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Introduction to Latin for the Absolute Novice

OLLI, Fall 2020, fourth session
PowerPoint notes, condensed

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

Vita nostra brevis est,
Brevis finietur,
Venit mors velociter,
Rapit nōs atrociter,
Nēmīni parcetūr.

Ubi sunt quī ante nōs
In mundō fuēre?
Trānsiēs ad superōs,
Abiēs ad inferōs
Quōs sī vis vidēre.

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There will be a big reveal tonight . . .

Deō volente

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Oral Latin

Notā bene.
Note well.

Notāte bene.
Plural

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For your reading pleasure

Laecānia dentēs habet. Thāis quoque (also) dentēs habet.

Molesti dentēs sunt. (Teeth or the-teeth or her-teeth are bothersome.)

Gaudet Laecānia! Dentēs nivei sunt. (Laecania rejoices! Her-teeth are white.)

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For your reading pleasure

Mārcus est puer improbus. Marcus is a naughty/ill-behaved boy.

Mārcus flagellum videt. Marcus sees a whip.

Flagellum rapit. Gaudet Mārcus. Atrōciter ridet. He grabs the whip. Marcus rejoices.
Savagely he-laughs.

Mārcum Sextus videt. Sextus sees Marcus.

Sextus velōciter scūtum capit. Sextus quickly picks-up a shield.

Mārcus Sextum pulsāt. Marcus beats Sextus.

Sextus sē dēfendit. Sextus defends himself.

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For your reading pleasure

Mārcus est puer. Post iuventūtem senex erit. (Marcus is a boy. After his-youthtime he will be an-old-man.)
Thāis est puella. Post iuventūtem anus erit. (Thais is a girl. After her-youthtime she will be an-old-woman.)
Nōn erit senex Thāis, quod nōn est puer. This not will-be an-old-man, because she is not a boy.
Puer, post iuventūtem, senex erit. A boy, after his-youthtime, will be an-old-man.
Puella, post iuventūtem, anus erit. A girl, after her-youthtime, will be an-old-woman.
Qui est puer senex erit post iuventūtem. (The one) who is a boy will be an-old-man after his youth.
Quae est puella anus erit post iuventūtem. (The one) who is a girl will be an-old-woman after her youth.

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For your reading pleasure

Interdum iuvenēs mors rapit. (Sometimes death seizes the-young-ones.)
Nēmīni parcētur, neque iuvenibus neque senibus. (It-spare no-one, neither the young nor the old.)
Ignōscite mihi, discipuli discipulaeque: Haec fābula nōn est bona, est tristis. Mea culpa. Mea maxima culpa! (Pardon me, male and female students: This story is not good; it-is grim. My fault. My very-great fault!)

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For your reading pleasure

Quid facit Mārcus iuvenis in lūdō? (What is young Marcus doing in school?)
Mārcus nōn discit. Librum nōn legit. Pēsum nōn scribit. (Marcus does not study. He does not read his-book. He does not write his-homework.)
In sellā nōn sedet. (On the-bench he does not sit.)
Mārcus pēior discipulus in mundō est. (Marcus is the worst student in the world.)
Discipulōs vexat. Molestus est. Nōn quiētus est. (He annoys the students. He is bothersome. He is not quiet.)
Mūgit. Ut iuvenca mūgit. (He moos. Like a cow, he moos.)
Nōn sedet in sellā. (He does not sit in his-seat.)
Saltat. Ut rāna saltat. (He jumps. Like a frog, he jumps.)
Praemium Sexti capit. Sextum vexat. (He takes Sextus's prize. He annoys Sextus.)

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For your reading pleasure

Dē fenestrā spectat Mārcus. Quem spectat? (From the window Marcus is looking.)
Puellam spectat. (He is-looking-at a girl.)
Videtne puella Marcum? (Does the girl see Marcus?)
Nesciō, sed Mārcus valdē puellam videt. (I-know-not, but Marcus is really seeing the girl.)

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Latin forms already known to you

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fungus	stimuli	vertebr-
algae	larv-	media
radius	basis	

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A new category, or rather subcategory

Category 2 nouns are usually masculine in gender.
However, some are neuter.
Neuter nouns in this category end in -um. The same ending is used for the subject form and the direct object form.
Neuter nouns that are serving as the subject or the direct object of a sentence end in -a.

