

Chapter 1

Memory Page



Chapter Maxim

In prīncipiō erat Verbum.

In the beginning was the Word. —Latin Vulgate

New Chant

First-Conjugation Verb—*amō*

	Singular	Plural
1st person	amō	amāmus
2nd person	amās	amātis
3rd person	amat	amant

Vocabulary

Latin	English
Verbs show action.	
amō, amāre, amāvī, amātum	I love, to love, I loved, loved
dō, dare, dedī, datum	I give, to give, I gave, given
intrō, intrāre, intrāvī, intrātum	I enter, to enter, I entered, entered
labōrō, labōrāre, labōrāvī, labōrātum	I work, to work, I worked, worked
nārrō, nārrāre, nārrāvī, nārrātum	I tell, to tell, I told, told
Nouns name a person, place, or thing.	
aqua, aquae	water
fābula, fābulae	story
 porta, portae	gate
silva, silvae	forest
terra, terrae	earth





Along the Appian Way, Part 1

Italy, during the reign of Tiberius Julius Caesar, AD 14–37

Marcus stared down at the road beneath his feet, studying it intently.

“Did you find any yet?” asked Julia, who was now getting quite bored. “Why did I decide *dare* () my afternoon for this silly hunt?” She kicked a rock, sending it skittering away.

Marcus moved back and forth, methodically scanning between the stones that made up the road. He didn’t answer, but reviewed the map on the scroll he was holding.

“Hello? Marcus, are we rich yet? I could have stayed home if I wanted *labōrāre* ().”

Marcus looked up. “No, but I bet there’s something right around the corner. This is the Appian Way, the finest road in the world! *Amō* () this road! Remember when we found three coins all in the same day?” He tapped an area on the map. “Right here by the *silva* ().”

“Yes, yes. And we nearly got arrested for theft!” said Julia. “Remember that part of the *fābula* ()?”

Marcus shook his head. “If we could even find one coin, it could buy us—”

“Wait! Wait . . .” Julia interrupted. She got quiet and listened. “Do you hear that?” The *terra* () began to shake.

A horse suddenly galloped into view, rounding the corner from behind a line of cypress trees. Julia dove off the side of the road. Marcus froze as the rider barrelled down on him.

Grammar Lesson



Verbs: Action Words

In this first chapter, you will learn five verbs and five nouns. The first five words on your vocabulary list are verbs. **Verbs are words that show action or a state of being.** For example, in the clause “I work in the forest,” which word is the action word? Well, “work,” of course! The way we say “I work” in Latin is *labōrō*: so *labōrō* is a verb, a Latin action word. Sometimes verbs can show a state of being, too, like when we say, “He *is* tired.” The word “is” is a kind of verb that shows a state of being (being tired), but we will teach you about verbs that show a state of being later. For now, just remember the definition of verbs as words that show action or a state of being.





Grammar Lesson

Latin: Fewer Words Than English, But Many Word Endings

There are a lot of words in English, but they rarely have different endings. For example, the verb “love” stays the same whether we say “I love,” “we love,” or “they love.” Sometimes we do add an ending, like when we say “he loves” or “we loved.” In Latin, though, the verb for love (*amō*) changes its ending very often! We will learn the various endings that come with Latin verbs (and nouns) so that we can know what they mean and how to translate them. (**To translate a Latin word, by the way, means to tell what a Latin word means in English.** The translation of *amō* is “I love.”) Now you know that Latin is a language of many endings, but fewer words than English!



Look at the chant chart at the beginning of the chapter. It shows you one of the most common words in Latin (the verb “love”) with all its endings: the singular and the plural for present, active, and indicative—six endings in all. When we list a verb with all its endings, it’s called **conjugating** a verb.

You can also see that a Latin verb such as *amō* actually contains two words in English! The word *amō* means “I love,” so it contains not only the word “love,” but also the word “I.” The ending of the verb (*-o* in this case) tells you that it is “I” who is doing the loving. **Pronouns such as “I,” “you,” “he,” “she,” “it,” “we,” and “they” are all little words that tell you who is doing the action of the verb.** The ending of a Latin verb tells you which pronoun to use in English. We will study these endings next week, so don’t worry too much about them now. Figure 1-1, however, shows you how the verb endings change:

	Singular	Plural
1st person	amō: I love	amāmus: we love
2nd person	amās: you love	amātis: you all love
3rd person	amat: he, she, or it loves	amant: they love

Figure 1-1:
Verb endings
for *amō*

A Verb in Four Parts: The Four Principal Parts

If you look at the Memory Page, you will see that each Latin verb has four different forms (*amō, amāre, amāvī, amātum*). We call each form a **principal part**. Why? Because each part is an important form that shows us how to make other forms of the verb. It is a principal part because it is an *important* part to know. No need to worry about the other forms that come from these principal parts: you will learn those in good time. Learning the principal parts now, however, will be fun and will save you a lot of time later!



