

GRADE 8 LATIN

First edition

5 units

10 lessons • one quarter

A video for every lesson

FIRST EDITION

COURSE GUIDE

This is the capstone of the School Launch Latin spiral: the quarter in which a student finishes the grammar map and walks through the door it was all built for, reading real, unaltered Latin. Each lesson is built around a real thing: the Curia Julia, the Senate house that still stands in the Roman Forum; Bruegel's painting of the census that brought Mary to Bethlehem; a fifteenth-century scribe at his desk; the verse of Isaiah that Handel set to music; the inscription Hadrian refused to replace on the Pantheon; the marble stadium of the first modern Olympics; the sheepskin sheet of Magna Carta; the first sentence of Caesar's own war dispatches; the emperor Augustus's account of his deeds carved on a temple wall in Turkey; and the dome of the United States Capitol, standing on a hill named for Rome's.

Every lesson follows the same path. First comes **the story**. Then **how Latin works**: the fourth and fifth declensions, Roman numerals to a thousand, the passive voice in the present and the perfect, participles, and the comparison of adjectives and adverbs, each explained for a thirteen- or fourteen-year-old who has climbed the spiral this far. Then **say it out loud**, because even a capstone year is learned by chanting. Last, **try it**: the student completes the five-declension master map, writes a Roman-style census of the household, copies a passage in a homemade scriptorium, letters Isaiah's great line for the wall, designs a family cornerstone, keeps a record book in comparatives, drafts a household charter with Latin clauses, memorizes Caesar's opening, and composes an original Latin paragraph, corrected and lettered as a scroll.

By the end of the quarter the student can decline nouns of all five declensions, read and write Roman numerals to M and count to viginti, turn a sentence from active to passive and back with a/ab for the doer, form and translate perfect passives like natus est and data est, use present and perfect participles in agreement, compare adjectives and adverbs through longior and longissimus to melior and optimus, read Magna Carta's thirty-ninth clause and Caesar's first sentence with a glossary, recognize the subjunctive when a text hands it over, and write four to six correct Latin sentences of

his or her own. The motto on our crest, *Fabricando fit faber*, "by making, one becomes a maker," has been the method all along; this is the quarter where the student makes real Latin.

Most videos come from trusted teaching channels: latintutorial (a Latin teacher's animated grammar lessons), Math Antics, Learn Bright, Smarthistory, the British Library, the London Symphony Orchestra, ThePrinceSterling (a Latinist reading real texts aloud), World of Antiquity and others. Every video was previewed for accuracy and content. Several are made for a general or older audience, which suits an eighth grader; the lesson notes say so where it matters. You may hear small differences in pronunciation between channels (classical and church pronunciation); both are correct, and this course teaches the classical sounds, though you will hear church Latin in the sung pieces. Some channels end with an invitation to subscribe; you can stop the video when the teaching ends.

Start with Lesson 1.1 →

WHO IT IS FOR

Written for students in grade 8 (about ages 13–14) who have climbed the School Launch Latin spiral through grade 7 or done equivalent work: the five case jobs, the first three declensions, the four conjugations through the perfect tense, and the common pronouns. A student with a year or two of Latin from another program can join comfortably with the notebook charts for support. A parent or teacher reads along, joins the chants, hears the recitations and checks the practice; no Latin background is needed. Nothing needs to be bought: every activity uses paper, index cards, pencil and household things.

HOW TO USE THIS COURSE

1. **The weekly rhythm.** The quarter has 10 lessons, one a week, each with three sessions of 30–40 minutes. Session 1 is the warm-up, the video, the teaching and the picture study. Session 2 is the activity and the Latin notebook. Session 3 is the worked examples, the practice sentences and a recitation: the student chants the

week's paradigms and reads the week's Latin out loud to the family. In the second week of each unit, use part of Session 3 for the unit review and the unit challenge.

2. **Where the grade 7 student stands.** A student arriving from Grade 7 Latin owns the five case jobs, the first, second and third declensions, all four conjugations through the perfect tense, and the pronouns. This course finishes the noun map with the fourth and fifth declensions, opens the passive voice, adds participles and comparison, and then spends its last two units on real texts. The pluperfect, the future perfect and the subjunctive are pointed at, on purpose, and left for high school; the practice stays inside the fence.
3. **Chant it every day.** Even in the capstone year, paradigms live in the mouth. Open every session with the chant stack: the five-declension grid (puella, dominus, rex, senatus, res), then amo active and passive (amo, amas, amat... amor, amaris, amatur...), then sum. Five minutes of cheerful chanting beats an hour of silent staring, in grade 8 as in grade 3.
4. **Story, then grammar, then doing.** The core ideas are written to be read by the student. The paragraph marked *The story* tells what happened; *How Latin works* explains the grammar; *Say it out loud* gives the chants; *Try it* explains the activity. After each paragraph, ask the student to teach it back; an eighth grader who can explain the perfect passive to a younger sibling owns it.
5. **Flashcards and the word wall.** Every lesson adds new Latin words. Make a flashcard for each one (Latin on the front, with genitive and gender for nouns and principal parts for verbs; English on the back) and keep the growing deck with the decks from earlier grades. Review the deck at the start of Session 2 and Session 3. By the end of the quarter the new deck holds 56 words, and the student has also learned to read a dictionary entry, which is the skill that outlives every deck.
6. **The word list.** The whole course teaches 56 words, in this order. Unit 1, the last two declensions and the numbers: senatus, manus, exercitus, res, dies, fides, spes; then mille, centum and the number words from eleven to twenty: undecim, duodecim, tredecim, quattuordecim, quindecim, sedecim, septendecim, duodeviginti, undeviginti, viginti. Unit 2, the passive voice: liber (book), scribo, mitto, a/ab (by); then do with its participle datus, natus, parvulus. Unit 3, participles and comparison: aedifico, facio with factus, opus, semper; then fortis, quam, cito, and the irregular comparisons melior and optimus, maior and maximus, minor and minimus. Unit 4, law and Caesar: nullus, liber (free), homo, lex, iudicium; then pars, omnis, lingua, appello, divido with divisus, tres. Unit 5, deeds: gero with

gestus, templum, dono; then corpus and plus. This list is the flashcard deck; a student who owns these 56 cards, on top of the earlier grades' decks, has the course's vocabulary.

7. **The Latin notebook.** Use any notebook for the whole quarter. It holds the paradigm charts, the vocabulary lists, the numeral tables, the flipped sentences, the glossed readings, the composition drafts and the plans for the Capstone Evening. Date every page. The five-declension master map and the verb map belong on the wall as well as in the notebook; charts on walls get learned.
8. **Translation is a two-way street, and now a workshop.** The practice runs both directions, Latin into English and English into Latin, and from Unit 5 it becomes composition: original sentences of the student's own, checked against the charts and a dictionary before they are inked. Let the student use every chart freely. The answer is right when the endings are right, and a sentence is finished when it has been read aloud and survived.
9. **Practice on the web.** Our companion site, [Latin Launchpad](http://LatinLaunchpad.com), is free and has matching games, flashcards and quizzes sorted by grade; its grade 7–8 packs and phrase pages cover most of this course's word list (not all of it, the number words among the stragglers), and its grammar games drill the same endings. It makes a good Session 2 finisher. It is optional: the course is complete with cards and paper.
10. **Unit review and unit challenge.** Each unit ends with a short review (30 points), which may be done orally, and a unit challenge: the five-declension master map with a family census, the scriptorium page with Isaiah's line lettered and parsed, the family cornerstone with a record book in comparatives, Caesar's opening recited beside the household charter, and at last the Capstone Evening, where six years of the spiral are presented to the family: the maps, the recitations, the Magna Carta clause, the student's own Res Gestae scroll, and a closing psalm or Pater Noster in Latin.

SCOPE AND SEQUENCE

UNIT 1 • WEEKS 1–2

The Last Two Declensions and the Counting of a World

SPQR unpacked at last: senatus (fourth declension) and res publica (fifth) decline, the five-declension master map is finished, and the government words America learned from Rome, senate, republic, veto, candidate, capitol, come home; then Rome's census, Roman numerals to a thousand with the subtractive pairs, the number words to twenty, and the decree of Caesar Augustus that brought Mary to Bethlehem, painted by Bruegel.

1.1 Senatus et Res Publica

1.2 The Census: Counting to a Thousand

UNIT 3 • WEEKS 5–6

Participles and Comparison

The Pantheon's porch says AGRIPPA FECIT, and Hadrian left his predecessor's name on the greatest dome in the world: participles, the verb-adjectives portans and portatus, in agreement; then Father Didon's 1894 motto Citius, Altius, Fortius opens comparatives in -ior, superlatives in -issimus, quam for than, the irregular ladders melior/optimus, maior/maximus, minor/minimus, and compared adverbs.

3.1 Agrippa Fecit: Participles on Stone

3.2 Citius, Altius, Fortius: Comparison

UNIT 2 • WEEKS 3–4

The Passive Voice

Liber scribitur, the book is written: a scribe's year of labor opens the present passive, the six endings -r, -ris, -tur, -mur, -mini, -ntur, and a/ab with the ablative for the doer; then Isaiah's parvulus natus est nobis opens the perfect passive, participle plus sum, with its agreement, and Handel's music carries the verse home.

2.1 The Book Is Written: Present Passive

2.2 Puer Natus Est: The Perfect Passive

UNIT 4 • WEEKS 7–8

Law, Liberty and Caesar Himself

Runnymede, 1215: Magna Carta's thirty-ninth clause, Nullus liber homo capiatur, read in the original with a glossary, the subjunctive recognized and left respectfully for high school, and the Latin roots of due process; then the summit of the spiral, Caesar's Gallia est omnis divisa in partes tres read unaltered, parsed where the student owns the forms and glossed where he does not, and memorized.

4.1 Nullus Liber Homo: Magna Carta

4.2 Gallia Est Omnis Divisa: Reading Caesar Unaltered

UNIT 5 • WEEKS 9–10

Res Gestae: Write Your Own

Augustus carved the deeds of his life across an empire; the student answers with an original Latin paragraph, four to six sentences using a perfect, a passive, a participle and a comparison, checked against a dictionary and lettered as a scroll; then the full-circle finale, Rome to America, the legal Latin still spoken in court, the six-tense map with its two high-school rooms, and the Capstone Evening for the family.

5.1 The Deeds of Augustus, and Yours

5.2 Rome to America: The Torch Carried On

WEEKLY PACING CALENDAR

WEEK	PLAN
1	• Session 1: Lesson 1.1 Senatus et Res Publica: warm-up, video, teaching and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 1.1 activity (the five-declension master map and the government words chart) and Latin notebook • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, and the first recitation out loud <i>Three short sessions a week is the usual rhythm: one to learn, one to make, one to practice and recite. Add a few minutes of flashcards on the other days if you like.</i>
2	• Session 1: Lesson 1.2 The Census: warm-up, video, teaching and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 1.2 activity (the family census page) and Latin notebook • Session 3: Worked examples, practice and recitation • Session 3 (end of unit): Unit 1 review and unit challenge (the master map and the census)
3	• Session 1: Lesson 2.1 The Book Is Written: warm-up, video, teaching and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 2.1 activity (the scriptorium hour) and Latin notebook • Session 3: Worked examples, practice and recitation
4	• Session 1: Lesson 2.2 Puer Natus Est: warm-up, video, teaching and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 2.2 activity (parse and letter the Isaiah line, with the Handel) and Latin notebook • Session 3: Worked examples, practice and recitation

WEEK	PLAN
	Session 3 (end of unit): Unit 2 review and unit challenge (the scriptorium page and the Isaiah line)
5	- Session 1: Lesson 3.1 Agrippa Fecit: warm-up, video, teaching and picture study - Session 2: Lesson 3.1 activity (the inscription hunt and the family cornerstone) and Latin notebook - Session 3: Worked examples, practice and recitation
6	- Session 1: Lesson 3.2 Citius, Altius, Fortius: warm-up, video, teaching and picture study - Session 2: Lesson 3.2 activity (the family record book) and Latin notebook - Session 3: Worked examples, practice and recitation - Session 3 (end of unit): Unit 3 review and unit challenge (the cornerstone and the record book)
7	- Session 1: Lesson 4.1 Nullus Liber Homo: warm-up, video, teaching and picture study - Session 2: Lesson 4.1 activity (the household charter) and Latin notebook - Session 3: Worked examples, practice and recitation
8	- Session 1: Lesson 4.2 Gallia Est Omnis Divisa: warm-up, video, teaching and picture study - Session 2: Lesson 4.2 activity (the three-pass reading and the start of the memorization) and Latin notebook - Session 3: Worked examples, practice and recitation - Session 3 (end of unit): Unit 4 review and unit challenge (the recitation and the charter)
9	- Session 1: Lesson 5.1 The Deeds of Augustus: warm-up, video, teaching and picture study - Session 2: Lesson 5.1 activity (draft and correct the Res Gestae paragraph) and Latin notebook - Session 3: Worked examples, practice, and the scroll lettered
10	- Session 1: Lesson 5.2 Rome to America: warm-up, video, teaching and picture study - Session 2: Lesson 5.2 activity (the What Latin Gave English brief and the evening rehearsal) and Latin notebook - Session 3: Worked examples, practice and recitation - Session 3 (end of unit): Unit 5 review and unit challenge (the Capstone Evening) <i>Last week. Host the Capstone Evening: the student presents the five-declension map and the verb map, recites Caesar's opening and the Res Gestae scroll, reads the Magna Carta clause with its translation, hands the family the one-page What Latin Gave English brief, and closes with Psalm 23 or the Pater Noster in Latin, the family's choice.</i>

MATERIALS

Latin notebook (any notebook)

One for the quarter: paradigm charts, numeral tables, flipped sentences, glossed readings, composition drafts and the Capstone Evening plans.

Index cards or paper cut into card-sized pieces, and a box, bag or binder ring to keep them

For the 56-card flashcard deck that grows every lesson, and for the glossary cards in Unit 4.

Pencil, colored pencils or markers, a fine-tip pen, and a yellow or metallic pencil

For charts, the census page, the scriptorium page with its illuminated capital, the cornerstone design and the scroll.

Poster board or printer paper taped together, and a ruler

For the five-declension master map and the verb map, both wall-sized, and for ruling the scriptorium page.

Good paper or cardstock for the keepsake pieces

The family census, the Isaiah line, the household charter and the Res Gestae scroll are all made to keep; sturdy paper honors the work.

Two dowels, pencils or sticks, and string or ribbon

For rolling the Res Gestae scroll in Unit 5. A rolled page tied with string works just as well.

GRADING

Grades come mostly from the daily work: the recitations, the flashcard reviews, the notebook and the practice sentences, because a language is learned by steady, honest repetition, in the capstone year as in the first. The composition and the Capstone Evening are graded as unit challenges: what counts is correct endings, honest correction and a bold presentation.

PART	%
Recitation and flashcards (daily chanting, vocabulary reviews, reading aloud)	30
Latin notebook (dated pages, charts, translations, drafts)	25

PART	%
Practice sentences (both directions, corrected with the answer key)	15
Unit reviews	15
Unit challenges	15

Scale: A 90–100, B 80–89, C 70–79, D 60–69. Below 60: repeat the chants and practice with help.

- An ending counts, a guess does not: a practice sentence is right when the endings are right. Let the student use the notebook charts and the dictionary for every exercise, composition included; the charts come to live in the head by being used, not by being hidden.
- Unit reviews may be done orally for a student who writes slowly; the parent writes down the answers.
- The original composition in Unit 5 is graded on correctness after correction, not on the first draft. Real Latin was written that way too: drafted, checked, recut.

A NOTE TO PARENTS

You do not need to know Latin to teach this course, even in its capstone year. Every paradigm has its chant written out, every Latin sentence has its translation and its why in the answer, every reading comes with a glossary, and the videos do the explaining a specialist would. At this age the student largely drives; your work is to hear the chants, ask for the teach-back, check the practice against the answers, and be the audience the recitations deserve. A parent who says 'read it to me again, slower' is doing exactly the job.

Why this year matters: it is the one the whole spiral was built for. The student who chanted *aqua, aquae* in grade 3 now reads the sentence of Caesar that schoolchildren have started real Latin on for centuries, reads the clause of Magna Carta that grew into the Fifth Amendment's due process, and writes a Latin paragraph of his or her own. The culture strand, government and law from Rome to America, is told as history and heritage: where the words senate, republic, veto and capitol came from, and how the law of the land still speaks Latin. The lesson on Caesar names war

honestly and without gore, and sets James 4 beside it: admiration for the prose, sober eyes about the cost.

The texts are chosen so that the real Latin the student meets is worth keeping: Isaiah's promise in Jerome's words, Magna Carta's defense of the weak against the arbitrary, and Scripture framing every unit. A few videos, Smarthistory, the British Library, ThePrinceSterling, World of Antiquity and the two in Lesson 5.2, are made for a general or adult audience; all were previewed and the lesson notes say so. The Handel piece in Lesson 2.2 is a concert performance, not a lesson, and it is glorious.

PRINTABLE WORD LIST

VOCABULARY FOR THE COURSE

Classical Latin (restored). Restored classical Latin, the sounds of Caesar's day, which is what this course teaches from grade 3 on. The five long vowels are the grade 3 chant: a ah, e ay, i ee, o oh, u oo. An unmarked e says eh, an unmarked o says o, and an unmarked u says u; i and ī both say ee. The capital letters are the stressed syllable.

Every week's list is printed again inside that lesson. Say the capital letters loudest.

1.1 SENATUS ET RES PUBLICA

senātus

seh-NAH-tus

noun · senātus, senātūs, m.

the Senate

ENGLISH senate

rēs

RAYS

noun · rēs, reī, f.

a thing, an affair

pūblicus

POO-blee-kus

adjective · pūblicus, pūblica, pūblicum

public, of the people

ENGLISH public

spēs

SPAYS

noun · spēs, speī, f.

hope

candidātus

kahn-dee-DAH-tus

noun · candidātus, candidātī, m.

a candidate, dressed in white

ENGLISH candidate

vetō

WEH-toh

verb · vetō, vetāre, vetuī, vetitum

I forbid

ENGLISH veto

cūria

KOO-ree-ah

noun · cūria, cūriae, f.

the Senate house

tribūnus

tree-BOO-nus

noun · tribūnus, tribūnī, m.

a tribune

ENGLISH tribune

comitia

ko-MEE-tee-ah

noun · comitia, comitiōrum, n. pl.

the assemblies

auctōritās

owk-TOH-ree-tahs

noun · auctōritās, auctōritātis, f.

authority

ENGLISH authority

dēcrētum

day-KRAY-tum

noun · dēcrētum, dēcrētī, n.

a decree

ENGLISH decree

1.2 THE CENSUS: COUNTING TO A THOUSAND

cēnsus

KAYN-sus

noun · cēnsus, cēnsūs, m.

a census

ENGLISH census

cēnsor

KAYN-sor

noun · cēnsor, cēnsōris, m.

a censor

ENGLISH censor

mille

MEEL-leh

number

a thousand

ENGLISH mile

vīgintī

wee-GEEN-tee

number

twenty

quīngentī

kween-GEN-tee

adjective · quīngentī, quīngentae, quīngenta
five hundred

tribus

TREE-bus

noun · tribus, tribūs, f.
a tribe

ENGLISH tribe

classis

KLAHS-sees

noun · classis, classis, f.
a class; a fleet

ENGLISH class

aestimō

YES-tee-moh

verb · aestimō, aestimāre, aestimāvī, aestimātum
I reckon, I value

ENGLISH estimate

lūstrum

LOOST-rum

noun · lūstrum, lūstrī, n.
the five-year purification after a census

ENGLISH lustrum

patrimōnium

pah-tree-MOH-nee-um

noun · patrimōnium, patrimōnī, n.
an inheritance

ENGLISH patrimony

professiō

pro-FES-see-oh

noun · professiō, professiōnis, f.

a declaration; a profession

ENGLISH profession

2.1 THE BOOK IS WRITTEN: PRESENT PASSIVE

membrāna

memb-RAH-nah

noun · membrāna, membrānae, f.

parchment

ENGLISH membrane

atrāmentum

ah-trah-MEN-tum

noun · atrāmentum, atrāmentī, n.

ink

calamus

KAH-lah-mus

noun · calamus, calamī, m.

a reed pen

scrīptor

SKREEP-tor

noun · scrīptor, scrīptōris, m.

a writer

ENGLISH script

volūmen

wo-LOO-men

noun · volūmen, volūminis, n.

a scroll

ENGLISH volume

bibliothēca

bee-blee-ot-HAY-kah

noun · bibliothēca, bibliothēcae, f.

a library

ENGLISH library

cōdex

KOH-deks

noun · cōdex, cōdicis, m.

a codex, a bound book

ENGLISH code

monachus

mo-NAHK-hus

noun · monachus, monachī, m.

a monk

ENGLISH monk

scrīnium

SKREE-nee-um

noun · scrīnium, scrīnī, n.

a book box

exemplum

eh-KSEMP-lum

noun · exemplum, exemplī, n.

a copy; an example

ENGLISH example

corrigō

KOR-ree-goh

verb · corrigō, corrigere, corrēxī, corrēctum

I correct

ENGLISH correct

2.2 PUER NATUS EST: THE PERFECT PASSIVE

nāscor

NAHS-kor

verb · nāscor, nāscī, nātus sum

I am born

ENGLISH nascent

parvulus

PAHR-wu-lus

adjective · parvulus, parvula, parvulum

very small, a little child

Īsaīās

ee-sah-EE-ahs

noun · Īsaīās, Īsaīae, m.

Isaiah

Bēthlehem

BAYTH-leh-hem

name

Bethlehem

prōphēta

prohp-HAY-tah

noun · prōphēta, prōphētae, m.

a prophet

ENGLISH prophet

impleō

EEMP-leh-oh

verb · impleō, implēre, implēvī, implētum

I fill; I fulfill

ENGLISH implement

virgō

WEER-goh

noun · virgō, virginis, f.

a maiden

ENGLISH virgin

nūntius

NOON-tee-us

noun · nūntius, nūntiī, m.

a messenger

ENGLISH nuncio

salvātor

sahl-WAH-tor

noun · salvātor, salvātōris, m.

a savior

ENGLISH salvage

cūnābula

koo-NAH-bu-lah

noun · cūnābula, cūnābulōrum, n. pl.

a cradle

adōrō

ah-DOH-roh

verb · adōrō, adōrāre, adōrāvī, adōrātum

I worship

ENGLISH adore

3.1 AGRIPPA FECIT: PARTICIPLES ON STONE

Agrippa

ah-GREEP-pah

noun · Agrippa, Agrippae, m.

Agrippa, who set the inscription on the Pantheon

rotunda

ro-TUN-dah

noun · rotunda, rotundae, f.

a round hall

ENGLISH rotunda

fornix

FOR-neeks

noun · fornix, fornicis, m.

an arch, a vault

ōstium

OHS-tee-um

noun · ōstium, ōstiī, n.

a doorway

columna

ko-LUM-nah

noun · columna, columnae, f.

a column

ENGLISH column

fastigium

fahs-TEE-gee-um

noun · fastigium, fastigiī, n.

a pediment, a gable

īnscrīptiō

eensk-REEP-tee-oh

noun · īnscrīptiō, īnscrīptiōnis, f.

an inscription

ENGLISH inscription

aēreus

ah-AY-rews

adjective · aēreus, aērea, aēreum

made of bronze

tertius

TER-tee-us

adjective · tertius, tertia, tertium

third

ENGLISH tertiary

cōsulātus

kohn-su-LAH-tus

noun · cōsulātus, cōsulātūs, m.

a consulship

Lūcius

LOO-kee-us

noun · Lūcius, Lūcī, m.

Lucius

3.2 CITIUS, ALTIUS, FORTIUS: COMPARISON

altus

AHL-tus

adjective · altus, alta, altum

high; deep

ENGLISH altitude

citō

KEE-toh

adverb

quickly

celer

KEH-ler

adjective · celer, celeris, celere

swift

ENGLISH accelerate

lātus

LAH-tus

adjective · lātus, lāta, lātum

wide

ENGLISH latitude

brevis

BREH-wees

adjective · brevis, breve

short

ENGLISH brief

facilis

FAH-kee-lees

adjective · facilis, facile

easy

ENGLISH facility

difficilis

deef-FEE-kee-lees

adjective · difficilis, difficile

hard, not easy

ENGLISH difficult

melior

MEH-lee-or

adjective · melior, melius

better

māior

MAH-ee-or

adjective · māior, māius

greater

ENGLISH major

minor

MEE-nor

adjective · minor, minus

smaller

ENGLISH minor

quam

KWAHM

conjunction

than; how

peior

PEH-ee-or

adjective · peior, peius

worse

4.1 NULLUS LIBER HOMO: MAGNA CARTA

nūllus

NOOL-lus

adjective · nūllus, nūlla, nūllum

not any, no

ENGLISH null

līber, lībera, līberum

LEE-ber LEE-beh-rah LEE-beh-rum

adjective · līber, lībera, līberum

free

ENGLISH liberty

pār

PAHR

adjective · pār, paris

equal

ENGLISH par

libertās

lee-BER-tahs

noun · libertās, libertātis, f.

liberty

ENGLISH liberty

barō

BAH-roh

noun · barō, barōnis, m.

a baron

ENGLISH baron

clausula

KLOW-su-lah

noun · clausula, clausulae, f.

a clause

ENGLISH clause

sub

SUB

preposition · ablative for 'where,' accusative for 'where to'

under

ENGLISH sub-

captīvus

kahp-TEE-wus

noun · captīvus, captīvī, m.

a captive

ENGLISH captive

iūstus

YOOS-tus

adjective · iūstus, iūsta, iūstum

just, right

ENGLISH just

Iōhannēs

yoh-HAHN-nays

noun · Iōhannēs, Iōhannis, m.

John

haerēs

HYE-rays

noun · haerēs, haerēdis, c.

an heir

ENGLISH heir

4.2 GALLIA EST OMNIS DIVISA: READING CAESAR UNALTERED

dīvidō

DEE-wee-doh

verb · dīvidō, dīvidere, dīvīsī, dīvīsum

I divide

ENGLISH divide

omnis

OM-nees

adjective · omnis, omne

all, every

ENGLISH omnibus

pars

PAHRS

noun · pars, partis, f.

a part

ENGLISH part

Belgae

BEL-gye

noun · Belgae, Belgārum, m. pl.

the Belgae

Aquītānī

ah-kwee-TAH-nee

noun · Aquītānī, Aquītānōrum, m. pl.
the Aquitani

Celta

KEL-tah

noun · Celta, Celtae, m.
a Celt

commentārius

kom-men-TAH-ree-us

noun · commentārius, commentārii, m.
a notebook; a commentary

ENGLISH commentary

īnstitūtum

eens-tee-TOO-tum

noun · īnstitūtum, īnstitūtī, n.
a custom; an institution

ENGLISH institute

Matrona

MAH-tro-nah

noun · Matrona, Matronae, f.
the Matrona, the river Marne

Garumna

gah-RUM-nah

noun · Garumna, Garumnae, f.
the Garumna, the river Garonne

hūmānitās

hoo-MAH-nee-tahs

noun · hūmānitās, hūmānitātis, f.
human nature; kindness

ENGLISH humanity

5.1 THE DEEDS OF AUGUSTUS, AND YOURS

monumentum

mo-nu-MEN-tum

noun · monumentum, monumentī, n.

a monument

ENGLISH monument

Ancŷra

AHNKŷ-rah

noun · Ancŷra, Ancŷrae, f.

