

# Latin I

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## Summary of Rules of Syntax

The word syntax is derived from a Greek word meaning to draw up an army in orderly array. In the terminology of grammar, it is the orderly arrangement of words as elements in a sentence to show their use and their relationships to other words. To explain the syntax of a given word is to state its form, the reason for the form, and the word on which it depends. It is important to identify the part of speech before giving the syntax.

### Agreement

1. A verb agrees with its subject in person and number.
2. Adjectives agree in gender, number, and case with the nouns to which they refer or which they modify.  
Modify (**modus + facere**) means to limit or restrict the meaning of one word by means of another: a large house. The word large restricts the meaning of house.
3. Adjectives are sometimes used as nouns: **nostri**, our men **multa**, many things
4. A predicate adjective after a linking verb agrees with the subject of the verb in gender, number, and case.  
The chief linking verbs in English are: be, appear, seem, become, feel, look, taste, smell. In Latin, forms of the verb sum and passive forms of video and facio are the most frequently used of the linking verbs.
5. A predicate adjective after a complementary infinitive is in the nominative case, agreeing with the subject of the main verb: **Amicus fidus esse debet**. *A friend ought to be faithful.*
6. A predicate adjective after an objective infinitive is in the accusative case, agreeing with the subject of the infinitive: **Vir amicum fidum esse cupit**. *The man wishes his friend to be faithful.*
7. An appositive agrees in case with the noun it explains:  
**In America, patria nostra, sunt pulchrae urbes**. *In America, our native land, are beautiful cities.*
8. A relative pronoun agrees with its antecedent in person, gender, and number, but its case depends upon its use in its own clause:  
**Nos qui sumus sives civitatem servabimus**. *We who are citizens will save the state.*
9. A participle agrees in gender, number, and case with a noun or pronoun expressed or understood:  
**Nos morituri to salutamus!** *We, (who are) about to die, salute you!*

### Noun Syntax

#### 1. Nominative Case

- a. The subject of a finite verb is in the nominative case.
- b. A predicate noun is in the nominative case. It is connected with the subject by a linking verb, or by a passive form of a verb meaning to call, choose, name, elect.  
**Sum incola Americae**. *I am an inhabitant of America.* **Brutus consul creatus est**. *Brutus was elected consul.*

#### 2. Genitive Case

- a. The genitive case is used to denote possession or close connection: **liber pueri**, *the boy's book* **tribunus populi**, *tribune of the people*
- b. A genitive naming the whole may depend upon words that express a part of that whole. Instead of the genitive of the whole (partitive genitive), the ablative with **ex** or **de** is regularly used with **quidam** (*a certain one*) and with cardinal numerals except **milia**: **pars militum**, *part of the soldiers* **quidam a militibus**, *certain of the soldiers* **decem a militibus**, *ten of the soldiers*
- c. The genitive modified by an adjective may be used to describe a person or thing and is called the genitive of description: **homines magnae virtutis**, *men of great courage*

#### 3. Dative Case

- a. The indirect object of a verb is in the dative case. Verbs meaning to give, tell, show, offer often have an indirect object and

also a direct object: **Servo pecuniam dedit.** *He gave money to the slave.*

b. Many intransitive verbs take a dative of indirect object. Among them are: **credo, impero, noceo, parer), persuadeo, resisto, studeo. Civibus persuasit.** *He persuaded the citizens.*

c. Many compound verbs with the prefixes **ad-, ante-, con-, de-, in-, inter-, ob-, post-, prae-, pro-, sub-,** and **super-** take the dative. **Brutus navibus praeerat.** *Brutus was in command of the ships.*

d. The dative case is used after Latin adjectives meaning likeness, fitness, nearness, friendliness, usefulness, and their opposites. **Arena erat ludis idonea.** *The arena was suitable for games.*

#### 4. Accusative Case

a. The direct object of a transitive verb is in the accusative case: **Patriam laudamus.** *We praise our native land.*

b. The accusative is used without a preposition to express extent of space and of time (duration of time).

