Course Introduction – A Note to Parents

Legamus Latinam 4th-6th Grade is an introductory course to the Latin language for beginners and those who have some familiarity with the Latin language. It is designed to instruct primary year students in the rudimentary structures of the language, while introducing them to seminal literature and prayers that have been instrumental in the development of Western culture and the Catholic faith. Each unit is ordered with seven basic parts.

1. A primary text relating to the weekly theme, along with a challenge section
2. Translation of the primary text in English
3. An exercise involving the primary text
4. A Latin grammar lesson
5. An activity to illustrate the grammar points
6. A section for daily practice at home to reinforce concepts
7. An answer key for all of the parts

In addition to the seven basic parts, online resources are occasionally included for various weekly lessons to aid in the study of the Latin Language.

The basic structure of the weekly grammatical lessons follows Benjamin L. D’Ooge’s text, Latin for Beginners (1911). It is a public domain textbook and an ideal resource for parents and students who want to further their understanding of the Latin Language. The textbook is highly recommend to supplement the learning of the language, but not completely necessary. All essential grammatical structures are introduced in the weekly lessons, but D’Ooge’s text is a valuable resource to reference if questions arise. Each weekly lesson will correspond with one or more of the lessons in D’Ooge’s text. Finally, D’Ooge introduces students to the classical pronunciation of Latin; whereas, for the purposes of this course, we encourage the ecclesiastical pronunciation of Latin. For the sake of brevity, I will reference Latin for Beginners simply as D’Ooge (e.g. see D’Ooge, Part I (§ 1-16).

T. M. Meyer

Resources

- Text: Benjamin L. D’Ooge, Latin for Beginners (1911). This text may be downloaded from the Schola Rosa online suite under “Resources for the Year”.
- Latin Dictionary (one may be purchased from the Schola Rosa online store)
1.1 Primary Text Reading

- *The Sign of the Cross*

   In nomine Patris, et Filii, et Spiritus Sancti. Amen.

- *Glory Be*


**Challenge Section**

- *Gospel of St. John 1.1, Vulgate*

   In principio erat Verbum et Verbum erat apud Deum et Deus erat Verbum.

**The Prayers and Scripture in English**

- *The Sign of the Cross*

   In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

- *Glory Be*

   Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen
1.2 Vocabulary Exercise:

Using the English translations, define the Latin words.

In nomine __________________________
Patris ____________________________
et ________________________________
Filii ______________________________
Spiritus Sancti ______________________
Gloria _____________________________
Patri _____________________________
Filio ______________________________

Spiritus Sancti ______________________
Patris ______________________________
et ________________________________
Filii ______________________________

erat ______________________________
In principio ________________________
nunc ______________________________
semper ______________________________
Verbum ____________________________
Deum ______________________________
Deus ______________________________

1.3 Grammar Lesson

In this unit we will introduce and practice the pronunciation of Ecclesiastical Latin.

Ecclesiastical Pronunciation. Latin is a living language. She is alive in her children, the modern languages that come from Latin, for example, French, Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese. Also, around 80 percent of English words have Latin roots! Latin is also alive in the Liturgy and prayers of the Catholic Church. Like modern languages, Latin is meant to be spoken and heard, along with being read. The modern pronunciation of Latin is what we call the Ecclesiastical Pronunciation. The pronunciation of Classical Latin, what Caesar, Cicero, and Vergil spoke, is a little different from the pronunciation that we are going to learn (and it is very easy to learn both). To begin,

1. Print out the pronunciation guides from these two websites.
   - [http://www.preces-latinae.org/theses/Introductio/Pronunciatio.html](http://www.preces-latinae.org/theses/Introductio/Pronunciatio.html)
   - [http://www.ewtn.com/expert/answers/ecclesiastical_latin.htm](http://www.ewtn.com/expert/answers/ecclesiastical_latin.htm)
2. Focus on the pronunciation of vowels and consonants
3. Practice pronouncing the vowels and consonants

Guidelines for Latin Pronunciation.

