Lingua Latina

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Declensions (Noun Endings)

Latin nouns generally have six cases, each with its own ending.   To put the matter simply, a case ending gives information on how a noun functions in the sentence.   If in the NOMINATIVE case (abbreviated with an "N"), a noun forms the subject, if GENITIVE (G), a possesive, if DATIVE (D), an indirect object or object of a preposition, if ACCUSATIVE (A), a direct object or object of a preposition, if ABLATIVE (Ab), an indication of separation, location, or agency, if VOCATIVE (not included), a direct address (as in Oh, Caesar!).   Consult a Latin grammar for more extensive information on cases and their functions.

Menu Layout

Choosing a Declension

Some declensions occur more frequently than others.   In general, the student should learn them in order since this roughly corresponds to the order of frequency.   Consult a Latin grammar for an explanation of the peculiarities of each declension.

A conjugation is a set of verb endings like amo (I love) - amas (you love) - amat (he, she, it loves)..

Verb Conjugations

A conjugation, simply put, is a collection of verb endings. Latin uses these verb endings to convey subtle variations of time and duration where English and a number of modern languages tend to use helping verbs. Consult a Latin grammar for the definition and function of these tenses.

The top of the menu displays the current <u>tense</u> along with the verb undergoing conjugation.   Below that (in light blue) is an approximate translation of the verb form into English..

The six slots on the conjugation form correspond to three persons (in both the singular and plural): first (I, We), second (you, you), and third (he, she, it, and they).

Menu Layout

Choosing a Conjugation

Latin has four major conjugations, each of which is represented here, along with the irregular verbs "esse" (to be) and "velle" (wish, will, desire). If you select any of these, Lingua Latina will run you through all 21 tenses for the conjugation you choose.

A PARTICULAR <u>TENSE</u> OR MOOD

If you'd like to concentrate on a particular <u>tense</u> (recommended for beginning users), then select "A PARTICULAR <u>TENSE</u> OR MOOD."   With this option, Lingua Latina will display a list of the possible tenses.   When you choose one (present indicative, let's say) the program will run you through only that <u>tense</u> in ALL FOUR regular conjugations and then return you to the menu of tenses.

Recommendations

Beginning students should consult their Latin grammar books in deciding which conjugations to learn and in what sequence.   However, common sense suggests that novices select A PARTICULAR <u>TENSE</u> OR MOOD and learn the "present indicative" first. After that, they should turn to the imperfect, perfect, and future indicatives, moving on to the passives (again starting with the present and then moving on to the imperfect, perfect, and future.) Some of the tenses listed in Lingua Latina occur   very rarely: passive pluperfect subjunctive, for example.

Tenses

When you select one of the tenses listed in this box, Lingua Latina will test you for that <u>tense</u> in all four regular conjugations and then return you to the chooser menu.   If you are unsure about the use or translation of a particular <u>tense</u>, consult a Latin grammar book or note the translations for each verb form displayed at the top of the conjugation box.

Pronouns

Pronouns, in general, take the place of nouns and thus have cases as nouns do: nominative (N) when it's the subject, genitive (G) when it's possessive, dative (D) when it's the indirect object or object of a preposition, accusative (A) when it's the direct object, or ablative (Ab) when it shows separation, location, or means.   Besides case, each set of pronouns has variations for three genders (masculine, feminine, and neuter) and number (singular and plural).   Consult a Latin grammar for a fuller explanation.

Menu Layout

A declension is a set of noun endings, like porta (the door) - portae (of the door), - portae (to the door) - portam (the door [object]), etc.

Getting Started

This program will drill you in the basics of Latin grammar. Ideally, you should use it along with a basic introductory grammar since the program does not provide extensive explanations of grammatical forms or their functions.

Click a Button and Begin

From the main menu, click on the button corresponding to one of the following choices:

Declensions

Conjugations

Pronouns

Layout and Function of Test Menu

The major tenses in Latin are past, present, and future, with the added distinctions of perfect (for a completed action) and imperfect (for an incomplete one)--consult your Latin grammar for more information.

A pronoun takes the place of a noun. Lingua Latina contains personal pronouns (I, you, he, she, it, etc.), relative pronouns (who, which), and demonstrative pronouns (this, that).

The Test Menus

Each test menu differs slightly from the rest: the declension form has ten slots (for five cases in the singular and plural), while the conjugation form has six (for the first, second, and third persons in the singular and plural), and the pronoun form has fifteen slots (for the five cases in three genders).

How to Proceed

?

Click on this square or type ? to see the correct answer if you don't know it.

Otherwise, proceed to fill in the blanks with the right answers. Look at the top of the box for the base form (these change each time!).   NOTE: You will not need to use the mouse to proceed from slot to slot.   When you've finished   an answer, simply hit ENTER and the program will pass you to the next slot (if you've got the answer right).

THE PERCENTAGE OF CORRECT ANSWERS is displayed in yellow in the upper right hand corner of the screen.

If you wish to quit before finishing, click on the QUIT button.

Options

Show Vowel Length

When checked, this option requires that you indicate long vowels (by typing a colon (:) after the vowel in question.

Sound

Turns the sound on or off.

Choosing a Pronoun

The pronouns listed in this form include personal pronouns (I, you, he, she, it, we, you, they), relative pronouns (who, which), and demonstratives (this, that).   Refer to a Latin grammar for further information