**Milites decem milia passuum iter fecerunt.** *The soldiers marched ten miles.* (Extent of space)

**Rex decem annos regnavit.** *The king reigned (for) ten years.* (Duration of time)

e. The place to which or limit of motion is regularly expressed by the accusative with **ad** or **in**. **In urbem venit.** *He comes into the city.* With the names of cities, towns, small islands, domus, and a few other place words, the preposition is omitted. **Romam venit.** *He comes to Rome.*

d. Verbs of making, choosing, calling, and the like take a predicate accusative, referring to the same person or thing as the direct object. **Populus Romanus Brutum consulem creavit.** *The Roman people elected Brutus consul.*

e. Verbs of asking, demanding, teaching sometimes take two accusatives, one of the person and one of the thing. **Romani multas gentes leges docuerunt.** *The Romans taught many nations laws.*

f. **Circumduco, traduco, transporto** take two accusatives, one the object of the verb, the other of the preposition. **Milites pontem traduxit.** *He led the soldiers across the bridge.*

g. The subject of an infinitive is in the accusative case. **Puerum ire necesse est.** *The boy must go. (It is necessary that the boy go.)* **Scimus puerum ire.** *We know that the boy is going.*

h. Certain prepositions govern the accusative case. Among the most important are: **ad, ante, apud, circum, contra, inter, ob, per, post, praeter, prope, propter, trans; in** and **sub** take the accusative when they show direction toward which a thing moves (place to which).

#### 5. Ablative Case

a. Place in which (place where) is expressed by the ablative with **in**, except with names of cities, towns, small islands, domus, and a few other place words which take the locative case. **Roma est in Italia.** *Rome is in Italy.*

b. Place from which is expressed by the ablative with **ab, de, or ex**, except with names of cities, towns, small islands, domus, etc., when the ablative without a preposition is used.

**Ex urbe fugerunt.** *They fled from the city.* **Roma fugerunt.** *They fled from Rome.*

c. The person by whom an action is done is regularly expressed by the ablative of personal agent. This requires the passive voice, a person, and the preposition **a** or **ab**. **Frumentum a servis portabatur.** *The grain was carried by the slaves.*

d. The ablative with **cum** is used to express accompaniment or conflict. **Puer cum patre ambulat.** *The boy is walking with his father.* **Graeci cum Romanis pugnaverunt.** *The Greeks fought with the Romans.*

With personal, relative, and sometimes interrogative pronouns, **cum** becomes an enclitic:

**mecum, with me vobiscum, with you quocum, with whom**

e. The ablative without a preposition is used to denote the means by which an act is performed.

**Gladio pugnabat.** *He was fighting with a sword.*

f. The ablative of comparison, without a preposition, may be used instead of **quam** and the nominative, or **quam** and the accusative. **Marcus erat fortior quam Sextus.** *Marcus was braver than Sextus.* **Marcus erat fortior Sexto. Quam** must be expressed if the first of the two things compared is in the genitive, dative, or ablative. **Erant cupidiores belli quam pacis.** *They were more eager for war than for peace.*

g. The ablative without a preposition is used with comparatives and words involving comparison (as **post, ante**) to denote the degree of difference. **Pede altior quam frater est.** *He is a foot taller (taller by one foot) than his brother.*

h. The ablative of description, without a preposition but always with an adjective modifier, is used to describe a noun. It is often translated by **of**. **Erat vir summa audacia.** *He was a man of the greatest boldness.*

i. The ablative of specification, without a preposition, is used to indicate in what respect the meaning of a verb, noun, or adjective applies. It answers the question: "In what respect?" and is often called the ablative of respect. **Socios virtute superabat.** *He surpassed his companions in courage.*

j. The ablative without a preposition is used to denote the time when or the time within which an action takes place. **Illo tempore hostes erant prope urbem.** *At that time the enemy was near the city.* (Time when)

**Decem annis multa oppida vidit.** *Within ten years he saw many towns.* (Time within which)

k. An ablative absolute is equivalent to an adverbial clause and is expressed by a noun and a participle, a noun and an adjective, or two nouns in the ablative case. It is grammatically independent of the rest of the sentence. It may represent

clauses of time, cause, condition, etc.

