

## Extra Challenge 1 | GCSE Latin for Beginners

### Latin Prose Composition (English to Latin) Session 1

*Nouns: Nominative and Accusative Case  
First Declension*

*Verbs: Present Tense  
First Conjugation*

#### First Declension Nouns

- All end in “-a”
- All feminine, unless referring to men (e.g. poeta, nauta, agricola)

<i>Singular</i>	<i>girl</i>	<i>slave-girl</i>	<i>mistress</i>	<i>dinner</i>	<i>kitchen</i>
<i>Nominative</i>	puella	ancilla	domina	cena	culina
<i>Accusative</i>	puellam	ancillam	dominam	cenam	culinam

#### *Plural*

<i>Nominative</i>	puellae	ancillae	dominae	cenae	culinae
<i>Accusative</i>	puellas	ancillas	dominas	cenae	culinas

#### First Conjugation Verbs

- All have infinitives ending in “-are”
- Present tense example: paramus = *we prepare, we are preparing, we do prepare.*

	<i>prepare</i>	<i>greet</i>	<i>enter</i>	<i>look at</i>	<i>scold</i>
<i>Infinitive (to ...)</i>	parare	salutare	intrare	spectare	vituperare
<i>I</i>	paro	saluto	intro	specto	vitupero
<i>You (s)</i>	paras	salutas	intras	spectas	vituperas
<i>He/she/it</i>	parat	salutat	intrat	spectat	vituperat
<i>We</i>	paramus	salutamus	intramus	spectamus	vituperamus
<i>You (p)</i>	paratis	salutatis	intratis	spectatis	vituperatis
<i>They</i>	parant	salutant	intrant	spectant	vituperant

#### Questions

1. What letter features in the ending of all nominative and accusative first declension nouns?
2. What gender are the vast majority of these nouns?
3. Explain the circumstances under which this gender may vary.
4. What letter appears in the infinitive of first conjugation verbs, and marks these out from other conjugations?
5. Give two different ways of translating “paras”.
6. What is the ending for Latin present tense verbs with the following subjects?  
a. I                      b. she                      c. they
7. What is removed from the infinitive before these endings are added?

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### Composition

In Latin, the term “Composition” is used to indicate that you need to translate from English into Latin.

*Why do we do this?* Composition really makes you focus on the way that Latin works, and makes it much easier for you to translate *out* of Latin into English. It gives you a greater knowledge of Latin grammar and helps you to avoid some common errors made during the exam!

**The following work requires knowledge of the basic rules which affect every Latin sentence:**

- a. *The verb must show who the subject of the sentence is, even if this is also shown by a particular noun or pronoun.*
- b. *If a noun or pronoun refers to the subject of the sentence it must be nominative.*
- c. *If the noun or pronoun refers to the object of the sentence it must be accusative.*
- d. *In Latin sentences, the verb usually comes at the end.*

**Example:**

I	am looking at	the girl.	<i>puellam specto.</i>
(subject)	(verb)	(object)	(object=acc) (verb includes subject)

**Translate these sentences into Latin, bearing in mind the above points and using the information and vocabulary on page 1.**

1. The mistress greets the girl.
2. The mistress scolds the girls.
3. The girl looks at the slave-girls.
4. The slave-girls greet the girls.
5. The slave-girl is preparing the dinner.
6. Does the mistress look at the dinner?\*
7. We are entering the kitchen.
8. Are you looking at the girl?
9. I am scolding the slave-girl.
10. Are you (p) preparing the meals?\*

\*Add ‘-ne’ to the verb in order to turn the sentence into a question.

e.g. *puellam spectasne?*      Do you (s.) look at the girl?