

primordia

mentally taxing syntax :)

Introduction

It seems to have been quite a short while, but I'm already writing my fifth pamphlet now! On a look back, I did realise that I covered a lot of charts and grammar but not a lot of vocabulary and civilisation items. (You can't communicate without vocabulary!) The only time where I had briefly touched on it was in the first issue, when I gave you a chart on etymologies. Each list here will be on one to three topics and consist anywhere from 15 to 40 words.

Word List #1

Theme: Animals

Nouns

Latin	Gender (m./f./n.)	Meaning
animal	n.	animal
cuniculus	m.	rabbit
vulpes	f.	fox
avis	f.	bird
canis	m./f.	dog
passer	m.	sparrow
felis	f.	cat
apis	f.	bee
equus	m.	horse
bos	m./f.	cow
ovis	f.	sheep
sus	f.	pig
piscis	m.	fish
leo	m.	lion

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Latin	Gender (m./f./n.)	Meaning
cerva	f.	deer
cervus	m.	stag
tigris	f.	tiger
phoca	f.	seal

Total: 18

Verbs

Lexical Entry	Conjugation	Meaning
mordeo, mordēre, momordi, morsus	Normal 2nd	To bite
edo, edere, edi, esus	Irregular ("3rd")	To eat
bibo, bibere, bibi, bibitus	Normal 3rd	To drink
ambulo, ambulare, ambulavi, ambulatus	Normal 1st	To walk
curro, currere, curri, cursus	Normal 3rd	To run
ascendo, ascendere, ascendi, ascensus	Normal 3rd	To climb/ascend
peto, petere, petivi, petitus	Normal 3rd	To seek/rush at
latro, latrare, latravi, latratus	Normal 1st	To bark
ululo, ululare, ululavi, ululatus	Normal 1st	To howl
dormio, dormire, dormivi, dormitus	Normal 4th	To sleep

Adjectives

Word	Meaning
domesticus, domestica, domesticum	domestic
saevus, saeva, saevum	savage
timidus, timida, timidum	timid
fidelis, fidele	loyal
ferox, ferocis	wild/bold

Total: 5

Total in set #1: 33

Adverbs

Adverbs modify a verb, adjective, or another adverb, answering things like how, when, where, and to what extent. For example, in the sentence “He ran the race quickly”, “quickly” is the adverb that modifies “ran.” Similarly, Latin has the same concept. Many of its adverbs are 1st, 2nd, and 3rd declension adjectives slightly modified (you will see that later), but there are exceptions (Latin is just like that.)

For first and second declension adjectives, we’ll just take the stem and slap on an “ē” to complete the job. For example, “clarus” becomes “clarē”, “lentus” becomes “lentē”, and so on. This is just for positive adverbs.

For third declension adjectives, we’ll take the stem and slap on an “iter”. “Fortis” becomes “fortiter”, “brevis” becomes “breviter”, and so on. The exception here is for any adjective ending in “ns”, like “prudens”, in which you take the stem and add “nter”. Here, you will get “prudenter.”

However, there are also irregular adjectives, and those adverb forms must be memorised. For example,

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“bonus”, which means good, has an adverb form of “bene.” Similarly, “magnus” has an adverb form of “magnopere.” And so on.

Those all above were just for positive adverbs, and there’s comparative and superlative ones as well. (Comparative adverbs will be translated like “more _____” and superlative adverbs will be translated like “most _____.”)

To form the comparative adverb in most cases, use the accusative singular neuter of the comparative adjective. This is always -ius, so “fortiter” (positive) becomes “fortius” (comparative).

And for the superlative, take the masculine nominative singular and change “us” into an “e”. “Fortissimus” becomes “fortissime.”

Sentences and Agreement

It is quite ill-timed that I didn’t put this sooner, but I’ll have to quickly go over sentence structure, one of the fundamentals to understanding Latin sentences. So... sooner is better than later.

In English, we have our sentences in the form “Subject Verb Object”, like in “Marcus threw the ball.” Marcus is the subject, “threw” is the verb, and the ball is the object. There might be other modifiers, but that’s irrelevant here.

Latin, unfortunately, isn’t like this. The most common form is “Subject Object Verb”, as in “Marcus pilam iecit.” (Marcus threw the ball.) In English, that might blindly turn out to sound like “Marcus the ball threw”, but that’s completely legal in Latin. (It’s not law, but you hopefully get what I mean.)

