

PRIMA LATINA

An Introduction to Christian Latin

Second Edition



TEACHER MANUAL

By Leigh Lowe

CLASSICAL TRIVIUM CORE SERIES

Your Next Latin Program
Latina Christiana I
by Cheryl Lowe

Once you complete *Prima Latina*, the next recommended course is *Latina Christiana I*.
Latina Christiana flashcards may be used with *Prima Latina*

Prima Latina: Teacher Manual
By Leigh Lowe

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Prima Latina



2ND EDITION

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Prima Latina (A Latin precursor for young children)

Prima Latina is a preparatory course for Cheryl Lowe's *Latina Christiana*. It is intended for teachers with no background in Latin, and was developed for children in first through fourth grade. The course was designed for students who are still becoming familiar with English grammar but are competent readers. Its goal is to teach and reinforce an understanding of the basic parts of speech while introducing Latin vocabulary and grammar. This course provides a solid foundation in grammar before moving on to more advanced language and Latin skills. *Prima Latina* is an ideal precursor to *Latina Christiana*, as the vocabulary and format are taken directly from the *Latina Christiana I* text. The book is accompanied by an audio CD for pronunciation guidance. *Latina Christiana I Flashcards* are an ideal study aid for *Prima Latina* and a great investment for the parent or teacher who intends to use *Latina Christiana I* and *II* as successor courses.

A great study aid is available from Memoria Press: *Prima Latina Instructional DVDs*, taught by Leigh Lowe. Call your favorite curriculum provider or visit www.MemoriaPress.com for information on these DVDs and other great Memoria Press books.

Prima Latina uses the clear and systematic format developed in *Latina Christiana* to introduce Latin to young students. The course teaches students seven parts of speech, 125 Latin vocabulary words, numbers 1 through 10, basic constellations, and simple introductions to tenses, derivatives, conjugations, and declensions. Each of the 25 lessons consists of a new grammar skill, five vocabulary words that correspond with the lesson, a practical Latin phrase, and one line of a prayer that is learned in totality by the end of the chapter. The exercises that accompany each lesson are thorough and provide constant review of materials learned throughout the course. The book includes five review lessons, five tests, an appendix, and an answer key.

I hope that *Prima Latina* inspires in your child a love of the Latin language and provides a foundation that proves helpful in many areas of study. I wish you the best of luck as you begin what will hopefully be an enjoyable and fruitful study of Latin.

Ora et labora,



Leigh Lowe

GRAMMAR OVERVIEW

This grammar overview is designed for the teacher who has no background in Latin. It is not necessary to understand it fully. Read carefully and then go on to the Teacher Guidelines. The content of this section will become clear as you teach the course.

Ancient languages such as Latin and Greek are highly **inflected**. This means that the relationship between words (syntax) is shown by changing the endings of the words. In modern languages like English, which have little inflection, the relationship between words is shown by **word order and prepositions**.

Cases of Nouns

In English we can change the end of a noun to make it plural or possessive. So girl can also be written *girls*, *girl's*, or *girls'*. In pronouns we use different forms, such as *he* or *him*, for subject and object. These are examples of inflection in English. In Latin there is much more **inflection**. The endings of nouns change depending on their **function** in the sentence. The different functions a noun can perform in a sentence are called **cases**.

Nominative case: nouns that are subjects or predicate nouns

Genitive case: nouns that are possessive

Dative case: nouns that are indirect objects

Accusative case: nouns that are direct objects / prep. ob.