Ancyra, where Augustus's deeds were copied in stone

templum

TEMP-lum

noun · templum, templī, n.

a temple

ENGLISH temple

restituō

res-TEE-tu-oh

verb · restituō, restituere, restituī, restitūtum

I restore

ENGLISH restitute

aes

YES

noun · aes, aeris, n.

bronze

mūnus

MOO-nus

noun · mūnus, mūneris, n.

a gift; a public duty

ENGLISH remunerate

ōceanus

oh-KEH-ah-nus

noun · ōceanus, ōceanī, m.

the ocean

ENGLISH ocean

claudō

KLOW-doh

verb · claudō, claudere, clausī, clausum

I shut

ENGLISH close

prīnceps

PREEN-keps

noun · prīnceps, prīncipis, m.

the first citizen; a prince

ENGLISH prince

pietās

PEE-eh-tahs

noun · pietās, pietātis, f.

duty, devotion

ENGLISH piety

sepulcrum

seh-PULK-rum

noun · sepulcrum, sepulcrī, n.

a tomb

ENGLISH sepulcher

5.2 ROME TO AMERICA: THE TORCH CARRIED ON

Capitōlium

kah-pee-TOH-lee-um

noun · Capitōlium, Capitōlī, n.

the Capitol

ENGLISH Capitol

iūdex

YOO-deks

noun · iūdex, iūdicis, m.

a judge

ENGLISH judge

cliēns

KLEE-ayns

noun · cliēns, clientis, m.

a client

ENGLISH client

testāmentum

tes-tah-MEN-tum

noun · testāmentum, testāmentī, n.

a will

ENGLISH testament

suffrāgium

suff-RAH-gee-um

noun · suffrāgium, suffrāgīi, n.

a vote

ENGLISH suffrage

ūniō

OO-nee-oh

noun · ūniō, ūniōnis, f.

oneness, union

ENGLISH union

foedus

FOY-dus

noun · foedus, foederis, n.

a treaty

ENGLISH federal

cōnstitūtīō

kohns-tee-TOO-tee-oh

noun · cōnstitūtīō, cōnstitūtīōnis, f.

a constitution

ENGLISH constitution

praeses

PRYE-ses

noun · praeses, praesidis, m.

a president; a protector

ENGLISH president

sigillum

see-GEEL-lum

noun · sigillum, sigillī, n.

a seal

ENGLISH seal

fascis

FAHS-kees

noun · fascis, fascis, m.

a bundle of rods, the fasces

ENGLISH fasces

UNIT 1

THE LAST TWO DECLENSIONS AND THE COUNTING OF A WORLD

Four letters followed Rome everywhere: SPQR, stamped on coins, carried on standards, carved over doors. You have known what they stand for since the early grades, Senatus Populusque Romanus, the Senate and People of Rome. This unit finally unpacks them from the grammar side. Senatus belongs to the fourth declension, the little -us family that declines on u; res publica, 'the public thing,' the phrase that gave us republic, belongs to the fifth, the family of res, dies, fides and spes. When you can chant those two, the noun map of Latin is finished: every noun in the language belongs to one of five families, and you own all five. You will stand in

front of the Curia Julia, the Senate house Julius Caesar began, which still has its roof because the church made it a church in the 600s, and you will trace senate, republic, veto, candidate and capitol back to the Romans who coined them.

Then you will count the way Rome counted. The census was Rome's great ledger: every five years the citizens were registered, assessed and assigned their place, and censere, to assess, gave English both census and censor. The most famous census in history is in Luke 2: a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, and a carpenter and his espoused wife went up to Bethlehem to be counted. Pieter Bruegel painted that census in a snowy Flemish village and nearly hid the Holy Family in the crowd. Along the way you will master Roman numerals to a thousand, with the subtractive pairs that make IX nine and CM nine hundred, chant the number words from undecim to viginti, and write your own household's census page in numerals fit for stone.

PREREQUISITES

- Can decline first-, second- and third-declension nouns (puella, dominus, rex) in both numbers, with the five case jobs (grades 5–7)
- Can conjugate the four conjugations through the perfect tense and chant sum (grade 7)
- Knows the cardinal numbers unus through decem and the Unit 1 words of the earlier grades by flashcard

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can decline senatus and res, singular and plural, and name all five declensions with a model noun for each.
- ☐ I remember the genders: manus is feminine, dies is usually masculine, res is feminine.
- ☐ I can explain what SPQR stands for and translate res publica word for word.
- ☐ I can trace senate, republic, veto, candidate and capitol to their Latin roots.
- ☐ I can read and write Roman numerals to M, including the subtractive pairs IV, IX, XL, XC, CD and CM, and decode a date like MMXXVI.
- ☐ I can chant the number words from undecim to viginti and count a small pile of anything out loud in Latin.

OPTIONAL BOOKS AND RESOURCES FOR THIS UNIT

- **Latin for Beginners, by Benjamin L. D'Ooge (1911)**: Free online. The classic beginner's grammar, and by grade 8 nearly all of it is within reach. Its fourth- and fifth-declension lessons match this unit's charts.
- **Latin Launchpad**: Free. Our companion practice site: flashcards, matching games and quizzes sorted by grade; its grade 7–8 packs cover most of this course's word list, and its grammar games drill the same endings. A good Session 2 finisher.
- **latintutorial (YouTube channel)**: Free. The animated grammar channel behind most of this course's videos; its declension playlist is good extra review while the master map goes up.

Not required. Every activity in this unit works with paper, pencil, scissors and the free links below. School Launch has no ties to these authors, publishers or companies.

LESSONS IN THIS UNIT

1.1 Senatus et Res Publica

3 sessions of 30–40 minutes

1.2 The Census: Counting to a Thousand

3 sessions of 30–40 minutes

UNIT 1 REVIEW

Answer each question in complete sentences, except where forms are asked for. The review is worth 30 points. It may be done orally, with a parent writing down the answers.

1. **5 pts**

Decline senatus fully, singular and plural, and name its declension.

2. **5 pts**

Decline res in both numbers, and give the genders of manus, dies and res.

3. **5 pts**

What does SPQR stand for? Translate res publica literally, and give the Latin behind two of these: senate, veto, candidate, capitol.

4. 5 pts

Write 44 and 1776 in Roman numerals, and decode MCMXLV.

5. 5 pts

Count in Latin from undecim to viginti, and explain how duodeviginti is built.

6. 5 pts

What was the Roman census, and how does Luke 2 connect a census to Bethlehem?

ANSWER KEY

1. Fourth declension. Singular: senatus, senatus, senatui, senatum, senatu. Plural: senatus, senatum, senatibus, senatus, senatibus.
2. Singular: res, rei, rei, rem, re. Plural: res, rerum, rebus, res, rebus. Manus is feminine, dies is usually masculine, res is feminine.
3. Senatus Populusque Romanus, the Senate and People of Rome. Res publica is 'the public thing.' Senate from senatus (council of elders, from senex); veto, 'I forbid'; candidate from candidatus, whitened; capitol from the Capitoline hill. (Any two.)
4. 44 is XLIV; 1776 is MDCCLXXVI; MCMXLV is 1945.
5. Undecim, duodecim, tredecim, quattuordecim, quindecim, sedecim, septendecim, duodeviginti, undeviginti, viginti. Duodeviginti is 'two from twenty': eighteen, subtraction built into the word.
6. Rome's five-yearly registration and assessment of citizens, run by the censors: it fixed tax, tribe and class, and gave us the words census and censor. Luke records that a decree of Caesar Augustus required registration, so Joseph, of David's house, went up to Bethlehem with Mary, and the Messiah was born in David's city as Micah had prophesied.

UNIT CHALLENGE: THE MASTER MAP AND THE FAMILY CENSUS

Finish and present the two documents of this unit. First, the five-declension master map: all five families, puella, dominus, rex, senatus, res, declined in both numbers on one wall chart, every ending checked, the traps (manus f, dies m) marked in red, colored and crowned; it will hang through the whole course and star at the Capstone Evening. Second, the family census: the formal page with every member's name, age and birth year in Roman numerals, dated anno Domini, lettered like a document a censor would file. Present both to the family: chant one declension of their choosing from the map without looking, and read the census aloud with the numbers in Latin.

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Complete map	All five declensions appear in both numbers with correct endings, checked against the charts; manus and dies are flagged.
Accurate numerals	Every age and year on the census uses correct numerals, with only the six legal subtractive pairs.
Craftsmanship	Both documents are ruled, lettered and finished well enough to hang and to keep.
Presentation	The student chanted a declension from memory and read the census aloud, Latin numbers and all.

UNIT 1 • THE LAST TWO DECLENSIONS AND THE COUNTING OF A WORLD • LESSON 1.1 OF 10 •
3 SESSIONS OF 30-40 MINUTES

1.1 SENATUS ET RES PUBLICA

OBJECTIVES

- Tell what SPQR stands for and how senatus and res publica name Rome's government.
- Decline senatus (fourth declension) and res (fifth declension) in both numbers, completing the five-declension map.
- Remember the genders that trip readers: manus is feminine, dies is usually masculine, res is feminine.
- Learn the vocabulary: senatus, manus, exercitus, res, dies, fides, spes.
- Trace the government words senate, republic, veto, candidate and capitol to their Latin roots.

Warm-up. Chant your three old model nouns down the singular and plural: puella, dominus, rex. Three noun families down. Now picture any Roman coin, standard or manhole cover in modern Rome: SPQR. You have translated those letters for years; today the grammar inside them finally opens, and by the end of the week the noun map of the whole Latin language is finished.

WATCH

The Fourth Declension

[latintutorial](#) · 4:25

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=33n1qYq9Liw>

WHEN TO WATCH

After the How Latin works paragraph. Chant the senatus column along with the narrator; notice how much of it is simply the letter u holding its ground.

Note: The long marks (macrons) the narrator writes over vowels are the little lines some books print to show a long vowel; this course leaves them off in running text.

BACKUP VIDEO

The Fifth Declension

[latintutorial](#) · 4:01

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=86sJuoghuX0>

Watch this one too; it is the second half of the lesson. Res and dies complete the noun map, and this is their chant.

KEY TERMS

fourth declension

The noun family that declines on u: senatus, senatus, senatui, senatum, senatu. Model noun senatus; most members are masculine, but manus (hand) is feminine.

fifth declension

The smallest noun family, declining on e: res, rei, rei, rem, re. Its stars are res (thing), dies (day), fides (faith) and spes (hope).

SPQR

Senatus Populusque Romanus, the Senate and People of Rome. The little -que glued to the end of a word means and.

veto

Latin for 'I forbid': the one word with which a tribune of the people could stop the whole Senate. American presidents still use it, word and power together.

res publica

Literally 'the public thing': the people's business, the commonwealth. Said quickly for two thousand years, it became our word republic.

candidatus

'Whitened': a man running for office in Rome wore a toga rubbed with white chalk so he could be seen across the Forum. Every candidate still wears the word.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Classical sounds: c is always k, g is always hard, v is w, and ae says eye. Capitals show the stress. A macron marks a long vowel.

senātus

seh-NAH-tus

noun · senātus, senātūs, m.

the Senate

ENGLISH senate

rēs

RAYS

noun · rēs, reī, f.

a thing, an affair

pūblicus

POO-blee-kus

adjective · pūblicus, pūblica, pūblicum

public, of the people

ENGLISH public

spēs

SPAYS

noun · spēs, speī, f.

hope

candidātus

kahn-dee-DAH-tus

noun · candidātus, candidātī, m.

a candidate, dressed in white

ENGLISH candidate

vetō

WEH-toh

verb · vetō, vetāre, vetuī, vetitum

I forbid

ENGLISH veto

cūria

KOO-ree-ah

noun · cūria, cūriae, f.

the Senate house

tribūnus

tree-BOO-nus

noun · tribūnus, tribūnī, m.

a tribune

ENGLISH tribune

comitia

ko-MEE-tee-ah

noun · comitia, comitiōrum, n. pl.

the assemblies

auctōritās

owk-TOH-ree-tahs

noun · auctōritās, auctōritātis, f.

authority

ENGLISH authority

dēcrētum

day-KRAY-tum

noun · dēcrētum, dēcrētī, n.

a decree

ENGLISH decree

CORE IDEAS

The story. On the north side of the Roman Forum stands a tall, plain brick hall with a gabled roof: the Curia Julia, the Senate house that Julius Caesar began and Augustus finished. Inside it, on a floor of colored marble that is still there, a few hundred senators governed the affairs of an empire. They did not vote by ballot; after the speeches, the presiding magistrate called the division, and the senators voted with their feet, walking to one side of the floor or the other, so that every man's choice was seen by every other man. Almost every other great building in the Forum fell; the Curia survived because in the 600s it was turned into a church, and a building in use gets its roof mended. Stand in it today and you are standing where Cicero's colleagues stood, in the room the word senate still points back to.

Rome in American English. Senatus comes from senex, an old man: the Senate was, at least in name, the council of elders. When the founders of America, who had all read their Roman history in Latin at school, built a new government, they reached for Rome's words almost without thinking. A senate; a capitol, after the Capitoline, the hill of Rome's great temple; a republic, from res publica, the public thing; the veto, 'I forbid,' the tribune's one-word power to protect the people; and every office-seeker a candidate, a whitened one, after the chalk-bright togas of Roman campaigners. One lesson's worth of fourth- and fifth-declension nouns, and half the vocabulary of American government turns out to be on your flashcards.

How Latin works: the last two declensions. The fourth declension declines on u. Chant senatus, the Senate: singular **senatus, senatus, senatui, senatum, senatu**; plural **senatus, senatum, senatibus, senatus, senatibus**. Yes, several forms look alike; the

sentence around them tells you which job is on duty, just as it already does for third-declension nouns. With *senatus* go *exercitus*, the army, and *manus*, the hand, and here is the famous trap: **manus is feminine**, *manus parva*, a small hand, however masculine its -us looks. The fifth declension declines on e and is the smallest family in Latin. Chant *res*, the thing: singular **res, rei, rei, rem, re**; plural **res, rerum, rebus, res, rebus**. With *res* go *dies*, the day (usually masculine: *dies longus*), *fides*, faith, and *spes*, hope. That is the whole map: five declensions, five model nouns, every noun in the language now has a family you can name.

Say it out loud. Chant the new columns three times each, with meanings: *senatus*, of the senate, to the senate, the senate (object), by the senate... then *res*, of the thing, to the thing... Then read your first sentences built on them, out loud: *Senatus Populusque Romanus*. The Senate and People of Rome. *Res publica magna est*. The republic is great. *Dies longus est*. The day is long. *Fides et spes sunt dona Dei*. Faith and hope are gifts of God. Finish with the full five-declension grid across, nominatives only, like a roll call: *puella, dominus, rex, senatus, res*.

Try it. This week you finish what grade 5 began: the five-declension master map, a wall chart with all five families declined in both numbers, crowned and colored like the monument it is. Beside it you will build a government words chart, five American words with their Latin roots and literal meanings, so that anyone who walks past your wall can see where a republic gets its name.

PICTURE STUDY



The Curia Julia, Senate House of Rome, Photograph by Carole Raddato, Begun 44 B.C. by Julius Caesar; rebuilt about A.D. 300 · Photograph · Roman Forum, Rome
Photo: Carole Raddato, via [Wikimedia Commons](#), CC BY-SA 2.0

This plain brick hall is one of the most important rooms in the history of government: the Curia Julia, where the Roman Senate met. Julius Caesar began it, Augustus finished it, and Diocletian rebuilt it after a fire around A.D. 300, which is the building you see. While temples and basilicas all around it collapsed into the cow pasture the Forum became, the Curia kept its roof, because in the 600s it was consecrated as a church and never stopped being used.

Look closely

- Look at how plain the outside is: flat brick, a gable, three windows. Roman builders saved the splendor for inside; the marble floor the senators walked still survives.
- Find the great doorway. The original bronze doors hung here for over a thousand years; in the 1600s they were moved to the cathedral of St. John Lateran across town, where they still swing today.
- Measure the height against the ruins nearby. The hall had to hold several hundred senators and their voices; Roman writers tell us its proportions follow the architect Vitruvius's advice for council halls.
- Imagine the floor during a vote: no ballots, no buttons. Senators rose and walked to one side or the other, and every man's choice was public.

Talk about it

1. Why do you think the senators voted by walking to a side, in full view, instead of secretly? What would be gained, and what risked?
2. The building survived because it was used, first as a council hall, then as a church. What does that suggest about how things, and languages, survive?
3. The founders of America named their upper house a Senate after this room. What were they hoping the name would carry with it?

ACTIVITY

The five-declension master map and the government words chart

Grade 5 gave you one declension; grade 8 hands you the last two. Today you build the wall chart that shows the whole noun map of Latin, and beside it a chart proving that American government still speaks Roman.

You will need

- A sheet of poster board, or two pieces of printer paper taped side by side, and a ruler
- Pencil, fine-tip pen and colored pencils or markers
- 7 index cards for the new vocabulary
- Your Latin notebook and the old paradigm charts from earlier grades

Steps

1. Rule the master map: five columns headed by the model nouns *puella*, *dominus*, *rex*, *senatus*, *res*, with the declension numbers I to V above them in Roman numerals, naturally.
2. Fill the singulars from memory where you can, from your old charts where you cannot: nominative, genitive, dative, accusative, ablative down each column. Check every ending twice; a master map with a wrong ending is a map with a wrong road.
3. Fill the plurals below. For the new columns: *senatus*, *senatum*, *senatibus*, *senatus*, *senatibus*; *res*, *rerum*, *rebus*, *res*, *rebus*.
4. Mark the traps in red: a small *f* beside *manus* (feminine), a small *m* beside *dies* (usually masculine). Color and crown the map; it has earned it.
5. Make the government words chart beside it: senate from *senatus* (council of elders), republic from *res publica* (the public thing), veto ('I forbid'), candidate from *candidatus* (whitened), capitol from the Capitoline hill. Write each English word, its Latin root and the literal meaning.
6. Make the seven flashcards (*senatus*, *manus*, *exercitus*, *res*, *dies*, *fides*, *spes*), each with its genitive and gender on the front under the headword, and run the whole deck. Then present both charts to someone, out loud.

Tips

- Say each column as you write it; the hand and the mouth teach each other.
- Leave a finger's width between columns so the map reads across a room.
- If the plurals of senatus feel slippery, remember that three of the five are senatus; chant the two that are not: senatum, senatibus.

Check your work

- ☐ All five declensions stand on the map, both numbers, every ending checked against a chart.
- ☐ Manus is marked feminine and dies masculine, in red.
- ☐ My government words chart gives root and literal meaning for all five words.
- ☐ The seven new flashcards are in the deck, and I presented both charts out loud.

LATIN NOTEBOOK

1. Decline senatus and res fully, singular and plural, in two neat dated columns with the case names beside them.
2. Write the five model nouns across the top of a page, puella, dominus, rex, senatus, res, and under each its declension number and genitive singular.
3. Write the seven new vocabulary words with genitive, gender and meaning; mark manus f in red.
4. Copy and translate: Senatus Populusque Romanus. Res publica magna est. Fides et spes sunt dona Dei.

From history. The Curia's original bronze doors outlived the empire in place; in the 1660s Pope Alexander VII had them moved to the cathedral of St. John Lateran, where they still open and close. A door that has been swinging since the Caesars is a good picture of this unit: the republic fell, the empire fell, and the words, like the doors, kept working.

Practice habit. From today, open every Latin session with the five-declension roll call: chant puella, dominus, rex, senatus, res straight down, singular and plural, with the amo column (active and, from Unit 2, passive) after it. Two minutes, every time, to the end of the course. This grid is the finished map of six years.

Example 1. Decline *senatus* in the singular, naming each case's job.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Fourth declension: the stem holds its u.
2. Walk the staircase: subject, of, to/for, object, by/with.
3. Senatus (subject), senatus (of the senate), senatui (to the senate), senatum (the senate as object), senatu (by the senate).

Answer: Senatus, senatus, senatui, senatum, senatu. Nominative and genitive look alike; the sentence around them tells you which is on duty.

Example 2. Why is *manus parva* (a small hand) right and *manus parvus* wrong?

▼ **Show solution**

1. Manus looks masculine because of -us, but the dictionary entry says manus, -us f.
2. An adjective must match its noun's gender, not its noun's costume.
3. Feminine noun takes feminine adjective: parva.

Answer: Manus is feminine, one of the fourth declension's famous exceptions, so the adjective wears the feminine: manus parva, manus parvae.

Example 3. Translate: *Res publica est res populi*.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Res publica: the public thing, the republic, nominative subject.
2. Est links, like an equals sign.
3. Res populi: the thing of the people; populi is genitive, the of-case.

Answer: The republic is the thing of the people. Cicero defined it almost exactly this way: res publica, res populi.

PRACTICE

1. **Easy** Give the genitive singular of senatus and of res, and name each noun's declension.

▼ **Show answer**

Senatus, genitive senatus (fourth declension); res, genitive rei (fifth declension).

2. **Easy** Give the meanings: fides, spes, exercitus, dies.

▼ **Show answer**

Faith, hope, army, day.

3. **Easy** What does SPQR stand for, in Latin and in English?

▼ **Show answer**

Senatus Populusque Romanus: the Senate and People of Rome. The -que on Populusque means and.

4. **Medium** Decline res in the plural.

▼ **Show answer**

Res, rerum, rebus, res, rebus.

5. **Medium** Translate both ways: (a) Manus parvae sunt. (b) The day is long.

▼ **Show answer**

(a) The hands are small; manus here is nominative plural, and the adjective is feminine to match. (b) Dies longus est; dies is masculine, so the adjective is longus, not longa.

6. **Medium** Which Latin word or phrase gives each of these, and what does the Latin literally mean: republic, candidate, veto?

▼ **Show answer**

Republic from res publica, the public thing; candidate from candidatus, whitened (the chalk-white toga of an office-seeker); veto, 'I forbid,' a tribune's one-word power.

7. **Hard** In the chant of senatus, the form senatus appears four times. Name the four places, and tell how a reader knows which one is meant in a real sentence.

▼ **Show answer**

Nominative singular, genitive singular, nominative plural and accusative plural. The rest of the sentence decides: a matching verb and no other subject points to a nominative, a nearby noun it belongs to points to the genitive, a verb acting on it points to the accusative. Endings narrow the choices; context finishes the job.

8. **Challenge** The American founders could have invented new words for their new government. Instead they chose senate, republic, capitol, veto. Give two reasons educated men of 1787 reached for Latin, and translate res publica literally.

▼ **Show answer**

They had all learned Rome's history in Latin at school, so Rome was their shared library of examples, good and bad; and Latin's words carried a thousand years of tested meaning that a new coinage would not. Res publica is literally 'the public thing': the people's business, owned by no king.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Treating manus as masculine. The -us costume fools everyone once: manus is feminine, manus parva.
- Declining senatus like dominus and writing senati for the genitive. Fourth declension keeps its u: the genitive is senatus.
- Giving dies a feminine adjective. Dies is usually masculine: dies longus, not dies longa.
- Chanting the new columns without meanings. Senatui is 'to the senate' or it is nothing; say the job with the form.

Make it a game · Five Declension Dash. Draw five columns on a sheet and label each declension. Shuffle cards of nouns like puella, dominus, rex, senatus and res. Sort each noun into its column in 60 seconds, then chant senatus and res in both numbers. Score a point for each noun placed correctly and a bonus for each form chanted without error. Beat your record.

Scripture. “Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.” (Proverbs 11:14, KJV)

A senate is, at its best, a multitude of counsellors: Rome's name for it came from its elders. Scripture had already said why such a room matters, and what happens to a people that stops listening to wise counsel.

UNIT 1 • THE LAST TWO DECLENSIONS AND THE COUNTING OF A WORLD • LESSON 1.2 OF 10 •
3 SESSIONS OF 30-40 MINUTES

1.2 THE CENSUS: COUNTING TO A THOUSAND

OBJECTIVES

- Tell how Rome's census worked and how censere, to assess, gave English census and censor.
- Read and write Roman numerals to M, using the subtractive pairs IV, IX, XL, XC, CD and CM correctly.
- Chant the cardinal numbers from unus to viginti, adding the new words undecim through viginti.
- Decode anno Domini dates like MMXXVI on buildings, books and films.
- Connect the decree of Caesar Augustus in Luke 2 to the census Rome counted the world with.

Warm-up. Chant the five-declension roll call, then count to ten in Latin: unus, duo, tres, quattuor, quinque, sex, septem, octo, novem, decem. Now a puzzle: how old are you in Roman numerals? If you cannot write it yet, you will be able to before this lesson ends, along with the year you were born and the year it is now.

WATCH

Math Antics - Roman Numerals

mathantics · 11:45

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P_qD1GJ1dR8

WHEN TO WATCH

After the How Latin works paragraph. It is the longest video of the course and worth it: the seven letters, the adding rule and the subtractive pairs, all with worked examples. Keep a pencil handy and race him.

Note: Made for math class rather than Latin class, and none the worse for it; the system is the same one carved on every Roman monument.

BACKUP VIDEO

Roman Numerals for Kids | Learn How to Read Roman Numerals

Learn Bright · 8:19

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JvKLk4Gjjx8>

A gentler second lap if the subtractive pairs need one; it is made for younger students, so treat it as easy review at double speed.

KEY TERMS

census

Rome's official count and assessment of its citizens, taken about every five years: name, family, property, place. From censere, to assess.

Roman numerals

Rome's number letters: I one, V five, X ten, L fifty, C one hundred, D five hundred, M one thousand.

censor

The Roman magistrate who conducted the census and guarded public morals; a man struck from the rolls was censured. Both English words keep his name.

subtractive pair

A smaller numeral set before a larger one to subtract from it: IV four, IX nine, XL forty, XC ninety, CD four hundred, CM nine hundred. Only these six pairs are used.

anno Domini

'In the year of the Lord': the A.D. of dates, counting the years from the birth of Christ. MMXXVI is anno Domini 2026.

cardinal numbers

The counting words: unus, duo, tres... undecim, duodecim... viginti. Cardinal from cardo, a hinge: the numbers everything else swings on.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Classical sounds: c is always k, g is always hard, v is w, and ae says eye. Capitals show the stress. A macron marks a long vowel.

cēnsus

KAYN-sus

noun · cēnsus, cēnsūs, m.

a census

ENGLISH census

cēnsor

KAYN-sor

noun · cēnsor, cēnsōris, m.

a censor

ENGLISH censor

mīlle

MEEL-leh

number

a thousand

ENGLISH mile

vīgintī

wee-GEEN-tee

number

twenty

quīngentī

kween-GEN-tee

adjective · quīngentī, quīngentae, quīngenta

five hundred

tribus

TREE-bus

noun · tribus, tribūs, f.

a tribe

ENGLISH tribe

classis

KLAHS-sees

noun · classis, classis, f.

a class; a fleet

ENGLISH class

aestimō

YES-tee-moh

verb · aestimō, aestimāre, aestimāvī, aestimātum

I reckon, I value

ENGLISH estimate

lūstrum

LOOST-rum

noun · lūstrum, lūstrī, n.

the five-year purification after a census

ENGLISH lustrum

patrimōnium

pah-tree-MOH-nee-um

noun · patrimōnium, patrimōnī, n.

an inheritance

ENGLISH patrimony

professiō

pro-FES-see-oh

noun · professiō, professiōnis, f.

a declaration; a profession

ENGLISH profession

CORE IDEAS

The story. Rome counted everything. About every five years, every citizen came before the censors to be registered: his name, his family, his property, down to the tools of his trade. The count fixed his tax, his tribe for voting, and his class, up to the senators at the top of the rolls; and because the censors could strike a man from his rank for disgraceful conduct, their name came to mean moral judgment too. Censere, to assess, sits inside our census, taken in America every ten years because the framers copied the idea straight from Rome, and inside censor and censure as well. A government that counts carefully can tax fairly, raise armies honestly and keep its promises; Rome's ledger-keeping was one of the quiet engines of its power.

