

GCSE Latin for Beginners

Lesson 2 Pre-Class Tasks

1. Numbers. This table shows the numbers 1-10 in several languages which have grown from Latin. Only the Latin column is in the correct order – the others are mixed up. **Can you write the correct number next to each word?**

	Latin		Italian		French		Spanish
1	unus		cinque		neuf		cuatro
2	duo		quattro		trois		seis
3	tres		sei		deux		nueve
4	quattor		otto		dix		diez
5	quinque		uno		huit		tres
6	sex		dieci		un		dos
7	septem		nove		quatre		siete
8	octo		sette		six		uno
9	novem		tre		sept		cinco
10	decem		due		cinq		ocho

2. Nominative and Accusative Revision. In Lesson 1, you learnt how to translate the nominative and accusative case of nouns like “*puella*” and “*dominus*”. **Re-read your Lesson 1 Handout and the notes below to re-cap on the rules, then complete the exercises.**

Consider the following two English sentences:

- 1 The slave greets the woman.
- 2 The woman greets the slave.

The nouns in these examples swap roles between the two sentences: the slave is doing the action in (1), but on the receiving end in (2) – and vice versa for woman. The spelling of the nouns, though, remains the same. We can only work out the meaning of each sentence from the word order.

In English, the meaning is shown by the word order. Latin works differently. Unlike English, most of the information about a word’s role in a Latin sentence comes from looking at the word’s ending.

In Latin, the two sentences would be:

- 1 servus feminam salutat. *The slave greets the woman.*
- 2 femina servum salutat. *The woman greets the slave.*

Note how the spelling of the nouns, *servus* (slave) and *femina* (woman), changes in the two sentences, depending on whether the nouns are doing the action (the subject) or receiving the action (the object). In Latin, there are different endings for different noun cases. A **case** is the form of a noun that shows the job it does in the sentence.

- nominative** used when the noun is the subject (doing the action)
accusative used when the noun is the object (on the receiving end of the action).

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Here are eight first declension nouns that go like *puella*:

ancilla	<i>slave-girl, slave-woman</i>
dea	<i>goddess</i>
epistula	<i>letter</i>
femina	<i>woman</i>
insula*	<i>island; block of flats</i>
pecunia	<i>money</i>
Roma	<i>Rome</i>
villa	<i>house, country villa</i>

*insula usually means island ; the other meaning is not as odd as it seems, since a block of flats is thought of as being like an island within the sea of the city, with streets all around.¹

Exercise 1. Identify the *case* of:

1. feminam
2. pecunia
3. ancilla
4. Romam
5. deam

Exercise 2. a) Highlight *nominative* and *accusative* nouns in different colours b) Translate into English.

1. deam amo
2. ancilla epistulam portat.
3. laborat ancilla.
4. puella insulam amat.
5. villam amamus.
6. femina ancillam vocat
7. Romam amat dea
8. feminam salutatis.
9. puella dominum necat.
10. pecuniam portant.

Exercise 3. Translate into Latin

1. The woman greets the girl.
2. A slave-woman is shouting.
3. The master is carrying a letter.
4. We call the woman.

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