

GCSE Latin for Beginners

Lesson 3 Pre-Class Tasks ANSWER SHEET

1. Five Important Words.

Here are two important conjunctions (joining words):

et *and*

sed *but*

Here are three important adverbs (words that describe or modify the verb):

non *not* (goes in front of the word which is being negated)

nunc *now*

semper *always*

nunc and *semper* often reinforce present tense verbs. When they are used it can be more natural to translate a present tense as (e.g.) *she is carrying* rather than *she carries* :

e.g. servus nunc laborat.

The slave is now *working*.

or The slave now *works*.

ancillae semper pugnant.

The slave-girls are always *fighting*.

or The slave-girls always *fight*.

Exercise 1. Translate into English:

1. villam et hortos amo. *I love the house and the gardens.*
2. ancilla nunc laborat. *The slave-girl is now working.*
3. cibum semper paramus. *We are always preparing the food.*
4. nuntius ancillam amat sed ancilla nuntium non amat. *The messenger loves the slave-girl but the slave-girl doesn't love the messenger.*
5. servus et ancilla semper laborant. *The slave and the slave-girl are always working.*

Exercise 2. Translate into Latin:

1. The woman calls her* slaves and slave-girls. *femina servos et ancillas vocat.*
2. You (s.) always prepare the food. *cibum semper paras.*
3. The master is now working. *dominus nunc laborat.*
4. We do not like the block of flats. *insulam non amamus.*
5. I love the girl but the girl loves the messenger. *puellam amo sed puella nuntium amat.*

2. Next week we will learn about “prepositions” in Latin. Can you guess what the prepositions below mean? Match them up!

1. ad → b. to, towards
2. circum → c. around
3. contra → a. against
4. a/ab → e. from, away from
5. per → d. through

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3. The Verb 'To Be': *sum*.

In Latin, like in almost all modern European languages (including English), the verb 'to be' is irregular. This is not surprising: the more often a word is used, the more likely it is that its form will be altered or corrupted when spoken or written. Though irregular, this verb is so common that it will quickly become familiar.¹

The present tense is:

<i>sg 1</i>	<i>sum</i>	I am
<i>2</i>	<i>es</i>	you (s.) are
<i>3</i>	<i>est</i>	he/she/it is
<i>pl 1</i>	<i>sumus</i>	we are
<i>2</i>	<i>estis</i>	you (pl.) are
<i>3</i>	<i>sunt</i>	they are

The verb to be is most commonly used to tell you **what something is** or **what something is like** (using an adjective, watch this space!).

When we are told what something is, the new noun goes into the **nominative** case and is called the complement. The nominative is used rather than the accusative because the verb to be is telling us more about the same person rather than describing something done to someone else.

e.g. *nuntius sum.* I am a messenger.
servi amici sunt. The slaves are friends.

If *est* or *sunt* appear at the start of a sentence, it is often best to translate them not as *he/she/it is* or *they are* but *there is* or *there are*.

e.g. *sunt dei.* There are gods (*or* the gods exist).

Exercise 3. Translate into English:

1. *dominus sum; servi estis.* I am the master; you (pl.) are slaves.
2. *nuntius et servus amici sunt.* The messenger and the slave are friends.
3. *sunt dei, et dei Romam amant.* There are gods, and the gods love Rome.
4. *ancillae sumus; dominum non amamus.* We are slave-girls; we do not love the master.
5. *puella ancilla est.* The girl is a slave-girl.

Exercise 4. Translate into Latin:

1. You (s.) are not a god. *deus non es.*
2. The messenger is a slave. *nuntius servus est.*
3. The masters are friends. *domini amici sunt.*
4. There is a god. *est deus.*
5. The slave and the messenger are friends. *servus et nuntius amici sunt.*

¹ Chapter 1, John Taylor's *Latin to GCSE Book 1*.