

Mnemonics in the Latin Classroom

N.B. mnemonic = a memory assisting device; derived from Mnemosyne, the mother of the 9 Muses

A mnemonic in your Latin classroom could be a word, phrase, acronym, sound, gesture, prop, poem or song!

Latin Grammar

The 8 Parts of Speech:

VAIN CAPP

verb, adjective, interjection, noun,
conjunction, adverb, preposition, pronoun

Nouns, Adjectives, Pronouns

The Five Cases: Nominative, Genitive, Dative, Accusative, Ablative

No Great Danes Accept Abuse
Never Give Dummies Accolades Abruptly
Never Go Dating Accusing A Blond
Never Get Drunk At All

Names of trees are always FEMININE because of the spirits (dryads) in the trees!

Duration of Time and Extent of Space

Are always expressed in the ACCUSATIVE case...with no preposition!

The masculine First Declension Nouns:

PAIN = pirata, agricola, incola, nauta

Or

The APPIAN words = agricola, pirata, poeta, incola, auriga, nauta

Coffin Press Verbs all take the Dative Case:

Credo, Faveo, Noceo, Placeo, Resisto, Servio, Studeo

A poem for remembering the verbs which take dative objects:

Injure, favor, help and please
Trust, distrust, command, displease
Serve, obey, indulge, resist,
Pardon, spare, are on the list!
Add to these believe, persuade,
Threaten, envy, and dissuade

The adjectives which take the dative: Kind, friendly, dear,
pleasing, hostile, near.

or

Kind, friendly, dear, pleasing, and hostile are near to a dative. Equal, unequal, and dissimilar are similar to them.

The Naughty Nine have their genitive in –ius and their dative in –i.

UNUS NAUTA

unus, nullus, uter, solus neuter, alius, ullus, totus, alter

“**This** and **that**, **who** and **he**

are **certain** words with the **same** GENius DATi”

For *hic, ille, qui, is, quidam*, and *idem* all have -ius in the genitive and -i in the dative

SID SPACE, the Ablative Astronaut: The 8 prepositions which are followed by an ablative:

sub, in, de, sine, pro, ab/a, cum, ex/e

or

A, or Ab

Cum and De,

Sine, Pro,

Ex and E;

Sometimes *In* and sometimes *Sub*

are followed by the ABLATUB!!!

or

ab, de, ex, cum, sine, pro, ablative ablative

all the rest take the accusative

except for *in* and *sub*, which take both

or

Ablative Cheer:

ab, cum, de

play team play

sine, pro

go team go

sub, ex, in

win team win

Don't FORGET to REMEMBER which verbs take the genitive case:

obliviscor and *memini*

PUFF-Verbs: The five deponent verbs which take an ablative object

potior, utor, fruor, fungor, vescor

Tis the season to be jolly

Fa la la la la la la la la

Here are the 5 ablative verbs:

Fa la...

Potior, utor, fruor, fungor, vescor

Gain possession, to use, to enjoy, perform, and graze

The suffix –DEM means iDEMtical!!!

An -x always flees...

and changes to a -c- or a -g-

and not very often a -v!

e.g., rex, regis; pax, pacis

To help distinguish between *HIC* and *ILLE*: *ILLE* has two Ls in it and *THAT* has two Ts!

Make DAM certain that your DEMs are the same!

Ablative of Place From Which and Accusative of Place to Which and Use of Prepositions:

With *domus*, *humus*, *rus*,

names of small islands or towns,

no prepositions are used

with ablative or accusative nouns.

But *ab*, *de*, and *ex*

with other "from which" places

are the prepositions used

for the ablative cases.

Others not mentioned,

"to which" places one knows,

the preposition *ad* or *in*

with the accusative goes!

Fourth Declension:

(all the u's are sound like "you's", when spoken)

u stupid

u stupid

u stupid

u u moron (or u unbelievable moron)

u idiot

i bet u stupid

u moron

u stupid

u

i bet u stupid

You can replace stupid with smart and then use intelligent, marvelous, etc.

What is more helpful than the very strange

T

E

R

M

M

E

V ?

More and very in the question help you remember

Too

-Er

Rather

More

Very
-Est
Most

Verbs

Present Tense:

MOST, MUST, ISN'T (person, number endings)

m, o	mus
s	tis
t	nt

Use the old Mickey Mouse Club video and sing "o s t mus tis nt" to it spelling out each ending.

Imperfect Tense:

Speedy Gonzalez was running around and kept on shouting
"aba eba eba ieba ieba."

Show students a video of him and say that the Mexican Speedy may say areba areba andalay andalay but our Roman speedy (preferably drawn by a student in a toga) says aba eba eba ieba ieba.

This helps students remember the intermediate letters of each conjugation of the imperfect tense. The vowel(s) in front of the ba is/are also the same as those for present participles.

Future Tense: -Bo, -Bi-, -Bu- for I and II (one and two)
-A- and -E- for IV and III (four and three)

In the future 1 and 2, you use a bo, 5 bi's, bu.

In the future 3 and 4, you use an a and five e's more.

