

Mnemonics in the Latin Classroom

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(Many mnemonics came from former National Latin Exam chair Linda Montross. Please let me know if any of these mnemonics are not appropriate in terms of diversity, equity, and inclusion. It had come to our attention that some past exams were not affirming of all students and therefore those mnemonics have been removed.)

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

Need Good Doughnuts After Appetizers

Names of trees are always FEMININE because of the spirit in the tree!

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, displeasure
Serve, obey, indulge, resist,
Pardon, spare, are on the list!
Add to these believe, persuade,
Threaten, envy, and dissuade

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!!!

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

Here are the 5 ablative verbs:

Potior, utor, fruor, fungor, vescor

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

The suffix –DEM means iDEMtical!!!

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

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!

Third Declension:

Third declension 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.

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

V
E
M ?

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:

"aba eba eba ieba ieba" gives the vowel patterns before the -ba- for each conjugation of verbs

The same vowel patterns exist for present participles:

-ans, -ens, -ens, -iens, -iens

Imperfect sheep were ba-ing, used to ba-, and kept on ba-ing.

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.

Have students make up a class cheer with the perfect tense endings:
i, isti, it, imus, istis, erunt

The Irregular III Conjugation singular imperatives:

Dic, Duc, Fac, and Fer
Ought to have an -e,
But it isn't there!

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

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

Ben Reads a Diary.
Let's Eat Caviar!
She Wears a Diamond!
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!

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 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

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

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

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!

Mythology

9 Muses: Clio, Erato, Euterpe, Polyhymnia, Urania, Terpsichore,
Melpomene, 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