

# Intensive Latin 1

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Timed Test 2 Revision Tips

# What you have learned up to 3A

- Verbs:
  - indicative, infinitive, and imperative
  - active: present, future, and perfect, all conjugations
  - deponent: present and future, all conjugations
- Nouns:
  - all declensions, all cases
  - uses of cases
- Adjectives:
  - 2-1-2 and 3<sup>rd</sup> declension adjectives
  - adjectival agreement and adjectives as nouns
  - comparative and superlative adjectives
- Pronouns:
  - personal pronouns and adjectives
  - demonstrative pronouns and adjectives

# What to look for in a verb

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First, check the ending for the person. Remember you know both active and the less-common deponent verb endings. You might also find imperatives and infinitives.

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Second, check the tense. This usually means examining the middle of the verb for any tell-tale changes to the stem to denote either future or perfect.

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Finally, check the meaning. This is straightforward if you recognize the stem, but remember to be careful with unpredictable changes in the perfect tense stem, or with irregular verbs.

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If you identify all the verbs in a sentence first, you can use them to break the sentence into sections, and are less likely to get confused.

## Handling verbs in an example passage

Graecī irātissimī bellum gerere et Īlium dēlēre et Helenam referre cōstituērunt; sed quamquam plūs quam nouem annōs ante eam urbem mānsērunt, Īlium capere nōn potuērunt. Vlixēs igitur eōs līgneum equum maximum facere iussit, hominum optimōrum plēnum. in eō scrīpsērunt DANAĪ EQVVM MINERVAE DANT. equum eum in lītore posuērunt et castra relīquērunt. Trōiānī laetissimī per portās equum in arcem Mineruae dūxērunt.

‘... scandit fātālis māchina mūrōs,  
fēta armīs. puerī circum innūptaeque puellae  
sacra canunt.’

# What to look for in a noun

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Once you have identified the person of the verb, you will know whether to look for a nominative. Remember, the subject might just be in the verb ending. It may reuse the subject from the previous sentence. If there is a nominative, it could be a noun or a pronoun.

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You can check whether you need to identify an accusative next by thinking more about your verb. Is it transitive, that is to say, does it take an accusative object? You can get other clues from the verb regarding the case of the nouns in the sentence. For example, *do*, *dare* anticipates a dative.

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Every time you approach a noun, you'll need to think about its declension, otherwise you may make mistakes over easily-confused endings. -um on a 2nd declension masculine is accusative singular, and on a 2nd declension neuter is nominative, vocative, or accusative, but -um on a 3rd declension is genitive plural.

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Sometimes you will need to determine the case from the context. For example, -ae on a 1st declension noun could be genitive or dative singular, or nominative plural. Think logically about the correct case according to the words around it.

# Uses of case

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Nominative: subject of the sentence, or complement with the verb 'to be'.

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Accusative: object of the sentence; duration of time; following prepositions with a sense of motion towards, eg. *in*, *ad*.

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Genitive: the possessor; of --; *nimis*, *satis*, and *quid* + gen; genitive of value

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Dative: indirect object; to/for --; after verbs of giving and speaking; advantage and disadvantage; possession

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Ablative: by, with, from; time at or time within which; ablative of description; following prepositions that are static in place or time, eg. *in*, or motion away from, eg. *e*, *ab*

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## Handling nouns in an example passage

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# What to look for in an adjective

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The first thing you need to think about when you see an adjective is its number, gender, and case. While there may be more than one option based on the ending, you can then correlate your findings with the nouns around it, and think logically about which noun the adjective is describing based on agreement and sense in the context.

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Don't forget that an adjective can stand in for a noun. For example, *pauper* can mean 'poor' or 'a poor person'. You can determine whether to supply 'man', 'woman', 'people' or 'thing(s)' based on number and gender of the adjective. For example, *multa* has come up frequently to mean 'many things'.

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We have now also learned comparative and superlative adjectives, so make sure not to miss these when they come up. Clues for comparatives are -ior/-ius endings, and for superlatives -ss-, -rr-, or -ll-. The irregular comparatives and superlatives may trip you up, so be sure to know these.

## Handling adjectives in an example passage

Graecī irātissimī bellum gerere et Īlium dēlēre et Helenam referre cōstituērunt; sed quamquam plūs quam nouem annōs ante eam urbem mānsērunt, Īlium capere nōn potuērunt. Vlixēs igitur eōs līgneum equum maximum facere iussit, hominum optimōrum plēnum. in eō scrīpsērunt DANAĪ EQVVM MINERVAE DANT. equum eum in lītore posuērunt et castra relīquērunt. Trōiānī laetissimī per portās equum in arcem Mineruae dūxērunt.

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# What to look for in a pronoun

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As with an adjective, you need to be thinking about a pronoun's number, gender, and case. Pronouns may appear adjectivally, eg. *hic uir*, or in place of the noun, eg. *hic*. Make sure you are clear who or what an independent pronoun is referring to in the passage.

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Pronoun endings often catch students out, especially when they differ from noun endings. Make sure you check any endings you aren't sure about.

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Pronoun meanings also need attention. *hic* and *ille* aren't interchangeable, plus their meanings can vary in context. Think carefully, for example, about whether *ille* should be translated as 'that', 'that man', 'the latter', or 'he', all of which have come up in our recent passages.

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Don't forget the adjectives formed from personal pronouns: *meus*, *tuus*, *vester*, *noster*. These function like adjectives – they aren't pronouns – so they agree with the noun they describe, not the person to whom they refer.

## Handling pronouns in an example passage

Graecī irātissimī bellum gerere et Īlium dēlēre et Helenam referre cōstituērunt; sed quamquam plūs quam nouem annōs ante eam urbem mānsērunt, Īlium capere nōn potuērunt. Vlixēs igitur eōs līgneum equum maximum facere iussit, hominum optimōrum plēnum. in eō scrīpsērunt DANAĪ EQVVM MINERVAE DANT. equum eum in lītore posuērunt et castra relīquērunt. Trōiānī laetissimī per portās equum in arcem Mineruae dūxērunt.

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