**Rege interfecto** . . . *After he had killed the king . . .* (Time)

**Superatis Belgis** . . . *Since the Belgians were conquered . . .* (Cause)

**Pace facta** . . . *If peace is made . . .* (Condition)

**Caesare vivo** . . . *During Caesar's lifetime . . .* (Noun and an adjective)

**Regulo duce** . . . *With Regulus as leader. . .* (Two nouns)

l. The ablative is used to express separation with or without the prepositions **ab**, **de**, or **ex**. It emphasizes a state of being apart. With words denoting persons, a preposition is regularly used; with verbs meaning to free, to lack, and to deprive, the preposition is regularly omitted. **Cives periculo liberavit.** *He freed the citizens from danger.* **Hostes ab urbe prohibuerunt.** *They kept the enemy away from the city.* **Patriam ab hostibus liberavit.** *He freed the fatherland from the enemy.*

m. The ablative of abstract nouns with **cum** is used to express the manner of an action, but **cum** may be omitted if the ablative phrase contains an adjective modifier. **Puer cum studio laborat.** *The boy is working with zeal (zealously).* **Puer magno cum studio (magno studio) laborat.** *The boy is working with great zeal (very zealously).*

n. The ablative is used to express the cause, the reason, or the motive of the action of a verb. It is generally used without a preposition, sometimes with **de** or **ex**. **Timore oppidum reliquerunt.** *Because of fear they left the town.* Cause is frequently expressed by **propter** or **ob** with the accusative.

**Propter (ob) periculum grave oppidum reliquerunt.** *On account of the serious danger, they left the town.*

o. The ablative is used with the prepositions **ab**, **cum**, **de**, **ex**, **prae**, **pro**, **sine**; also with **in** and **sub** to express place where: **in aqua**, *in the water* **sub ponte**, *under the bridge*

## 6. Vocative Case

a. The person or thing addressed is in the vocative case. The vocative commonly stands after one or more words in the sentence. **Nullum aurum, regina magna, rogo!** *I ask for no gold, great queen!*

b. The form of the vocative is regularly like the nominative, except in the second declension. Nouns and adjectives of this declension ending in -us have a vocative singular in -e: **amice care!** *O dear friend!* and proper nouns in -ius and filius have a vocative in -f (not -ii) **Luci, fili**

c. **Meus** has the vocative **mi**; the vocative plural of **meus** is **mei**.

## 7. Locative Case

a. Names of cities, towns, small islands, etc., in the singular of the first and second declensions express place where by the locative case. The form of the locative is identical with the genitive: **Romae**, *at Rome* **domi**, *at home*

b. For names of cities, towns, small islands, etc., found in the first and second declension plural, and for the third declension, the locative is formed like the dative or ablative: **Athenis**, *at Athens* **Carthagini** or **Carthagine**, *at Carthage*.

## Verb Syntax

### 1. Moods.

There are three moods in Latin: the indicative, subjunctive, and imperative.

a. The indicative mood asserts a fact or asks a question. It is used in principal (independent) and subordinate (dependent) clauses.

b. The subjunctive mood represents an act as willed, desired, conditioned, or prospective. It is often translated as the English indicative. It may be used in both principal and subordinate clauses.

c. The imperative mood is used to express a command.