There’s also “Verb Subject Object” (“Iecit Marcus pilam”), but those are used less frequently. In Latin, simply find where the modifiers are, and then simply

find and arrange them in a way that makes sense given the context. (You probably won't have balls throwing people in the real world, unless it is in a satirical setting.)

Now, once that's out of the way, we'll talk about agreement. Remember those masculine, feminine, and neuter that we have been talking about in previous pamphlets? Here's where it gets relevant.

"Puer" means boy, and is thus masculine. It would be inappropriate to add "parva" (small), which is feminine, to make "puer parva", because they do not agree on gender.

Thus, you must use the same gender (masculine), right...? Yes, but you can't do "puer parvi" (where parvi is a masculine plural, because "puer" is singular, and the number (singular/plural) does not match up. Thus, that is also illegal.

If I need to use the same gender and number, then could I do "puerō parvus", which is the same gender (masculine!) and number (singular!)... but it is still illegal. "Puerō" is in the dative case, but not "parvus" (reference your adjective charts!), which is in the nominative case. (That also doesn't seem too right.)

Thus, for everything to fit, it must have the same case, gender, and number. "Puerō parvō" or "puer parvus" would be the accepted forms here. That's **noun-adjective agreement**. (Hopefully, the name is self-explanatory. A noun must "agree" with an adjective.)

Note: Remember that nouns like "nauta" (sailor) can seem feminine but are actually masculine. The correct form is "nauta fortissimus", not "nauta fortissima." Endings can be misleading sometimes!

Quiz #2

In questions 1 - 3, you are given a noun or an adjective. Place the correct form of the word (in parentheses), or in other words, **agree the two words**. Note: *animalia* in #3 is NOT accusative.

1. ovibus _____ (fidelis)
2. _____ saevas (tigris)
3. animalia _____ (domesticus)

In questions 4 - 5, you are given a positive adjective. Convert each of them into a positive, comparative, and superlative adverb.

4. fidelis, fidele
 - a. Positive: _____
 - b. Comparative: _____
 - c. Superlative: _____
5. magnus, magna, magnum
 - a. Positive: _____
 - b. Comparative: _____
 - c. Superlative: _____

In questions 6 - 7, simply answer the questions.

6. Write the Julian date (in the Roman calendar) for 2 April.

7. MXXIV sheep are in a field, and duo centum et quinquaginta escape. Soon, 6 more escape. How many sheep are in the field now?

8. What is wrong with this sentence? (If it seems right, then just say the question is wrong.)
Leo dormio.

ANSWERS ARE ON THE NEXT PAGE

Answers

Set 1 (From pamphlet #4):

1. brevi
2. rei (You can't really explain this - just look at the chart.)
3. rebus (Same here.)

Note: I did forget for a moment that "rei" in the genitive singular didn't definitely mean the 5th declension.

Set #2 (Pamphlet #5, this one):

1. ovibus _____ (fidelis): "Ovibus" comes from "ovis" (sheep): thus, it is feminine. "Ovibus" could either be a dative or an ablative plural in the feminine. Both are same in the chart for "fidelis", so **fidelibus**. This means "[by] loyal sheep."
2. _____ saevas (tigris): "Saevas" is the accusative plural of the feminine form for "saevus", so "tigris" must be in the accusative plural of the feminine form. That would be **tigres**. This means "ferocious tigers."
3. animalia _____ (domesticus): "Animalia" could be nominative or accusative plural, but because a disclaimer (at the bottom of the question) said that it wasn't accusative, thus it is a nominative plural neuter (by the ending -ia.) Thus, **domestica** is the answer, and it means "domesticated animals."
4. "Fidelis" is third declension, so you would have to start with "**fideliter**", then "**fidelius**" (as it is third declension), and "**fidelissime**".
5. "Magnus" is irregular, so we start with "**magnopere**" (greatly), "**magis**", and "**maxime**." Those would have to be memorised on their own.
6. IV ad. Non. Aprilis. Because April is not a month with the Ides on the 15th, you must have it on the 13th and the Nones on the 5th. If Pridie Nones (the day before Nones) is the 4th, then III ad. Non. would be 3rd. Add another one to get the 2nd, **a.d. IV Non. Apr.**
7. $1024 - 250 - 6 = 768$.
8. "Leo" is "lion", and "dormio" means "I sleep", so it **doesn't make sense. I am not the lion!**