The census of Luke 2. The most famous census in history was not Roman arithmetic but divine appointment. Luke writes that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed, that is, registered, and so Joseph the carpenter took Mary, great with child, from Nazareth to Bethlehem, the city of David, his family's town, and the prophecy of Micah, that the Ruler would come out of Bethlehem, was fulfilled by a government form. Pieter Bruegel painted that moment and hid it in plain sight: a snowy Flemish village, a crowd pressing around the tax-collector's table at the inn, and almost unnoticed in the foreground, a man leading a donkey carrying a young woman wrapped against the cold. God entered the world through the machinery of an empire's paperwork, and the painter dares you to walk past without noticing, the way the village does.

How Latin works: the numerals. Seven letters count to a million's doorstep: **I** one, **V** five, **X** ten, **L** fifty, **C** one hundred (think centum), **D** five hundred, **M** one thousand (think mille). The first rule is addition, larger before smaller: **VIII** is 8, **LXXVI** is 76, **MDC** is 1600. The second rule is the subtractive pair: to avoid four-in-a-row, a smaller numeral stands before a larger and subtracts, and only six pairs exist: **IV** 4, **IX** 9, **XL** 40, **XC** 90, **CD** 400, **CM** 900. **I** subtracts only from **V** and **X**, **X** only from **L** and **C**, **C** only from **D** and **M**, and a pair never doubles. So 1776 is **MDCCLXXVI**, 1945 is **MCMXLV**, and this school year's **MMXXVI** reads two thousands, two tens, a five and a one: 2026.

Say it out loud. The counting words continue past decem: **undecim** 11, **duodecim** 12, **tredecim** 13, **quattuordecim** 14, **quindecim** 15, **sedecim** 16, **septendecim** 17, then two clever ones, **duodeviginti** 18, 'two from twenty,' and **undeviginti** 19, 'one from twenty,' and at last **viginti**, 20. The Romans subtracted in their words just as in their numerals. Add **centum**, 100, and **mille**, 1,000, and notice their English children: century, percent, centurion; millennium, million, and the mile, from **mille passus**, a thousand

paces of a marching legion. Chant unus to viginti out loud until it runs smooth; count the spoons, the stairs, the chickens if you have them.

Try it. This week you take the census of your own household, Roman style: a formal page with every member's name, age in Roman numerals and year of birth in numerals, ruled and lettered like a document worth keeping, because it is. Then you go date-hunting: three real dates in Roman numerals, found on cornerstones, title pages or film credits, decoded in your notebook.

PICTURE STUDY



The Numbering at Bethlehem, Pieter Bruegel the Elder, 1566 · Oil on panel · Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium, Brussels

Image: [Wikimedia Commons](#), public domain

Bruegel paints Luke 2 as if it happened in his own Flanders in the dead of winter: the census table set up at the inn window on the left, the crowd pressing in to be registered and taxed, carts, chickens, children on the ice, and the sun going down red behind the bare trees. Nothing glows, no angel points. The Holy Family must be found, the way the village itself failed to find them.

Look closely

- Find the crowd at the inn window on the left: the clerk at his ledger, the coins changing hands. That is the census, the reason everyone has come.
- Now find the man in the foreground leading a donkey, a saw over his shoulder, a woman in a blue cloak riding wrapped against the cold. The carpenter's saw and the blue are Bruegel's quiet labels: Joseph and Mary.
- Look at how busy everyone else is: hauling, sweeping snow, playing on the ice. Not one face turns toward the donkey. That is the painting's point.
- Find the wreath hanging at the inn and the low red sun. Evening is coming, the inn is busy, and you know from Luke what the crowded inn will mean tonight.

Talk about it

1. Why would Bruegel hide the most important figures in the picture instead of putting a light on them?
2. Luke tells us the census was Caesar's idea, and Micah had prophesied Bethlehem centuries before. What does it say about God's providence that an emperor's tax decree delivered the prophecy?
3. The painting sets Bethlehem in a Flemish winter village. What is gained by painting the story as if it happened in your own town?

ACTIVITY

The family census

Rome counted its households every five years; today you count yours, on a page formal enough for a censor's archive, with every age and year in Roman numerals. Then you hunt three real dates in the wild and decode them.

You will need

- A sheet of good paper or cardstock, a ruler and a pencil
- A fine-tip pen and colored pencils
- 12 index cards for the new number vocabulary
- Your Latin notebook

Steps

1. Rule the census page into columns: NOMEN (name), AETAS (age) and ANNUS (year of birth). A heading in Roman capitals, CENSUS FAMILIAE with your family name, makes it official.
2. Enter every member of the household, pets permitted at the censor's discretion: name lettered carefully, age in Roman numerals (XIV, XLII...), birth year in numerals (MCMLXXXIV, MMXII...). Check every subtractive pair against your chart.
3. Date the document at the bottom the Roman way: the current year in numerals, with A.D. written out as anno Domini.
4. Make the twelve flashcards: mille, centum, and undecim through viginti. Chant unus to viginti three times, then count twenty real things aloud in Latin.
5. Go date-hunting: find three dates in Roman numerals in the real world, cornerstones, book title pages, movie or show credits, monuments. Copy each into your notebook and decode it, showing the arithmetic.
6. Present the census page to the family and read everyone's entry aloud, numbers in Latin.

Tips

- Build big numbers left to right in blocks: thousands, then hundreds, then tens, then ones. 1987 = M, CM, LXXX, VII: MCMLXXXVII.

- If a numeral has four of the same letter in a row, a subtractive pair is hiding somewhere: IIII wants to be IV.
- Film and television credits are the easiest hunting grounds; the copyright year is nearly always in numerals at the end.

Check your work

- ☐ Every household member is on the page, with age and birth year in correct numerals.
- ☐ My subtractive pairs are the legal six only: IV, IX, XL, XC, CD, CM.
- ☐ I chanted unus to viginti without the chart and counted twenty things aloud.
- ☐ Three found dates are decoded in my notebook, arithmetic shown.

LATIN NOTEBOOK

1. Write the seven numeral letters with their values, and the six subtractive pairs with theirs, as a dated reference chart.
2. Write the number words from unus to viginti in a column with figures beside them; box duodeviginti and undeviginti and note how they subtract.
3. Decode and write out: MMXXVI, MDCCLXXVI, MCMXLV.
4. Copy and translate the phrase anno Domini, and note under it the derivatives of centum and mille you can think of (century, percent, millennium, mile...).

From history. The framers of the United States Constitution wrote a census into Article I: a full count every ten years, the decennial census, from decem, ten. They borrowed the institution from Rome along with its name, and America has counted itself every decade since 1790, which is why Rome's old word for assessment appears in your mailbox once every ten years.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Write 1776 in Roman numerals.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Break into blocks: $1000 + 700 + 70 + 6$.
2. $1000 = M$; $700 = DCC$; $70 = LXX$; $6 = VI$.
3. Assemble left to right, largest block first.

Answer: MDCCLXXVI. You will find it carved on the base of the Statue of Liberty's tablet, and on many a courthouse.

Example 2. Decode MCMXLV.

▼ **Show solution**

1. $M = 1000$.
2. CM is a subtractive pair: 900.
3. XL is a subtractive pair: 40; $V = 5$.
4. Add the blocks: $1000 + 900 + 40 + 5$.

Answer: 1945.

Example 3. What number is *duodeviginti*, and what is clever about how it is built?

▼ **Show solution**

1. Split it: duo-de-viginti, 'two from twenty.'
2. Twenty minus two.
3. Compare undeviginti, 'one from twenty.'

Answer: Eighteen. Latin subtracts in its words exactly as its numerals do in IX and XL: the Romans liked counting down to a round number.

PRACTICE

1. **Easy** Write in Roman numerals: 3, 9, 14.

▼ **Show answer**

III, IX, XIV.

2. **Easy** Decode: XL, XC, CD.

▼ **Show answer**

40, 90, 400. Each is a subtractive pair: the smaller letter in front subtracts.

3. **Easy** Give the Latin for 11, 15 and 20.

▼ **Show answer**

Undecim, quindecim, viginti.

4. **Medium** Write the current year, 2026, in Roman numerals, and explain each block.

▼ **Show answer**

MMXXVI: MM two thousands, XX two tens, VI a five and a one. No subtractive pairs needed.

5. **Medium** A cornerstone reads MDCCLXXVI. What year is it, and why is that year famous in America?

▼ **Show answer**

1776 (M 1000, DCC 700, LXX 70, VI 6): the year of the Declaration of Independence.

6. **Medium** Mille passus, 'a thousand paces,' gave English which word? And name two English children of centum.

▼ **Show answer**

Mile. From centum: century, cent, percent, centurion (an officer of a hundred men), centennial.

7. **Hard** Why is 1999 written MCMXCIX and not MIM, which looks shorter?

▼ **Show answer**

Because the subtraction rules allow only six pairs: I subtracts only from V and X, X only from L and C, C only from D and M. I may not reach across to M. So 1999 is M + CM (900) + XC (90) + IX (9): MCMXCIX.

8. **Challenge** Luke says the decree of Caesar Augustus registered 'all the world.' What did a census mean for a Roman citizen, and why might God choose a census, of all things, to bring the Messiah to Bethlehem?

▼ **Show answer**

The census fixed a citizen's tax, his voting tribe and his class: it told the empire exactly who and where he was. Micah had prophesied the Ruler would come from Bethlehem, David's city; the census required Joseph, of David's house, to be counted there. God steered the fulfillment of prophecy through an emperor's paperwork, so that even Rome's ledger served His promise.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Inventing illegal subtractions like IC for 99 or MIM for 1999. Only the six pairs exist; 99 is XCIX.
- Writing IIX for 8. Eight is VIII; a subtractive pair never doubles its front letter.
- Confusing duodecim (12) with duodeviginti (18, 'two from twenty'). The -viginti is the giveaway.
- Reading numerals strictly letter by letter instead of scanning for pairs first. Find IV, IX, XL, XC, CD, CM before you add anything.

Make it a game · Census Numerals Duel. Write numbers from 1 to 1000 on cards. Draw one and write it in Roman numerals within 20 seconds, with correct subtractive pairs. Then the parent shows a Roman numeral like CDXC and you read it aloud. Wrong answers lose a point. Imagine a Roman census clerk counting each citizen. Play to ten points.

Scripture. “And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. ... And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.” (Luke 2:1, 4–5, KJV)

The Vulgate says the decree went out a *Caesare Augusto*, 'from Caesar Augustus,' the very a/ab you will meet doing grammar work in Unit 2. An emperor counted the world for taxes, and God used the counting to keep a seven-hundred-year-old promise about one small town.

UNIT 2

THE PASSIVE VOICE

Every sentence you have built since grade 5 has run one direction: somebody does something. The servant writes the book, *servus librum scribit*. This unit teaches the camera to turn around. *Liber a servo scribitur*: the book is written by the servant, the same truth with the receiver standing in the spotlight. Latin does it with six new endings, -r, -ris, -tur, -mur, -mini, -ntur, and a little preposition, a or ab, to introduce the doer. The story that carries the grammar is the story of how every book in the world was once made: by hand, line by line, a scribe bent over a desk, a whole year's labor for a single Bible, and in the monasteries of the quiet centuries, the entire Latin inheritance, your Caesar and your Psalms alike, copied and recopied so it could reach you. You will feel that labor in your own hand at a homemade scriptorium desk.

Then the passive voice does what Latin grammar keeps doing in this course: it opens Scripture. Isaiah's great Christmas verse stands in Jerome's Latin on two perfect passives, *parvulus natus est nobis*, *et filius datus est nobis*, a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The perfect passive is participle plus sum, and the participle agrees like an adjective: *puella laudata est*, *dona data sunt*. Handel set the English of that verse to music half the world sings every December, and you will parse the Latin, letter it for the wall, and then listen to 'For unto us a child is born' knowing exactly which two verbs are carrying the weight.

PREREQUISITES

- Can decline all five declensions from the master map (Unit 1)
- Can conjugate the four conjugations in the present and perfect active, and chant sum (grade 7)
- Knows the ablative's jobs with prepositions such as ab, in and cum (grades 6–7)

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can chant the present passive of amo: amor, amaris, amatur, amamur, amamini, amantur.
- ☐ I can form the present passive of verbs from other conjugations: monetur, regitur, mittitur, auditur.
- ☐ I can flip a sentence between active and passive, using a or ab with the ablative for the doer: Servus librum scribit; Liber a servo scribitur.
- ☐ I can form and translate perfect passives, participle plus sum, with correct agreement: amatus est, laudata est, data sunt.
- ☐ I can find the two perfect passives in parvulus natus est nobis, et filius datus est nobis, and say what each participle agrees with.
- ☐ I can tell how scribes and monasteries kept Latin books alive, and what one Bible cost in labor.

OPTIONAL BOOKS AND RESOURCES FOR THIS UNIT

- ***Latin for Beginners*, by Benjamin L. D'Ooge (1911):** Free online. Its passive-voice lessons walk the same six endings as this unit, with extra drill sentences for a student who wants more.
- ***Lingua Latina per se Illustrata: Familia Romana*, by Hans Ørberg:** The famous reader written entirely in Latin, graded so gently that it teaches itself. By grade 8 it is the ideal parallel: passives start appearing within the first chapters, in sentences you can now parse.
- ***Magister Craft* (YouTube channel):** Free. Short stories about Roman life spoken in clear, slow Latin with subtitles, filmed in Minecraft. Painless listening practice; hunt for the passives as you listen.

Not required. Every activity in this unit works with paper, pencil, scissors and the free links below. School Launch has no ties to these authors, publishers or companies.

LESSONS IN THIS UNIT

2.1 The Book Is Written: Present Passive

3 sessions of 30–40 minutes

2.2 Puer Natus Est: The Perfect Passive

3 sessions of 30–40 minutes

UNIT 2 REVIEW

Answer each question in complete sentences, except where forms are asked for. The review is worth 30 points. It may be done orally, with a parent writing down the answers.

1. **5 pts**

Write the present passive of *amo* with meanings.

2. **5 pts**

Write the present passive of *rego*, and translate *regitur* in a sentence of your own.

3. **5 pts**

Flip both ways and translate: (a) *Servus librum scribit*. (b) *Epistula a regina mittitur*.

4. 5 pts

Translate and explain the agreement: Puella laudata est. Dona data sunt.

5. 5 pts

Tell how Latin books survived the centuries before printing, and what one Bible cost a scribe.

6. 5 pts

Write out the Latin of Isaiah's line, mark its two perfect passives, and translate it.

ANSWER KEY

1. Amor I am loved, amaris you are loved, amatur he/she is loved, amamur we are loved, amamini you all are loved, amantur they are loved.
2. Regor, regeris, regitur, regimur, regimini, reguntur. Example: Oppidum a regina regitur, the town is ruled by the queen.
3. (a) Liber a servo scribitur: the book is written by the servant. (b) Regina epistulam mittit: the queen sends the letter. In the flip, the receiver takes the nominative, the verb changes voice, and the doer rides with a/ab in the ablative.
4. The girl was praised; the gifts were given. The participle agrees with its subject in gender and number: laudata feminine singular for puella, data neuter plural for dona.
5. Books survived only by being copied by hand, above all in monastery scriptoria, where monks copied Scripture and also the classical authors, Virgil, Cicero and Caesar, for the schools. A professional scribe spent about a year of labor on a single Bible.
6. Parvulus enim natus est nobis, et filius datus est nobis. The perfect passives are natus est (agreeing with parvulus) and datus est (agreeing with filius): For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given.

UNIT CHALLENGE: THE SCRIPTORIUM PAGE AND THE ISAIAH LINE

Finish and present the two pages of this unit. First, the scriptorium page: your passage copied in ink on ruled lines in a careful book-hand, begun with an illuminated capital, with your honest Bible-speed arithmetic noted on the back. Second, the Isaiah line: PARVULUS ENIM NATUS EST NOBIS, ET FILIUS DATUS EST NOBIS lettered for the wall, parsed word by word beneath, the two perfect passives bracketed, the English below. Present both to the family: tell what a scriptorium was, read the Isaiah line aloud in Latin and English, and show on your own page how natus agrees with parvulus and datus with filius. If it is anywhere near December, finish with the Handel.

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Accurate text	Both Latin passages are copied exactly, letter-perfect, with correct translations.
Correct parsing	The Isaiah line's labels are right: subjects, datives, and the two perfect passives identified with their agreement.
Craftsmanship	Ruled lines, a steady book-hand, and an illuminated capital made with care.
Presentation	The student read the Latin aloud with classical pronunciation and explained participle-plus-sum in his or her own words.

UNIT 2 • THE PASSIVE VOICE • LESSON 2.1 OF 10 • 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

2.1 THE BOOK IS WRITTEN: PRESENT PASSIVE

OBJECTIVES

- Tell how books were made before printing and how monastery scriptoria preserved Latin literature.
- Explain the difference between active and passive voice, and why both tell the same truth.
- Chant the present passive endings -r, -ris, -tur, -mur, -mini, -ntur, and the full present passive of amo and of rego.
- Flip sentences between active and passive, using a or ab with the ablative for the doer.
- Learn the vocabulary: liber, scribo, mitto, a/ab.

Warm-up. Chant the five-declension roll call and the amo column. Now watch English do a magic trick. Say: 'The scribe writes the book.' Now say the same fact with the book in charge: 'The book is written by the scribe.' Nothing in the world changed, only the camera turned. Today Latin teaches you its six endings for the turned camera.

WATCH

The Passive Voice in Latin

[latintutorial](#) · 5:52

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ETmT8_rFuOM

WHEN TO WATCH

After the How Latin works paragraph. Watch for the moment the active sentence flips: subject and object trade places, and a/ab walks in with the doer.

Note: The video marks long vowels with macrons, the little lines this course leaves off in running text; the endings are the same.

BACKUP VIDEO

The Present Passive

[latintutorial](#) · 5:24

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yk_j0mVlaaY

A second lap focused on the present tense forms themselves; chant the amor column along with it if the endings need another pass.

KEY TERMS

voice

The verb's direction of action. Active voice: the subject does (scribit, he writes). Passive voice: the subject is done to (scribitur, it is written).

passive endings

The six person endings of the passive: -r I, -ris you, -tur he/she/it, -mur we, -mini you all, -ntur they. They replace -o, -s, -t, -mus, -tis, -nt.

agent

The doer of a passive verb, named with a or ab plus the ablative: a servo, by the servant. Ab stands before vowels, a usually before consonants.

scriptorium

The writing room of a monastery, where books were copied by hand, line by line, year after year.

scribe

A professional copyist, from scribo, I write. Before printing, every book in the world passed through a scribe's hands.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Classical sounds: c is always k, g is always hard, v is w, and ae says eye. Capitals show the stress. A macron marks a long vowel.

membrāna**memb-RAH-nah**

noun · membrāna, membrānae, f.

parchment

ENGLISH membrane

atrāmentum**ah-trah-MEN-tum**

noun · atrāmentum, atrāmentī, n.

ink

calamus**KAH-lah-mus**

noun · calamus, calamī, m.

a reed pen

scrīptor**SKREEP-tor**

noun · scrīptor, scrīptōris, m.

a writer

ENGLISH script

volūmen

wo-LOO-men

noun · volūmen, volūminis, n.

a scroll

ENGLISH volume

bibliothēca

bee-blee-ot-HAY-kah

noun · bibliothēca, bibliothēcae, f.

a library

ENGLISH library

cōdex

KOH-deks

noun · cōdex, cōdicis, m.

a codex, a bound book

ENGLISH code

monachus

mo-NAHK-hus

noun · monachus, monachī, m.

a monk

ENGLISH monk

scrīnium

SKREE-nee-um

noun · scrīnium, scrīniī, n.

a book box

exemplum

eh-KSEMP-lum

noun · exemplum, exemplī, n.

a copy; an example

ENGLISH example

corrigō

KOR-ree-goh

verb · corrigō, corrigere, corrēxi, corrēctum

I correct

ENGLISH correct

CORE IDEAS

The story. For most of history, a book was not printed; it was written, letter by letter, by a person with an aching back. A professional scribe managed a few careful pages a day; a complete Bible was about a year of one man's working life. The parchment had to be scraped and smoothed, the quills cut, the ink mixed, the lines ruled; then the long silence of copying, where a wandering eye could drop a line and a sneeze could ruin a page. In the margins of surviving manuscripts the copyists sometimes left little sighs in Latin: complaints of cold hands, thin ink and short candles, and one famous line that three fingers do the writing but the whole body does the work. When you hold any old book, you are holding hours; when you hold a medieval Bible, you are holding a year.

Line by line to you. After Rome's empire crumbled, the books of the ancient world had exactly one road to the future: the copying desk. In monasteries from Ireland to Italy, monks ruled their pages and copied the inheritance, Scripture first and always, but also Virgil, Cicero and Caesar, because the schoolmasters needed them to teach Latin itself. A pagan general's war dispatches survived because Christian copyists kept writing them out, century after century, forty-five lines at a time. The Caesar you will read in Unit 4 and the Psalms you will hear at the Capstone Evening both reached you through those rooms. The passive voice is the grammar of that whole story: the book is written, the page is ruled, the line is copied, and civilization is handed on.

How Latin works: the camera turns. Active: *Servus librum scribit.* The servant writes the book. Passive: *Liber a servo scribitur.* The book is written by the servant. Watch what moved. The receiver, *liber*, stepped into the nominative and became the subject; the verb put on a passive ending; and the doer slid into the phrase **a servo**, a or ab plus the ablative, by the servant. The six passive person endings are **-r, -ris, -tur, -mur, -mini, -ntur**, and they ride the same stems you already own, in every conjugation: *amatur*, she is loved; *monetur*, he is warned; *regitur*, it is ruled; *mittitur*, it is sent; *auditur*, he is heard. The full present passive of *amo*: **amor, amaris, amatur, amamur**,

amamini, amantur; and of rego: **regor, regeris, regitur, regimur, regimini, reguntur.**
The truth of the sentence never changes in the flip; only the camera does.

Say it out loud. Chant amor down the column with meanings: amor, I am loved; amaris, you are loved; amatur, he or she is loved; amamur, we are loved; amamini, you all are loved; amantur, they are loved. Then regor the same way. Then read these aloud and translate on sight: *Epistula scribitur. Liber laudatur. Epistula a regina mittitur. Vocor. Audimur.* The letter is written; the book is praised; the letter is sent by the queen; I am called; we are heard. Notice how -tur and -ntur will carry most of your reading: books are written about what is done.

Try it. This week you keep scriptorium hour: a ruled page, a careful book-hand, one Latin passage copied the slow way, with an illuminated capital to begin it, and the clock running so you can calculate, honestly, what a whole Bible would have cost you. Liber scribitur: this time, by you.

PICTURE STUDY



Jean Miélot in His Scriptorium, Unknown Flemish miniaturist, About 1450 · Miniature on parchment ·
Royal Library of Belgium, Brussels (MS 9278)
Image: [Wikimedia Commons](#), public domain

This is a working portrait of Jean Miélot, secretary and translator to the Duke of Burgundy, painted into one of the very books he produced. Everything in the room is a tool: the slanted desk that keeps the pen at the right angle, the weighted book-stand holding his exemplar open, the shelves of finished volumes. He holds a pen in one hand and a small knife in the other, and the knife is not for sharpening only: a scribe used it to pin the springy parchment flat and to scrape away mistakes while the ink was fresh.

Look closely

- Find the two hands: pen in the right, knife in the left. Erasing meant scraping the skin of the page; every correction was surgery.
- Look at the slant of the desk. Writing flat ruins the pen angle and the back; medieval desks tilted the work up to meet the eye.
- Find the book propped open above his desk: the exemplar, the book being copied. Copying meant eyes jumping safely between two pages ten thousand times.
- Count the finished books in the room. Each one represents months; the shelf is a shelf of years.

Talk about it

1. A scribe's mistake could live for centuries, copied by the next scribe in line. How would that change the way you worked?
2. Why do you think painters of this age liked to show scribes and scholars surrounded by their tools?
3. The passive voice says *liber scribitur* without naming the writer. Whole generations of copyists are anonymous. What do we owe people whose names their work never carried?

ACTIVITY

Scriptorium hour

Grammar first, labor second: today you learn the passive by being its agent. A liber scribitur, and the a te, 'by you,' is the point. One ruled page, one careful passage, one illuminated capital, and a clock to tell you the truth about what books used to cost.

You will need

- A sheet of good paper and a pencil, ruler and fine-tip pen
- Colored pencils and a yellow or metallic pencil for the capital
- 4 index cards for the new vocabulary
- A clock or timer, and your Latin notebook

Steps

1. Rule your page lightly in pencil, even lines with a margin, the way every scriptorium page began. Scribes who skipped the ruling wrote crooked books.
2. Choose your passage: the Vulgate's Dominus regit me, et nihil mihi deerit ('The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want,' and notice regit, from your own rego: the Lord shepherds, rules, me). Write it first in pencil draft on scrap.
3. Start the timer and copy the passage in your best book-hand in ink, slowly, letter by letter. No crossing out: if you err, do as the scribes did and scrape or dot it out neatly, then carry on.
4. Illuminate the first letter: draw the capital D double-height, and fill and surround it with gold, vines or stars, in the spirit of the old Bibles.
5. Stop the timer. Count your words, divide into the roughly 600,000 words of a half-million-word Bible plus room for error, and compute honestly: at your pace, how many months would a Bible take you?
6. Make the four flashcards (liber, scribo with its parts, mitto with its parts, a/ab) and add them to the deck. Finish by flipping your day's work into Latin out loud: Pagina a me scribitur. The page is written by me.

Tips

- Slower is faster in a book-hand: every letter gets a beginning, a middle and an end.

- Keep the pen at one angle and let the lines do the straightness; that is what the ruling is for.
- Your arithmetic will likely say several years for a Bible. Professional scribes managed it in about one, which tells you what professional meant.

Check your work

- ☐ My page is ruled, copied in ink and finished with an illuminated capital.
- ☐ I can translate my passage and point out regit as a form I own.
- ☐ I computed my own Bible-speed and wrote it in my notebook.
- ☐ The four new flashcards are in the deck.

LATIN NOTEBOOK

1. Write the six passive endings with meanings in a dated column beside the six active endings: -o/-r, -s/-ris, -t/-tur, -mus/-mur, -tis/-mini, -nt/-ntur.
2. Write the full present passive of amo and of rego, with English beside each form.
3. Take three active sentences from your old notebook pages and flip them to the passive, with a/ab for the doer.
4. Copy and translate: Liber a servo scribitur. Epistula a regina mittitur.