**Nuntium ad urbem mitte?** *Send a messenger to the city.*

**Noli (Nolite)** followed by the infinitive is the regular expression for a negative imperative.

**Noli (Nolite) nuntium ad urbem mittere.** *Don't (Be unwilling to) send a messenger to the city.*

### 2. Tenses of the Indicative.

a. The present tense indicates present time. **In via ambulat.** *They are walking on the street.*

b. The imperfect tense represents an action or condition as continuing, customary, repeated, or attempted in the past. **Romani in Foro stabant.** *The Romans were standing (used to stand, kept on standing, stood) in the Forum.*

c. The future tense indicates future time. **Romani in Foro stabunt.** *The Romans will stand in the Forum.*

d. The perfect tense has two uses:

(1) It may indicate an action completed at the present time, corresponding to the English present perfect with **has** and **have**.

**Vir venit.** *The man has come.*

(2) It may indicate an action completed at some indefinite past time. **Vir venit.** *The man came.*

e. The pluperfect (past perfect) tense represents an action as completed at or before a certain past time. It corresponds to the English past perfect tense. **Vir pervenerat.** *The man had arrived.*

f. The future perfect tense represents an action as completed before some future time. It corresponds to the English future perfect tense, but is much commoner in Latin than in English. **Ante noctem id fecerit.** *Before night he will have done this.*

### 3. Indicative in Subordinate (Dependent) Clauses.

a. Adjective clause. An adjective, or relative, clause which states a fact about a definite person or thing is in the indicative. **Vir quem laudas pater meus est.** *The man whom you praise is my father.*

b. Adverbial clauses

(1) A causal clause gives the reason of the action. Causal clauses introduced by **quod** are used with the indicative when the reason is given on the authority of the speaker or the writer. **Quod plebs nulla jura habebat, ex urbe discessit.** *Because the common people had no rights, they departed from the city.*

(2) A temporal clause introduced by **postquam**, after, or **ubi**, when, regularly takes the perfect indicative to refer to a single past act, and is often translated by the pluperfect. **Rex postquam perieulum intellexit, cum hostibus pacem fecit.** *After the king (had) understood the danger, he made peace with the enemy.*

(3) A temporal clause introduced by **dum** regularly takes the present indicative to denote continued action even in past time. **Hoc dum narrat, forte audivi.** *By chance I heard this while he was telling it.*

(4) A conditional clause is introduced by **si**, if, or **nisi**, if not, unless. These clauses are called conditional because they state the condition or circumstances in which the action expressed in the main clause is true. Simple conditions of fact take the indicative and are called past, present, or future according to their time.

Present: **Si adest, bene est.** *If he is (now) here, it is well.*

Past (Imperfect or Perfect): **Si aderat, bene erat.** *If he was here, it was well.*

Future: **Si aderit, bene erit.** *If he is (shall be) here, it will be well.*

Future Perfect: **Si adfuert, bene erit.** *If he is (shall have been) here, it will be well.*

(5) A clause of concession introduced by **etsi** (although) is regularly expressed by the indicative.

**Miles, etsi vulneratus erat, fortiter pugnabat.** *The soldier was fighting bravely, although he had been wounded.*

### 4. Subjunctive in Subordinate Clauses

a. The subjunctive is used in a subordinate clause to express the purpose of an act stated in the main clause. The subordinate clause if affirmative is introduced by **ut** (that, in order that); if negative by **ne** (that . . . not, in order that . . . not, lest). English regularly uses an infinitive, but sometimes uses may or might.

**Venimus ut videremus.** *We come to see (that we may see).* **Fugit ne capiatur.** *He flees in order that he may not be captured.*

b. The subjunctive is used in a subordinate clause that expresses result. The subordinate clause is introduced by **ut** (so that, that); if negative, **ut . . . non** is used. The English translation is like the indicative. The result clause is often anticipated in the main clause by the indicators: **tam, sic, ita, tantus, talis, tot.**

**Sic laborat ut omnes eum laudent.** *He so works that all praise him.* **Ita bene erat oppidum munitum ut non capi posset.** *So well had the town been fortified that it could not be taken.*

c. A question indirectly quoted (hence no longer a question) after such verbs as ask, doubt, learn, know, tell, hear has its verb in the subjunctive and is introduced by an interrogative pronoun, adjective or adverb. The English translation is like the indicative. **Rogant quis sit.** *They ask who he is.*

d. In a complex sentence the verb in the principal clause sets the time (past, present, future) for the whole sentence. Therefore the tense of the verb in the subordinate clause must follow the division of time indicated by the main verb. This is known as sequence of tenses. The law of sequence of tenses requires that a primary tense in the principal clause be followed by a primary tense in the subordinate clause, and that a secondary tense in the main clause be followed by a secondary tense in the subordinate clause.