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thesis

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Latin forms already known to you

Table with 3 columns: 1st category, 2nd category, 3rd category. Rows include: alga/algae, larva/larvae, vertebra/vertebrae; fungus/fungi, radius/radii, stimulus/stimuli, medium/media; basis/bases, thesis/theses.

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nebula bacteria
hypothes- for-
data
persona

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Latin forms already known to you

1 st category	2 nd category	3 rd category
alga algae	fungus fungi	basis basēs
larva larvae	radius radii	thesis thesēs
vertebra vertebrae	stimulus stimuli	hypothesis hypotheses
nebula nebulae	medium media	
persona personae	datum data	
	bacterium bacteria	
	forum fora	

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matr- memoranda
millenni- formul-

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Latin forms already known to you

1 st category	2 nd category	3 rd category
alga	fungus	basis
algae	fungi	basēs
larva	radius	thesis
larvae	radii	thesēs
vertebra	stimulus	hypothesis
vertebrae	stimuli	hypothesēs
nebula	medium	matrix
nebulae	media	matrices
persona	datum	
personae	data	
formula	bacterium	
formulae	bacteria	
	forum	
	fora	
	millennium	
	millennia	
	memorandum	
	memoranda	

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- Let's look at chapter 2 again: In lūdō
1. Cathedra in lūdō est. (A chair is in the school.)
 2. Sellae in lūdō sunt. (Benches are in the school.)
 3. Magister in lūdō nōn est. (The teacher is not in the school.)
 4. Pueri in lūdō sunt. (The boys are at school.)
 5. Marcus in sellā sedet. (Marcus sits on the bench.)
 6. Pueri in sellis sedent. (The boys sit on benches.)

No 'the' in Latin.

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- Let's look at chapter 2 again: In lūdō
7. Marcus ovum capit. (Marcus takes an egg.)
 8. Marcus ovum in cathedrā pōnit. (Marcus sets/puts the egg on the chair.)
 9. Magister intrat. (The teacher enters.)
 10. Magister in cathedrā sedet. (The teacher sits on the chair.)
 11. Magister in ovō quoque sedet. (The teacher also sits on the egg.)

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Let's look at chapter 2 again: In lūdō

12. Magister libellō puerum pulsat. (The teacher by-means-of-a-notebook beats the boy.)
13. Magister baculō Marcum pulsat. (The teacher by-means-of-a-stick beats Marcus.)
14. Magister puerōs vīrgīs caedit. (The teacher by-means-of-switches strikes/beats/cuts.)

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Life of Brian Latin Lessons
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KfKFKBlZbM&t=18s>

RŌMĀNĒS EUNT DOMUS

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Life of Brian Latin Lessons

RŌMĀNĒS EUNT DOMUS

RŌMĀNĒS: wrong adjective category (should be 2, not 3)

EUNT: they-go/they-are-going; needs to be the command (imperative) form

DOMUS: this is the subject form; needs to be in the same form as a direct object (even though it's not a direct object; this is outside our scope for now)

RŌMĀNĪ ĪTE DOMUM

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Life of Brian Latin Lessons

RŌMĀNĒS EUNT DOMUS

RŌMĀNĪ TĪE DOMUM

RŌMĀNĪ ABĪTE DOMUM
Romans, go-away-to-home

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Moving on to chapter three

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The grammar and forms of chapter three
(which we saw last session)

POSSESSIVE

INDIRECT OBJECT

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What was an indirect object again?

The indirect object is very much affected by the action, but it is not directly the object of the action.

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Quick review of direct objects

Teachers should give encouragement.
The editor sent an invoice.
The kindergartner revealed a family secret.
The friend purchased a bouquet.

This one is a little abstract.

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How can you tell you've got an indirect object?

Teachers should give their students encouragement.
Teachers should give encouragement to their students.

The editor sent her client an invoice.
The editor sent an invoice to her client.

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And now, insert indirect objects

The **kindergartner** told his entire **class** a family **secret**.
The **kindergartner** told a family **secret** to his entire class.

The **visitor** brought the **patient** a **bouquet**.
The **visitor** brought a **bouquet** for the patient.



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Did you notice the switch in verbs?

The **kindergartner** revealed a family **secret**.
The **kindergartner** told his entire **class** a family **secret**.

The **friend** purchased a **bouquet**.
The **visitor** brought the **patient** a **bouquet**.