From history. Monastery copyists left their feelings in the margins, and scholars collect them: notes about cold, about bad parchment, and small prayers at the end of long books. One scribe finished a manuscript with the observation that while only three fingers hold the pen, the whole body labors. The next time a copy of anything costs you one keystroke, spare a thought for the anonymous hands your Caesar and your Psalms came through.

Practice habit. Add the passive column to your daily chant stack: after the declension roll call, run amo across both voices, amo, amas, amat... then amor, amaris, amatur... Two minutes buys you every verb in both directions for the rest of your life.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Flip to the passive: *Servus librum scribit.*

▼ **Show solution**

1. The receiver, librum, becomes the subject and puts on the nominative: liber.
2. The verb turns passive, third person singular: scribit becomes scribitur.
3. The old doer, servus, becomes the agent: a servo, ab plus ablative.

Answer: Liber a servo scribitur: the book is written by the servant. Same fact, turned camera.

Example 2. Translate: *Monemur.*

▼ **Show solution**

1. Split stem and ending: mone- + -mur.
2. -mur is the we-ending of the passive.
3. Moneo means I warn, so the passive means being warned.

Answer: We are warned. One Latin word, a complete English sentence, exactly as in the active.

Example 3. Put *audio* (I hear) into the present passive, third person singular, and use it: The teacher is heard.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Fourth conjugation keeps its i: audi-.
2. Add -tur: auditur, he/she/it is heard.
3. Subject in the nominative: magister.

Answer: Magister auditur. For the chant: audior, audiris, auditur, audimur, audimini, audiuntur.

PRACTICE

1. **Easy** What person and number does each passive ending name? -tur, -ntur, -mur.

▼ **Show answer**

-tur he, she or it; -ntur they; -mur we.

2. **Easy** Translate: amaris, laudantur, vocor.

▼ **Show answer**

You are loved, they are praised, I am called.

3. **Easy** Give the meanings: liber, scribo, mitto, ab.

▼ **Show answer**

Book, I write, I send, by or from (with the ablative).

4. **Medium** Flip to the passive and translate: Regina epistulam mittit.

▼ **Show answer**

Epistula a regina mittitur: the letter is sent by the queen. Epistula takes the nominative, mittit becomes mittitur, and the queen rides in the ablative after a.

5. **Medium** Translate into Latin: The book is praised. The girls are heard.

▼ **Show answer**

Liber laudatur. Puellae audiuntur: plural subject, so the passive they-ending -untur on audio's stem.

6. **Medium** In Liber a servo scribitur, why is it servo and not servus or servum?

▼ **Show answer**

The agent of a passive verb is named by a/ab plus the ablative: a servo, by the servant. Servus would make him the subject, servum would make him the object; the ablative keeps him the doer behind the by.

7. **Hard** Fix and translate: Liber a servo scribit.

▼ **Show answer**

Liber a servo scribitur. As written, scribit is active, 'the book writes,' which makes the book the author and the servant scenery. The flip is only legal when the verb turns passive with it.

8. **Challenge** Parse amamini completely: person, number, voice, tense, and translation. Then put the same form on moneo.

▼ **Show answer**

Second person plural, passive, present: you all are loved. On moneo: monemini, you all are warned. The -mini ending is the oddest of the six; it only ever means you all, done-to.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Flipping the nouns but not the verb: Liber a servo scribit. The passive needs its passive ending: scribitur.
- Putting the accusative after ab: ab servum. The agent rides in the ablative: a servo.
- Reading -ris as he or she. The -ris ending is you; -tur is the he/she/it form.
- Leaving the old object in the accusative: librum scribitur. In the passive the receiver is the subject and wears the nominative: liber scribitur.

Make it a game · Scriptorium Hour. Play monks in a scriptorium. Write short present passive sentences, like Liber scribitur, in careful copy script. Hand the parent each one and they must say whether it is active or passive and name the agent. Mistakes are marked with a pretend red pen. Switch roles after five sentences.

Scripture. “Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it.” (Habakkuk 2:2, KJV)

God Himself commands writing, and commands it plain: legible to a man in a hurry. Every ruled line and careful letter of your scriptorium page is obedience to that older instruction, the same one the copyists of the Scriptures served for centuries.

UNIT 2 · THE PASSIVE VOICE · LESSON 2.2 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

2.2 PUER NATUS EST: THE PERFECT PASSIVE

OBJECTIVES

- Tell how Isaiah 9:6 reaches us in Jerome's Latin and in Handel's music.
- Form the perfect passive: perfect passive participle plus sum (amatus est, data est, natus est).
- Make the participle agree with its subject in gender and number: puella laudata est, dona data sunt.
- Translate perfect passives both ways, choosing between 'was' and 'has been' by context.
- Learn the vocabulary: do with its participle datus, natus, parvulus.

Warm-up. Chant the present passive of amo. Then say, slowly, the most famous birth announcement in the English language: 'For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given.' Two verbs, both passive, both finished deeds. Today you learn how Latin says a thing has been done, and you will find that you have been singing this grammar every December of your life.

WATCH

The Perfect Passive

latintutorial · 7:53

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2QWLkX1az18>

WHEN TO WATCH

After the How Latin works paragraph. Watch for the two-piece verb, participle plus sum, and for the participle changing its dress to match the subject.

Note: The video also touches forms built on eram and ero, the past and future of sum; admire them in passing and keep the present-tense set, amatus est, for this year.

BACKUP VIDEO

Handel: Messiah, For unto us a child is born (Sir Colin Davis, Tenebrae, LSO)

London Symphony Orchestra · 4:13

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MS3vpAWW2Zc>

After the lesson's work is done, as the reward: the verse you just parsed, sung. Follow with the Latin in hand: natus est at 'is born,' datus est at 'is given.'

KEY TERMS

perfect passive

The tense that says a thing was done or has been done: amatus est, he was loved; data est, she/it was given. Built from the participle plus the present of sum.

perfect passive participle

The verb's adjective of completed action: amatus, loved; datus, given; scriptus, written. It is the fourth principal part of the verb.

principal parts

The four forms a dictionary gives a verb, such as amo, amare, amavi, amatus. The fourth part is the key to everything passive and perfect.

agreement

The participle dresses to match its subject in gender and number: puer laudatus est, puella laudata est, dona data sunt.

Vulgate

Jerome's Latin Bible, finished about A.D. 405, the book of Europe for a thousand years. Its Isaiah carries this lesson's verse.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Classical sounds: c is always k, g is always hard, v is w, and ae says eye. Capitals show the stress. A macron marks a long vowel.

nāscor

NAHS-kor

verb · nāscor, nāscī, nātus sum

I am born

ENGLISH nascent

parvulus

PAHR-wu-lus

adjective · parvulus, parvula, parvulum

very small, a little child

Īsaīās

ee-sah-EE-ahs

noun · Īsaīās, Īsaīae, m.

Isaiah

Bēthlehem

BAYTH-leh-hem

name

Bethlehem

prōphēta

prohp-HAY-tah

noun · prōphēta, prōphētae, m.

a prophet

ENGLISH prophet

impleō

EEMP-leh-oh

verb · impleō, implēre, implēvī, implētum

I fill; I fulfill

ENGLISH implement

virgō

WEER-goh

noun · virgō, virginis, f.

a maiden

ENGLISH virgin

nūntius

NOON-tee-us

noun · nūntius, nūntiī, m.

a messenger

ENGLISH nuncio

salvātor

sahl-WAH-tor

noun · salvātor, salvātōris, m.

a savior

ENGLISH salvage

cūnābula

koo-NAH-bu-lah

noun · cūnābula, cūnābulōrum, n. pl.

a cradle

adōrō

ah-DOH-roh

verb · adōrō, adōrāre, adōrāvī, adōrātum

I worship

ENGLISH adore

CORE IDEAS

The story. Seven hundred years before Bethlehem, Isaiah announced a birth in the prophetic past tense, so certain that he wrote it as already done. In Jerome's Latin the verse stands on two verbs: *Parvulus enim natus est nobis, et filius datus est nobis*, for unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given. Natus est; datus est. Not 'will be born,' not 'is being given': done, delivered, counted on. The grammar of the verse is its theology: God's promise is spoken of the way you speak of finished things. And the two verbs are both passive, because the child is not the doer here but the gift; the unnamed giver stands behind both verbs, and every reader knows who it is.

Handel hears it. In the late summer of 1741, George Frideric Handel shut himself in a London room with a libretto of Scripture passages and wrote the oratorio Messiah, over three and a half hours of music, in about twenty-four days. When he reached Isaiah's verse he gave it to the choir as a running, dancing fugue: 'For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given,' the voices tossing the finished deeds back and forth, then slamming together on 'Wonderful! Counsellor!' Gerard van Honthorst had painted the same theology a century earlier: in his Adoration of the Shepherds, every face glows, and all the light in the painting comes from the Child. Composer and painter both understood the passive voice of the verse: the child is given; everything else in the scene is receiving.

How Latin works: participle plus sum. Latin builds the perfect passive out of two pieces you already own. Take the verb's fourth principal part, the perfect passive participle: amatus, loved; laudatus, praised; datus, given; scriptus, written; natus, born. Add the present of sum: **amatus sum**, I was loved; **amatus es**, you were loved; **amatus est**, he was loved; plural **amati sumus**, **amati estis**, **amati sunt**. The participle is an adjective at heart, so it agrees with the subject in gender and number: *puer laudatus est*, the boy was praised; *puella laudata est*, the girl was praised; *dona data sunt*, the gifts were given, neuter plural in -a. One warning worth gold: amatus est is one verb, not 'he is loved' plus leftovers. Latin's single form covers both English translations, 'was loved' and 'has been loved'; context picks.

Say it out loud. Chant the masculine set with meanings: amatus sum, I was loved; amatus es; amatus est; amati sumus; amati estis; amati sunt. Chant it again as a girl would say it: amata sum, amata es, amata est... Then read Isaiah's line aloud three times until it sits in the ear: *Parvulus enim natus est nobis, et filius datus est nobis*. Par-voo-lus, the little child; enim, for; nobis, to us. Finish with sight translations: *Epistula scripta est. Liber laudatus est. Dona data sunt*. The letter was written; the book was praised; the gifts were given.

Try it. This week you letter the Isaiah line for the wall and parse it in public: each word's job written small beneath it, the two perfect passives marked proudly. Then the reward: the Handel, played loud, with your Latin in hand, and nobody in the house left unaware of what natus est means.

PICTURE STUDY



Adoration of the Shepherds, Gerard van Honthorst, 1622 · Oil on canvas · Pomeranian State Museum, Greifswald, Germany

Image: [Wikimedia Commons](#), public domain

Honthorst was a Dutch painter nicknamed 'Gherardo delle Notti,' Gerard of the Nights, because he loved to paint scenes lit by a single candle. Here he removes the candle and makes the Child the light. Every face in the painting, Mary's, the shepherds', is lit from the manger upward; the darkness stands back only where the Child shines. It is a sermon in physics: the light is not falling on the gift, it is coming from it.

Look closely

- Trace where the light lands: faces, hands, the straw. Now hunt for its source. There is no candle, no lantern; the Child is the lamp.
- Look at the shepherds' faces: wind-burnt working men, grinning like men warming themselves at a fire.
- Find Mary's hands, lifting the cloth back from the manger like someone unveiling a gift. *Datus est*, it says: given.
- Notice how close everyone leans. Honthorst paints no distance, no ceremony: the mighty God of Isaiah's verse is close enough to breathe on.

Talk about it

1. Isaiah's verbs are passive: the child is born, the son is given. How does the painting show receiving rather than doing?

2. Why might a painter make the Child the only light source instead of painting a realistic lantern?
3. The shepherds were the first outsiders told. What does it say about the Giver that the announcement went to night-shift workers first?

ACTIVITY

Parse and letter: Natus Est

One line of Isaiah, lettered large enough for a wall and parsed in pencil beneath, every word earning its place. Then the Handel, with the Latin in your hand. This page joins the scriptorium page as the second half of your unit challenge.

You will need

- A sheet of good paper or cardstock, ruler and pencil
- A fine-tip pen and colored pencils
- 4 index cards for the new vocabulary
- The Handel recording from this lesson's backup video, and your Latin notebook

Steps

1. Rule two widely spaced lines and letter the verse in Roman capitals:
PARVULUS ENIM NATUS EST NOBIS, ET FILIUS DATUS EST NOBIS.
2. Beneath each word, in small neat pencil, write its job: parvulus (little child, subject, nominative), enim (for), natus est (perfect passive: is born, one verb in two pieces), nobis (to us, dative), et (and), filius (son, subject), datus est (perfect passive: is given).
3. Draw a proud bracket under each of the two perfect passives and label them: participle + sum.
4. Check the agreement out loud: natus matches parvulus (masculine singular); datus matches filius (masculine singular). Then ask: how would the participle change if the subject were puella? (Nata est.) If it were dona? (Data sunt.)
5. Add the English beneath in smaller letters: For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given.
6. Make the four flashcards (do with principal parts do, dare, dedi, datus; datus; natus; parvulus), run the deck, then play the Handel chorus with your page in hand. Follow the Latin as the choir sings the English, and hang the page where December will find it.

Tips

- Letter the Latin first, parse second: the pencil labels tuck neatly under straight, confident capitals.
- Say natus est as one breath; the two words are one verb, and your voice should believe it.
- If the family can bear it, play the chorus twice: once to enjoy, once to point at natus est and datus est as they fly past.

Check your work

- ☐ The verse is lettered exactly, with the two perfect passives bracketed and labeled.
- ☐ Every word has its parsing note beneath it.
- ☐ I can flip the agreement on demand: nata est, data sunt.
- ☐ The four new flashcards are in the deck, and the Handel was played with the Latin followed.

LATIN NOTEBOOK

1. Write the perfect passive of amo in both the masculine and feminine singular with meanings, and the plural set amati sumus, amati estis, amati sunt.
2. Write the fourth principal parts of porto, laudo, do, scribo and mitto (portatus, laudatus, datus, scriptus, missus) with meanings.
3. Copy the Isaiah line in Latin and English and mark its two perfect passives.
4. Write and translate three perfect passive sentences of your own on the pattern puella laudata est, using correct agreement.

From history. Handel wrote Messiah in about twenty-four days of August and September 1741, and it was first performed in Dublin the following spring at a charity concert that freed debtors from prison with its proceeds. He borrowed the music of 'For unto us' partly from an Italian duet of his own and gave it to Isaiah's words, where it has stayed. The verse's Latin, natus est, datus est, had by then already been sung in the church for thirteen centuries.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Say 'The girl was praised' in Latin.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Find the participle: laudo's fourth part is laudatus.
 2. Agree with the subject: puella is feminine singular, so laudata.
 3. Add the present of sum, third singular: est.
-

Answer: Puella laudata est. The participle dresses to match the girl; est finishes the verb.

Example 2. Translate: *Dona data sunt*.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Dona: gifts, neuter plural, subject.
 2. Data: given, perfect passive participle, neuter plural in -a to agree.
 3. Sunt: plural of est, completing the two-piece verb.
-

Answer: The gifts were given (or have been given; Latin's one form covers both, and the context picks).

Example 3. Translate into Latin: The letter was written.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Scribo's fourth part: scriptus.
 2. Epistula is feminine singular: scripta.
 3. Add est.
-

Answer: Epistula scripta est. Compare yesterday's epistula scribitur, the letter is being written: present passive for the deed underway, perfect passive for the deed done.

PRACTICE

1. **Easy** Translate: amatus est, amata est, amati sunt.

▼ **Show answer**

He was loved, she was loved, they were loved.

2. **Easy** Give the fourth principal part (the perfect passive participle) of porto, laudo and do.

▼ **Show answer**

Portatus (carried), laudatus (praised), datus (given).

3. **Easy** Give the meanings: parvulus, natus, datus.

▼ **Show answer**

A little child; born; given.

4. **Medium** Choose the right participle and translate: Puella (laudatus / laudata) est. Libri (scripti / scripta) sunt.

▼ **Show answer**

Puella laudata est, the girl was praised (feminine singular). Libri scripti sunt, the books were written (masculine plural).

5. **Medium** Translate into Latin: The queen was praised. The letters were sent.

▼ **Show answer**

Regina laudata est. Epistulae missae sunt: mitto's participle missus turns feminine plural to match epistulae.

6. **Medium** Why does Latin say natus EST where English says WAS born?

▼ **Show answer**

The perfect passive is a two-piece verb: participle plus the present of sum. Natus est is one verb meaning 'was born' or 'has been born'; the est is not a separate 'is.' Latin builds with the present of sum what English builds with was.

7. **Hard** Fix and explain: Dona datus sunt.

▼ **Show answer**

Dona data sunt. Dona is neuter plural, so the participle must wear the neuter plural -a. A participle that does not match its subject is a verb in the wrong clothes.

8. **Challenge** In *Parvulus enim natus est nobis, et filius datus est nobis*: find the two perfect passives, say what each participle agrees with, identify the case and job of nobis, and translate the whole line.

▼ **Show answer**

Natus est (natus agreeing with parvulus, masculine singular) and datus est (datus agreeing with filius, masculine singular). Nobis is dative, 'to us,' the receivers, and it rings twice. For unto us a child is born, and unto us a son is given.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Translating the est inside natus est as a separate 'is.' Natus est is one verb: was born, has been born.
- Forgetting agreement: puella laudatus est. The participle matches its subject: laudata.
- Using the present passive for a finished deed: scribitur means it is being written now; scripta est means the writing is done.
- Building the perfect passive on the wrong principal part: it comes from the fourth (amatus), never the third (amavi). Amavi est is not Latin.

Make it a game · Natus Est Parse. Write amatus est, data est and natus est on cards. The parent holds up a card and you parse it aloud: the participle, the form of sum, the gender and the translation. Race to parse five cards in a minute. Then compose a short perfect passive sentence about your family and read it like a herald.

Scripture. “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.” (Isaiah 9:6, KJV)

In Jerome's Latin the verse opens *Parvulus enim natus est nobis, et filius datus est nobis*: two perfect passives, deeds spoken of as done seven hundred years early. The grammar you learned this week is the grammar of the promise.

UNIT 3

PARTICIPLES AND COMPARISON

Across the porch of the best-preserved building of ancient Rome runs a line of bronze letters: M·AGRIPPA·L·F·COS·TERTIUM·FECIT, 'Marcus Agrippa, son of Lucius, consul for the third time, made this.' The strange thing is that the building behind the inscription is not Agrippa's: his Pantheon burned, and the emperor Hadrian rebuilt it from the ground up around A.D. 126, crowned it with the largest unreinforced concrete dome ever raised, and then put his predecessor's name back over the door instead of his own. That building opens this unit's first tool: the participle, the verb that moonlights as an adjective. Portans, carrying; portatus, having been carried; laborans, working. English does it with -ing and -ed; Latin does it with endings that agree, and once you can spot a participle, inscriptions, mottoes and real sentences crack open everywhere.

The second tool is comparison. In 1894 a French teaching priest named Henri Didon gave his students' sports club a three-word Latin motto, Citius, Altius, Fortius, faster, higher, stronger, and his friend Pierre de Coubertin carried it into the revived Olympic Games at Athens in 1896, run in a rebuilt marble stadium from antiquity. Three comparative adverbs, coined new in 1894, because Latin was still alive enough to coin with. You will learn to build comparatives in -ior and superlatives in -issimus, to say than with quam, to chant the irregular ladders every Roman child knew, bonus, melior, optimus; magnus, maior, maximus; parvus, minor, minimus, and to compare adverbs as the motto does. Then you will measure your own household and write its records in honest Latin.

PREREQUISITES

- Can chant the present and perfect passive and flip sentences between voices (Unit 2)
- Knows how adjectives agree with nouns in gender, number and case (grades 5–7)
- Knows the four principal parts of the verbs on the course lists, especially the fourth part (Unit 2)

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can form present active participles (portans, genitive portantis) and translate them with -ing.
- ☐ I can use perfect passive participles as adjectives: liber scriptus, donum datum.
- ☐ I can tell the two participles apart: portans is carrying now, portatus has been carried.
- ☐ I can read the Pantheon's inscription and tell the story of the name Hadrian kept.
- ☐ I can compare an adjective through all three degrees, longus, longior, longissimus, and use quam for than.
- ☐ I can chant the irregular ladders (bonus, melior, optimus; magnus, maior, maximus; parvus, minor, minimus) and compare adverbs: fortiter, fortius, fortissime.

OPTIONAL BOOKS AND RESOURCES FOR THIS UNIT

- ***Latin for Beginners*, by Benjamin L. D'Ooge (1911):** Free online. Its chapters on participles and on comparison carry the same forms as this unit, with extra graded sentences.
- ***Lingua Latina per se Illustrata: Familia Romana*, by Hans Ørberg:** The all-Latin reader; its middle chapters are thick with participles and comparatives in context, which is exactly where they are easiest to learn.
- ***latintutorial* (YouTube channel):** Free. The channel behind this unit's grammar videos; its playlists on participles and adjectives offer a second lap on anything that wobbles.

Not required. Every activity in this unit works with paper, pencil, scissors and the free links below. School Launch has no ties to these authors, publishers or companies.

LESSONS IN THIS UNIT

3.1 Agrippa Fecit: Participles on Stone

3 sessions of 30–40 minutes

3.2 Citius, Altius, Fortius: Comparison

3 sessions of 30–40 minutes

UNIT 3 REVIEW

Answer each question in complete sentences, except where forms are asked for. The review is worth 30 points. It may be done orally, with a parent writing down the answers.

1. **5 pts**

Form the present participle of *porto* with its genitive, and translate: *puella aquam portans*.

2. **5 pts**

Tell the two kinds of participle you own apart, with one example of each used beside a noun.

3. 5 pts

What does the Pantheon's inscription say, who actually built the present building, and why does the inscription still matter?

4. 5 pts

Climb longus and fortis through all three degrees, and translate: Via longior est quam porta.

5. 5 pts

Write the three irregular ladders with meanings.

6. 5 pts

Write the adverb ladders of fortiter and cito, translate the Olympic motto literally, and tell who coined it and when.

ANSWER KEY

1. Portans, portantis. Puella aquam portans: the girl carrying water; the participle agrees with puella and takes its own object, aquam.
2. The present active participle describes what the noun is doing now: puella cantans, the singing girl. The perfect passive participle describes what has been done to it: liber scriptus, a written book. Portans is carrying; portatus has been carried.
3. M·AGRIPPA·L·F·COS·TERTIUM·FECIT: Marcus Agrippa, son of Lucius, consul for the third time, made this. Hadrian rebuilt the Pantheon around A.D. 126 after fires destroyed Agrippa's, and kept his predecessor's name over the door: the greatest dome of antiquity wears a lesson in giving credit away.
4. Longus, longior, longissimus; fortis, fortior, fortissimus. The road is longer than the gate; both sides of quam stand in the same case.
5. Bonus, melior, optimus: good, better, best. Magnus, maior, maximus: great, greater, greatest. Parvus, minor, minimus: small, smaller, smallest.
6. Fortiter, fortius, fortissime; cito, citius, citissime. Citius, altius, fortius: more swiftly, higher, more strongly (bravely), three comparative adverbs. Father Henri Didon coined it for a student sports club in 1894, and Pierre de Coubertin took it for the revived Olympic Games.

UNIT CHALLENGE: THE CORNERSTONE AND THE RECORD BOOK

Finish and present the two makes of this unit. First, the family cornerstone: **FAMILIA** [name] **AEDIFICAVIT** in ruled Roman capitals, a participle motto beneath (**SEMPER LABORANS**, **SEMPER ORANS**, or your own, formed from a verb you can defend), and the year in Roman numerals at the base. Second, the family record book: the household's measured feats written as Latin sentences in comparatives and superlatives, with a medal-table page of each event's **optimus** or **optima** under the motto **CITIUS**, **ALTIUS**, **FORTIUS**. Present both: read the cornerstone and defend its grammar, then read three records aloud in Latin and translate them for the contestants.

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Correct Latin	The cornerstone's verb and motto are grammatical, and every record-book sentence has correct endings, genders and quam-cases.
True comparisons	The records come from real, honest measurements, with raw results shown beside the Latin.
Craftsmanship	The cornerstone is ruled and lettered like stone; the record book is neat, titled and finished.
Presentation	The student read the Latin aloud, translated it, and explained one participle and one comparative on request.

UNIT 3 • PARTICIPLES AND COMPARISON • LESSON 3.1 OF 10 • 3 SESSIONS OF 30-40 MINUTES

3.1 AGRIPPA FECIT: PARTICIPLES ON STONE

OBJECTIVES

- Tell the story of the Pantheon: Agrippa's inscription, Hadrian's rebuilding, and the dome with the open eye.
- Explain what a participle is: a verb serving as an adjective.
- Form present active participles (**portans**, **portantis**) and make them agree with their nouns.
- Use perfect passive participles as plain adjectives: **liber scriptus**, **donum datum**.
- Learn the vocabulary: **aedifico**, **facio** with **factus**, **opus**, **semper**.

Warm-up. Chant the stack: declensions, amo in both voices. Now listen to English at breakfast: running water, a rolling pin, scrambled eggs, buttered toast, a written note. Every one of those is a verb doing an adjective's job. English is full of participles; today you learn Latin's, and then you will start seeing them carved on buildings.

WATCH

Participles in Latin

[latintutorial](#) · 9:10

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8OcJXc_jGrQ

WHEN TO WATCH

After the How Latin works paragraph. Watch for the present participle's -ns and its genitive -ntis, and for the perfect participle you already know from Unit 2 working as a plain adjective.

Note: The video tours the whole participle system, including future participles that belong to high school. Enjoy the view and keep the two kinds this lesson drills: portans and portatus.

BACKUP VIDEO

The Pantheon

[Smarthistory](#) · 8:32

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KaY8zqYfQl0>

After the story and the picture study: two art historians walk through the building itself, dome, oculus, drains and all.

KEY TERMS

participle

A verb in adjective's clothing: it describes a noun while keeping its verb meaning. English makes them with -ing and -ed; running water, a written note.

present active participle

The -ing participle: portans, carrying; laborans, working. Nominative in -ns, genitive in -ntis, agreeing with its noun.

perfect passive participle

The -ed participle from the verb's fourth principal part: portatus, having been carried; scriptus, written. You met it inside natus est; alone, it is a plain adjective.

inscription

Words cut into stone or set in bronze.
Rome's buildings talk: name, office and verb, usually fecit, 'made this.'

oculus

Latin for eye: the round opening, almost nine meters wide, at the top of the Pantheon's dome, open to the sky and the rain.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Classical sounds: c is always k, g is always hard, v is w, and ae says eye. Capitals show the stress. A macron marks a long vowel.

Agrippa

ah-GREEP-pah

noun · Agrippa, Agrippae, m.

Agrippa, who set the inscription on the Pantheon

rotunda

ro-TUN-dah

noun · rotunda, rotundae, f.

a round hall

ENGLISH rotunda

fornix

FOR-neeks

noun · fornix, fornicis, m.

an arch, a vault

ōstium

OHS-tee-um

noun · ōstium, ōstiī, n.

a doorway

columna

ko-LUM-nah

noun · columna, columnae, f.

a column

ENGLISH column

fastigium

fahs-TEE-gee-um

noun · fastigium, fastigii, n.

a pediment, a gable

īnscriptiō

eensk-REEP-tee-oh

noun · īnscriptiō, īnscriptiōnis, f.

an inscription

ENGLISH inscription

aēreus

ah-AY-rews

adjective · aēreus, aērea, aēreum

made of bronze

tertius

TER-tee-us

adjective · tertius, tertia, tertium

third

ENGLISH tertiary

cōsulātus

kohn-su-LAH-tus

noun · cōsulātus, cōsulātūs, m.

a consulship

Lūcius

LOO-kee-us

noun · Lūcius, Lūciī, m.

