

Capitulum XV - Magister et Discipuli

Present Tense of Verbs - Full Forms

Latin verbs are divided into four groups (conjugations) with characteristic vowels *ā*, *ē*, *e*, and *ī*. Here are the forms for the four conjugations in the present tense, active voice:

| 1st Conj. | | 2nd Conj. | | 3rd Conj. | | 4th Conj. | |
|-----------|----------|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|
| clāmō | clāmāmus | rideō | ridēmus | dīcō | dīcimus | audiō | audīmus |
| clāmās | clāmātis | ridēs | ridētis | dīcis | dīcitis | audīs | audītis |
| clāmat | clāmant | ridet | rident | dīcit | dīcunt | audit | audiunt |

Note that the personal endings are stable throughout to indicate person and number:

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| -ō (I) | -mus (we) |
| -s (you <i>sing</i>) | -tis (you <i>pl</i>) |
| -t (he, she, it) | -nt (they) |

Present Tense of *sum*, *possum* and *eō*.

The verbs *sum*, *esse* (to be), *possum*, *posse* (to be able) and *eō*, *īre* (to go) are irregular in Latin. Here are the present tense forms:

| <i>sum, esse</i> | | <i>eō, īre</i> | | <i>possum, posse</i> | |
|------------------|-------|----------------|------|----------------------|----------|
| sum | sumus | eō | īmus | possum | possumus |
| es | estis | īs | ītis | potes | potestis |
| est | sunt | it | eunt | potest | possunt |

Personal Pronouns

The full forms of the personal pronouns in Latin are:

| | | | |
|-------------------|-------------|--------------------|------|
| <i>ego</i> | I | <i>nōs</i> | we |
| <i>tū</i> | you | <i>vōs</i> | you |
| <i>is, ea, id</i> | he, she, it | <i>eī, eae, ea</i> | they |

Personal pronouns as not required in Latin but may be used for clarity or emphasis.

The third person personal pronouns often are used as demonstratives (*is vir*, this man).

Sē in Indirect Speech

The reflexive pronoun is used to indicate that the subject in Indirect Speech is the same as the subject of the main verb. Note the difference between these statements:

Quīntus dīcit sē aegrū esse. Quintus says that he (Quintus) is sick.

Quīntus dīcit eum aegrū esse. Quintus says that he (someone else) is sick.

The Impersonal Verb *licet*.

Some verbs in Latin have no forms other than the third person singular. These are called “impersonals” and can be translated with the corresponding impersonal form in English. This chapter introduces the impersonal verb *licet*, it is permitted, it is allowed. It regularly governs a complementary infinitive.

In lectulō dormīre licet, hīc in lūdō nōn licet dormīre. It is allowed to sleep in your bed, it is not allowed to sleep here in school.

Vocabulary

nōndum *adv* not yet

statim *adv* immediately

tum *adv* then, at that time

domī: at home (a locative)

at *conj* but, however

sī *conj* if

nisi *conj* if not, unless, except