

Introduction

Thank you for opening the fourth pamphlet of primordia! On the day when this was supposed to be published (but was delayed a day because that was a Sunday), Julius Caesar was assassinated 2,070 years ago on the floor of the Theatre of Pompey. That event contributed to the end of the Roman Republic (509 BCE - 27 BCE) and the start of the Roman Empire (27 BCE - 476 AD). However, this pamphlet will be discussing adjectives, some holidays, irregular verbs, and abbreviations.

Adjectives

Assuming that you've taken English class, you know what adjectives are - they modify a noun. There are three classes of adjectives: positive, comparative, and superlative. We're going to focus on 1st and 2nd declension adjectives first, even though there's a third.

In an English context, positive adjectives are just normal adjectives, like "good" and "strong". However, comparative adjectives are more than positive adjectives, like "better" and "stronger". Finally, superlative adjectives are the most positive adjectives - to the highest degree, like "best" and "strongest."

In Latin, that is the exact same concept. Positive adjectives are "declined" like nouns are. For example, *bonus, bona, bonum* (good) declines like:

	Masculine	Feminine	Neuter
Nominative	bonus	bona	bonum
Genitive	boni	bonae	boni
Dative	bono	bonae	bono

and so on. (The third declension positive is on the second page.)

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Superlative adjectives are similar to that. For the first and second declension, take the stem of the adjective, add *issim*, then add the first and second declension endings. (This is true for MOST of the cases - see the box below.)

When you have adjectives ending in -er (second declension), like *pulcher*, add "rim" and add endings. (The *r* is doubled here.)

Warning!

With the previous example I had just given, the superlative form of that is NOT *bonissimus*. Some adjectives are not like the others. Consider *fortis, forte* (strong, 3rd declension), where all of the stems are quite similar to "fortis", as in "fortior" and "fortissimus" being similar to the original adjective.

However, then we consider *bonus, bona, bonum* - the example that we used earlier.

- Its positive form is declined normally, as "bonus". It is declined like a 1st/2nd declension noun.
- However, its comparative form is *melior*, *melius*, and seems like a totally different adjective. It is declined like a 3rd declension noun.
- Its superlative form is *optimus*, and declined like a 1st/2nd declension noun.

Other adjectives follow this pattern as well, such as *magnus => maior => maximus*. It is the same how the comparative form of "good" in English is not "gooder", but "better".

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Let's take a look at the example *brevis*, a third declension adjective. Its positive is exactly like any third declension noun, except that the ablative singular ends in "i" –

	Masculine/Feminine	
	Singular	Plural
Nominative	brevis	breves
Genitive	brevis	brevium
Dative	brevi	brevibus
Accusative	brevem	breves
Ablative	brevi	brevibus

(Note: No matter if the adjective is consonant or i-stem, the genitive plural always ends in -ium.)

Its superlative is

	Masculine	Feminine	Neuter
Nominative	brevisimus	brevisissima	brevisimum
Genitive	brevisissimi	brevisissimae	brevisissimi
Dative	brevisissimo	brevisissimae	brevisissimo

And so on, declining like the first and second declensions.

Finally, there are the comparative adjectives, which can take two forms: masculine/feminine, and neuter. The adjective is the same for both masculine and feminine. Here, all adjectives follow some variant of the third declension. This is also the hardest one of all three types.

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Taking our previous example, *brevis*, *breve*, we will do the comparative form for them.

	Masculine/Feminine	
	Singular	Plural
Nominative	brevior	breviores
Genitive	brevioris	breviorum
Dative	breviori	brevioribus
Accusative	breviorem	breviores
Ablative	breviore	brevioribus

Take the stem of the adjective (*brev* in this case), and then add *ior* and add normal 3rd declension endings.

	Neuter	
	Singular	Plural
Nominative	brevius	breviora
Genitive	brevioris	breviorum
Dative	breviori	brevioribus
Accusative	brevius	breviora
Ablative	breviore	brevioribus

The same is for 1st and 2nd declension adjectives: they use third declension endings.

