

Chapter 2

Memory Page



Chapter Maxim

In prīncipiō erat Verbum.

In the beginning was the Word. —Latin Vulgate

New Chant

Present-Tense Verb Endings—

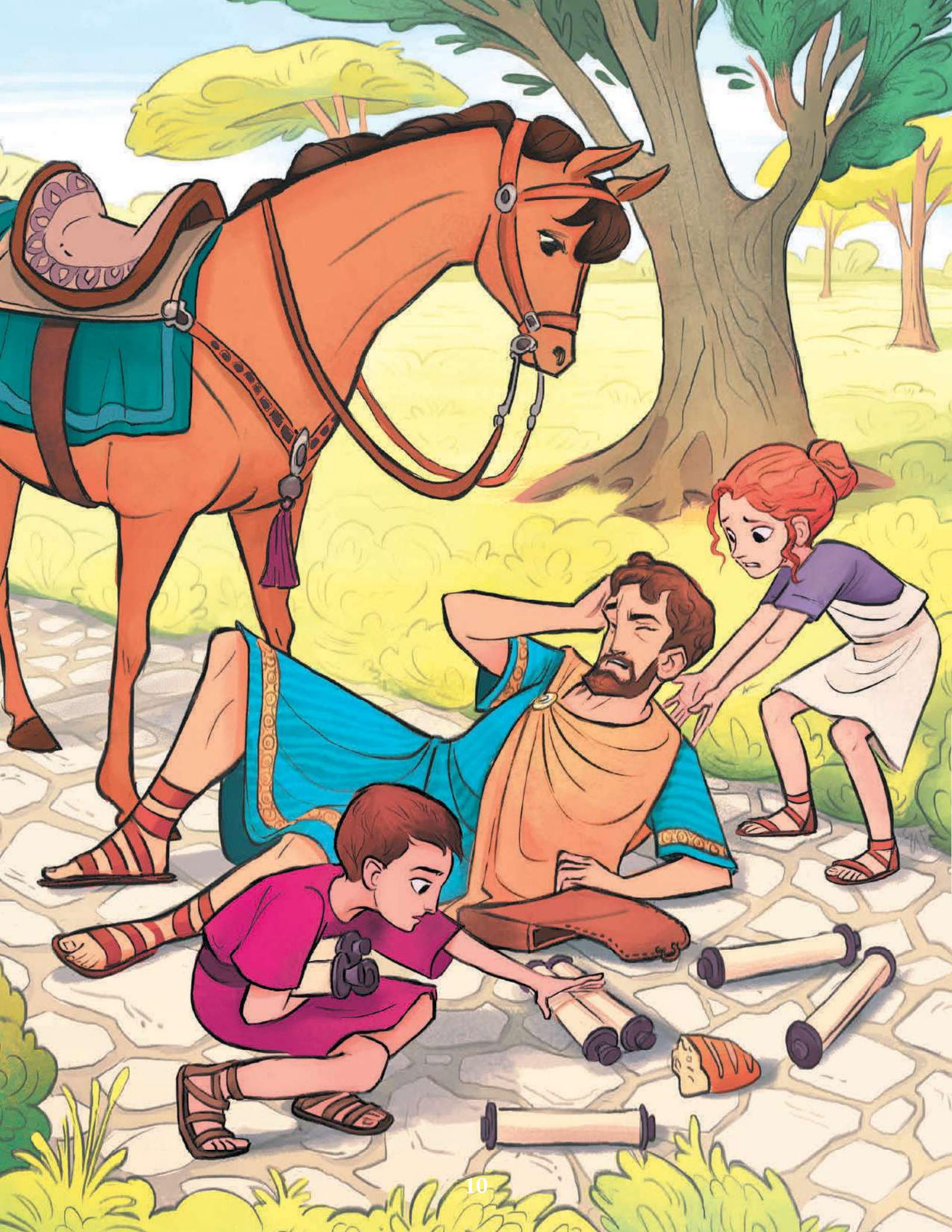
-ō, -s, -t, -mus, -tis, -nt

	Singular	Plural
1st person	-ō	-mus
2nd person	-s	-tis
3rd person	-t	-nt

Vocabulary

	Latin	English
	Nouns	
	via, viae	road, way
	fossa, fossae	ditch
	mēnsa, mēnsae	table
	mēta, mētae	turning point, goal
	pāgina, pāginae	page
	cēna, cēnae	dinner
	pātria, pātriae	fatherland, country
	aura, aurae	breeze
	rēgina, rēginae	queen
	īnsula, īnsulae	island







Along the Appian Way, Part 2

As he watched the horse galloping toward him, Marcus couldn't decide which way to jump to get out of the way. The rider pulled hard on the reins. The horse skidded and slipped as it tried to stop on the smooth rocks on the surface of the Roman *via* (_____).