Ablative case: nouns that are prepositional objects

Declensions

Writing a noun with all of its case endings in both the singular and plural is called **DECLINING** a noun. The **DECLENSION** of *puella* (girl) in Latin is:

	Singular	Plural
Nom.	<i>puella (girl)</i>	<i>puellae (girls)</i>
Gen.	<i>puellae (of the girl / girl's)</i>	<i>puellarum (of the girls / girls')</i>
Dat.	<i>puellae (to or for the girl)</i>	<i>puellis (to or for the girls)</i>
Acc.	<i>puellam (girl)</i>	<i>puellas (girls)</i>
Abl.	<i>puella (by, with, or from the girl)</i>	<i>puellis (by, with, or from the girls)</i>

In Latin there are **FIVE DECLENSIONS**—groups of nouns that have the same or similar case endings. The declension above is the **FIRST DECLENSION**. Students will learn two declensions in this book and will learn the next three declensions in Book II.

Latin Word Order

Word order is very important in English because it indicates the function of the noun. The subject comes first in the sentence.

The girl sees the queen.

sub. d.o.

The queen sees the girl.

sub. d.o.

GRAMMAR OVERVIEW

In Latin the subject and direct object are indicated by the case endings of the nouns, **not the order of the words**. Both of the Latin sentences below mean the same thing even though the word order is different.

Puella reginam videt.
Girl queen sees
sub. d.o.

Reginam puella videt.
Queen girl sees
d.o. sub.

Both translate: *The girl sees the queen*. The direct object, *reginam* (queen), is signaled by the accusative ending *am*, not by its position following the subject and verb.

Verbs

In Latin, the different forms of verbs are constructed by inflection, adding different endings to the verbs rather than by adding helping verbs, as in English.

voco	I call
vocabo	I will call
vocabam	I was calling

There are six tenses of verbs in Latin and English. This year we will learn three tenses.

Writing a verb with its endings which indicate *person, number, tense*, etc. is called conjugating a verb. There are four groups of verbs that have the same or similar endings and they are called conjugations. We will learn the first two CONJUGATIONS this year. Here is the **FIRST CONJUGATION**.

Present Tense

	Singular		Plural	
1st Person	voco	<i>I call</i>	vocamus	<i>we call</i>
2nd Person	vocas	<i>you call</i>	vocatis	<i>you call</i>
3rd Person	vocat	<i>he, she, it calls</i>	vocant	<i>they call</i>

STUDENT GOALS FOR PRIMA LATINA

1. Learn basic Latin alphabet and pronunciation of vowels and consonant sounds.
2. Pronounce, spell, and translate approximately 125 Latin words.
3. Learn 25 practical Latin expressions and 4 prayers in full.
4. Learn numbers 1 through 10.
5. Learn names of popular constellations.
6. Understand concept of derivatives, English words that are derived from Latin.
7. Grammar
 - A. Learn to identify basic parts of speech including verbs, nouns, prepositions, pronouns, adjectives, adverbs, and conjunctions.
 - B. Recognize that conjugating is associated with verbs.
 - C. Recognize that declining is associated with nouns.
 - D. Memorize 1st declension noun endings.
 - E. Memorize 1st conjugation verb endings.

PRONUNCIATION RULES

The Alphabet

The Latin alphabet has no *w*. Words with *y* are of Greek origin.

Vowels

In Christian Latin vowels are usually long.

<u>Vowel</u>	<u>Long</u>	<u>Example</u>
a	<i>father</i> (ah)	ambulo
e	<i>they</i> (ay)	deus
i	<i>machine</i> (ee)	via
o	<i>no</i> (oh)	toga
u	<i>rule</i> (oo)	luna

Sometimes the vowels *e* and *i* tend toward the short vowel sounds (*Ed, it*) as in *mensa* and *et*.

Diphthongs and Digraphs

<u>Digraph</u>	<u>Pronunciation</u>	<u>Example</u>
ae	like <i>e</i> in <i>they</i> (ay)	caelum
oe	like <i>e</i> in <i>they</i> (ay)	proelium
<u>Diphthong</u>		
au	like <i>ou</i> in <i>cow</i> (ow)	laudo, nauta

Consonants

Most of the consonants are pronounced as in English, with the following exceptions.

