UNIT I INTRODUCTION

♦ In this unit you will learn *The Present System* of the *1st Conjugation* and the irregular verb **sum**.

♦ Latin verbs fall naturally into four groups or families called *conjugations*.

♦ Look at the conjugation of the present tense of the English verb *love*. Notice that the English verb *love* changes in the 3rd person singular which requires the ending **s**.

	SINGULAR	PLURAL
1st person *(person speaking)*	I love	we love
2nd person *(person spoken to)*	you love	you love
3rd person *(person spoken about)*	he, she, it <u>love**s**</u>	they love

♦ To *conjugate* a Latin verb is to say or write its forms in an organized chart similar to the one above.

♦ The six attributes of a Latin verb are: *conjugation, person, number, tense, voice,* and *mood*.
  In Latin, there are:

Four conjugations	1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th
Three persons	first, second, and third persons
Two numbers	singular, plural
Six tenses	present, imperfect, future (Present System)
	perfect, pluperfect, future perfect (Perfect System)
Two voices	active and passive
Three moods	indicative, imperative, subjunctive

♦ In this unit you will learn about conjugation, person, number, and tense, but not voice and mood. (All verbs in this text are in the same voice and mood, *active indicative*.)

♦ Latin is a language of *stems* and *endings*. The three tenses of the Present System are all built on the *present stem*. The stem is the part of the word that doesn't change. The endings change for person, number, tense, voice, and mood.

In choro recitemus.   *Let us recite together.*

First Conjugation - Present Tense

present stem   **ama-**

Person	Singular		Plural	
1st	*am-***o**	**I** *love*	*ama-***mus**	**we** *love*
2nd	*ama-***s**	**you** (sing.) *love*	*ama-***tis**	**you** (pl.) *love*
3rd	*ama-***t**	**he, she, it** *loves*	*ama-***nt**	**they** *love*

♦ **Amo** is our model to study *1st Conjugation* verbs.

♦ In the conjugation chart above the Latin *personal endings, o, s, t, mus, tis, nt,* are in bolded blue. The Latin personal endings correspond to the English personal pronouns.

♦ The *present tense* is formed by adding the personal endings to the *present stem*, **ama**.

♦ To find the *present stem* of each vocabulary word, drop the **o** and add **a,** the *stem vowel* of the first conjugation.[2]

Vocabulary

Latin	English	Derivatives
amo	I love, like	*amorous, amateur*
nato	I swim	*natatorium*
do	I give	*donate*
sto	I stand	*status*
lavo	I wash	*lavatory*
oro	I speak, pray	*orator*
paro	I prepare	*preparation*
porto	I carry	*portable*
servo	I guard, keep	*conservation*
voco	I call	*vocation, vocal*

◆ There are three persons in grammar. Below are the English pronouns and the corresponding Latin personal endings. Notice that English has only one word for the singular and plural **you**.

	SINGULAR		PLURAL	
First Person (person speaking)	*I*	*o/m*	*we*	*mus*
Second Person (person spoken to)	*you (sing.)*	*s*	*you (pl.)*	*tis*
Third Person (person spoken about)	*he, she, it*	*t*	*they*	*nt*

◆ The Latin present tense corresponds to the English *simple present, progressive present,* and *emphatic present*. In English **amo** can mean:

I love	simple present
I am loving	progressive present
I do love	emphatic present

Oral Drill

1.	**amant**	1.	he is swimming
2.	**portat**	2.	they pray
3.	**servo**	3.	she washes
4.	**natamus**	4.	you are guarding
5.	**lavas**	5.	he does give
6.	**oratis**	6.	we carry
7.	**dat**	7.	you (p) like
8.	**stant**	8.	we are calling
9.	**paramus**	9.	you stand
10.	**vocas**	10.	they prepare

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Stabat Mater   *The Mother was Standing*

First Conjugation - Imperfect Tense

present stem   **ama-**

Singular		Plural	
ama-**bam**	*I was loving*	*ama*-**bamus**	*we were loving*
ama-**bas**	*you were loving*	*ama*-**batis**	*you were loving*
ama-**bat**	*he, she, it was loving*	*ama*-**bant**	*they were loving*

♦ The *imperfect tense sign* is **ba**. The *imperfect tense* is formed by adding the *imperfect tense endings*, **bam**, **bas**, **bat**, **bamus**, **batis**, **bant** to the present stem, **ama**.

♦ *Imperfect* in Latin means *not finished*. The imperfect tense is used to describe an ongoing, repeated, habitual, or interrupted past action. It is never used to describe a single completed past action. Here are some examples of the imperfect tense in English.

I <u>was calling</u> you when the doorbell rang.   *interrupted*
I <u>used to call</u> home every week.   *repeated*

Vocabulary

Latin	English	Derivatives
juvo	I help	*adjutant*
narro	I tell	*narrator*
aro	I plow	*arable*
clamo	I shout	*clamor*
opto	I desire, wish	*option*
erro	I err, wander	*erroneous*
laudo	I praise	*laudable*
tempto	I tempt	*temptation*
pugno	I fight	*pugnacious*
specto	I look at	*inspect*

♦ The Latin word **specto** means *look at.* Sometimes an English preposition is needed to translate a Latin verb.

♦ Because the personal ending of the verb is sufficient to indicate a pronoun subject, a Latin sentence may consist of one word. This is *Sentence Pattern* #1 as described on pages 95-96 of this text.

I was fighting.	**Pugnabam.**
You were shouting.	**Clamabas.**
We are washing.	**Lavamus.**
He plows.	**Arat.**

Stabat Mater is the name of an ancient Latin hymn, also called *The Dolorosa,* celebrating the emotions of Mary at the Cross. *The Dolorosa* has been set to many different lines of music, plainsong and melodic, and has been used in liturgy since at least the 14th century. Notice that the verb in *Stabat Mater* is in the imperfect tense, and precedes the subject.

Oral Drill

1.	**laudabat**	1.	he was wandering
2.	**laudat**	2.	they plow
3.	**clamant**	3.	she praises
4.	**clamabant**	4.	you were fighting
5.	**juvamus**	5.	he was desiring
6.	**juvabamus**	6.	we tell
7.	**narrat**	7.	you (p) look at
8.	**narrabat**	8.	we were helping
9.	**spectas**	9.	you err
10.	**spectabas**	10.	they were praising

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