Lucius

The story. The Pantheon's porch announces, in bronze letters a foot high, M·AGRIPPA·L·F·COS·TERTIUM·FECIT: Marcus Agrippa, Lucii filius, consul tertium, fecit, 'Marcus Agrippa, son of Lucius, consul for the third time, made this.' Agrippa was Augustus's right hand, and he did build a Pantheon on this spot, but that building burned, and a second after it. Around A.D. 126 the emperor Hadrian raised the Pantheon you can visit today, a drum of brick and concrete carrying a dome 43 meters across, still the largest unreinforced concrete dome in the world, unmatched for thirteen centuries. At its crown he left the oculus, the eye, open to the sky: sun and rain fall straight into the building, and the sloped marble floor, with its discreet drains, has been shrugging off the rain for nineteen hundred years.

The humility of a line. Here is the astonishing part: Hadrian, an emperor not famous for modesty, finished the greatest domed building of antiquity and carved another man's name over the door. He kept Agrippa's old inscription, letter for letter, crediting a predecessor dead for a century and a half. Romans read buildings the way we read title pages, and every visitor for nineteen centuries has read Agrippa fecit over Hadrian's masterpiece. The building survived like the Curia did, by conversion: in 609 it was consecrated as a church, St. Mary and the Martyrs, and it has been in continuous use ever since, which is why its bronze doors still turn and its marble floor is still underfoot. One line of Latin, one act of credit given away, standing over the most copied dome on earth; Washington's Capitol and a thousand courthouses are its grandchildren.

How Latin works: the verb-adjective. A participle is a verb doing an adjective's job. Latin's present active participle says what a noun is doing right now: stem plus **-ns**, genitive **-ntis**. Porto gives **portans**, **portantis**, carrying; laboro gives **laborans**, working; canto gives **cantans**, singing; oro gives **orans**, praying. It agrees with its noun like any adjective: *puella cantans*, the singing girl; *puella aquam portans*, the girl carrying water, where the participle keeps its verb powers and takes an object of its own. The perfect passive participle you already own from Unit 2 works alone as an adjective of finished action: *liber scriptus*, a written book; *donum datum*, a given gift; *epistula missa*, a sent letter. Keep the two kinds straight by their time and voice: **portans** is carrying, now, actively; **portatus** has been carried, already, passively.

Say it out loud. Chant the pattern on four verbs: **portans**, **portantis**; **laborans**, **laborantis**; **cantans**, **cantantis**; **orans**, **orantis**. Then read these aloud and translate on sight: *Puella cantans laborat*. The singing girl works. *Discipulus, semper laborans, librum*

scribit. The student, always working, writes a book. *Liber scriptus laudatur*. The written book is praised, a participle and a passive shaking hands. Finish by reading the Pantheon's line aloud, solemnly, the way bronze deserves: M. AGRIPPA. FECIT.

Try it. This week you go hunting for inscriptions in your own town and your own books: cornerstones, plaques, title pages, anywhere a maker left a FECIT. Then you design your family's cornerstone: FAMILIA with your name AEDIFICAVIT, a participle motto beneath it, SEMPER LABORANS, SEMPER ORANS or one of your own, and the year in Roman numerals from Unit 1.

PICTURE STUDY



Interior of the Pantheon, Rome, Giovanni Paolo Panini, About 1734 · Oil on canvas · National Gallery of Art, Washington

Image: [Wikimedia Commons](#), CC0 (National Gallery of Art)

Panini, the same painter whose ruined Forum opened the grade 5 course, here paints a Roman building that never fell. Eighteenth-century visitors stroll in silk under a dome raised sixteen centuries before them; the light pours through the oculus, the dome's open eye, and slides along the coffers as the sun moves. Panini painted this interior many times because travelers on the Grand Tour all wanted to take it home; nobody who stands under that eye forgets it.

Look closely

- Find the oculus and the beam of light it throws. The opening is real and always open: rain falls through it to the floor, which is sloped and drilled with drains the Romans cut.
- Count the rows of square coffers sunk into the dome. They are not decoration only: each hollow lightens the concrete, and the dome thins as it climbs.
- Measure the people against the columns. Panini keeps the figures small on purpose; the building is the sitter in this portrait.
- Look at the floor's circles and squares of colored marble. Carriage wheels, floods and nineteen centuries of feet have crossed it, and it is substantially the Roman floor still.

Talk about it

1. Agrippa's name stands over Hadrian's building. What does it cost a ruler to leave another man's name on his best work, and what does it buy?
2. Why might the architect leave an open eye in the roof instead of a window in the wall? What does the moving beam of light do to the room?
3. This building has been a church since 609. What do you think fourteen centuries of continuous use, instead of ruin, have meant for it?

ACTIVITY

The inscription hunt and the family cornerstone

Buildings talk, in participles and perfects, and most people walk past without hearing. This week you collect what the stones around you say, then design the stone your own family would set: a cornerstone with a maker's verb and a participle motto.

You will need

- Your Latin notebook and a pencil for the hunt
- A sheet of cardstock or good paper, ruler and colored pencils for the cornerstone
- 4 index cards for the new vocabulary

Steps

1. Hunt inscriptions for a day or two: cornerstones and dedication plaques in town, dates over doorways, memorial benches, title pages and colophons in books, even the back of a coin. Copy at least four finds into your notebook, with where you found them.
2. Mark every verb and participle in your finds: built, erected, founded, dedicated, made; A.D. dates; any outright Latin. FECIT and its cousins hide in plain sight.
3. Design the family cornerstone on paper, ruled like cut stone: FAMILIA [your name] AEDIFICAVIT, 'the [name] family built (this),' in Roman capitals.
4. Choose the participle motto beneath: SEMPER LABORANS (always working), SEMPER ORANS (always praying), SEMPER CANTANS (always singing), or build your own from a first-conjugation verb you own: stem + -ns.
5. Add the year in Roman numerals at the base, checked against your Unit 1 chart.
6. Make the four flashcards (aedifico; facio, facere, feci, factus; opus, operis n; semper), run the deck, and present the cornerstone: read it aloud, translate it, and defend your motto's grammar.

Tips

- Banks, libraries, churches and courthouses are the best inscription hunting grounds; so are older gravestones, read respectfully.
- Keep the motto honest: a participle from a verb you own beats a grander one you would have to guess at.
- Stone has no lowercase and no hurry; rule guide lines and letter like you mean it.

Check your work

- ☐ Four found inscriptions are copied in my notebook with their verbs marked.
- ☐ My cornerstone reads FAMILIA ... AEDIFICAVIT with a grammatical participle motto.
- ☐ The year in numerals is correct, subtractive pairs and all.
- ☐ The four new flashcards are in the deck, and I presented the cornerstone out loud.

LATIN NOTEBOOK

1. Write the present participles of porto, laboro, canto and oro with their genitives and meanings, dated.
2. Copy the Pantheon inscription M·AGRIPPA·L·F·COS·TERTIUM·FECIT and write its word-for-word translation beneath.
3. Write and translate three participle phrases of your own on the patterns puella cantans and liber scriptus.
4. Write the new vocabulary with principal parts: aedifico; facio, facere, feci, factus; opus, operis n; semper.

From history. The Pantheon's dome has been measured by every ambitious architect since: Brunelleschi studied it before raising Florence's dome, Michelangelo is said to have called the building angelic rather than human in design, and the dome of the United States Capitol stands in its debt. No one surpassed its clear span in unreinforced concrete; engineers still visit a nineteen-hundred-year-old roof to learn how it was done.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Form the present participle of *canto* and use it: the singing girl.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Take the stem: canta-.
2. Add -ns for the nominative: cantans; the genitive is cantantis.
3. Set it beside its noun in agreement: puella cantans.

Answer: Puella cantans. The participle translates with -ing: the singing girl, or the girl, singing.

Example 2. Parse FECIT in the Pantheon's inscription.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Find the verb: facio, facere, feci, factus, to make or do.
2. Feci- is the perfect stem; -t is he.
3. Perfect active, third person singular.

Answer: 'He made (this).' The perfect you have owned since grade 7, now a foot high in bronze. Agrippa fecit: Agrippa made it, and Hadrian let the claim stand.

Example 3. Translate: *Opus factum est*.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Opus: work, neuter, subject.
2. Factum: perfect passive participle of facio, neuter singular to agree.
3. Est completes the two-piece perfect passive from Unit 2.

Answer: The work was done (or has been done, is finished). Three words a builder, a scribe or a student can say at the end of a good day.

PRACTICE

1. Easy Translate: portans, laborans, orans.

▼ **Show answer**

Carrying, working, praying.

2. **Easy** What does FECIT mean, and whose name does the Pantheon's inscription credit?

▼ **Show answer**

'He made (this),' the perfect of facio. The inscription credits Marcus Agrippa, though Hadrian built the present building and kept the old line.

3. **Easy** Give the meanings: opus, semper, aedifico.

▼ **Show answer**

Work (a work), always, I build.

4. **Medium** Choose and translate: Puella (cantans / cantantis) laborat.

▼ **Show answer**

Puella cantans laborat: the singing girl works. The participle stands in the nominative to agree with puella; cantantis is the genitive, waiting for a different job.

5. **Medium** Translate into Latin: the written book; the given gift.

▼ **Show answer**

Liber scriptus; donum datum. The perfect passive participle agrees like any adjective: masculine for liber, neuter for donum.

6. **Medium** Why did Hadrian's keeping of Agrippa's inscription surprise Rome, and what does the choice teach?

▼ **Show answer**

Emperors normally stamped their own names on their buildings; Hadrian rebuilt the Pantheon entirely and still credited Agrippa, dead over a century. The greatest dome in the world carries a lesson in giving credit away.

7. **Hard** Translate: Discipulus, semper laborans, librum scribit.

▼ **Show answer**

The student, always working, writes a book. Laborans is a present participle agreeing with discipulus, and it carries its own adverb, semper, the way a verb would.

8. **Challenge** Take the English sentence 'The singing girl carried the written letter.' Name the two participles and their Latin kinds, then put the whole sentence into Latin.

▼ **Show answer**

Singing is a present active participle (cantans); written is a perfect passive participle (scriptus). Puella cantans epistulam scriptam portavit: cantans agrees with puella in the nominative, scriptam with epistulam in the accusative, and portavit is the perfect you have owned since grade 7.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Conjugating a participle: portans has no -o, -s, -t. It declines like an adjective (portans, portantis), because it is one.
- Forgetting that the participle travels with its noun's case: the singing girl as an object is puellam cantantem, both words dressed alike.
- Mixing the two kinds: portans is carrying, now, actively; portatus has been carried, already, passively. Time and voice tell them apart.
- Reading FECIT as present tense. It is perfect: he made, the deed complete, which is exactly why it belongs on finished buildings.

Make it a game · Inscription Hunt. Search the house for words, coins or labels that show Latin or an English word with a Latin root. Read each find aloud and name any participle you can spot, such as a word ending in -ing or -ed that works like an adjective. Then write a family cornerstone line on a card in Latin. Score a point for each find.

Scripture. “Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory, for thy mercy, and for thy truth's sake.” (Psalm 115:1, KJV)

Hadrian gave the glory to Agrippa, and the world still marvels at the line. The psalm goes further than any emperor: the maker's name that finally matters is the Lord's, and the best work is signed over to Him.

UNIT 3 · PARTICIPLES AND COMPARISON · LESSON 3.2 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30-40 MINUTES

3.2 CITIUS, ALTIUS, FORTIUS: COMPARISON

OBJECTIVES

- Tell how Father Henri Didon coined the Olympic motto in 1894 and how it reached the first modern Games at Athens in 1896.
- Form comparatives in -ior and superlatives in -issimus, and use quam for than.
- Chant the irregular ladders: bonus, melior, optimus; magnus, maior, maximus; parvus, minor, minimus.
- Compare adverbs: fortiter, fortius, fortissime; cito, citius, citissime; alte, altius, altissime.
- Learn the vocabulary: fortis, quam, cito, and the irregular comparison forms.

Warm-up. Chant the stack. Then run an English ladder out loud: fast, faster, fastest; tall, taller, tallest; good, better, best. Notice the last one cheats: good does not become gooder. Latin has ladders too, and its good cheats in exactly the same way. The three most famous rungs in the world are struck on every Olympic medal, and a priest wrote them for a school sports day.

WATCH

Comparative Adjectives

latintutorial · 8:17

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G0iuSzlvQ80>

WHEN TO WATCH

After the How Latin works paragraph. Watch for -ior doing English's -er work and for quam standing where English puts than.

Note: The video declines the comparative through its third-declension forms; this course asks you to use the nominative confidently and to recognize the rest.

BACKUP VIDEO

Citius, Altius, Fortius - "Faster, Higher, Stronger" (Olympic Motto)

Verbis Latinis · 5:01

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=24TQE-oIJkE>

After the story paragraph: the motto's history and grammar from a channel devoted to real Latin phrases.

KEY TERMS

positive degree

The plain form of an adjective or adverb: longus, long; fortiter, bravely.
The ladder's first rung.

superlative

The most rung: longissimus, longest; fortissimus, bravest; optimus, best.
Latin's -issimus does English's -est work.

irregular comparison

The ladders that change wood halfway up, in Latin as in English: bonus, melior, optimus (good, better, best); magnus, maior, maximus; parvus, minor, minimus.

comparative

The more rung: longior, longer; fortior, braver; citius, more swiftly. Latin's -ior does English's -er work.

quam

Than, standing between the two things compared: pater altior est quam filius. The nouns on both sides of quam wear the same case.

compared adverb

Adverbs climb too: fortiter, fortius, fortissime, bravely, more bravely, most bravely. The Olympic motto is three comparative adverbs.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Classical sounds: c is always k, g is always hard, v is w, and ae says eye. Capitals show the stress. A macron marks a long vowel.

altus

AHL-tus

adjective · altus, alta, altum

high; deep

ENGLISH altitude

citō

KEE-toh

adverb

quickly

celer

KEH-ler

adjective · celer, celeris, celere

swift

ENGLISH accelerate

lātus

LAH-tus

adjective · lātus, lāta, lātum

wide

ENGLISH latitude

brevis

BREH-wees

adjective · brevis, breve

short

ENGLISH brief

facilis

FAH-kee-lees

adjective · facilis, facile

easy

ENGLISH facility

difficilis

deef-FEE-kee-lees

adjective · difficilis, difficile

hard, not easy

ENGLISH difficult

melior

MEH-lee-or

adjective · melior, melius

better

māior

MAH-ee-or

adjective · māior, māius

greater

ENGLISH major

minor

MEE-nor

adjective · minor, minus

smaller

ENGLISH minor

quam

KWAHM

conjunction

than; how

peior

PEH-ee-or

adjective · peior, peius

worse

CORE IDEAS

The story. In 1894, at a school in Paris, a Dominican priest and famous preacher named Henri Didon stood up at a sports day of the student athletic club he championed and gave the boys a motto he had coined for them: *Citius, Altius, Fortius*, faster, higher, stronger. In the audience was his friend Pierre de Coubertin, then organizing something audacious: the revival of the ancient Olympic Games, dead for fifteen centuries. Coubertin took the priest's three words for the whole movement. Two years later the first modern Games opened at Athens in the Panathenaic Stadium, an ancient stadium rebuilt in gleaming white marble, packed to its rim; the photograph in this lesson's picture study was taken there. A motto coined fresh in 1894, in a language eighteen centuries past its empire: Latin was, and is, still alive enough to coin with.

Three adverbs, one aim. Look closely at the motto and you find this lesson's grammar in miniature. *Citius, altius, fortius* are not adjectives; they are comparative **adverbs**:

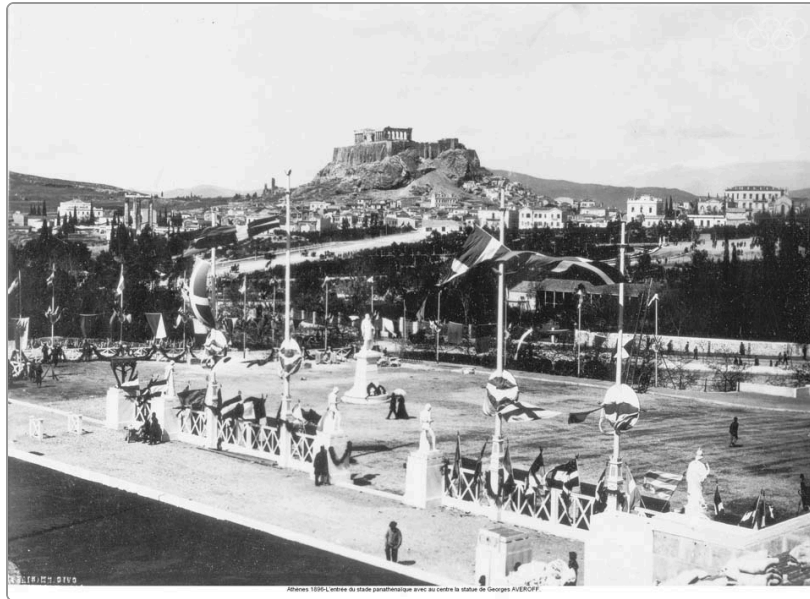
not 'faster runners' but 'run more swiftly, aim higher, strive more bravely.' Didon was a schoolmaster to his bones, and his motto grades the race against yourself: every rung is a comparative, more than yesterday, with no finish line named. Paul used the same games-language in his letters, and this lesson's Scripture is his version of the thought: the athletes train that hard for a crown of leaves that withers; run your race for the crown that does not.

How Latin works: the ladders. To climb an adjective, swap its ending. The comparative takes **-ior**: longus, longior, longer; fortis, fortior, braver, stronger; altus, altior, higher, taller. The superlative takes **-issimus**: longissimus, longest; fortissimus, bravest; altissimus, highest. Then is **quam**, and the two things compared wear the same case on both sides of it: *Pater altior est quam filius*. Father is taller than the son. Comparatives decline in the third declension (you will meet longioris and friends fully in high school; this year, command the nominative). Some ladders change wood halfway up, in Latin as in English: **bonus, melior, optimus**, good, better, best; **magnus, maior, maximus**, great, greater, greatest; **parvus, minor, minimus**, small, smaller, smallest. English still climbs Latin's rungs daily: major, maximum, minor, minimum, optimal, prime examples all.

Say it out loud. Adverbs climb with their own rungs: positive, then **-ius**, then **-issime**. Chant the three great ladders: fortiter, fortius, fortissime, bravely, more bravely, most bravely; cito, citius, citissime, swiftly, more swiftly, most swiftly; alte, altius, altissime, high, higher, highest. Hear the motto hiding in the middle rungs: citius, altius, fortius. Then the irregular adjective ladders, three times, rhythm first: bonus, melior, optimus; magnus, maior, maximus; parvus, minor, minimus. Finish with sentences on sight: *Via longior est quam porta. Dies longissimus est. Deus optimus est.*

Try it. This week your household becomes a stadium: the family record book. Measure what can be measured, height, a standing jump, a held note, a stack of books balanced, and write the results in Latin comparatives and superlatives from the frames you own: altior quam, longior quam, fortissimus, maximus, minimus. Honest measurements, honest endings.

PICTURE STUDY



The Panathenaic Stadium at the First Modern Olympic Games, Unknown photographer, 1896 ·

Photograph · Athens, Greece

Image: [Wikimedia Commons](#), public domain

This is the first modern Olympic Games, Athens, April 1896, photographed from the open end of the Panathenaic Stadium. The stadium itself is ancient, first built in the 300s B.C. and rebuilt in white marble under the Romans; for the revival of the Games a Greek benefactor, Georgios Averoff, paid to clad it in marble again. Something like seventy thousand people crammed the tiers, one of the largest crowds that had ever watched sport, to see whether a fifteen-century-old idea could live again. It could.

Look closely

- Follow the horseshoe of tiers: the ancient U-shape, built for foot-races long before ball games were dreamed of. The track's tight bends at the closed end made sprinters struggle; the shape is antiquity's, not ours.
- Look at the crowd: bowler hats, straw boaters, dark coats, 1896 dressed in its Sunday best to watch the oldest festival in the world reborn.
- Find the officials and athletes on the open track. No lanes, no starting blocks; the equipment was as young as the revival.
- Notice the marble's brightness even in an old photograph. Pentelic marble, from the same mountain that built the Parthenon.

Talk about it

1. Why would the revivers of the Games insist on an ancient stadium and a Latin motto instead of something brand new?
2. Citius, altius, fortius compares you with yesterday, not only with rivals. How does that change what winning means?
3. Seventy thousand people came to watch an idea resurrected. What old things in your own life deserve that kind of revival?

ACTIVITY

The family record book

Measure the household, then write its records in Latin that would survive a grammarian's inspection. Every entry uses a comparative or superlative you own, and quam gets its workout. This book joins the cornerstone as your unit challenge.

You will need

- A few sheets of paper folded and stapled into a booklet, or pages reserved in the notebook
- A tape measure or ruler, and a watch or timer
- Pencil, pen and colored pencils
- 9 index cards for the new vocabulary

Steps

1. Choose five or six measurable events: height; a standing jump; a note held (seconds); books balanced on one hand; a word of Latin chanted the most times in one breath. Keep every event safe and cheerful.
2. Hold the games and record the raw results in a table: names, numbers, units. Roman numerals welcome.
3. Write each record as a Latin sentence from the frames: [A] altior est quam [B]; [A] fortior est quam [B]; [name] altissimus est or altissima est (match the person!); liber maximus, liber minimus for the biggest and smallest objects in an event.
4. Add one superlative page: the family's optimus for each event, lettered like a medal table, with the motto CITIUS, ALTIUS, FORTIUS across the top.
5. Make the nine flashcards: fortis, quam, cito, melior, optimus, maior, maximus, minor, minimus. Run the full deck.
6. Read the record book to the family in Latin, translating as you go, and let them dispute the records; disputes are settled by remeasuring, Roman-fashion, in public.

Tips

- Match gender when crowning champions: pater altissimus, mater altissima.

- Both sides of quam wear the same case; in this book that is the nominative, so keep both names in it.
- Stick to the frames and the endings you own; the record book is for correct Latin, not heroic Latin.

Check your work

- ☐ Five or six events are measured and recorded honestly.
- ☐ Every Latin sentence uses a real frame with correct endings and genders.
- ☐ The superlative page crowns an optimus or optima for each event.
- ☐ The nine new flashcards are in the deck, and I read the book aloud in Latin.

LATIN NOTEBOOK

1. Write the regular ladders of longus, altus and fortis, positive, comparative, superlative, with meanings, dated.
2. Write the three irregular ladders and box them: bonus, melior, optimus; magnus, maior, maximus; parvus, minor, minimus.
3. Write the adverb ladders fortiter, fortius, fortissime; cito, citius, citissime; alte, altius, altissime, and mark the motto's three words.
4. Copy and translate: Via longior est quam porta. Dies longissimus est. Citius, altius, fortius.

From history. The hero of Athens 1896 was the marathon, a brand-new race invented for the revival in memory of the runner from Marathon. It was won, to the city's unbearable joy, by a Greek water-carrier named Spyridon Louis, who ran in donated shoes and never raced again. The stadium's seventy thousand rose as one; two princes ran the last stretch beside him. Citius had its day, but the crowd was cheering something older: a story remembered out loud.

Example 1. Climb *longus* through its three degrees and use the comparative in a sentence: The road is longer than the gate.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Positive: *longus*, long.
2. Comparative: *longior*, longer. Superlative: *longissimus*, longest.
3. Than is *quam*, with the same case on both sides: *via* and *porta* both nominative.

Answer: *Longus, longior, longissimus. Via longior est quam porta:* the road is longer than the gate, with *longior* feminine-ready as it stands (the *-ior* form serves masculine and feminine alike).

Example 2. Translate: *Filius fortior est quam pater.*

▼ **Show solution**

1. *Filius*: the son, subject.
2. *Fortior*: comparative of *fortis*, braver or stronger.
3. *Quam pater*: than the father, nominative matching the subject.

Answer: The son is stronger (braver) than the father. A sentence to use carefully at the family games.

Example 3. Give the adverb ladder of *cito* and translate the Olympic motto literally.

▼ **Show solution**

1. *Cito*, swiftly; *citius*, more swiftly; *citissime*, most swiftly.
2. The motto's three words are all middle rungs: comparatives.
3. *Citius*, more swiftly; *altius*, higher; *fortius*, more strongly or bravely.

Answer: *Cito, citius, citissime.* The motto literally says 'more swiftly, higher, more strongly': every word a comparative, a race against yesterday with no top rung named.

PRACTICE

1. **Easy** Give the three degrees of longus and of fortis, with meanings.

▼ **Show answer**

Longus, longior, longissimus: long, longer, longest. Fortis, fortior, fortissimus: brave (strong), braver, bravest.

2. **Easy** Give the meanings: melior, optimus, maior, maximus.

▼ **Show answer**

Better, best, greater, greatest.

3. **Easy** What does quam mean? Translate: Roma maior est quam oppidum.

▼ **Show answer**

Than. Rome is greater than the town.

4. **Medium** Translate into Latin: The road is longer than the gate.

▼ **Show answer**

Via longior est quam porta. Both sides of quam stand in the nominative.

5. **Medium** Translate: Deus optimus est. Dies longissimus est.

▼ **Show answer**

God is best (supremely good). The day is longest. Optimus and longissimus are superlatives, the top rungs.

6. **Medium** Translate the trio: Puella fortiter laborat. Puella fortius laborat. Puella fortissime laborat.

▼ **Show answer**

The girl works bravely; the girl works more bravely; the girl works most bravely. The adverb climbs -iter/-e, -ius, -issime.

7. **Hard** Fix and explain: Pater altior est quam filium.

▼ **Show answer**

Pater altior est quam filius. The two things compared wear the same case on both sides of quam; pater is nominative, so filius must be too. Quam filium would compare the father with a direct object that is not there.

8. **Challenge** Old churches and gravestones carry the letters D.O.M., for Deo Optimo Maximo. Parse the phrase, translate it, and explain what the church did with a title the pagans had used for Jupiter.

▼ **Show answer**

Deo is dative, 'to God'; Optimo and Maximo are superlatives agreeing with it: 'to God, the Best and Greatest.' Rome had called Jupiter Optimus Maximus; the church took the superlatives away from the idol and inscribed them to the true God, grammar and glory both corrected.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Building regular rungs on irregular ladders: 'magnior' and 'bonissimus' are not Latin. Chant the changelings: melior, optimus; maior, maximus; minor, minimus.
- Letting the cases disagree across quam: pater altior est quam filius, both nominative, or the comparison breaks.
- Stacking English on Latin: 'more longior.' The -ior already says more; magis is for another year.
- Calling the motto's words adjectives. Citius, altius, fortius are comparative adverbs: they grade the running, not the runner.

