

ENGLISH GRAMMAR

for

Learning Latin (1)

PARTS OF SPEECH

Subject	<p>The subject of a sentence is the person or thing performing the action of the verb.</p> <p><i>The priest</i> celebrates Mass. <i>Sacerdōs</i> missam celebrat.</p> <p>In Latin, the subject is placed in the <i>nominative</i> case.</p>
Objects	<p>Objects are nouns or pronouns that receive the action of the verb. They indicate towards what or whom the action of the verb is directed.</p>
Direct object	<p>A direct object is a noun or pronoun that receives the action of the verb directly. It answers the question <i>whom?</i> or <i>what?</i> asked after the verb. Most English direct objects are put into the accusative case in Latin.</p> <p>God loves <i>man</i>. Deus <i>hominem</i> amat.</p> <p>The girl sees the <i>bull</i>. Puella <i>taurum</i> videt.</p> <p>Some few Latin verbs take other cases for the direct object. These must be memorized.</p>

Indirect object	<p>An indirect object is a noun or pronoun that receives the action of the verb indirectly, through the prepositions “to” or “for” in English. It explains “to whom” or “for whom” or “to what” or “for what” the action of the verb is done. An indirect object answers the question <i>to (for) whom?</i> or <i>to (for) what?</i> asked after the verb.</p> <p>The king gives gifts <i>to the people</i>. Rēx dōna populō dat.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">The farmer did <i>me</i> a favor Agricola mihi grātum fēcit.</p> <p>English indirect objects are put into the <i>dative</i> case in Latin. Note that, in English, the word <i>to</i> or <i>for</i> is frequently left out.</p>
Predicate word	<p>A predicate word is a word which is connected back to the subject by a linking verb, i.e., a verb that is like an equals sign.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Mark is my friend. (Mark = friend) Mārcus amīcus meus est.</p> <p>In Latin, predicate words are in the same case as the subject, namely the <u>nominative</u>. Most linking verbs are forms of esse (to be), fieri (to become) and vidēri (to seem).</p>
Noun	<p>A noun is a word that can be the name of a person, animal, place, thing, event or idea. A noun that is that name of a specific person, place, thing, etc., is called a PROPER NOUN. The rest are called COMMON NOUNS:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">The king of gods and men was Jupiter. Jupiter is a proper noun, the others are common nouns.</p>

Pronoun	<p>A pronoun is a word used in place of one or more nouns. It may stand, therefore, for a person, animal, place, thing, event or idea:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Midas likes gold, and <u>he</u> turns everything to gold.</p> <p>The pronoun in this sentence is <u>he</u>.</p>
Preposition	<p>A preposition is a word that shows the relationship of one word (a noun or pronoun) to another word in the sentence. Prepositions may indicate location, direction, time, manner or agent:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Paul has an appointment <u>after</u> school.</p> <p>The preposition in this sentence is <u>after</u>.</p> <p>Prepositions themselves never change form. However, for each preposition, you must learn if it takes an object in the accusative or ablative case:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The chest was carried <i>toward an island</i>. Arca <i>ad īnsulam</i> portāta est. (<i>ad</i> takes the <u>accusative</u>, so <i>īnsulam</i> is in the <u>accusative</u> feminine singular.)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The chest was found <i>by a fisherman</i>. Arca <i>ā piscātōre</i> inventa est. <i>ā</i> or <i>ab</i> (“by”) requires an <u>ablative</u> object (similarly to English a/an, it is <i>ā</i> before a word beginning with a consonant, otherwise <i>ab</i>), so <i>piscātōre</i> is in the <u>ablative</u>.</p>
<p>Special note on cases used with prepositions:</p> <p>Some prepositions can take <u>either</u> the accusative <u>or</u> the ablative, depending on the way the preposition is used. The preposition <u>in</u> (<i>in, on</i>), for instance, is followed by the accusative when motion is indicated by the verb and ablative when there is no motion:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>The chest was thrown into the water.</i> Arca <i>in aquam</i> jacta est.</p> <p>The feminine singular “aquam” is in the <u>accusative</u> because of the</p>	

motion implied by the verb *thrown*.

Danaē remained *on the island*.

Danaē **in īnsulā** mānsit.

The feminine singular “īnsulā” is in the ablative because no motion is implied by the verb *remained*.

Nota Bene: When learning Latin prepositions, there are several important rules to remember:

1. Do not assume that the same preposition is used in Latin as in English, or even that one is used at all. The Latin case system makes many prepositions which must be used in English unnecessary in Latin.

- a. *of* (possessive) => genitive (no preposition)

The mother *of the boy* is here.

Māter **puerī** adest.

- b. *with* (by means of) => ablative (no preposition)

Perseus killed Medusa *with a sword*.

Perseus **gladiō** Medūsam necāvit.

- c. *on, at* (location) => locative (no preposition)

They live *at home*.

Domī habitant.

2. In English, be sure to distinguish between prepositional phrases introduced by to indicating the indirect object and to indicating direction toward a location.

- a. *to* indicating an indirect object => dative (no preposition)

The action of the verb is done *to* or *for* someone or something.

The prepositional phrase answers the question *to what?* or *to whom?*

He gave a theater to the city.

He gave the city a theater.

He gave the theater *to what?* To the city.

The city is the indirect object.

Urbī theātrum dōnāvit.

The feminine singular **urbī** is the indirect object and therefore dative.

- b. **to** indicating direction toward a location => **ad** + accusative
The preposition **to** is used in a phrase of direction towards a location. It answers the question *to where?*

*He was walking **to the city**.*

He was walking *to where?* To the city.

The city is the object of the preposition **to**. **Ad** (*to*) is followed by the location or destination in the accusative case.

Ad urbem ambulabat.

The feminine singular **urbem** is the object of the preposition **ad** and therefore accusative.

3. In an English sentence or question, remember to restructure dangling prepositions so that you can find the preposition's object and put it in its proper case.

Whom are you giving the book *to*?

RESTRUCTURED: *To whom* are you giving the book?

Whom are you going to play *with*?

RESTRUCTURED: *With whom* are you going to play?