March and April Holidays

- 14 March: Equirria
- 15 March: Feriae Iovi
- 17 March: Liberalia
- 1 April: Veneralia (for Venus)
- Mid-April: Cerialia (festival for Ceres)
- 21 April: legendary founding date of Rome
- ~28 April: Floralia (for Flora)

Irregular Verbs (Part 1)

English has quite a number of irregular verbs. Irregular verbs are what they are named after: verbs that don't follow the other "normal verbs." Normal verbs follow the rule of "base + -ed = past tense / past participle," but irregular verbs don't do that. The verb "jump" has a past tense form of "jumped", making it regular, but "buy" does not have a past tense form of "bued" - it is "bought", making it an irregular verb.

Latin irregular verbs are similar to English irregular verbs. Irregular verbs in Latin are basically verbs that don't follow the normal conjugations.

We start with the most common one, responsible for the verb "is" - sum, esse, fui, futurus, meaning "to be".

	Singular	Plural
1st person	sum (I am)	sumus (we are)
2nd person	es (you are)	estis (you [all] are)
3rd person	est (he/she/it is)	Sunt (they are)
Infinitive	esse (to be)	

This irregular verb has no passive form, but it does have an imperfect form (eram, eras, erat, eramus, eratis, erant). Like all imperfect verbs, it doesn't have an infinitive.

It also has a future form (fui, fuisti, fuit, fuimus, fuistis, fuerunt), with an infinitive of fuisse, and more forms that we will cover later (I haven't introduced the future tense, for example.)

Next, we will cover edo, edere, edi, esum, which means "to eat". At first glance, it seems like a normal noun, but there are some substitutions.

	Singular	Plural
1st person	edo (I eat)	edimus (we eat)
2nd person	edis (you eat)	editis (you [all] eat)
3rd person	edit (he/she/it eats)	edunt (they eat)
Infinitive	edere (to eat)	

Another accepted form of the 2nd person singular is "ēs", another form for the 3rd person singular is "ēst", and the 2nd person plural could also be "ēstis."

There is an active passive form (edor, ederis, editur, edimur, edimini, eduntur), an imperfect active form (edebam, edebas, edebat, edebamus, edebatis, edebant), an imperfect passive form (edebam, edebamur, edebamini, edebantur), and a perfect active form (edi, edisti, edit, edimus, edistis, edunt, edisse).

Next, we will cover eo, ire, ivi, itus, which means "to go." This one is clearer when it comes to the "irregularity":

	Singular	Plural
1st person	eo (I go)	imus (we go)
2nd person	is (you go)	itis (you [all] go)
3rd person	it (he/she/it goes)	eunt (they go)
Infinitive	ire (to go)	

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This irregular verb also doesn't have any passive form. It does have an imperfect active (edebam, edebas, edebat, edebamus, edebatis, edebant), a perfect active (edi, edisti, edit, edimus, edistis, ederunt), and a few other forms that will be covered later.

There is also volo, velle, volui, — (I want), not to be confused with volo, volare, volavi, volatus (to fly):

	Singular	Plural
1st person	volo (I want)	volumus (we want)
2nd person	vis (you want)	vultis (you [all] want)
3rd person	vult (he/she/it wants)	volunt (they want)
Infinitive	velle (to want)	

It cannot have passive, but it has imperfect active (volebam, volebas, volebat, volebamus, volebatis, volebant) and perfect active (volui, voluisti, voluit, voluimus, voluistis, volerunt).

Finally, we will cover the final one (for now): possum, posse, potui (to be able to):

	Singular	Plural
1st person	possum (I am able to)	possumus (we are able to)
2nd person	potes (you are able to)	possumus (you [all] are able to)
3rd person	potest (he/she/it is able to)	possunt (they are able to)
Infinitive	posse (to be able to)	

As it is a verb of thinking, it cannot have a passive form. It has an imperfect form (poteram, poteras, poterat, poteramus, poteratis, poterant) and a future form (potui, potuisti, potuit, potuimus, potuistis, potuerunt.)

Quiz 1

Answers will be posted in the next issue...

1. What is the masculine ablative singular of the adjective *brevis*, meaning "short"?
 - a. brevi
 - b. breve
 - c. brevō
 - d. (None of the above)

	Singular	Plural
Nominative		
Genitive	rei	
Dative	2	
Accusative		
Ablative		3

2. What form belongs in box 2, the dative singular?
3. What form belongs in box 3, the ablative plural?