Future 1 and 2, bo, bi, bu.

Future 3 and 4, a e forever more.

Perfect Tense:

Did you see or have you read about the perfect XL SUV that my mom gave me?

The letters x, l, s, u, and v often indicate that you have a perfect tense verb. I let a class pick out the car they want on google images and then we brainstorm our own list of Latin verbs that use those letters in their third principle parts. Vidi, Legi, and dedi are three examples of verbs that don't have an xlsu or v in them but are still perfect tense. All three verbs are in the sentence with different possible perfect tense translations.

I project a picture of the perfect Christmas tree on the board and then decorate with the ornaments i isti it imus istis erunt. We then seeing over and over again Oh Christmas Tree with those endings. Spell out imus and istis to make the song work. Pronounce all the other endings. Stress it a picture t acne these are new endings for kids who have only done the Mickey Mouse song with present tense endings.

The Irregular III Conjugation singular imperatives:

Dic, Duc, Fac, and Fer

Should have an -e,

But it isn't there!

Third Conjugation:

Third conjugation has stormy weather -- an -o which looks like a rain cloud, four -i's as rain drops, and -u as a bucket to catch them. For the third -io, one raindrop hits the ground in front of the bucket thus -iunt.

When we are reading a sentence with an indirect statement as soon as we read the mind or mouth (above the neck verb) I raise my right foot in the air in a large gesture. Before my foot hits the ground students know to shout out "that," then I follow with the phrase "subject accusative, verb infinitive" and students tend to translate the sentence correctly. For some odd reason the delay and grand motion of my right leg/foot helps them see that we are dropping an indirect statement in at the same time that my foot is dropping.

The pERIfect subjunctive. When you first introduce the pERIfect subjunctive you always say it with the ERI. Then students remember that it has these letters. Now the tense form in FACT(A) has been made SIMple (facta sim).

Tam, ita, sic, tantus, talis, tot, and adeo are so helpful that you will always recognize the result clause that follows.

I urge, ask, order, persuade, advise, and exHORT you to learn

I

M + dative

P

R

O + accusative

M

P

P + ablative

Q

Impero

Mando

Persuadeo

Rogo

Oro

Moneo

Peto

Postulo

Quaero

Vowel stem for the present subjunctive of a regularly conjugated verb:

I = e II = ea III = a IIIio & IV = ia

Let's eat caviar!
Ben reads a diary!
She wears a tiara!
We beat all liars!
She eats a pizza!

The present active participle's base ends in -NT-.

The gerund's base includes an -ND-.

The gerundIVE is an adjective!

Adverbs

The five "S" adverbs

semper has 6 letters and so does always

saepe has 5 letters and so does often

subito starts with SU- and so does suddenly

statim ends in -IM and immediately starts with it

simul gives the derivative simultaneous which means AT THE
SAME TIME

Teach *diu* using the Billy Joel song "For the Longest Time" and replace these four words with "*Diutissime*." It fits the rhythm of the song.

Conjunctions

After *si*, *nisi*, *num*, and *ne*

any ALI-s fall away! e.g., *Si aliquis* = *Si quis* = If **anyone**

Prepositions

In has fewer letters than into; ablative has fewer letters than accusative.

Therefore *in* takes the ablative when it means in, and the accusative when
into.

Ab...the bowl of the -b- faces away from the -a-

Ad...the bowl of the -d- faces toward the -a-

The Study of Ancient Rome in the Latin Classroom

Roman History and Geography

The Seven Hills of Rome: Caelian, Quirinal, Viminal, Esquiline, Capitoline, Aventine, Palatine

Can Queen Victoria Eat Cold Apple Pie?

The Five Battles of the Civil War between Caesar and Pompey:

Ilerda – 49 BC	In
Pharsalia – 48 BC	People's
Zela – 47 BC	Zoos
Thapsus – 45 BC	They
Munda – 45 BC	Move

The Seven Kings of Rome: Romulus, Numa, Tullus, Ancus, Tarquinius (Priscus), Servius, Tarquinius (Superbus)

Roman Noodles Toss and Turn, Serve Them!

The order in which the Cursus Honorum was achieved:

Quaestor...Aedile...Praetor...Consul

Quiet Always Punishes Children!

Roman Life and Culture

In March, July, October, May
The Ides are on the fifteenth day.
The Nones the seventh, and all besides,
Have two days less for Nones and Ides.

or

In March, July, October, May the Ides fall on the fifteenth day.
On all the others in between, the Ides fall on the thirteen.
So the Nones are like the Ides
But with the sevens and the fives

M&Ms and Orange Juice:

March and May
October and July
The four months on which the Ides fall on the 15th!

Mary Margaret Jo (March May July October)

Mythology

9 Muses: Clio, Erato, Euterpe, Polyhymnia, Urania, Terpsichore, Melpomen, Calliope, Thalia

Children even eat peas unless their mother cooks them!

Latin in Use Today

FRIPS: The five modern languages derived from Latin:

French, Romanian, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish

Ian Hochberg and Linda Montross