Julia gasped. Marcus only managed to wince and clamp his eyes shut. The horse stopped just in front of Marcus, snorting warmly in his face.

Unfortunately, the rider did not stop.

Julia watched as the rider tumbled up over the horse's neck and launched into the air over Marcus's head. The rider landed on his back with a nasty thump, his bag falling into a *fossa* (_____), spilling several scrolls and a half-eaten loaf of bread onto the ground.

All was still again except for a soft *aura* (_____).

Marcus and Julia quickly scrambled over to the rider to help. As Julia helped the rider to his feet, Marcus collected the scattered scrolls. He noticed the glittering gold seals that secured some scrolls.

"Are you OK?!"

"I am sooooo sorry."

The messenger looked dazed but he hastily dusted himself off. Then he turned with a scowl and grabbed his scrolls from Marcus's hands.

"I . . . I didn't mean to be in your—"

Without so much as a word, the rider swung back up on his horse. With a kick of his heels, the rider and horse disappeared down the *via* (_____).

Grammar Lesson



Present-Tense Verb Endings

	Singular	Plural
1st person	-ō	-mus
2nd person	-s	-tis
3rd person	-t	-nt

Figure 2-1:
Present-tense
verb endings



Grammar Lesson

Number

Take a good look at the chart on the previous page. You will see a column that is labeled “singular” and another labeled “plural.” This means that all the verb endings in the singular column tell us that a single person is doing the action of the verb. If **I** work—well, I am just one person doing work. If **you** work, you are just one person, too. If our friend John works, **he** is just one person doing work. “I,” “you,” and “he” are singular. However, if you and I together do work, then **we** are doing work, and we aren’t singular anymore—we’re plural! If two of you (you all) are doing work, then **you** are plural. If our friends John and Susan are doing work, then **they** are working, and they, too, are plural! When we speak of a Latin verb’s **number**, we are asking **how many people are doing the verb’s action**, and the answer is always either one person or more than one person—singular or plural!

Tense

We are going to be learning how to form Latin verbs in the present tense. This means that we will be learning how to use verbs that show action in the present time, or now. The word “tense” simply refers to the time when a verb is taking place. “I love” takes place in the present time (or tense). “I loved” takes place in past time, so it is a kind of past tense. Can you guess what tense “I will love” is? Right—it is the future tense, since “I will love” is love that takes place in the future! You will learn more about tense later on in this book.

Person

So now we know what it means for a verb to have number. Latin verbs also have another trait, called **person**. Whereas a verb’s number asks, “How many are doing the action?” a verb’s person asks, “**Who is doing the action of the verb?**” We divide the kind of people who can do the action of a verb into three categories: **first person**, **second person**, and **third person**. The first person can be either “I” or “we” (singular and plural versions). The second person can be either “you” or “you all” (singular and plural). The third person can be either “he”/“she”/“it” or “they” (singular and plural). The drawing below may help you understand a verb’s person.

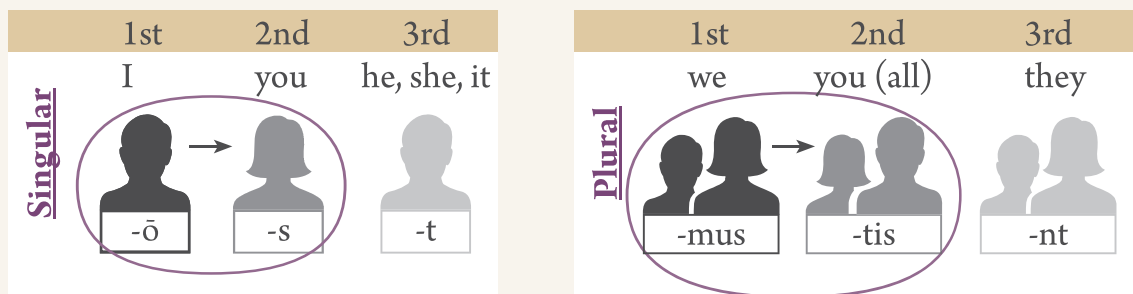


Figure 2-2:
1st, 2nd & 3rd
person



Now, by Figure 2-1, try to answer these questions: What is the first person singular verb ending? If you answered *-ō*, you are correct. What is the second person plural ending? Your answer should be *-tis*. What is the third person singular verb ending? The answer is *-t*. In the next section, we will learn how to attach these endings to verbs—and conjugate them!