<u>Consonant</u>	<u>Pronunciation</u>	<u>Examples</u>
c	soft before <i>e, i, ae, oe</i> , like <i>ch</i> in <i>charity</i>	decem, caelum
c	hard before other letters, like <i>c</i> as in <i>cut</i>	clamo, corona
g	soft before <i>e, i, ae, oe</i> , like <i>g</i> as in <i>germ</i>	regina, gemini
g	hard before other letters like <i>g</i> as in <i>go</i>	toga, navigo
gn	like <i>gn</i> as in <i>lasagne</i>	pugno
j	like <i>y</i> as in <i>yet</i>	Jesus, judico
s	like <i>s</i> as in <i>sing</i> (never like <i>z</i>)	tres, mensa
sc	like <i>sh</i>	discipulus
t	like <i>tsee</i> when followed by <i>i</i> and a vowel	etiam



Prima Latina Lessons



Practical Latin

Salve!
Salvete!

– Hello! (to one person)
– Hello! (to more than one person)

Lesson – The Alphabet

The building blocks of any language are the letters used to make words.

The English Alphabet

There are *26 letters* in the English alphabet.

The **alphabet** is made up of two types of letters:

vowels and

consonants

A, E, I, O, U

BCD FGH JKLMN PQRST VWXYZ
(all letters that are not vowels)

The Latin Alphabet

The Latin alphabet looks like the English alphabet EXCEPT:

There are only *25 letters* in the Latin alphabet.

The Latin alphabet has no **W**.

Latin has the same vowels as English, **A, E, I, O, U**, but they sound a little different. Here are the Latin vowel sounds.

Vowel	Latin Sound
A	<i>ah</i> , as in <i>father</i>
E	<i>ay</i> , as in <i>way</i>
I	<i>ee</i> , as in <i>see</i>
O	<i>oh</i> , as in <i>no</i>
U	<i>oo</i> , as in <i>boo</i>

**** Remember**

Latin **E** sounds like an English long **A**.
Latin **I** sounds like an English long **E**.



Vocabulary

Practice saying the Latin **vowels** in each word.

1. ambulo	I walk
2. via	road
3. Deus	God
4. toga	toga
5. luna	moon

Latin Prayers

Oremus

Say this before each prayer.

Let us pray

Derivatives

ambulance

a vehicle to carry those who cannot walk to the hospital (n.)

viaduct

a roadway or bridge on piers (n.)

deity

a god (n.)

lunar

having to do with the moon (adj.)



Review Questions

1. How many letters are in the English alphabet? 26
2. How many letters are in the Latin alphabet? 25
3. What letter is missing from the Latin alphabet? W
4. What are the two kinds of letters in the English alphabet? vowels & consonants

Translation

1. toga toga
2. Deus God
3. ambulo I walk
4. luna moon
5. via road

Speaking Latin Listen to the Lesson 1 track on your Prima Latina CD.

- Practice saying the Latin vowel sounds in order: *ah, ay, ee, oh, oo*
Can you say them five times in a row?
How fast can you correctly say them?
- Practice saying "Salve" or "Salvete" to your parents, brothers and sisters, or friends this week.
- Begin the prayer before each meal with "Oremus."
- Say each vocabulary word and its meaning five times.



Write and Learn

1. Write out the English alphabet.

Circle the vowels and underline the consonants.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

2. Write out the Latin alphabet for practice. Make sure to leave out or cross out the W!

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V X Y Z

3. Write each vocabulary word and its meaning twice.

- | | | |
|----|--------|--------|
| 1. | ambulo | I walk |
| | ambulo | I walk |
| 2. | via | road |
| | via | road |
| 3. | Deus | God |
| | Deus | God |
| 4. | toga | toga |
| | toga | toga |
| 5. | luna | moon |
| | luna | moon |

Fun Practice: Draw a line to match the letter with its Latin sound.

A	_____	ah
I	_____	ee
U	_____	ay
E	_____	oh
O	_____	oo