Primary Tenses (referring to present or future time)

Indicative: present, future, present perfect, future perfect. Subjunctive: present, perfect

Secondary Tenses (referring to the past) Indicative: imperfect, perfect, pluperfect. Subjunctive: imperfect, pluperfect

#### Primary Sequence

**Rogo (Rogabo, Rogavero, Rogavi) ubi** *I ask (shall ask, shall have asked, have asked)* **habitet (habitaverit).** *where he lives (has lived (or) lived).*

## Secondary Sequence

**Rogavi (Rogabam, Rogaveram) ubi** *I asked (was asking, had asked) where he habitaret (habitavisset), lived (had lived).*

### 5. Infinitives.

An infinitive is an indeclinable verbal noun. Its form is not limited by person and number, though it is limited by tense and voice. It has several important uses.

a. The complementary infinitive is used to complete the meaning of certain verbs, such as *debeii, cupio, possum, volo, paro, propeii, contends, etc.*

(1) **The complementary infinitive** has no accusative subject because its subject is the same as the nominative subject of the verb on which it depends. **Ire potest.** *He can go (is able to go).* A predicate noun or adjective after a complementary infinitive is in the nominative case. **Hic vir consul esse vult.** *This man wishes to be consul.*

(2) **The objective infinitive**, with an accusative subject, is used as the object of another verb.

**Eos ire jussit.** *He ordered them to go.* The objective infinitive has an accusative subject, the complementary infinitive has not. The objective infinitive may be found after the following verbs: **jubeo, cogo, cupio, prohibeo, patior, etc.**

(3) **The subjective infinitive**, with or without a subject accusative, may be the subject of a verb used impersonally. The predicate adjective referring to the subjective infinitive is neuter. **Legere est gratum.** *It is pleasant to read (to read is pleasant).* **Legere bongos libros est gratum.** *It is pleasant to read good books.* **Puerum bongos libros legere oportet.** *The boy ought to read good books. (It is necessary that the boy read good books.)*

(4) **The infinitive, with accusative subject, is used in indirect statements** after verbs of saying, thinking, knowing, and perceiving. The tenses of the infinitive denote time relative to that of the main verb.

(1) The present infinitive is used to denote action going on at the same time as that of the main verb.

**Dixit se vincere.** *He said that he was conquering.*

(2) The perfect infinitive refers to action previous to that of the main verb. **Dixit se vicisse.** *He said that he had conquered.*

(3) The future infinitive refers to action that is to take place after the time of the main verb. **Dixit se victurum esse.** *He said that he would conquer.*

### 6. Participles.

Regular transitive verbs have three participles: the present and the future in the active voice, and the perfect in the passive. They are verbal adjectives and agree with some noun, expressed or understood, in gender, number, and case.

a. The present active participle indicates an act going on at the same time as the main verb.

**Pompam arenam intransentem video (vidi, videbo).** *I see (I saw, I shall see) the procession entering the arena.*

b. The perfect passive participle denotes an act completed before the time of the main verb.

**Urbs ab hostibus captae incenduntur (incensae sunt, incenduntur).** *The cities captured by the enemy are being burned (were burned, will be burned).*

c. The future active participle denotes an act taking place after the time of the main verb.

**Moritari to salutamus (salutavimus, salutabimus).** *We, who are going (about) to die, salute you (saluted you, will salute you).*