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The grammar and forms of chapter three
(which we saw last session)

POSSESSIVE	INDIRECT OBJECT
Category 1 nouns: -ae puellae: the girl's	Category 1 nouns: -ae puellae: to-the-girl

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The grammar and forms of chapter three
(which we saw last session)

POSSESSIVE	INDIRECT OBJECT
Category 1 nouns: -ae puellae: the girl's	Category 1 nouns: -ae puellae: to-the-girl
Category 2 nouns: -i Marcī: Marcus's	Category 2 nouns: -ō magistrō: to-the-teacher

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The grammar and forms of chapter three
(which we saw last session)

POSSESSIVE	INDIRECT OBJECT
Category 1 nouns: -ae puellae: the girl's	Category 1 nouns: -ae puellae: to-the-girl
Category 2 nouns: -i Marcī: Marcus's	Category 2 nouns: -ō magistrō: to-the-teacher
Bonus: Category 3 nouns: -is mātris: the mother's	Bonus: Category 3 nouns: -ī mātri: to-the-mother

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N.B. New way to start a letter (now that
we can do indirect objects in Latin)

Instead of *Salvē, discipule/a*
you will see
Magistra Kay discipulō/discipulae salutem dicit
vel
Magistra Kay discipulis salutem dicit
vel
Magistra Kay omnibus salutem dicit
vel sim. (vel similia)

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Praemium Marci

1. Marcus libellum habet. (Marcus has a notebook/little-book/booklet.)
2. Hic est libellus Marci. (This is Marcus's notebook.)
3. Sextus libellum habet.
4. Hic est libellus Sexti.
5. Marcus p̄ns̄um in libellō numquam scribit. (Marcus never writes his-homework in his-notebook.)

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Praemium Marci

5. Marcus p̄ns̄um in libellō numquam scribit.
6. Sextus p̄ns̄um in libellō semper scribit. (Sextus always writes his-homework in his-notebook.)
7. Magister libellōs puerōrum colligit. (The teacher collects the boys' notebooks.)
8. Marcus libellum Sexti capit. (Marcus takes Sextus's notebook.)
9. Marcus libellum Sexti magistrō dat. (Marcus gives the teacher Sextus's notebook.)

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Praemium Marcī

8. Marcus libellum Sextī capit.
9. Marcus libellum Sextī **magistrō** dat.
10. Sextus libellum nōn habet. (Sextus does not have a notebook.)
11. Sextus **magistrō** nihil dat. (Sextus gives the teacher nothing.)

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Praemium Marcī

12. Magister libellōs puerīs distribuit. (The teacher distributes/hands the boys their-notebooks.)
13. Magister **Sextō** nihil dat. (The teacher gives Sextus nothing.)
14. Magister **Marcō** praemium dat. (The teacher gives Marcus a prize.)
15. Post lūdum Marcus puellam videt. (After school Marcus sees a girl.)
16. Marcus puellae capillōs vellit. (Marcus pulls the girl's hair.)

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Praemium Marcī

15. Post lūdum Marcus puellam videt.
16. Marcus **puellae** capillōs vellit.
17. Puella lacrimat. (The girl cries.)
18. Sextus praemium Marcī capit et **puellae** dat.
Rixa. (Sextus takes Marcus's prize and gives the girl [the prize]. Fight.)

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The big reveal . . .

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In Latin grammar, noun categories are called . . .

Declensions

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Declensions

1st declension nouns end in -a for a singular subject and -ae for a singular possessive.

2nd declension nouns end in -us for a singular subject and -i for a singular possessive.

2nd declension nouns that are neuter end in -um for both a singular subject and singular direct object. Their singular possessive form is -i.

3rd declension nouns end in lots of different things for a singular subject and -is for a singular possessive. Here are some examples of 3rd declension words (singular subject form): mors, Thāis, dēns, senex, senectūs, iuventūs, iuvenis, urbs, amor, homō, labor, rēx, virgō, virtūs.

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Declensions

3rd declension nouns end in lots of different things for a singular subject and –is for a singular possessive. Here are some examples of 3rd declension words (singular subject form): mors, Thāis, dēns, senex, senectūs, iuventūs, iuvenis, urbs, amor, homō, labor, rēx, virgō, virtūs.

The preceding list included masculine and feminine nouns.

Some 3rd declension nouns are neuter, and their subject form is identical to their direct object form. Some examples: corpus, ōmen, genus, tempus, onus, opus

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Declensions

Latin has a fairly small group of 4th declension nouns and 5th declension nouns.

They can be confused for 2nd declension or 3rd declension nouns sometimes, because they share some of the same forms.

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Finis