

First Form Latin Oral Recitation at Highlands Latin School

Our 4th graders can say or write all of their Latin forms from memory because they have been taught in a way that makes them meaningful and memorable. For instance, in the first lesson students learn the personal endings, the verb stem, and how to conjugate a present tense verb and its meanings. The present tense makes sense to them and they memorize it by saying it aloud and writing it until they know it. The following week it is part of their beginning recitation, which at that point has only two parts, the personal endings and the present tense.

In the next lesson students learn the imperfect tense by contrast and comparison to the present, and the following week they learn the future tense. The recitation grows each week as students continue to add grammar forms to the ones they have already learned. The English meanings are also recited but have not been included in the charts below to save spaces.

When the student understands the present system of the 1st conjugation, the present system of the other conjugations is easy to learn. *First Form* teaches the present system of *sum* in one lesson, and then on to the perfect system. Contrast, comparison, and analysis carries the student through the whole grammar. It's a beautiful, elegant, amazingly consistent grammar system. It is a pleasure to learn and to teach.

We usually do a selection of the recitation on a particular day, but on occasion we do the whole thing just for fun and to show the students how much they know. Here are two suggested recitations for specific lessons of *First Form*. The entire recitation for *First Form* is at the end of this post.

FIRST FORM LESSON 6 ORAL RECITATION/REVIEW

Teacher: <i>Salvete amici Latinae</i>	(Hello friends of Latin)
Students: <i>Salve, magistra (magister)</i>	(Hello teacher)
Teacher: <i>Surgite</i>	(Stand up)
Teacher: <i>Recitemus</i>	(Let us recite)
o, s, t, mus, tis, nt	(personal endings)
bam, bas, bat, bamus, batis, bant	(imperfect tense endings)
bo, bis, bit, bimus, bitis, bunt	(future tense endings)
amo, amas ...	(present, imperfect, future)
voco, vocas...	(present, imperfect, future)
sum, es...	(present, imperfect, future)
Teacher: <i>Sedete</i>	(Sit down)

Grammar Questions: 1-37

FIRST FORM LESSON 19 ORAL RECITATION/REVIEW

Greeting

Teacher: <i>Recitemus</i>	
personal & tense endings	
1st conj.	principal parts, regular endings
amo	six tenses, principal parts
do, sto, juvo, lavo,	principal parts
sum	six tenses, principal parts
case names	
mensa, ae	
servus, i	
bellum, i	
bonus, bona, bonum	

Grammar Review Questions: 1-88

FIRST FORM COMPLETE RECITATION

Present System 1st Conjugation

Present tense	amo, amas, amat, amamus, amatis, amant
Imperfect tense	amabam, amabas, ...
Future tense	amabo, amabis, ...
personal endings	o, s, t, mus, tis, nt
imperfect tense endings	bam, bas,
future tense endings	bo, bis, bit,

Perfect System 1st Conjugation

Perfect tense	amavi, amavisti, amavit, amavimus, amavistis, amaverunt
Pluperfect tense	amaveram, amaveras, amaverat, ...
Future perfect tense	amavero, amaveris, ...
perfect tense endings	i, isti, it, imus, istis, erunt
pluperfect endings	eram, eras,
future perfect endings	ero, eris,

1st Conj. principal parts amo, amare, amavi, amatus
o, are, avi, atus

Irregular principal parts do, dare, dedi, datus
sto, stare, stei, status
juvo, juvare, juvi, jutus
lavo, lavare, lavi, lautus

Irregular verb sum sum, es, est, sumus, estis, sunt
eram, eras, erat. eramus, eratis, erant
ero, eris, erit, erimus, eritis, erunt
fui, fuisiti, fuit, fuimus, fuistis, fuerunt
fueram, fueras, ...
fuero, fueris, ...

Declensions 1st-2nd Declensions

1 st declension	mensa, mensae, mensae, mensam, mensa mensae, mensarum, mensis, mensas, mensis
case endings	a, ae, ae, am, a, ae, arum, is, as, is
2 nd declension M	servus, servi, servo, servum, servo servi, servorum, servis, servos, servis
case endings	us, i, o, um, o, i, orum, is, os, is
2 nd declension N	bellum, belli, bello, bellum, bello, bella, bellorum, bellis, bella, bellis
case endings	um, i, o, um, o, a, orum, is, a, is
1 st -2 nd decl. Adjectives	bonus, bona, bonum boni, bonae, boni, bono, bonae, bono bonum, bonam, bonum bono, bona, bono plural forms ...

Declensions 3rd -5th Declensions

3 rd declension M/F	pater, patris, patri, patrem, patre, patres, patrum, patribus, patres, patribus
case endings	-, is, i, em, e, es, um, ibus, es, ibus
3 rd declension N	nomen, nominis, nomini, nomen, nomine nomina, nominum, nominibus, nomina, nominibus
case endings	-, is, i, -, e, a, um, ibus, a, ibus
4 th declension	portus, portus, portui, portum, portu, portus, portuum, portibus, portus, portibus
case endings	us, us, ui, um, u, us, uum, ibus, us, ibus
5 th declension	res, rei, rei, rem, re, res, rerum, rebus, res, rebus
case endings	es, ei, ei, em, e, es, erum ebus, es, ebus

2nd Conjugation Present System

Present tense	moneo, mones, monet, monemus, monetis, monent
Imperfect tense	monebam, monebas, ...
Future tense	monebo, monebis,...

Perfect System

Perfect tense	monui, monuisti, monuit, monuimus, monuistis, monuerunt
Pluperfect tense	monueram, monueras, monuerat, ...
Future perfect tense	monuero, monueris, ...

1 st Cong. principal parts	moneo, monere, monui, monitus eo, rre, ui, itus
---------------------------------------	--

(* 2nd conj. irregular principal parts aren't included in the above)

First Form covers about ¼ of the Latin grammar, and this recitation is very close to the order in which the grammar is covered in its five units.