Make it a game · Citius Altius Fortius. Hold a family record contest: longest jump, highest reach, longest plank, in turns. After each trial, speak aloud in Latin degrees: altus, altior, altissimus. Use quam in a sentence, like 'Tu altior quam ego es'. Parent verifies the endings. Score a point per correct form. Keep a record book with all results.

Scripture. “Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.” (1 Corinthians 9:24-25, KJV)

Paul watched the games of his world closely enough to borrow their grammar: run, strive, obtain. Didon's motto urges more than yesterday; Paul names the prize worth all the rungs, the crown that does not wither.

UNIT 4

LAW, LIBERTY AND CAESAR HIMSELF

Everything so far has been training; this unit is the game. In June 1215, in a meadow called Runnymede beside the Thames, England's barons cornered King John and made him seal a charter, written in Latin, about 3,500 words on a single sheet of parchment. Its thirty-ninth clause became one of the most consequential sentences ever written: *Nullus liber homo capiatur vel imprisonetur... nisi per legale iudicium parium suorum vel per legem terrae*, 'No free man shall be seized or imprisoned... except by the lawful judgment of his equals or by the law of the land.' You will read it in the original, and you will find that you already own most of its words: *nullus*, *liber*, *homo*, *per*, *iudicium*, *lex*, *terra*. One form, *capiatur*, belongs to a mood called the subjunctive; this course teaches you to recognize it, salute it, translate it with the helps provided, and leave its machinery for high school, which is exactly how honest readers handle what they have not yet studied.

Then the summit. Caesar's *Commentaries on the Gallic War* open with the most famous first sentence in Latin, and you will read it exactly as he published it, unaltered: *Gallia est omnis divisa in partes tres...* You will parse what you own, *est*, *divisa* (a perfect passive participle!), *in partes tres*, *appellantur* (a present passive!), and take the rest on a glossary, which is how real reading works at every level, from grade 8 to the scholar's desk. An 1886 atlas map of Gaul turns the sentence into a picture: *Belgica*, *Celtica*, *Aquitania*, the three parts, drawn and labeled. By the end of the unit the sentence is in your memory for good, recited to your family with the map on the wall, and the household has a charter of its own, two clauses of it in Latin.

PREREQUISITES

- Can form and translate present and perfect passives, including the participle's agreement (Unit 2)
- Can spot and translate participles, present and perfect (Unit 3)
- Can decline all five declensions and read Roman numerals (Unit 1)

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can read the Magna Carta clause aloud and translate it with the glossary.
- ☐ I can say what *capiatur* is, a subjunctive, how I translate it this year, and when I will study the mood properly.
- ☐ I can tell the famous pair apart: *liber* the book and *liber* the free man.
- ☐ I can recite *Gallia est omnis divisa in partes tres, quarum unam incolunt Belgae, aliam Aquitani, tertiam qui ipsorum lingua Celtae, nostra Galli appellantur*, from memory.
- ☐ I can parse the forms I own in Caesar's sentence: *est, divisa, in partes tres, lingua, appellantur*.
- ☐ I can use the three-pass glossed reading method on a Latin sentence I have never seen.

OPTIONAL BOOKS AND RESOURCES FOR THIS UNIT

- **Caesar, *De Bello Gallico*, Book I (The Latin Library):** Free online: the complete Latin text of the book whose first sentence you will memorize. English translations are easy to find free online (Gutenberg and Perseus both carry them) for reading alongside.
- **A pocket Latin dictionary (Bantam, Collins or similar):** Any small Latin-English dictionary. This unit teaches glossary reading and Unit 5 teaches dictionary habits; a pocket dictionary is the one purchase this course would ever suggest, and it is optional.
- ***Lingua Latina per se Illustrata: Familia Romana*, by Hans Ørberg:** The all-Latin reader. After Caesar's first sentence, its chapters feel like friendly company: real Latin at a kind gradient.

Not required. Every activity in this unit works with paper, pencil, scissors and the free links below. School Launch has no ties to these authors, publishers or companies.

LESSONS IN THIS UNIT

4.1	Nullus Liber Homo: Magna Carta	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes
4.2	Gallia Est Omnis Divisa: Reading Caesar Unaltered	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes

UNIT 4 REVIEW

Answer each question in complete sentences, except where forms or recitation are asked for. The review is worth 30 points. It may be done orally, with a parent writing down the answers.

1. 5 pts

Tell the story of Magna Carta: where, when, who forced it, and in what language it was written.

2. 5 pts

Translate the clause with your glossary: Nullus liber homo capiatur vel imprisonetur... nisi per legale iudicium parium suorum vel per legem terrae.

3. 5 pts

What is *capiatur* grammatically, how is it translated this year, and what became of this clause in English and American law?

4. 5 pts

Who wrote the *Commentarii de Bello Gallico*, about what, and in what style?

5. 5 pts

Parse three forms from Caesar's sentence: *est divisa, in partes tres, appellantur*.

6. 5 pts

Recite (or write from memory) Caesar's opening sentence, and translate it.

ANSWER KEY

1. In June 1215, at Runnymede meadow beside the Thames, England's barons forced King John to seal a charter of promises, drafted with Archbishop Stephen Langton, written in Latin, about 3,500 words on a single parchment sheet, copied and sent through the realm.
2. No free man shall be seized or imprisoned... except by the lawful judgment of his equals or by the law of the land.
3. A subjunctive passive, the mood of law and wish, recognized this year and translated with helps as 'shall be seized'; the mood is studied in high school. The clause fed the English Bill of Rights (1689) and the Fifth Amendment's 'due process of law.'
4. Julius Caesar, about his own campaigns in Gaul from 58 to 50 B.C.: eight books of dispatches written in the third person ('Caesar did'), in a famously plain, swift style, published to Rome as the war went on.
5. *Est divisa*: perfect passive of *divido*, the participle feminine singular agreeing with *Gallia*, 'is divided.' *In partes tres*: in with the accusative plural of *pars* and the numeral, 'into three parts.' *Appellantur*: present passive, third plural of *appello*, 'they are called.'
6. *Gallia est omnis divisa in partes tres, quarum unam incolunt Belgae, aliam Aquitani, tertiam qui ipsorum lingua Celtae, nostra Galli appellantur*. All Gaul is divided into three parts, of which the Belgae inhabit one, the Aquitani another, and the third those who in their own language are called Celts, in ours Gauls.

UNIT CHALLENGE: THE RECITATION AND THE HOUSEHOLD CHARTER

Two performances close this unit. First, the recitation: Caesar's opening sentence delivered from memory, standing, with the map of Gaul displayed, the student pointing out Belgica, Aquitania and the Celtae's middle country as each is named, followed by a smooth English translation and one parsing on request (*est divisa* or *appellantur*). Second, the household charter presented: the five fair clauses read out, the two Latin clauses translated and their endings defended, the seals shown. Keep the charter posted and the sentence warm; both return at the Capstone Evening.

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Accurate recitation	The sentence is delivered from memory, word-perfect, with classical pronunciation and a confident pace.
Understanding	The translation is smooth, and the student parsed an owned form (<i>est divisa</i> , in <i>partes tres</i> or <i>appellantur</i>) correctly on request.
Charter Latin	The two Latin clauses use correct agreement and verbs within scope, with glossed words footnoted honestly.
Presentation	Map used well, clauses fair to all parties, seals affixed, and the audience left knowing what <i>lex terrae</i> means.

UNIT 4 • LAW, LIBERTY AND CAESAR HIMSELF • LESSON 4.1 OF 10 • 3 SESSIONS OF 30-40 MINUTES

4.1 NULLUS LIBER HOMO: MAGNA CARTA

OBJECTIVES

- Tell the story of Runnymede, June 1215: the barons, King John, and the charter sealed in Latin.
- Read the heart of Clause 39 in Latin and translate it with the glossary.
- Recognize the subjunctive *capiatur*, translate it with the supplied helps, and leave the mood for high school.
- Parse *legem terrae* and *judicium* with the cases you own, and tell the *liber/liber* pair apart.
- Learn the vocabulary: *nullus*, *liber* (free), *homo*, *lex*, *judicium*.

Warm-up. Chant the stack. You have read Latin on monuments, in Scripture and over doorways. Today you read Latin that still works for a living: words sealed in a wet meadow eight centuries ago that courts in England and America still stand on. If you are ever tried by a jury of your peers, thank a sentence you are about to read in the original.

WATCH

What is Magna Carta?

British Library · 3:33

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7xo4tUMdAMw>

WHEN TO WATCH

After the story paragraph. The library that owns two of the four surviving 1215 charters tells the story over the document itself.

Note: Made for a general audience by the British Library; brief mentions of King John's cruelties are handled without detail.

BACKUP VIDEO

800 Years of Magna Carta

British Library · 4:11

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RQ7vUkbtIQA>

Watch after the core ideas: how one failed peace treaty became the ancestor of bills of rights around the world, told for the charter's 800th birthday.

KEY TERMS

charter

A formal written grant of rights, from charta, a sheet of papyrus or parchment. Magna Carta is simply 'the Great Charter.'

clause

One numbered provision of a legal document. Magna Carta's Clause 39 is the famous one; the 1215 original ran as one unbroken block of Latin, numbered by later editors.

due process

The principle that the government must follow fair, established procedure, judgment of equals, law of the land, before touching a person or property. Clause 39 is its seed.

pares

Equals, peers: *judicium parium*, the judgment of one's equals, the ancestor of the jury of one's peers. English peer keeps the word.

subjunctive mood

The verb mood of wish, command, purpose and law: *capiatur*, 'shall be seized / may be seized.' This year you recognize it and translate with helps; high school opens its machinery.

lex terrae

The law of the land: *lex* with the genitive of *terra*. Still a working phrase in English and American law.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Classical sounds: c is always k, g is always hard, v is w, and ae says eye. Capitals show the stress. A macron marks a long vowel.

nūllus

NOOL-lus

adjective · nūllus, nūlla, nūllum

not any, no

ENGLISH null

līber, lībera, līberum

LEE-ber LEE-beh-rah LEE-beh-rum

adjective · līber, lībera, līberum

free

ENGLISH liberty

pār

PAHR

adjective · pār, paris

equal

ENGLISH par

libertās

lee-BER-tahs

noun · libertās, libertātis, f.

liberty

ENGLISH liberty

barō

BAH-roh

noun · barō, barōnis, m.

a baron

ENGLISH baron

clausula

KLOW-su-lah

noun · clausula, clausulae, f.

a clause

ENGLISH clause

sub

SUB

preposition · ablative for 'where,' accusative for 'where to'

under

ENGLISH sub-

captīvus

kahp-TEE-wus

noun · captīvus, captīvī, m.

a captive

ENGLISH captive

iūstus

YOOS-tus

adjective · iūstus, iūsta, iūstum

just, right

ENGLISH just

Iōhannēs

yoh-HAHN-nays

noun · Iōhannēs, Iōhannis, m.

John

haerēs

HYE-rays

noun · haerēs, haerēdis, c.

an heir

ENGLISH heir

CORE IDEAS

The story. King John was a hard king to be ruled by: wars lost in France, taxes raised again and again to pay for them, barons imprisoned or broken at the king's pleasure. By the spring of 1215 the barons had had enough; they renounced their allegiance, took London, and forced a meeting. On the fifteenth of June, in a meadow called Runnymede beside the Thames, halfway between the king's castle at Windsor and the barons' camp, John sealed a long list of promises drafted by the archbishop of Canterbury, Stephen Langton. Nobody signed it; medieval kings sealed. Clerks of the royal chancery then copied it out, about 3,500 Latin words to a single sheepskin sheet, and the copies rode out to the counties. Four of those 1215 originals survive. As a peace treaty it failed within weeks, the pope annulled it and war came anyway, but it was reissued after John's death, and reissued again, until its words had soaked into English law too deep to pull out.

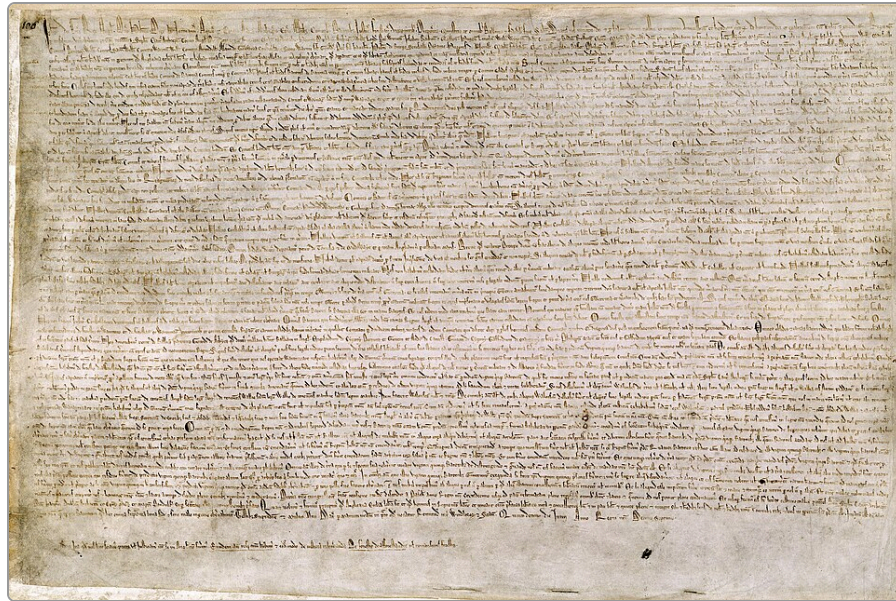
One clause outlives them all. Most of the charter is medieval business: fish-weirs, inheritance fees, forest law. But the thirty-ninth clause reads like it was written for all time, and you can read it in the original: *Nullus liber homo capiatur vel imprisonetur... nisi per legale iudicium parium suorum vel per legem terrae*, 'No free man shall be seized or imprisoned... except by the lawful judgment of his equals or by the law of the land.' Count the words you own: nullus, no; liber, free; homo, man; per, through, by; iudicium, judgment; legem, from lex; terrae, of the land, a genitive you parse cold. This sentence is the seed of due process: the king himself placed under the law. It flowed into the English Bill of Rights of 1689, and from there into the American Fifth Amendment, 'nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law.' When a court reads you your rights, it is quoting this clause's great-grandchildren.

How Latin works: reading law, and meeting a new mood. Two small lessons hide in the clause. First, the famous pair: **liber** the adjective means free (liberty, liberal arts, the studies of a free man), while **liber** the noun means book (library). Romans heard a difference in the vowel's length; on the page, the sentence tells you which is which, and here, standing beside homo, it must be the free man, not the book man. Second, the verb **capiatur**. You know capitur, 'he is seized,' present passive indicative, the mood of plain fact. The charter instead writes capiatur, with an -a-: the **subjunctive**, the mood Latin uses for what shall, may or should be, the mood of law, wish, prayer and purpose. You will not drill it this year; it is high school's first great subject. This year you recognize it, translate it with the helps given ('shall be seized'), and tip your hat: the barons chose the mood that commands the future, not the one that reports the present.

Say it out loud. Read the clause aloud slowly, three times, like the proclamation it was: Nullus liber homo capiatur vel imprisonetur... nisi per legale iudicium parium suorum vel per legem terrae. Then chant the new third-declension columns to anchor the vocabulary: lex, legis, legi, legem, lege; homo, hominis, homini, hominem, homine. Finish with sight phrases: *lex terrae*, the law of the land; *iudicium parium*, the judgment of equals; *nullus homo*, no man.

Try it. This week the family drafts its own charter: five fair clauses on chores, screens and bedtimes, agreed by all parties in the meadow of the living room, and you render two of them into simple Latin with the frames provided. Playful, yes; but every ending must hold up in court.

PICTURE STUDY



*Magna Carta, 1215, A royal chancery scribe, 1215 · Iron gall ink on parchment · British Library, London
(Cotton MS Augustus II.106)*

Image: [Wikimedia Commons](#), public domain

This is one of the four surviving originals of the 1215 Magna Carta: a single sheepskin sheet carrying about 3,500 words of Latin in a professional chancery hand. There are no paragraph breaks, no clause numbers, no heading; the numbers scholars use, including the famous 39, were added by editors centuries later. A clerk wrote this in a day or two of hard, careful work, one of several copies sent riding out to the counties so the realm could read what the king had sealed.

Look closely

- Look at the density: edge-to-edge lines with almost no margin. Parchment was expensive; the scribe abbreviated ruthlessly, and many words carry squiggles standing for dropped letters.
- Find the first line's larger strokes: the charter opens with the king's name and titles, *Johannes Dei gratia rex Anglie*, John by the grace of God king of England.
- Hunt for the lack of structure: no breaks, no numbers. Clause 39 sits buried in the block, found by readers who know the words to look for.
- Look at the bottom edge, where a seal once hung by a cord. Kings sealed rather than signed; the wax, not the pen, made it law.

Talk about it

1. Why did it matter that the charter was written down and copied, rather than merely promised out loud?
2. The clause protects 'no free man' from the king himself. Why is it harder, and more important, to put rulers under law than subjects?
3. You can read real words of this document in the original: nullus, liber, homo, lex, terra. What does it change to meet a founding text with your own eyes instead of through translation?

ACTIVITY

The household charter

Runnymede comes to the living room. The family negotiates five fair clauses, everyone seals, and the student, as chancery clerk, renders two clauses into Latin that would survive a grammarian's appeal. The charter joins the Caesar recitation as this unit's challenge.

You will need

- A sheet of good paper or cardstock for the charter, ruler and pen
- A candle stub or crayon for a wax-style seal, or a drawn seal (optional)
- 5 index cards for the new vocabulary
- Your Latin notebook for drafts

Steps

1. Hold the Runnymede meeting: parents and children negotiate five household clauses that are fair to all parties, about chores, screens, bedtimes, borrowing, the last slice. Each clause should protect somebody from something, as real charters do.
2. Write the five clauses in English on the charter page, numbered, in your best hand, with a grand opening line naming the family.
3. Render two clauses into Latin using the frames: 'Nullus filius... nisi...' / 'Nulla filia... nisi...' (No son/daughter ... unless ...) and 'Omnis filius...' (Every son ...). Safe worked models: Nullus filius fabulam spectat nisi opus factum est (No son watches a show unless the work is done); Omnis filius aquam portat (Every son carries water). Swap in verbs and nouns you own: laborat, cantat, cenam habet, mensam portat.
4. Check every ending against the charts: adjective agreement on nullus/nulla, a nominative subject, a verb that matches in number. Glossed words (nisi, unless) may be used with a footnote, exactly as your Caesar glossary will work.
5. Seal the charter: all parties make a mark, and a wax or drawn seal goes at the bottom, since charters are sealed, not signed.
6. Make the five flashcards (nullus; liber, libera, liberum; homo, hominis m; lex, legis f; iudicium) and run the deck. Post the charter somewhere with legal

force, such as the refrigerator.

Tips

- Keep the Latin clauses short and inside the fence: a subject, a verb you own, a nisi if you dare.
- Nullus agrees like an adjective: nullus filius, nulla filia, nullum donum.
- Real charters protected the weak against the strong; let at least one clause protect the youngest member of the house.

Check your work

- ☐ Five fair clauses stand on the charter, negotiated and agreed.
- ☐ Two clauses are rendered in Latin with endings I can defend.
- ☐ The charter is sealed by all parties.
- ☐ The five new flashcards are in the deck.

LATIN NOTEBOOK

1. Copy the Magna Carta clause in Latin with the English translation beneath, dated: a founding text now in your own hand.
2. Decline *lex* and *homo* in the singular with case jobs beside each form.
3. Write the *liber/liber* pair with a sentence distinguishing them, and the other new vocabulary with meanings.
4. Write *capitur* and *capiatur* side by side, label the indicative and the subjunctive, and note how each is translated.

From history. Of the four surviving 1215 originals, two live at the British Library and one each at Lincoln and Salisbury cathedrals. In February 2015, for the charter's 800th birthday, all four were brought together in one room for the first time in history, for three days, and 1,215 people chosen by ballot from over 40,000 applicants came to see four sheepskins that changed the world.

Example 1. Translate with the glossary: *Nullus liber homo capiatur*.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Nullus liber homo: no free man, three nominatives in agreement; beside homo, liber must be the adjective free, not the noun book.
2. Capiatur: passive of capio with the subjunctive's -a-; the law's mood.
3. Use the supplied help: 'shall be seized' (or 'may be seized').

Answer: No free man shall be seized. The subject is protected by the grammar itself: capiatur commands the future rather than reporting the present.

Example 2. Parse *per legem terrae*.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Per takes the accusative: legem, from lex, law.
2. Terrae is genitive singular: of the land.
3. Assemble: through/by the law of the land.

Answer: By the law of the land. Lex terrae walked from this clause into English law and never left; 'the law of the land' is its direct descendant.

Example 3. Capitur or capiatur: which is plain fact, which is the law's 'shall be,' and how do you tell?

▼ **Show solution**

1. Capitur: present passive indicative, 'he is seized,' a report.
2. Capiatur: the -a- marks the subjunctive, the mood of what shall, may or should be.
3. Law, wish, prayer and purpose take the subjunctive; this year you recognize it and translate with helps.

Answer: Capitur reports; capiatur legislates. The single letter a is the hinge, and spotting it is this year's whole duty to the subjunctive; high school will open the machinery.

PRACTICE

1. **Easy** Give the meanings: nullus, homo, lex, iudicium.

▼ **Show answer**

No (none), man (human being), law, judgment.

2. **Easy** Latin has two words spelled liber. Give both meanings and one English child of each.

▼ **Show answer**

Liber the adjective: free (liberty, liberate). Liber the noun: book (library).

Context tells them apart on the page.

3. **Easy** Translate: Lex terrae bona est.

▼ **Show answer**

The law of the land is good. Terrae is the genitive: of the land.

4. **Medium** Decline lex in the singular.

▼ **Show answer**

Lex, legis, legi, legem, lege: third declension, like rex.

5. **Medium** Translate with the glossary (nisi = except; legale = lawful; parium suorum = of his own equals): nisi per legale iudicium parium suorum.

▼ **Show answer**

Except by the lawful judgment of his own equals. Per takes the accusative iudicium; parium suorum is a genitive pair: the judgment belongs to his peers, the ancestor of the jury.

6. **Medium** What is capiatur, and how do you translate it this year?

▼ **Show answer**

The subjunctive passive of capio, the mood of law and wish, marked by the -a-. This year it is translated with the supplied helps, 'shall be seized' or 'may be seized,' and the mood itself waits for high school.

7. **Hard** Translate into Latin, using the indicative: No free man is seized. Then explain how your sentence differs from the charter's.

▼ **Show answer**

Nullus liber homo capitur. The indicative capitur reports a plain fact; the charter's capiatur is subjunctive, commanding what shall be. One vowel turns a report into a law.

8. **Challenge** Trace the river: name the three documents, with dates, by which 'per legem terrae' became American law, and give the Fifth Amendment's English for it.

▼ **Show answer**

Magna Carta (1215), the English Bill of Rights (1689), and the United States Constitution's Fifth Amendment (ratified 1791), which says no person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property 'without due process of law': lex terrae, the law of the land, grown up and still working.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Reading liber homo as 'book man.' Beside homo, liber is the adjective free; the library sense needs the noun.
- Correcting capiatur to capitur as if the charter made a typo. The -a- is the subjunctive, chosen on purpose: law speaks in shall-be.
- Translating per legem as 'for the law.' Per with the accusative is through or by.
- Forgetting that parium suorum is genitive: the judgment OF his equals. The of-case is doing the work that makes it a jury.

Make it a game • Clause 39 Recital. Write the heart of Clause 39 in Latin on separate strips, one phrase per strip. Mix them up and put them back in order, with glosses to help. Translate each phrase and read the whole thing aloud. The parent plays the king and tries to stop you. Say it again with conviction. How many words can you recite by heart?

Scripture. “Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgment: thou shalt not respect the person of the poor, nor honour the person of the mighty: but in righteousness shalt thou judge thy neighbour.” (Leviticus 19:15, KJV)

Centuries before Runnymede, God's law had already bound the judge: no favoritism for the mighty, no contempt for the poor. Magna Carta's *judicium parium* is a late echo of an older command, that judgment belongs to righteousness and not to power.

UNIT 4 • LAW, LIBERTY AND CAESAR HIMSELF • LESSON 4.2 OF 10 • 3 SESSIONS OF 30-40 MINUTES

4.2 GALLIA EST OMNIS DIVISA: READING CAESAR UNALTERED

OBJECTIVES

- Tell how Caesar wrote and published his own war dispatches, eight books in a plain third-person style.
- Read Caesar's opening sentence unaltered, parsing the owned forms: *est*, *divisa*, *in partes tres*, *lingua*, *appellantur*.
- Use the three-pass glossed reading method: sound, anchors, smooth translation.
- Memorize the opening sentence and recite it with the map.
- Learn the vocabulary: *pars*, *omnis*, *lingua*, *appello*, *divido* with *divisus*, *tres*.

Warm-up. Chant the stack, then clear the table. Since grade 3 you have been climbing toward a page that was not simplified for you, not shortened, not retold: real Latin, exactly as a Roman published it. Today you read the most famous opening sentence in the language, and every tool you need is already in your hands. This is the day the ladder was for.

WATCH

Caesar - Gallia est omnis divisa in partes tres

ThePrinceSterling · 5:54

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C5bm8_q_vIA

WHEN TO WATCH

After the first reading pass: hear the sentence read aloud in Latin and walked through by a Latinist, then imitate the reading yourself.

Note: Made for older students and adults, as this channel is; previewed, and a fine model for your own recitation.

BACKUP VIDEO

Caesar's Gallic War

Latin for Non-Romans · 6:07

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V5ij9dRg3J8>

After the story paragraph: an overview of the Commentaries, who wrote them, for whom, and why they became the schoolroom's first real Latin.

KEY TERMS

commentarii

'Notes, dispatches': Caesar's modest title for his books, as if they were raw field notes. The plain style is part of the persuasion.

gloss

A helping translation of a hard word, supplied beside or below a text. A glossary is a bundle of glosses, and honest readers use them without shame.

unaltered text

The author's own words with nothing simplified or rewritten. Glosses may stand beside it; the text itself is untouched.

third-person style

Caesar writes of himself by name, 'Caesar did,' never 'I did': the general becomes a character, and the reporting feels impartial even when it is not.

Gaul

Gallia: the land of the Gauls, roughly modern France and Belgium with pieces of their neighbors. Caesar campaigned there from 58 to 50 B.C.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Classical sounds: c is always k, g is always hard, v is w, and ae says eye. Capitals show the stress. A macron marks a long vowel.

dīvidō

DEE-wee-doh

verb · dīvidō, dīvidere, dīvīsī, dīvīsum

I divide

ENGLISH divide

omnis

OM-nees

adjective · omnis, omne

all, every

ENGLISH omnibus

pars

PAHRS

noun · pars, partis, f.

a part

ENGLISH part

Belgae

BEL-gye

noun · Belgae, Belgārum, m. pl.

the Belgae

Aquītānī

ah-kwee-TAH-nee

noun · Aquītānī, Aquītānōrum, m. pl.

the Aquitani

Celta

KEL-tah

noun · Celta, Celtae, m.

a Celt

commentārius

kom-men-TAH-ree-us

noun · commentārius, commentārii, m.

a notebook; a commentary

ENGLISH commentary

īnstitūtum

eens-tee-TOO-tum

noun · īnstitūtum, īnstitūtī, n.

a custom; an institution

ENGLISH institute

Matrona

MAH-tro-nah

noun · Matrona, Matronae, f.

the Matrona, the river Marne

Garumna

gah-RUM-nah

noun · Garumna, Garumnae, f.

the Garumna, the river Garonne

hūmānitās

hoo-MAH-nee-tahs

noun · hūmānitās, hūmānitātis, f.

human nature; kindness

ENGLISH humanity

CORE IDEAS

The story. From 58 to 50 B.C. Julius Caesar commanded Rome's armies in Gaul, and every year he sent Rome an account of the campaign, written by himself: eight books in all, the *Commentarii de Bello Gallico*, 'Notes on the Gallic War.' He wrote them in

the third person, 'Caesar hurried,' 'Caesar decided,' never 'I,' in a style so plain and swift that Cicero, the greatest stylist alive, praised it as *nudi et recti*, bare and straight. The modesty is strategic: they read like dispatches, but they are also a running argument to the voters back home that their general deserved his command. For twenty centuries since, these books have been where students first meet real Latin, partly because the grammar is clean, and partly because the first sentence is the best-organized opening in the language. War is in these books, and this course will not pretend otherwise; the lesson's Scripture looks that in the eye.

