft **g**, as *surgite* \_\_\_\_\_
- soft **c**, as in *caelum* \_\_\_\_\_
- hard **c**, as in *clamo* \_\_\_\_\_





- Say each vocabulary word and its meaning five times.
- Address your teacher as “Magister” or “Magistra” from now on.
- Practice saying the Latin Prayer from Lessons 1 and 2, the Sanctus, five times.

### Write and Learn

---

---

1. Write the six Latin consonants in the lesson and the Latin sounds that go with them.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

2. Write the three diphthongs in the lesson and the Latin sounds that go with them.

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Write each vocabulary word and its meaning twice.

1.	_____	_____
	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____
	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____
	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____
	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____
	_____	_____

### Fun Practice

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Think of a poem or song to help you remember the vowel sounds.