Here are the names for each of the four principal parts:

amō	amāre	amāvī	amātum
Present	Infinitive	Perfect	Passive Participle or Supine

Figure 1-2:
Four principal
parts

Nouns

You will learn five nouns in this chapter, too: *aqua*, *fābula*, *porta*, *silva*, *terra*. **Nouns are used to name a person, place, or thing (or sometimes an idea).** You can see that nouns, like verbs, also have endings. For example, *aqua* and *aquae* are both forms for the word “water”: one form ends with *-a* (*aqua*) and the other form ends with *-ae* (*aquae*). Don’t worry now about the endings for nouns; you will learn these in chapters 3 and 4.

Painting: *Naval Battle between Romans* by Ulpiano Checa, 1894





Worksheet

A. Translation

1. **amō** _____
2. **intrō** _____
3. **dō** _____
4. **labōrō** _____
5. **fābula** _____
6. **In prīncipiō erat Verbum.** _____
7. **aqua** _____
8. **porta** _____
9. **nārrō** _____
10. **silva** _____
11. **terra** _____

B. Chant Conjugate the verb **amō**. See if you can remember how to fill in the boxes.

	amō	

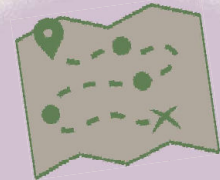
C. Grammar

1. In Latin, both _____ and _____ have endings.
2. Latin is a language of fewer _____ but many _____.
3. What kind of word names the action or state of being in a sentence? _____
4. To _____ a verb is to _____ all of its _____.

D. Derivatives

On the next page we explain what a derivative is, but before you head there, in the following sentences try to figure out the derivative by circling the word that you think might come from the Latin word that is provided.

1. Aesop is famous for his **fables** / **animals**. (*fābula*)
2. Reward will follow hard **times** / **labor**. (*labōrō*)



As you travel along your Latin adventure, check off your progress using the checklist that begins on page 245.






Thousands of English words come from Latin. We call these English words **derivatives** because they are derived (taken) from an original Latin word called the Latin **root**. For instance, the word “derivative” is itself a derivative. It comes from the Latin words *dē* (down from) and *rīvus* (river, stream). This means that a derivative is a word that flows down or off a river of . . . words!

A. Study

Study the following English derivatives that come from the Latin words you have learned this week:

Latin	English
amō	amity, amorous, enamor, amateur
dō	donate, donation
intrō	entrance, introduce, introduction
labōrō	labor, laboratory
nārrō	narrate, narration, narrative
aqua	aquatic
fābula	fable, fabulous
porta	portable, port
silva	Pennsylvania
terra	extraterrestrial, terrain, terrarium



Fun Fact!
Speaking of *aqua*, sometimes the Romans would flood the Colosseum in order to hold boat battles. *Don't try that in gym class!*

B. Define

In a dictionary, look up one of the English derivatives from the list above and write its definition in the space below:

C. Apply

1. The Latin phrase *terra firma* is still used by English speakers today. Here is an example of its use: “After being on a plane for six hours, it sure felt good to walk on *terra firma*.” What do you think the phrase *terra firma* might mean? Write your answer below:



2. The word “Pennsylvania” is another Latin derivative. *Pennsylvania* was one of the original thirteen colonies that formed the United States. It was founded by William Penn. What do you think the word “Pennsylvania” might mean? Circle your answer below:

- a. The land of big pencils b. The land of Penn c. Penn’s Woods



Quiz

A. Vocabulary

Latin	English
amō, amāre, amāvī, amātum	
dō, dare, dedī, datum	
intrō, intrāre, intrāvī, intrātum	
labōrō, labōrāre, labōrāvī, labōrātum	
nārrō, nārrāre, nārrāvī, nārrātum	
aqua, aquae	
fābula, fābulae	
porta, portae	
silva, silvae	
terra, terrae	

B. Chant

 Conjugate the verb *amō*.

See if you can remember how to fill in the boxes.



	amō	

C. Grammar

 Define the following words.

1. Conjugation: _____

2. Verb: _____

3. List the four principal parts: _____