Conjugating a Verb

When we put together all the different forms of a verb, we call it conjugating a verb. You have already seen one verb conjugated when you learned *amō*, *amās*, *amat*, *amāmus*, *amātis*, *amant* in chapter 1.

	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 2-3:
Verb endings
for *amō*
(underlined)

Notice that the verb endings (*-ō*, *-s*, *-t*, *-mus*, *-tis*, *-nt*) are all underlined in the table. These endings are simply added to *amā*, which is the **verb stem**. How do we find the verb stem? It's easy. We go to the second principal part, which is *amāre*, and drop the *-re*, leaving us *amā*.

You will note that the full stem (*amā*) does not appear in the first-person singular where we have *amō*. This is because the *-ō* replaces the *-ā* in *amā*.

Study the figure below:

amō	amāre	amāvī	amātum
	amāre = amā		

Figure 2-4:
Finding
verb stems

Let's try conjugating another verb—*intrō*, *intrāre*, *intrāvī*, *intrātum*. The stem will be *intrā* after we take the *-re* off of *intrāre*. So our conjugation should look like this:

	Singular	Plural
1st person	intrō : I enter	intrāmus : we enter
2nd person	intrās : you enter	intrātis : you all enter
3rd person	intrat : he, she, or it enters	intrant : they enter

Figure 2-5:
Verb endings
for *intrō*

Note that just as with *amō*, the *-ō* replaces the *-ā* in *intrā*.



Worksheet

A. Translation New and Review Vocabulary

1. **amō** _____
2. **rēgīna** _____
3. **via** _____
4. **pātria** _____
5. **fābula** _____
6. **In prīncipiō erat Verbum.** _____
7. **amātis** _____
8. **intrans** _____
9. **nārrās*** _____
10. **labōrāmus*** _____
11. **dat*** _____

*Note that these verb forms come from the conjugation of *narrō*, *labōrō*, and *dō*. See the previous page. Can you conjugate these verbs in all their forms?

B. Chant Give the present-tense verb endings and fill in the boxes.

	-ō	

C. Grammar

1. The number of a verb answers the question “_____?”
2. Latin is a language of many _____ but fewer _____.
3. Write the ending that fits the description below:

Description	Ending
1st person singular	_____
3rd person plural	_____
2nd person singular	_____

4. To conjugate a verb is to list all of its _____.

D. Derivatives

1. To find out about dinosaurs you must dig up a _____. (*fossa*)
2. To find out what happens next in the story, turn the _____. (*pāgina*)





A. Study

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

Latin	English
via	way, viaduct
fossa	fossil, fossilize
mēnsa	mesa
pāgina	page
cēna	cenacle
pātria	patriot, patriotic
aura	aroma
rēgīna	reign, regal
īnsula	insular, insulate



Fun Fact!

Insula was also the name given to a type of apartment building used in ancient Roman cities. *Insula* were usually 3 or 4 stories high and often took up a whole city block.

B. Define

In a dictionary, look up two of the English derivatives from the list above and write their definitions in the spaces below:

- _____
- _____

C. Apply

1. The Latin word *via* is still used by English speakers today. Here are some examples:

“He traveled here *via* airplane.”

“Come *via* the freeway. Don’t drive through the city streets.”

In these sentences, *via* probably means:

- a. very b. by way of c. quickly

2. The Latin word *pātria* means “fatherland.” In the patriotic song “My Country, ’Tis of Thee” by Samuel Francis Smith, what clue can you find that helps you understand why people often call their country their “fatherland”?

My country, ’tis of thee,
Sweet land of liberty,
Of thee I sing;
Land where my fathers died,

Land of the pilgrims’ pride,
From every mountainside
Let freedom ring!

Quiz



A. New Vocabulary

Latin	English
via, viae	
fossa, fossae	
mēnsa, mēnsae	
mēta, mētae	
pāgina, pāginae	
cēna, cēnae	
pātria, pātriae	
aura, aurae	
rēgīna, rēgīnae	
īnsula, īnsulae	

B. Review Vocabulary

Latin	English
dō, dare, dedī, datum	
labōrō, labōrāre, labōrāvī, labōrātum	
aqua, aquae	
silva, silvae	
terra, terrae	

C. Chant Give the present-tense verb endings and fill in the boxes.

	-ō	

D. Grammar Define the following terms.

1. Number: _____

2. Person: _____