

First & Second Conjugation Verbs  
Principal Parts, Stems, Personal Endings, and Imperatives  
Honors Latin I — Mr. Dolan — Diēs Martis ix September MMVI

I. Principal Parts

- In English, there are usually three principal parts of verbs, e.g., *go, went, gone; eat, ate, eaten; see, saw, seen*. All the different forms of verbs derive from these three principal parts.
  - In English, the first principal part of the verb is the base form. The base form is used in the infinitive (“to go,” “to eat,” “to see”) and the present tense (“I go,” “I eat,” “I see”).
  - In English, the second principal part of the verb is the simple past tense form, e.g., *went, ate, saw*.
  - In English, the third principal part of the verb is the past participle, e.g., *gone, eaten, seen*.
    - The past participle is used for the passive voice, when something is done to the subject, e.g., “worms are *eaten* by birds” or “you were *seen* at the pool.”
    - The past participle is also used for the perfect tenses: present perfect, past perfect, and future perfect.
      - ◇ Present perfect: I *have gone*, you have gone, she has gone, etc.
      - ◇ Past perfect: I *had gone*, you had gone, she had gone, etc.
      - ◇ Future perfect: I *will have gone*, you will have gone, she’ll have gone, etc.
- In Latin, there are usually four principal parts of verbs. As in English, so in Latin: the principal parts are used to make every form of the verb. You must memorize the principal parts of verbs.
  - Example of the principal parts of a first conjugation verb: *amō, amāre, amāvī, amātum*
    - Verbs of the *first conjugation* end in *-āre* in the infinitive/second principal part.
      - ◇ In Latin, verbs with matching *infinitive* forms are grouped into *conjugations*.
  - Example of the principal parts of a second conjugation verb: *valeō, valēre, valuī, valitūrum*
    - Verbs of the *second conjugation* end in *-ēre* in the infinitive/second principal part.
  - For now, focus only on the first two principal parts. Don’t worry about the last two parts.
  - **First Principal Part:** first person, singular, present<sup>1</sup> form
    - Examples: *amō*, “I love”; *cōgitō*, “I think”; *valeō*, “I am strong”; *videō*, “I see”
  - **Second Principal Part:** infinitive<sup>2</sup>
    - Examples: *amāre*, “to love”; *cōgitāre*, “to think”; *valēre*, “to be strong”; *vidēre*, “to see”
  - **Third Principal Part:** first person, singular, present perfect<sup>3</sup>
    - Examples: *amāvī*, “I have loved”; *cōgitāvī*, “I have thought”; *valuī*, “I have been strong”; *vidī*, “I have seen”
  - **Fourth Principal Part:** perfect passive participle
    - Examples: *amātum, cōgitātum, valitūrum, visum*

II. Stems

- To figure out the forms of the present tense, one must determine the *stem* of the verb.
  - Of course, the 1st person sg. form of the present tense is the first principal part of the verb.
- To figure out the stem...
  - Go to the second principal part of the verb (= infinitive).
    - Examples: *amāre, cōgitāre, valēre, vidēre*
  - Drop the final *-re* from the second principal part of the verb (= infinitive).
    - Examples: *amāre, cōgitāre, valēre, vidēre*
  - What remains is the stem.
    - Examples: *amā, cōgitā, valē, vidē*

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<sup>1</sup> The first principal part is the first person (person), singular (number), present (tense), indicative (mood), active (voice) form. To reduce confusion, I’ve omitted mention of the mood and voice.

<sup>2</sup> If you want to be more specific, it’s the present active infinitive. Don’t worry about these specifics for now.

<sup>3</sup> The 3d principal part is the first person (person), singular (number), present perfect (tense), indicative (mood), active (voice) form.

### III. Personal Endings

- In Latin, there are special endings on verbs that indicate whether the verb is in the first, second, or third person and whether it's singular or plural.
- Except for the first person singular (present, indicative, active), these **personal endings** are tacked onto the **stem**.
  - The first person singular ends in **-ō**, though you don't add that **ō**: it's just there in the first principal part.
- Personal Endings Added to the Stem
  - **-s** is added to the stem for the **second person singular** (built-in subject "you" singular)
    - Examples: *amās, cōgitās, valēs, vidēs* – you (sg.)... love, think, are strong, see
      - ◇ *Deum amās* – "You love God."
      - ◇ *Amicum meum cōgitās* – "You know my friend."
      - ◇ *Valēs* – "You are strong."
      - ◇ *Casam vidēs* – "You see the house."
  - **-t** is added to the stem for the **third person singular** (built-in subjects "he," "she," or "it")<sup>4</sup>
    - Examples: *amat, cōgitat, valet, videt* – he, she, or it... loves, thinks, is strong, sees
      - ◇ *Crustula amat* – "He loves cookies"
      - ◇ *Magister crustula amat* – "The teacher loves cookies"
      - ◇ *Nova semper videt* – "She always sees new things"
      - ◇ *Filia mea nova semper videt* – "My daughter always sees new things"
  - **-mus** is added to the stem for the **first person plural** (built-in subject "we")
    - Examples: *amāmus, cōgitāmus, valēmus, vidēmus* – we... love, think, are strong, see
      - ◇ *Carotās amāmus* – "We love carrots"
  - **-tis** is added to the stem for the **second person plural** (built-in subject "you" plural)
    - Examples: *amātis, cōgitātis, valētis, vidētis* – y'all... love, think, are strong, see
      - ◇ *Deum amātis* – "Y'all love God."
      - ◇ *Amicum meum cōgitātis* – "Youz know my friend."
      - ◇ *Valētis* – "You (pl) are strong."
      - ◇ *Casam vidētis* – "You all see the house."
  - **-nt** is added to the stem for the **third person plural** (built-in subject "they")
    - Examples: *amant, cōgitant, valent, vident* – they... love, think, are strong, see
      - ◇ *Crustula amant* – "They love cookies"
      - ◇ *Magister et discipulī crustula amat* – "The teacher and the students love cookies"
      - ◇ *Nova semper vident* – "They always see new things"
      - ◇ *Filia mea et filius meus nova semper videt* – "My daughter and my son always see new things"

### IV. Imperatives

- There are singular and plural forms of the imperative.<sup>5</sup>
- The singular form of the imperative is identical in form to the stem, e.g., *amā, cōgitā, valē, vidē*.
- The plural form of the imperative is the **stem plus te**, e.g., *amāte, cōgitāte, valēte, vidēte*.

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<sup>4</sup> If a long vowel (*ā* or *ē*) is followed by *t* or *nt* at the end of a word, the vowel becomes short. Hence, when *t* or *nt* is added to the stem *amā*, the result is *amat* or *amant*—rather than *amāt* or *amānt*. Similarly, when *t* or *nt* is added to the stem *vidē*, the result is *videt* or *vident*—rather than *vidēt* or *vidēnt*.

<sup>5</sup> In English and Latin, we usually use only the present active imperative. For this reason, one can omit the "present" and "active" parts—it's just understood.