

Word Study • Grammar • Syntax

- ◆ The perfect tense is formed by adding the *perfect tense endings* to the perfect stem. The perfect tense endings are:

i	imus
isti	istis
it	erunt

- ◆ There are three translations for the perfect tense.
I loved I have loved I did love
- ◆ For the Latin verb, *perfect* means *completed*. The perfect tense describes a one-time action completed in the past. The perfect tense is in contrast to the imperfect tense which describes a repeated or ongoing action in the past. The imperfect tense is like a video, the perfect tense is like a snapshot.

Nunc aut numquam is an old saying with no known origin. It is used as a motto by many organizations, such as the Netherlands Commandos.

Oral Drill

we have shouted	1. clamávimus	1. we have judged	judicávimus
I have loved	2. amavi	2. they have sailed	navigaverunt
you (p) have guarded	3. servavistis	3. I have worked	laboravi
they have overcome	4. superaverunt	4. she has given	dedit
hsi has walked	5. ambulavit	5. you (p) have prepared	paravistis
you have prayed	6. oravisti	6. he has washed	lavit
they have given	7. dederunt	7. it has helped	juvit
I have erred	8. erravi	8. I have told	narravi
you (p) have stood	9. stetitistis	9. they have shouted	clamaverunt
hsi has praised	10. laudavit	10. we have fought	pugnávimus

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VOCABULARY

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Say each word aloud with its meaning and have students repeat after you.

Latin words without English cognates are more difficult for students to learn. Students are good at coming up with fun ways to connect a Latin word to its meaning, however. Teach **heri**, **hódie**, and **cras** as a unit and the rest of the words as pairs (*now, then; never, ever; always, often*).

Pronunciation helps:

The vowel team **ae** in **saepe** has the sound of /ey/ in *they*.

GRAMMAR - CHALK TALK

The primary meanings for the perfect tense are given in the grammar chart.

Look at **Bullet 3**.

Write *I have loved* on the board, and ask a student to complete the conjugation as you write it on the board. (you have loved, he has loved, we have loved, you have loved, they have loved) In what form does the helping verb change? (3rd person singular - *has* instead of *have*)

****Memorize the perfect tense endings, the perfect tense of *amo*, and the three English meanings.****

GRAMMAR - FYI

I loved is the *simple past*, **I did love** is the *emphatic past*, **I have loved** is the *present perfect*. The *present perfect* tense in English describes either an action of no definite time in the past or one completed in the present. As explained before, there isn't a one-to-one correspondence between the names and meanings of tenses in different languages. For instance:

Caesar walked to the Forum on the ides of March.
Caesar walked to the Forum every day.

The first sentence describes a one time completed action and would be translated by the perfect tense in Latin. The second sentence describes a repeated action and would be translated by the imperfect tense in Latin. In English, however, the past tense is used for both actions. You can consult the appendix for a comparison between English and Latin tenses, but teaching this to students is not recommended. At this point it is important that students simply memorize meanings for each tense that they learn. A thorough understanding will not be needed until translation of real Latin literature is begun.