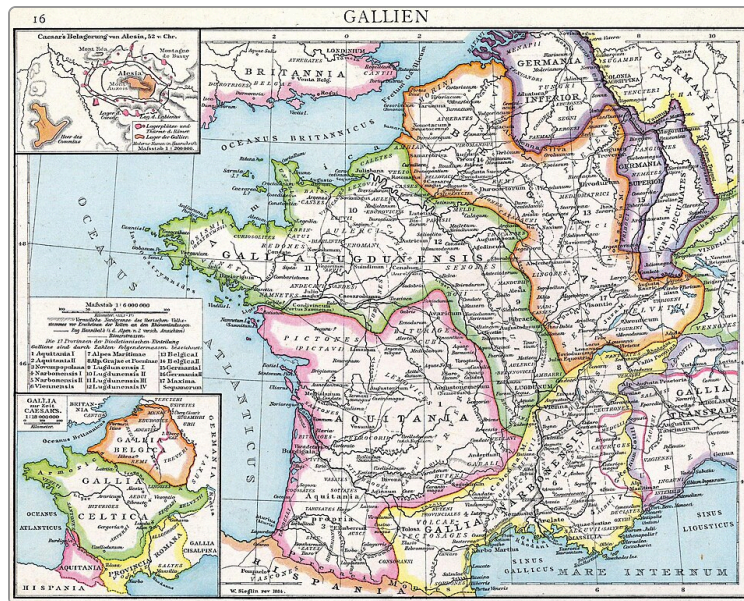
The first sentence is a map. Here is the text, unaltered, exactly as Caesar published it: *Gallia est omnis divisa in partes tres, quarum unam incolunt Belgae, aliam Aquitani, tertiam qui ipsorum lingua Celtae, nostra Galli appellantur.* 'All Gaul is divided into three parts, of which the Belgae inhabit one, the Aquitani another, and the third those who in their own language are called Celts, in ours Gauls.' One sentence, and the reader holds the whole theater of war: three parts, three peoples, and even a note on what the third people call themselves. The picture study's atlas map is this sentence drawn: find Belgica, find Aquitania, find the great middle land of the Celtae, and you have read Caesar with your eyes. Generals begin with geography because campaigns live or die by it; writers begin with order because readers do.

How Latin works: parse what you own, gloss the rest. Walk the sentence with your own tools. **Gallia est...** **divisa:** a perfect passive, Unit 2's grammar, with the participle *divisa* agreeing with *Gallia*, feminine singular: Gaul is divided. **Omnis** rides with *Gallia*: all Gaul, Gaul as a whole. **In partes tres:** in with the accusative for motion-into, plus the numeral: into three parts. **Ipsorum lingua:** *lingua* is the ablative, 'in their own language,' the in/by/with case doing quiet work with no preposition. **Appellantur:** present passive, third plural, Unit 2 again: they are called. The rest, *quarum, unam, aliam, tertiam, qui, incolunt*, you take from the glossary without guessing. That split, parse what you own, gloss what you do not, and never bluff, is not a crutch; it is the method, and it is exactly how scholars read a hard text too.

Say it out loud: the three passes. Pass one, sound: read the whole sentence aloud, classical sounds, no translating, twice; let the shape settle in the ear. Pass two, anchors: find the verbs and subjects, *est divisa* with *Gallia*, *incolunt* with *Belgae* and friends, *appellantur* with the third people, then attach the glossary words around them. Pass three, smooth English: assemble the translation and say it whole. Then begin the memorization, one clause at a time: *Gallia est omnis divisa in partes tres...* By the end of the week the sentence should live in you without the page.

Try it. This week's activity is the method itself: the three-pass reading laid out in your notebook in two colors, owned forms in one, glossed words in the other, with the map beside it. Then the recitation: Caesar's opening, from memory, to the family, pointing at the three parts on the map as you name their peoples.

PICTURE STUDY



Map of Gaul, Gustav Droysen, 1886 · Printed atlas map · From Droysen's Allgemeiner historischer Handatlas (General Historical Atlas)

Image: [Wikimedia Commons](#), public domain

This is Caesar's first sentence drawn as a map: ancient Gaul as a German historical atlas of 1886 printed it for schoolchildren and scholars, every label in Latin. Gallia est omnis divisa in partes tres, and here are the three parts with their borders inked: Belgica in the north, Aquitania in the southwest, and the broad middle country of the Celtae between them. Reading a map like this is reading Latin; every name on it is a word Caesar's readers knew.

Look closely

- Find the three parts of the sentence: Belgica in the north, Aquitania in the southwest, and the great middle land, the country of the Celtae, which the Romans came to call Gallia Lugdunensis. The map is the sentence: *divisa in partes tres*.
- Hunt the tribe names printed in small capitals across the land. Caesar's first sentence names the Belgae and the Aquitani, and book by book he met many of the others you can find here.
- Trace the rivers. Caesar's very next sentences use them as the borders: the Garumna (Garonne) divides the Aquitani from the Celtae, and the Matrona and Sequana (Marne and Seine) divide the Celtae from the Belgae.
- Find Gallia Narbonensis along the southern coast: 'the Province,' Roman long before Caesar marched. Its name survives on modern maps as Provence.

Talk about it

1. Why would a general open a war report with geography? What does the reader hold after one sentence that he did not hold before?
2. This map was printed in Germany in 1886, labels in Latin, for students reading the same sentence you read today. What does that tell you about how long Caesar's opening has been the doorway to real Latin?
3. Which of the three parts would you look for first when reading the sentence with this map beside you, and how would the map help you keep *quarum unam, aliam* and *tertiam* straight?

ACTIVITY

The three-pass reading and the recitation

Today's make is a skill you will use for the rest of your reading life: the glossed three-pass method, laid out on paper in two colors, and then the sentence itself, memorized and recited with the map. No guessing allowed; that is the whole discipline.

You will need

- Your Latin notebook and two colored pencils
- An index card for the glossary
- The lesson's map (on screen or printed), and 6 index cards for the new vocabulary

Steps

1. Copy the sentence large across a notebook spread, exactly: *Gallia est omnis divisa in partes tres, quarum unam incolunt Belgae, aliam Aquitani, tertiam qui ipsorum lingua Celtae, nostra Galli appellantur.*
2. Make the glossary card: *quarum*, of which; *unam*, one (accusative); *incolunt*, (they) inhabit; *aliam*, another; *terciam*, the third; *qui*, who; *ipsorum*, their own, of themselves; *nostra*, in ours.
3. Pass one, sound: read the whole sentence aloud twice, classical pronunciation, no translating.
4. Pass two, anchors: underline in one color every form you own and parse it in the margin: *est divisa* (perfect passive, feminine to match *Gallia*), *omnis*, in *partes tres*, *lingua* (ablative, 'in ... language'), *appellantur* (present passive, they are called). Underline the glossary words in the second color and number them to the card.
5. Pass three, smooth English: write the full translation beneath, then read Latin and English aloud to the wall until they both run without stumbling.
6. Memorize clause by clause: *Gallia est omnis divisa in partes tres* (stop, repeat); *quarum unam incolunt Belgae, aliam Aquitani* (stop, repeat); *terciam qui ipsorum lingua Celtae, nostra Galli appellantur.* Make the six flashcards (*pars*, *partis* f; *omnis*; *lingua*; *appello*; *divido*, *dividere*, *divisi*, *divisus*; *tres*),

run the deck, then recite the whole sentence to the family, pointing out Belgica, Aquitania and the Celtae's middle country on the map as you go.

Tips

- The two colors are the method made visible: owned forms in one, glossed in the other. Over the years, the first color's share grows; that is what learning Latin is.
- Memorize with the rhythm: GAL-li-a est OM-nis di-VI-sa in PAR-tes TRES. The sentence has a drumbeat; use it.
- When reciting, slow down at appellatur and land it cleanly; a strong last word carries the whole performance.

Check your work

- ☐ The sentence is copied exactly, two colors applied, every owned form parsed in the margin.
- ☐ My glossary card covers every word I did not own, and I used it without guessing.
- ☐ I recited the full sentence from memory, with the map, and translated it smoothly.
- ☐ The six new flashcards are in the deck.

LATIN NOTEBOOK

1. Copy Caesar's sentence exactly, with your two-color markup and the margin parsings, dated: your first unaltered Latin.
2. Write the glossary card's contents as a neat table: Latin, English, and why each form looks the way it does where you can say.
3. Write the new vocabulary with principal parts and genders: pars, partis f; omnis; lingua; appello; divido, dividere, divisi, divisus; tres.
4. Write the three-pass method in your own words, three short numbered rules, so you can apply it to any sentence you ever meet.

From history. Caesar's opening became so universal a school text that 'Gaul is divided into three parts' turned into a cultural joke: generations of students met it as their first real Latin, and essayists have parodied it ever since, dividing everything from kitchens to childhood into partes tres. Few sentences in any language have been read by so many thirteen-year-olds for so many centuries, and this week it was read by one more.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Parse *divisa* in Gallia est omnis divisa.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Divido's fourth principal part: divisus, divided.
2. It must agree with its subject: Gallia, feminine singular, so divisa.
3. With est it forms the perfect passive from Unit 2.

Answer: Perfect passive participle of divido, feminine nominative singular agreeing with Gallia; est divisa, 'is divided' or 'has been divided.' Caesar's first verb is your Unit 2 grammar on parade.

Example 2. Parse *appellantur*, and find its subject.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Appello, first conjugation; -ntur is the passive they-ending.
2. Present passive, third person plural: they are called.
3. Who are called? The people of the third part: qui... Celtae... Galli, 'who are called Celts... Gauls.'

Answer: Present passive, third plural of appello: 'they are called.' The men of the third part answer to Celtae in their own tongue and Galli in Rome's; one passive verb hands you both names.

Example 3. Translate *in partes tres*, and explain the case.

▼ **Show solution**

1. In with the accusative means into, motion toward.
2. Partes: accusative plural of pars, part.
3. Tres: three, agreeing with partes.

Answer: Into three parts. With the ablative, in would mean resting in; the accusative makes it motion: Gaul divides into its three.

PRACTICE

1. **Easy** Give the meanings: pars, lingua, omnis, tres.

▼ **Show answer**

Part, tongue (language), all (every), three.

2. **Easy** Parse appellatur: voice, person, number, translation.

▼ **Show answer**

Passive, third person, plural, present tense: they are called.

3. **Easy** Name the three peoples of Caesar's three parts.

▼ **Show answer**

The Belgae, the Aquitani, and the people called Celtae in their own language and Galli in Latin.

4. **Medium** Translate: Gallia in partes tres divisa est.

▼ **Show answer**

Gaul is (has been) divided into three parts. The words stand in a different order from Caesar's and the meaning holds; the endings, not the order, carry Latin.

5. **Medium** Translate into Latin: The land is divided.

▼ **Show answer**

Terra divisa est. The participle turns feminine to agree with terra.

6. **Medium** Why is it divisa and not divisus in Caesar's sentence?

▼ **Show answer**

The participle agrees with its subject, and Gallia is feminine singular: divisa. Divisus would suit a masculine subject.

7. **Hard** In ipsorum lingua, the noun lingua is ablative. Translate the phrase with the glossary and name the ablative's job here.

▼ **Show answer**

'In their own language.' The ablative is doing its in/by/with work with no preposition: the language is the respect in which they are called Celtae. Nostra (lingua understood) answers it: in ours, Galli.

8. **Challenge** Recite Caesar's opening sentence from memory, then give a smooth English translation.

▼ **Show answer**

Gallia est omnis divisa in partes tres, quarum unam incolunt Belgae, aliam Aquitani, tertiam qui ipsorum lingua Celtae, nostra Galli appellantur. All Gaul is divided into three parts, of which the Belgae inhabit one, the Aquitani another, and the third those who in their own language are called Celts, in ours Gauls.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Guessing instead of glossing. The method's one law: parse what you own, look up what you do not, and never bluff a word.
- Hitching divisa to partes instead of Gallia. Agreement is the leash: divisa is feminine singular, and its noun is Gallia.
- Reading appellantur as active, 'they call.' The -ntur is passive: they are called.
- Treating omnis as the subject. Omnis rides with Gallia, 'all Gaul, Gaul as a whole'; Gallia is the subject with est divisa.

Make it a game · Three Pass Caesar. Read Caesar's opening sentence three times: first for sound, second for each word's meaning, third for the whole sentence. The parent keeps score: one point for each correct parse of est, divisa, partes tres, lingua and appellantur. Then recite from memory. If you stumble, start again from the beginning. Aim for a clean recitation.

Scripture. “From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?” (James 4:1, KJV)

Caesar's prose is clean; the war it reports was not, and Gaul paid terribly for Rome's glory. Scripture looks past the dispatches to the source: wars begin in the wanting heart. Read the conqueror's Latin with admiration for its craft and sober eyes about its cost, and let James ask his question of every empire, and of every reader.

UNIT 5

RES GESTAE: WRITE YOUR OWN

When Augustus died in A.D. 14, he left behind a text he had written himself: the *Res Gestae Divi Augusti*, 'the deeds of the divine Augustus,' a first-person account of what he had built, given and restored, meant to be cut in bronze at his tomb and copied across the empire. The bronze at Rome is lost, but on the walls of a temple in Ancyra, modern Ankara in Turkey, the text survives nearly whole, carved in Latin and Greek, and scholars have called it the queen of Latin inscriptions. It is a monument of first-person perfects: I built, I gave, I restored. This unit turns those verbs over to you. The course's final objective, promised since the first week, is an original Latin paragraph of your own, four to six sentences using a perfect, a passive, a participle and a comparison, drafted, checked against a dictionary and your charts, corrected, and lettered as a scroll: your own *res gestae*. Beside Augustus's trumpet the unit sets Matthew 6, where the Lord teaches a different accounting of deeds, and the two are discussed plainly together.

Then the spiral closes where it began. The founders of America built a senate, met on a capitol, and stamped Latin on the seal and the coins; the law still speaks it, *habeas corpus*, *subpoena*, *pro bono*, *e pluribus unum*; science names every living thing in it; the church has sung it for two thousand years; and you now read it. The last lesson reviews six years in one sweep, the five declensions, the four conjugations, the six tenses of the indicative with the last two rooms marked for high school, and ends with the Capstone Evening: maps presented, Caesar and the scroll recited, *Magna Carta* read, a one-page brief on what Latin gave English handed to the family, and a psalm or the *Pater Noster* in Latin to close.

PREREQUISITES

- Can use everything on the maps: five declensions, present and perfect in both voices, participles and comparison (Units 1–4)
- Can read a glossed text with the three-pass method without guessing (Unit 4)
- Has the notebook charts complete and legible, ready to check compositions against

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can tell what the Res Gestae is, who wrote it, and where the best copy survives.
- ☐ I can read a dictionary entry and tell a word's declension or conjugation before I use it.
- ☐ I have written, corrected and lettered an original Latin paragraph of 4–6 sentences using a perfect, a passive, a participle and a comparison.
- ☐ I can name the six tenses of the indicative and point to the two rooms high school opens, the pluperfect and the future perfect.
- ☐ I can give the Latin behind habeas corpus, subpoena, pro bono and e pluribus unum.
- ☐ I have presented the Capstone Evening: the maps, the recitations, the Magna Carta clause, the scroll and the brief.

OPTIONAL BOOKS AND RESOURCES FOR THIS UNIT

- **National Latin Exam past papers**: Free online. The Introduction to Latin exam makes a cheerful capstone benchmark: forty friendly questions, and a grade 8 student finishing this course will recognize nearly all of it.
- **Latin Launchpad**: Free. Our companion practice site; its grade 7–8 packs and phrase pages cover most of this course's word list, and its games make a painless final review before the Capstone Evening.
- **A pocket Latin dictionary (Bantam, Collins or similar)**: Any small Latin-English dictionary. This unit teaches the dictionary habit for composition: check the word's family before you trust it with an ending.

Not required. Every activity in this unit works with paper, pencil, scissors and the free links below. School Launch has no ties to these authors, publishers or companies.

LESSONS IN THIS UNIT

5.1 The Deeds of Augustus, and Yours

3 sessions of 30–40 minutes

5.2 Rome to America: The Torch Carried On

3 sessions of 30–40 minutes

UNIT 5 REVIEW

Answer each question in complete sentences, except where forms are asked for. The review is worth 30 points. It may be done orally, with a parent writing down the answers.

1. **5 pts**

What is the Res Gestae Divi Augusti, who wrote it, and where does the best copy survive?

2. **5 pts**

Translate both ways: (a) Feci. Dedi. Templum aedificavi. (b) I carried water.

3. **5 pts**

Name the four required ingredients of the res gestae paragraph, and write one correct Latin sentence showing the passive ingredient.

4. 5 pts

Give the literal meaning of each: habeas corpus, subpoena, pro bono, e pluribus unum.

5. 5 pts

Name the six tenses of the indicative, mark the two high-school rooms, and identify these specimens: amaveram, amavero.

6. 5 pts

Parse every word and translate: Aqua a puella portata est.

ANSWER KEY

1. Augustus's own first-person account of his deeds, written for bronze pillars at his tomb in Rome; the bronze is lost, and the most complete copy is carved on the temple of Rome and Augustus at Ancyra (Ankara, Turkey), the Monumentum Ancyranum.
2. (a) I made (did). I gave. I built a temple. (b) Aquam portavi.
3. A perfect active, a passive, a participle and a comparison. Passive example: Epistulae a me scriptae sunt (letters were written by me), or Aqua a me portata est.
4. 'You shall have the body' (produce the prisoner); 'under penalty' (a court summons); 'for the (public) good' (free legal work); 'out of many, one' (the motto of the United States).
5. Present, imperfect, future, perfect (owned); pluperfect and future perfect (high school's rooms). Amaveram is pluperfect, 'I had loved'; amavero is future perfect, 'I shall have loved.'
6. Aqua: nominative subject, the water. A: ab before a consonant, 'by,' taking the ablative. Puella: ablative, the doer. Portata: perfect passive participle of porto, feminine singular agreeing with aqua. Est: completes the perfect passive. The water was carried by the girl.

UNIT CHALLENGE: THE CAPSTONE EVENING

The final challenge is the evening itself, the student as teacher before the family. The order: the five-declension master map and the verb map presented, with the two locked rooms (pluperfect and future perfect) pointed out by name; Caesar's opening recited from memory with the map of Gaul; the Magna Carta clause read in Latin and translated; the Res Gestae scroll unrolled and read, Latin then English, its four ingredients named; the one-page What Latin Gave English brief formally handed to the family to keep; and the close in Latin, Psalm 23 or the Pater Noster, the family's choice, with sanctificetur saluted as the subjunctive it is. Refreshments afterward, Roman simplicity encouraged. Keep the scroll, the brief and the maps: a high school Latin course will be glad to meet them.

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Accurate Latin	Every chant, recitation and reading is word-perfect, with classical pronunciation and endings the student can defend on request.
The scroll	The original paragraph meets all four requirements (perfect, passive, participle, comparison), corrected and lettered as a scroll.
Recitations from memory	Caesar's opening is delivered without the page, map in use, and the Magna Carta clause is read and translated fluently.
Presentation	The evening is ordered, rehearsed and taught: maps explained, the brief delivered, questions answered, and the Latin close spoken clearly.

UNIT 5 • RES GESTAE: WRITE YOUR OWN • LESSON 5.1 OF 10 • 3 SESSIONS OF 30-40 MINUTES

5.1 THE DEEDS OF AUGUSTUS, AND YOURS

OBJECTIVES

- Tell the story of the Res Gestae Divi Augusti and the temple wall at Ancyra that preserved it.
- Read Res Gestae-style first-person perfects: feci, dedi, aedificavi, restitui.
- Use a dictionary entry to check a word's declension or conjugation before using it.
- Draft an original Latin paragraph of 4–6 sentences containing a perfect, a passive, a participle and a comparison.
- Correct the draft against the charts and letter it as a scroll.

Warm-up. Chant the stack one more time, and then answer this: if you could leave six sentences about your deeds, carved where your great-great-grandchildren would read them, what would they say? Augustus actually faced that question, and answered it at length. Today you read his answer, and begin writing your own, in his language.

WATCH

Augustus of Prima Porta, power and propaganda

Smarthistory · 6:23

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0HhWj97jKSQ>

WHEN TO WATCH

After the story paragraph: the most famous statue of Augustus, read closely by two art historians, shows how carefully the emperor managed his image, in marble exactly as in prose.

Note: Made for a general adult audience; previewed. The statue's breastplate and its diplomacy are discussed as history, nothing graphic.

BACKUP VIDEO

How We Found Augustus Caesar's Autobiography | ATG Highlights

World of Antiquity · 2:41

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VTWzZ59rHd8>

After the picture study: a short visit to the Ankara temple wall itself and the story of how the text survived there.

KEY TERMS

Res Gestae

'Things done, deeds': Augustus's first-person account of his reign, from *gero*, *gestus*, to carry on, accomplish. The full title is *Res Gestae Divi Augusti*.

Monumentum Ancyranum

The copy of the *Res Gestae* carved on the temple of Rome and Augustus at Ancyra (Ankara), the most complete to survive; scholars call the text the queen of Latin inscriptions.

composition

Writing original Latin, not translating someone else's. The craft: say only what your charts can defend, and check every word's family before trusting it with an ending.

dictionary entry

The compact line that tells a word's whole family: puella, -ae f means first declension feminine; amo, amare, amavi, amatus hands you all four principal parts.

scroll

The book-form of the ancient world: a rolled sheet, read column by column. Your finished paragraph will be lettered and rolled as one.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Classical sounds: c is always k, g is always hard, v is w, and ae says eye. Capitals show the stress. A macron marks a long vowel.

monumentum

mo-nu-MEN-tum

noun · monumentum, monumentī, n.

a monument

ENGLISH monument

Ancŷra

AHNKŷ-rah

noun · Ancŷra, Ancŷrae, f.

Ancyra, where Augustus's deeds were copied in stone

templum

TEMP-lum

noun · templum, templī, n.

a temple

ENGLISH temple

restituō

res-TEE-tu-oh

verb · restituō, restituere, restituī, restitūtum

I restore

ENGLISH restitute

aes

YES

noun · aes, aeris, n.

bronze

mūnus

MOO-nus

noun · mūnus, mūneris, n.

a gift; a public duty

ENGLISH remunerate

ōceanus

oh-KEH-ah-nus

noun · ōceanus, ōceanī, m.

the ocean

ENGLISH ocean

claudō

KLOW-doh

verb · claudō, claudere, clausī, clausum

I shut

ENGLISH close

prīnceps

PREEN-keps

noun · prīnceps, prīncipis, m.

the first citizen; a prince

ENGLISH prince

pietās

PEE-eh-tahs

noun · pietās, pietātis, f.

duty, devotion

ENGLISH piety

sepulcrum

seh-PULK-rum

noun · sepulcrum, sepulcrī, n.

a tomb

ENGLISH sepulcher

CORE IDEAS

The story. Augustus ruled the Roman world for over forty years, and he wrote his own ending: a text to be engraved on bronze pillars before his tomb, listing what he had done. The deeds march past in first-person perfects: I rebuilt eighty-two temples in one year; I gave games; I paid the soldiers' bounties; I extended the empire's bounds; among his buildings he lists the Curia itself, the Senate house of your Unit 1. The bronze at Rome vanished centuries ago, but the empire had copied the text onto provincial monuments, and on the inner walls of the temple of Rome and Augustus at Ancyra, in Latin with a Greek translation alongside, nearly the whole of it still stands. Rediscovered by European travelers in the 1550s and photographed by a French expedition in 1861, it is the longest and most famous first-person inscription to survive from the ancient world: an emperor's accounting, carved for eternity, and eternity has so far obliged.

The workshop of a sentence. Now the pen changes hands, and the first tool you need is the dictionary habit. A Latin dictionary entry is a compressed chart: *puella, -ae f* tells you first declension, feminine, so you know its whole family of endings; *fides, -ei f* says fifth declension; *amo, amare, amavi, amatus* hands you every stem the verb will ever need, and the fourth part is your passive and your participle. The composition rule is simple and strict: before any word takes an ending, look it up and name its family out loud. The second tool is the frame. Augustus's own style is your scaffolding: short sentences, verb at the end, deeds in the perfect. Feci. Dedi. Aquam portavi. Mensam aedificavi. Multas fabulas narravi. Epistulae a me scriptae sunt. Semper laborans, fabulas narravi. Liber meus longior est quam epistula mea. Every frame

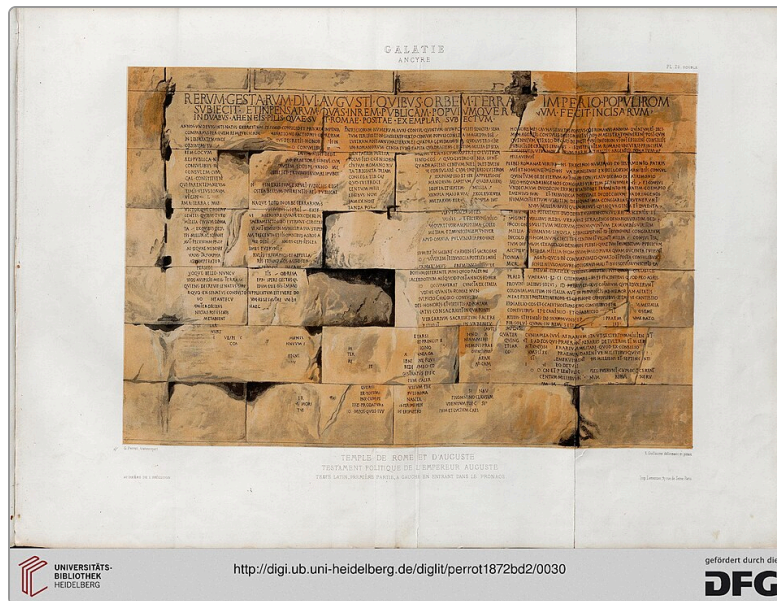
above is checked and true; swap in your own nouns and verbs, and check them the same way.