1. In Latin, there is a syllable for every vowel or diphthong (double vowel combination). When speaking Latin pronounce each syllable distinctly.
2. If a word has multiple syllables, the stress or accent on word depends on a few things:
   
   A. If the word only has two syllables, the accent or stress always falls on the first syllable, for example, PA-tris (remember the a is always pronounced like the a in father).
   
   B. If the word has three or more syllables, the accent depends upon whether or not the second to last (penult) syllable is long. If the penult syllable is long, the accent falls on that syllable, for example in-DU-cas. If the penult syllable is short, the accent falls on the third to last syllable (antepenult), for example NO-mi-ne.

Additional Resources:

- For more general information about the Latin Language, read D'Ooge's introduction (pp. 1-4), To the Student – By Way of Introduction. (See course introduction above for link to the text).
- To learn more about the Classical Pronunciation of Latin, see D'Ooge, Part I, The Pronunciation of Latin (§ 1-16).
- To listen to examples of the various prayers in Latin see, http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bge1eVNwymA. This resource includes all the prayers of the Holy Rosary. The Sign of the Cross can be found at 0:03, and the Glory Be at 2:03.

### 1.4 Grammar Exercise

Using the resources from the Grammar Lesson, practice aloud the pronunciation of these vowels and consonants.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vowels</th>
<th>Consonants</th>
<th>Diphthongs (double vowel combinations)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>C, before e, ae, oe, i, y</td>
<td>AE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>C, before a, o, u, au</td>
<td>OE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>CC</td>
<td>AU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O</td>
<td>SC</td>
<td>EU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U</td>
<td>CH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Y</td>
<td>G</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>GN</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J (sometimes written as I)</td>
<td>TI</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TH</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Practice reading aloud the three primary texts for this lesson. The accented syllable is in capital letters, and each word is broken up syllable by syllable.


- In prin-CI-pi-o ER-at VER-bum et VER-bum ER-at AP-ud DE-um et DE-us ER-at VER-bum.

1.5 Home Follow-up

Over the next week, take some time to memorize the vocabulary listed below. An excellent way to study vocabulary is by making flash cards. For each of the following items, make a flash card to study. On one side of the flash card write the Latin, the other side the English.

- pater, patris, m. father
- filius, -i, m. son (FI-li-us)
- nomen, nominis, n. name
- Deus, -i, m. God
- principium, -i, n. beginning (prin-CI-pi-um)
- verbum, -i, n. word
- puella, -ae, f. girl (PUEL-la)
- silva, -ae, f. forest
- agricola, -ae, f. farmer (ag-RI-co-la)
- terra, -ae, f. land

N.B. Write out the entire entry for the Latin, pater, patris, m., and start familiarizing yourself with the entire dictionary entry. Also, practice saying aloud each of the words as you study. All of the words except filius, principium, puella and agricola have two syllables, so the accent is on the first syllable. A syllable guide is provided for the others.
Homework Challenge

Instead of writing the English on one side of the flash card, draw a picture for the word (e.g. draw a picture of a forest on one side, and silva, ae, -f. on the other.)
1.6 Answer Keys

Vocabulary Answer Key (1.2)

In nomine: “in the name”
Patris: “of the Father” or “Father”
et: “and”
Fili: “of the Son” or “Son”
Spiritus Sancti: “of the Holy Spirit” or “Holy Spirit”
Gloria: “glory be”
Patri: “to the Father” or “Father”
Filio: “to the Son” or “Son”
Spiritus Sancto: “to the Holy Spirit” or “Holy Spirit”
erat: “was”
In principio: “in the beginning”
nunc: “now”
semper: “always”
Verbum: “the Word”
Deum: “God”
Deus: “God”

Grammar Exercise Answer Key (1.4)

For correct pronunciations, reference the resources listed in the grammar lesson.