

Introduction to Latin for the Absolute Novice

OLLI, Fall 2020

Salutations!

Salvē!

Salvē. Be well.

Salvē, discipula!

Discipula. Female student.

Salvē, discipule!

Discipule. Male student.

Salutations!

Salvēte!

Salvēte. Be well.

Salvēte, discipulī!

Discipulī. Male students.

Salutations!

Salvēte!

Salvēte. Be well.

Salvēte, discipulae!

Discipulae. Female students.

Salutations!

Salvēte, discipulī discipulaeque!

-que. *And.*

Salutations!

Salvē, magistra!

Salvē. Be well. Verb, singular imperative (command).

Magistra. Female teacher. Noun, feminine singular.

Salvē, magister!

Salvē. Be well. Verb, singular imperative (command).

Magister. Male teacher. Noun, masculine singular.

Our class song!

The second verse...

The second verse of our class song!

Vīta nostra brevis est,
Brevī fīniētur;
Venit mors velōciter,
Rapit nōs atrōciter;
Neminī parcētur.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xrz04lXhCOI>

Our class song!

Gaudeāmus igitur,
Juvenēs dum sumus;
Post iucundam iuventūtem,
Post molestam senectūtem
Nōs habēbit humus.

Vīta nostra brevis est,
Brevī finiētur;
Venit mors velōciter,
Rapit nōs atrōciter;
Neminī parcētur.

How much of *Thāis*
habet do you
remember?

Material available so far

OLLI Latin, course syllabus (Word doc) (OLLI website)

OLLI 2020. ILAN. first session (PowerPoint)

OLLI Latin, session I, homework (pdf) (OLLI website)

gaudeamus igitur, first verse (Word doc), detailed notes (OLLI website)

OLLI Latin, session I notes, with audio (PowerPoint), with audio for the Martial couplet and the first verse to *Gaudeamus Igitur* (OLLI website)

OLLI Latin, For your reading pleasure, I (Word doc)

Material for (bonus) grammar session

3. Could studying grammar be enjoyable? (PowerPoint)

3. Could studying grammar be enjoyable? (pdf)

5. How do you set up a sentence with is? (PowerPoint)

5. How do you set up a sentence with is? (pdf)

6.1 How do you set up an English sentence with action in it? (PowerPoint)

6.1 How do you set up an English sentence with action in it? (pdf)

OLLI 2020. ILAN. bonus grammar session (PowerPoint)

OLLI Latin, pronunciation guide (PowerPoint, with audio), audio demonstration of pronunciation of vowels and a short reading passage

Could studying grammar be enjoyable?

Short answer

You bet it could!

Why do people hate the things they hate?

Why do people hate the things they hate?

. . . like grammar?

Why do people hate the things they hate?

People hate/fear

- things that intimidate them.
- things that make them feel stupid.
- things they see no connection to.

Little kids neither hate nor fear grammar.

- Grammar does not intimidate them—it intrigues them.
- Grammar does not make them feel stupid—it awes them.
- Little kids understand that everything is connected to everything else, so they look for patterns and connections until they find them.

Why don't we all be like that?



Children are
natural-born
grammarians.

How can you tell that a kid is looking for and finding patterns in language?

Because they produce
forms that they've never
heard.

Because they produce
forms that they've never
heard.

Forms that follow the rules

Because they produce
forms that they've never
heard.

Forms that follow the rules

Sort of

I *knewed it.





“I didn’t bit her!”

Earliest grammarian

Earliest grammarian

Dionysius Thrax (most likely from Alexandria)

Lived in the 2nd century before Christ

Categorized words into *parts of speech*





Where to start?

Parts of speech

onoma

Parts of speech

onoma name, word, term, title

Parts of speech

onoma name, word, term, title

noun

Parts of speech

onoma name, word, term, title

noun

ὄνομα

Parts of speech

onoma name, word, term, title

noun

ὄνομα

onomatopoeia

Parts of speech

GREEK

Noun

Pronoun

Participle

Verb

Adverb

Conjunction

Preposition

Article

Parts of speech

GREEK

Noun

Pronoun

Participle

Verb

Adverb

Conjunction

Preposition

Article

LATIN

Noun

Pronoun

Participle

Verb

Adverb

Conjunction

Preposition

Interjection

Parts of speech

LATIN/GREEK

ENGLISH

Noun

Noun

Pronoun

Pronoun

Participle

Adjective

Verb

Verb

Adverb

Adverb

Conjunction

Conjunction

Preposition

Preposition

Interjection/Article

Interjection

Other languages do this differently.

For instance:

Arabic has three parts of speech.

Back to English, for the moment

Parts of speech—let's do two of them

Noun

Verb

Parts of speech—let's do two of them

Noun

- Person
- Place
- Thing

Verb

Parts of speech—let's do two of them

Noun

- Person (writer, Dickens)
- Place (garden, Chicago Botanic Garden)
- Thing (planet, Saturn)

Verb

Parts of speech—let's do two of them

Noun

- Person: writer, Dickens
- Place: garden, Chicago Botanic Garden
- Thing: planet, Saturn

Verb

- Action: to speak, to walk, to have
- Being: to be (and all its forms—is, am, have been, will be, are, etc.), to become

Let's compare an English sentence with its Latin equivalent.

The commander praised the soldier.

The commander praised the soldier.

Dux laudāvit mīlitem.

The commander praised the soldier.

Dux laudāvit mīlitem.

Dux mīlitem laudāvit.

How English sentences make meaning

How English sentences make meaning

The commander praised the soldier.

How English sentences make meaning

The commander praised the soldier.

The soldier praised the commander.

Who is doing the action? Who is receiving the action

DOING THE ACTION

dux
mīles

RECEIVING THE ACTION

ducem
mīlitem

The commander praised the soldier.

Dux laudāvit mīlitem.

Dux mīlitem laudāvit.

The commander praised the soldier.

Dux laudāvit mīlitem.

Dux mīlitem laudāvit.

Mīlitem dux laudāvit.

The commander praised the soldier.

Dux laudāvit mīlitem.

Dux mīlitem laudāvit.

Mīlitem dux laudāvit.

Mīlitem laudāvit dux.

The commander praised the soldier.

Dux laudāvit mīlitem.

Dux mīlitem laudāvit.

Mīlitem dux laudāvit.

Mīlitem laudāvit dux.

Laudāvit mīlitem dux.

The commander praised the soldier.

Dux laudāvit mīlitem.

Dux mīlitem laudāvit.

Mīlitem dux laudāvit.

Mīlitem laudāvit dux.

Laudāvit mīlitem dux.

Laudāvit dux mīlitem.

Latin sentence with copulative verb

Dux est senex.

Senex est dux.

Dux senex est.

Est dux.

Est dux senex.

Principia

Google “Munday and Peckett Principia”

[Principia. A beginners' Latin course](#)

[vivariumnovum.it](#) > edizioni > libri

Principia. A beginners' Latin course Author: Cyril William Eaton Peckett & Arthur Reginald Munday Created Date: 9/3/2011 8:54:26 PM

Farewell!

Valēte, discipulī discipulaeque!

Valē, discipula!

Valē, discipule!

Valē, magistra!

F̄inis