How Latin works: the assignment. Your *res gestae* must be 4 to 6 sentences, true of you (modest or cheerful deeds count: water carried, siblings taught, books finished), and must contain all four of these, labeled in the margin of your draft: a **perfect active** (*portavi, scripsi, aedificavi*); a **passive**, present or perfect (*laudatur; scripta est*); a **participle** doing adjective work (*laborans; scriptus*); and a **comparison**, comparative or superlative with its grammar sound (*longior quam...; optimus*). Keep every sentence inside the fence: words you own or have checked, endings your charts can defend, verb standing proudly at the end. Short and correct beats long and lucky; Caesar's fame rests on plain sentences, and Cicero praised him for it.

Say it out loud. Latin is tested by the ear. Read your draft aloud at every stage: a sentence that stumbles on the tongue usually hides a wrong ending, and a sentence that marches, *Aquam portavi, mensam aedificavi*, is usually sound. Chant the relevant column whenever you doubt a form; the charts live on your wall for exactly this. And before you letter anything, read the whole paragraph to a parent, translating as you go: if you cannot say why an ending is right, the dictionary gets another visit.

Try it. Draft, check, correct, letter, roll. The finished scroll, *RES GESTAE MEAE* across the top, your paragraph beneath in your best hand, is the course's crowning make, and it will be read aloud at the Capstone Evening beside the words of an emperor, which is exactly where six years of work deserves to stand.

PICTURE STUDY



The Res Gestae on the Temple Wall at Ancyra, Georges Perrot, Edmond Guillaume and Jules Delbet, Photographed 1861, published 1862 · Photograph from an archaeological expedition · Temple of Rome and Augustus, Ancyra (modern Ankara, Turkey)

Image: [Wikimedia Commons](#), CC0

This is the emperor's own account of his deeds, photographed on the wall that saved it. A French expedition reached Ankara in 1861 and photographed the temple of Rome and Augustus, whose inner walls carry the Res Gestae in Latin, with a Greek version outside for the province's readers. The bronze original at Rome is lost; this stone copy, carved in the emperor's lifetime of memory, let scholars recover almost the whole text, and the great historian Mommsen crowned it the queen of Latin inscriptions.

Look closely

- Look at the layout: tall columns of text, like the pages of an open book in stone. The carvers ruled their lines exactly as your scriptorium page was ruled.
- Find the gaps and weathered patches. Scholars filled many of them from other copies found at Apollonia and Antioch in Pisidia: the empire's habit of copying saved the text twice over.
- Look at the letter forms: the same square Roman capitals as the Pantheon's porch and your own cornerstone design.
- Consider the scale: paragraphs of first-person deeds, *feci*, *dedi*, *restitui*, filling a wall. Your assignment is six sentences; his was a reign.

Talk about it

1. Augustus wrote his own record and had it carved beyond reach of editors. What are the advantages, and the dangers, of writing your own account of yourself?
2. The bronze at Rome vanished; a provincial copy in Turkey survived. What does that teach about where lasting things actually last?
3. Which of your own deeds would you be content to see carved where your descendants would read them, and in which verb tense does that thought put you?

ACTIVITY

Res Gestae Mea: the scroll

The course's promised summit: an original Latin paragraph, drafted in pencil, checked word by word, corrected in company, and lettered onto a scroll worth keeping. Augustus needed a temple wall; you need one good sheet of paper and your charts.

You will need

- Your Latin notebook for drafting, and the wall charts and flashcard deck
- A pocket Latin dictionary if you have one (the course word lists serve otherwise)
- A sheet of good paper or cardstock, ruler, pencil and fine-tip pen
- Two dowels, pencils or sticks and string or ribbon for rolling, and 3 index cards for the new vocabulary

Steps

1. Brainstorm deeds in English: ten true things you have done, modest and cheerful welcome (carried water, built a table, taught a sibling, wrote letters, finished this course's maps). Pick the five or six that make the best paragraph.
2. Draft in pencil, one sentence per line, using the frames: perfects for deeds (portavi, scripsi, aedificavi, narravi), one passive (a me scriptae sunt, or laudatur), one participle (semper laborans...), one comparison (longior est quam..., or an honest optimus).
3. Dictionary pass: for every noun and verb, check the entry and say its family aloud (mensa, -ae f, first declension; scribo, scribere, scripsi, scriptus). Mark each checked word with a small tick.
4. Correction sitting: read the draft aloud to a parent, translating each sentence and defending each ending against the charts. Fix what wobbles; label the four required ingredients in the margin.
5. Letter the scroll: RES GESTAE MEAE in Roman capitals across the top, the paragraph beneath in your best hand, your name and the year in Roman numerals at the foot. Attach the dowels top and bottom (or simply roll), and tie with string or ribbon.

6. Make the three flashcards (gero, gerere, gessi, gestus; templum; dono), run the deck, and give the scroll one full rehearsal reading, Latin then English, for the Capstone Evening.

Tips

- Short sentences, verb at the end, nothing you cannot defend: that is not a limitation, it is the Roman style itself.
- If a sentence needs a word you cannot check, change the deed, not the grammar. Write the Latin you own.
- Letter the scroll only after the correction sitting; ink is for settled text, as every scribe in Unit 2 would tell you.

Check your work

- ☐ My paragraph has 4–6 true sentences with the four ingredients labeled: perfect, passive, participle, comparison.
- ☐ Every noun and verb got its dictionary check, tick marks to prove it.
- ☐ The corrected text is lettered on the scroll with title, name and year in numerals.
- ☐ The three new flashcards are in the deck, and the scroll had its rehearsal reading.

LATIN NOTEBOOK

1. Write three dictionary entries out in full and unpack each in your own words: what family, what stems, what the entry lets you build.
2. Draft your res gestae in pencil here first, one sentence per line, with the four required ingredients labeled in the margin.
3. Record the correction sitting: each fix you made and why the ending was wrong before.
4. Copy your final paragraph fair, dated, beneath the title Res Gestae Meae: the notebook keeps the text even after the scroll leaves the shelf.

From history. The Res Gestae survived by bureaucracy: the imperial text was copied onto monuments across the province of Galatia, and the Ankara temple stood through the centuries, serving later ages in other uses, with the emperor's Latin quietly intact on its walls. Travelers reported it in the 1550s; Mommsen's editions made it the founding document of Roman imperial history; and in the 1930s a full copy was engraved again in Rome, so the lost bronze has a modern stone grandchild a few steps from Augustus's tomb.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. A student drafts 'Aquam portatus sum' for 'I carried water.' Fix it, and give the writer both correct choices.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Portatus sum is perfect passive: 'I was carried,' which makes the student the cargo.
2. For the deed done by me, use the perfect active: portavi.
3. Or keep a passive and make the water the subject: aqua a me portata est.

Answer: Aquam portavi (I carried water), or Aqua a me portata est (water was carried by me). Choose the voice on purpose: the doer's sentence or the deed's.

Example 2. What does *amaveram* mean, and when will you study its tense?

▼ **Show solution**

1. The stem amav- is the perfect stem you know from amavi.
2. The -eram tacked on is the pluperfect: the past before the past.
3. Translate with 'had': the deed finished before some other past deed.

Answer: 'I had loved.' The pluperfect, one of the two indicative rooms this course leaves locked on purpose; Augustus could say aedificaveram, 'I had built,' of deeds done before other deeds. Recognize it, translate it with 'had' if a text hands it over, and let high school turn the key.

Example 3. You want to write 'I restored the temple.' The dictionary gives restituo, restituere, restitui, restitutus. Build the sentence.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Name the family aloud: third conjugation; the third principal part restitui is the perfect stem.
2. First person perfect: restitui, I restored.
3. Object in the accusative: templum, a neuter whose accusative matches its nominative.

Answer: Templum restitui. The dictionary entry handed over everything: family, stem, and the confidence to ink it.

PRACTICE

1. **Easy** Translate: Feci. Dedi. Aedificavi.

▼ **Show answer**

I made (did). I gave. I built. First-person perfects, the backbone verbs of the Res Gestae.

2. **Easy** Give the meanings: gero, templum, dono.

▼ **Show answer**

I carry on (accomplish; its participle gestus sits inside res gestae, things done), temple, I give (as a gift).

3. **Easy** What is the Res Gestae, and where does the best copy survive?

▼ **Show answer**

Augustus's own first-person account of his deeds, meant for bronze at his tomb in Rome; the bronze is lost, and the most complete copy is carved on the temple of Rome and Augustus at Ancyra, modern Ankara in Turkey.

4. **Medium** Translate into Latin: I carried water. I wrote a book.

▼ **Show answer**

Aquam portavi. Librum scripsi. Deeds in the perfect, objects in the accusative, verbs at the end.

5. **Medium** Make it passive and translate: Templum aedificatum est.

▼ **Show answer**

The temple was built (has been built): perfect passive, the participle neuter singular to agree with templum.

6. **Medium** The dictionary says fides, -ei f. What declension is it, and what two facts did the entry just hand you?

▼ **Show answer**

Fifth declension, shown by the genitive -ei; and it is feminine. Genitive and gender are the entry's two gifts: family and dress code, everything an ending needs.

7. **Hard** Translate, then label the participle: Semper laborans, templum aedificavi.

▼ **Show answer**

Always working, I built a temple. Laborans is a present active participle in the nominative, agreeing with the unexpressed I who built; it carries its own adverb, semper, like the verb it half is.

8. **Challenge** Augustus wrote 'I gave' again and again for all the world to read; Matthew 6 teaches giving that not even the left hand audits. Write two or three English lines on how a Christian's res gestae should differ from an emperor's, and then render one humble deed into Latin without your name attached: for example, 'The water was carried.'

▼ **Show answer**

Answers will vary; the heart of it: the Christian's record is kept by the Father who sees in secret, so deeds need no trumpet and no bronze, and service counts most when it seeks no audience. The Latin: Aqua portata est, the water was carried, a perfect passive with no doer named, which is the grammar of the left hand not knowing.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Using a word without checking its family, and declining a fifth-declension noun like a first. The entry's genitive is the passport; read it before stamping an ending.
- Writing English word order and calling it Latin. Let the verb end the sentence: Aquam portavi, not Portavi aquam ad the-English-rhythm.

- Reaching for forms outside the fence, future perfects and subjunctives half-remembered from videos. The Res Gestae itself runs on plain perfects; so should yours.
- Forgetting agreement in the passive line: epistulae a me scriptae sunt needs the feminine plural participle, because the letters, not the writer, are the subject.

Make it a game · Res Gestae Scroll. Write six first-person perfects on a paper scroll, like feci, dedi, aedificavi and restitui. Add a short sentence to each about something you did this week. The parent reads each aloud and guesses the meaning. Score a point for each correct guess. Roll up the scroll and keep it like Augustus on the wall at Ancyra.

Scripture. “Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven. ... But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth: That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly.” (Matthew 6:1, 3-4, KJV)

Augustus carved his giving where the world must read it; the Lord teaches giving that keeps no copy at all. Write your scroll cheerfully, it is schoolwork, not a trumpet, and let the two accountings sit side by side at the Capstone Evening: the emperor's wall, and the Father who sees in secret.

UNIT 5 · RES GESTAE: WRITE YOUR OWN · LESSON 5.2 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30-40 MINUTES

5.2 ROME TO AMERICA: THE TORCH CARRIED ON

OBJECTIVES

- Trace Rome's Latin into American government: senate, capitol, veto, and e pluribus unum on the seal and the coins.
- Give the meaning and grammar of working legal Latin: habeas corpus, subpoena, pro bono, e pluribus unum.
- Place the six tenses of the indicative on one map, marking the pluperfect and future perfect as high school's rooms.
- Review the six-year spiral: chant the grade 3 chants and parse them with grade 8 eyes.
- Prepare and host the Capstone Evening, and learn the vocabulary: corpus, plus.

Warm-up. Bring a coin to the lesson, any United States coin, and read it: E PLURIBUS UNUM. You can parse most of that now. Six years ago a grade 3 student could only chant aqua, aquae; today you will take apart the money in your pocket, the writs of the courts and the names of the species, and then you will show the family everything the spiral built.

WATCH

Why Do U.S. Buildings Look Like Ancient Rome?

Alex On America · 5:15

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Ab-Ts4yeLg>

WHEN TO WATCH

After the story paragraph: domes, columns and porticoes from the Pantheon to the Capitol, and why the founders wanted their republic dressed in Rome's architecture.

Note: A general-audience channel; previewed. The architecture does the teaching, and your Unit 3 Pantheon work will keep paying off.

BACKUP VIDEO

ALL Latin Legal Terms Explained in 3 minutes in Basic English

Oscar's Legal Space · 4:48

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6l8-Wle9M6E>

After the How Latin works paragraph: a rapid tour of the courtroom's working Latin. Pause freely; you can now parse pieces the video only translates.

KEY TERMS

habeas corpus

'You shall have the body': the ancient writ ordering a jailer to produce a prisoner before a judge, so no one can be held in secret. Habeas is a subjunctive of habeo, the law's mood again.

subpoena

'Under penalty' (sub poena): a court order to appear or produce evidence, with punishment waiting behind the sub.

pro bono

Short for pro bono publico, 'for the public good': legal work done free, the ablative after pro doing the work.

e pluribus unum

'Out of many, one': the motto on the Great Seal and the coins; ex with the ablative plural of plus, and unum, one.

indicative mood

The mood of plain fact, whose six tenses are this course's finished map: present, imperfect, future and perfect owned, pluperfect and future perfect marked for high school.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Classical sounds: c is always k, g is always hard, v is w, and ae says eye. Capitals show the stress. A macron marks a long vowel.

Capitōlium

kah-pee-TOH-lee-um

noun · Capitōlium, Capitōliī, n.

the Capitol

ENGLISH Capitol

iūdex

YOO-deks

noun · iūdex, iūdicis, m.

a judge

ENGLISH judge

cliēns

KLEE-ayns

noun · cliēns, clientis, m.

a client

ENGLISH client

testāmentum

tes-tah-MEN-tum

noun · testāmentum, testāmentī, n.

a will

ENGLISH testament

suffrāgium

suff-RAH-gee-um

noun · suffrāgium, suffrāgiī, n.

a vote

ENGLISH suffrage

ūniō

OO-nee-oh

noun · ūniō, ūniōnis, f.

oneness, union

ENGLISH union

foedus

FOY-dus

noun · foedus, foederis, n.

a treaty

ENGLISH federal

cōstitūtiō

kohns-tee-TOO-tee-oh

noun · cōstitūtiō, cōstitūtiōnis, f.

a constitution

ENGLISH constitution

praeses

PRYE-ses

noun · praeses, praesidis, m.

a president; a protector

ENGLISH president

sigillum

see-GEEL-lum

noun · sigillum, sigillī, n.

a seal

ENGLISH seal

fascis

FAHS-kees

noun · fascis, fascis, m.

a bundle of rods, the fasces

ENGLISH fasces

CORE IDEAS

The story. The men who founded America were schooled the old way: Latin grammar, Caesar, Cicero, Roman history read as a manual of what republics do right and how they die. When they built their own, they furnished it from Rome. A Senate; a Capitol on a hill, named for the Capitoline; the presidential veto, a tribune's old one-word power; candidates still whitened, at least in name. The Great Seal says E pluribus unum, out of many, one; Annuit coeptis and the rest of the dollar bill's Latin came from the same classical pantry. The law never stopped speaking it: habeas corpus guards the prisoner, a subpoena summons the witness, lawyers serve pro bono. Science names every creature in Latin, as Linnaeus arranged, back in grade 5, remember; the church has sung it for two millennia. The torch passed from the Forum to Runnymede to Philadelphia, and the common thread is the language in your notebook.

The six-year spiral, seen whole. Set grade 3 beside grade 8 and watch the spiral close. The child chanted aqua, aquae and spotted aquarium; the grade 5 student declined puella and met amo; grades 6 and 7 added declensions, conjugations, the perfect, the pronouns; and this year finished the nouns, turned the voice passive, grew participles and comparison, and read Caesar with no training wheels. The same little sentence has climbed with you: Puella aquam portat became Puella aquam portavit, then Aqua a puella portatur, then Aqua a puella portata est, and this week, puella, aquam portans, fortior est quam heri's version of herself, every transformation one of your tools. Nothing was wasted; every chant was a brick.

How Latin works: the finished maps, and the two locked rooms. The noun map you built in Unit 1: five declensions, both numbers, hanging on your wall. The verb map gets its final drawing this week: four conjugations across, and down the side the six tenses of the indicative. Four rooms are furnished and yours: **present** (porto, portor), **imperfect** (portabam), **future** (portabo) and **perfect** (portavi; portatus est). Two rooms you can now see into but will furnish in high school: the **pluperfect**, amaveram, I had loved, and the **future perfect**, amavero, I shall have loved. Draw them on the map with their doors ajar and their names labeled; a student who knows exactly what he has not yet learned is a student who cannot be bluffed. The subjunctive, capiatur's mood, waits in the same hallway, already recognized, politely unopened.

Say it out loud. The full chant stack, one last time, family invited: the five declensions down the wall map; amo across both voices; sum; the irregular ladders melior, optimus, maior, maximus, minor, minimus; and the motto rungs citius, altius, fortius. Then parse the pocket change aloud: E pluribus unum, ex plus ablative plural, out of more-than-many, one thing, unum. And the courtroom's writ: habeas, 'you shall have,' the subjunctive you learned to salute at Runnymede, corpus, the body, produce the prisoner himself. The law's Latin is not decoration; it is the subjunctive still legislating, eight hundred years after Magna Carta chose that mood.

Try it. The last make of the course: the one-page brief, What Latin Gave English, five short sections, everyday words, church, law, science, government, each with its best examples from six years of notebooks. Then the Capstone Evening itself: the maps presented, Caesar recited, the scroll unrolled, Magna Carta read and translated, the brief handed over like the legal document it is, and the evening closed in Latin, Psalm 23 or the Pater Noster, the family's choice.

PICTURE STUDY



The United States Capitol, West Front, Architect of the Capitol (official photograph), Modern photograph; the building begun 1793, the dome completed 1866 · Photograph · Washington, D.C.

Image: [Wikimedia Commons](#), public domain

Here is where the course's story comes out of the ground in the New World: a dome descended from the Pantheon's, over a porch of columns like a Roman temple front, on a hill the founders named Capitol after Rome's Capitoline. Inside meet a Senate, named for Rome's council of elders, and a House whose laws can meet a veto, a tribune's old word. The statue on the dome's top is called Freedom, Libertas, and the building's working motto is on the nation's seal: E pluribus unum.

Look closely

- Trace the dome's silhouette: drum, ribs, crowning lantern. It is cast iron painted white, doubled in size in the 1850s and 60s, and its grandfather is the concrete dome you studied in Unit 3.
- Count the temple fronts: columns, capitals, pediments. The founders dressed their republic in Rome's architecture on purpose, so the buildings would say republic before a word was read.
- Find the statue on the summit: Freedom, placed in December 1863, in the middle of the Civil War.
- Look at the hill itself, Capitol Hill: a name that walked from a Roman hilltop temple, through two thousand years, onto American street signs.

Talk about it

1. When the Civil War came, Lincoln kept the half-finished dome's construction going, calling it a sign the Union would go on. Why do buildings carry that kind of meaning?
2. The founders borrowed Rome's words and architecture but not her emperors. What were they trying to keep, and what were they determined to leave behind?
3. Now that you read Latin, what will you see on buildings like this one that most visitors walk past? Name two things from this course you could point out on sight.

ACTIVITY

The brief and the Capstone Evening

Six years of the spiral come to the table. First the brief: one page, lawyer-tight, on what Latin gave English, handed to the family to keep. Then the evening itself: maps, recitations, charter, scroll and a Latin blessing to close. You are the teacher tonight; the course has made you one.

You will need

- A sheet of good paper for the brief, and your six years of notebooks to mine
- The wall maps, the Res Gestae scroll, the household charter, the Magna Carta page and the map of Gaul
- 2 index cards for the final vocabulary, and simple refreshments if the house allows
- A printed Latin text of Psalm 23 (your Unit 2 scriptorium line begins it: Dominus regit me) or of the Pater Noster

Steps

1. Write the brief, What Latin Gave English, in five short sections: everyday words (from the old derivative trees), church (Vulgate, hymns, A.D.), law (habeas corpus, subpoena, pro bono, lex terrae), science (Linnaeus's two-part names), government (senate, republic, veto, candidate, capitol, e pluribus unum). Three to five examples each, your best from six years.
2. Make the final two flashcards (corpus, corporis n; plus, pluris), run the whole 56-card deck one last time, and set aside any card you miss for a morning-of review.
3. Plan the evening's order on a card: 1. the five-declension map and verb map presented, with the two locked rooms pointed out; 2. Caesar's opening recited with the map of Gaul; 3. the Magna Carta clause read in Latin and English; 4. the Res Gestae scroll unrolled and read, Latin then English; 5. the brief handed over; 6. the closing, Psalm 23 or Pater Noster, family's choice.
4. Rehearse once alone, out loud, with the props in order; note where you rush, and slow those seams down.

5. Host the evening. Teach as you go: one sentence of explanation before each item, no apologies, classical pronunciation throughout.
6. Close in Latin. If the Pater Noster is chosen, point out before you read it that sanctificetur, 'hallowed be,' wears the same subjunctive dress as capiatur: the mood of law is also the mood of prayer, and now your family knows it too.

Tips

- The brief is the one artifact the family keeps in a drawer for years; letter its headings and date it.
- Keep the evening under forty minutes; a capstone is a keystone, not a lecture series.
- Nerves fade when the first chant starts. Begin with the declension roll call; your mouth has done it hundreds of times.

Check your work

- ☐ The brief covers the five fields with true, checked examples.
- ☐ My order card is set, the props staged, the rehearsal done.
- ☐ The whole deck ran clean, missed cards reviewed.
- ☐ The evening was hosted, Latin read, brief delivered, blessing spoken.

LATIN NOTEBOOK

1. Draw the finished verb map: four conjugations, six indicative tenses, the pluperfect and future perfect rooms drawn with doors ajar and labeled 'high school,' with amaveram and amavero written inside as specimens.
2. Write the four legal phrases with literal translations and one sentence each on where they still work: habeas corpus, subpoena, pro bono, e pluribus unum.
3. Write the spiral ladder of one sentence through the years: Puella aquam portat; Puella aquam portavit; Aqua a puella portatur; Aqua a puella portata est, each translated.
4. Write a final dated page: the three things from six years of Latin you most want to remember, and the first thing you want to learn in high school Latin.

From history. The Capitol's cast-iron dome was raised during the Civil War, and when some urged pausing the work, Lincoln is reported to have answered that if the people saw the Capitol going on, they would know the Union would go on. The Statue of Freedom was bolted to its summit in December 1863, a month after Gettysburg's dedication. The dome's ancestry runs through Europe's domes back to the Pantheon, whose maker's inscription you can now read from the sidewalk of memory: a line of borrowed glory nineteen centuries long.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Take the grade 5 sentence *Puella aquam portat* and climb it with grade 8 tools: perfect, then present passive, then perfect passive.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Perfect active: portavit, she carried: *Puella aquam portavit*.
2. Present passive: the water becomes subject: *Aqua a puella portatur*.
3. Perfect passive: participle plus est, feminine for aqua: *Aqua a puella portata est*.

Answer: *Puella aquam portavit; Aqua a puella portatur; Aqua a puella portata est*.
One small sentence, four years of growth, every rung now yours.

Example 2. Parse *habeas corpus* with what you own.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Habeo you have owned since grade 5; habeas wears the subjunctive's -a-, the mood you met in *capiatur*: 'you shall have.'
2. Corpus: body, a neuter noun, the object.
3. A writ, not a report: the law commands the jailer to produce the prisoner in person.

Answer: 'You shall have the body': a command in the law's mood that no one be held in secret. Eight centuries after Runnymede, the subjunctive is still on duty, and you can now see it working.

Example 3. Parse the motto on the coin: *E pluribus unum*.

▼ **Show solution**

1. E is ex before a consonant: out of, with the ablative.
2. Pluribus: ablative plural of plus, more: out of many.
3. Unum: one, neuter: one thing.

Answer: Out of many, one. Thirteen colonies, one union, said in three words of Latin small enough for a coin; you have been carrying this parsing exercise in your pocket all along.

PRACTICE

1. **Easy** Give the meanings: corpus, plus; and translate e pluribus unum.

▼ **Show answer**

Body; more. E pluribus unum: out of many, one.

2. **Easy** Which Roman hill gave the capitol its name, and what does veto literally mean?

▼ **Show answer**

The Capitoline, the hill of Rome's great temple; veto means 'I forbid.'

3. **Easy** Translate the working phrases: pro bono; anno Domini.

▼ **Show answer**

For the (public) good; in the year of the Lord.

4. **Medium** Name the six tenses of the indicative, marking which four you own and which two high school opens, with a sample form of each locked room.

▼ **Show answer**

Present, imperfect, future and perfect are owned; the pluperfect (amaveram, I had loved) and the future perfect (amavero, I shall have loved) are the two rooms high school opens.

5. **Medium** Parse habeas corpus: what mood is habeas, where have you met that mood before, and what does the writ do?

▼ **Show answer**

Habeas is a subjunctive of habeo, 'you shall have,' the same mood as Magna Carta's *capiatur*; corpus is the body. The writ orders a jailer to produce the prisoner before a judge, so no one can be held in secret.

6. **Medium** Decline aqua fully from memory, then translate: Aqua a puella portatur.

▼ **Show answer**

Aqua, aquae, aquae, aquam, aqua; plural aquae, aquarum, aquis, aquas, aquis. The water is carried by the girl: present passive with a plus the ablative for the doer.

7. **Hard** Climb one sentence through three forms and translate each: Templum aedifico; Templum aedificavi; Templum aedificatum est.

▼ **Show answer**

I build a temple (present active); I built a temple (perfect active); the temple was built (perfect passive, participle neuter to agree with templum). One deed, three grammatical camera angles, all yours.

8. **Challenge** Translate these two sentences about the course, then compose one more Latin sentence of your own about it, inside the fence: Linguam Latinam amavi. Lingua Latina optima est.

▼ **Show answer**

I have loved the Latin language. The Latin language is the best. The third sentence will vary; sound examples: Multas fabulas narravi (I have told many stories), Libri a me scripti sunt (books were written by me), or Lingua Latina longior est quam via (the Latin language is longer than the road), any sentence whose endings the charts can defend.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Guessing that habeas corpus means 'have the body of evidence.' The writ commands the jailer to produce the prisoner himself, in person, before a judge.
- Treating the pluperfect and future perfect as gaps in your learning. They were left locked on purpose; the map shows exactly where they live, and that is the honest opposite of ignorance.

- Reviewing silently. The capstone chants are performed aloud; the ear catches the wrong ending that the eye forgives.
- Writing the brief as a heap of trivia. Organize by field, everyday words, church, law, science, government, so the family sees the shape of the inheritance, not a pile of facts.

Make it a game · Legal Latin Court. Hold a pretend court. Write habeas corpus, subpoena, pro bono and e pluribus unum on cards. Draw one and use it correctly in a sentence, explaining the Latin grammar behind it. The parent plays judge and can ask for a translation. Each right use earns a point. Close the session by reciting the motto from the seal.

Scripture. “One generation shall praise thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts.” (Psalm 145:4, KJV)

The Capstone Evening is this verse in action: six years of chants, maps and texts handed on out loud, one generation to another. And the res gestae most worth declaring, tonight and always, are not the emperor's or the student's, but God's mighty acts, which is how the psalm, and the course, would have you end.