

Grammar: active verbs

Overview

Active verbs are those where the subject, expressed in the nominative case, does something.

The teachers *instruct* the students.

Regular Latin verbs fall into four groups, called **conjugations**. The basic verb endings are almost the same, but the vowel before the ending, and the stem, changes with the conjugation.

There are six tenses in Latin:

Present	I walk
Imperfect	I was walking
Perfect	I walked, I have walked
Pluperfect	I had walked
Future	I shall walk
Future Perfect	I shall have walked

At this point, two moods are important too. These are the **indicative** and the **subjunctive**. The indicative is the normal form of the verb. The subjunctive is the form used in various constructions, which will be explained on each appropriate page.

First conjugation indicative

This is characterised by an 'a' in the stem.

amo, amare - to love

	Present	Imperfect	Perfect	Pluperfect	Future	Future Perfect
I	amo	amabam	amavi	amaveram	amabo	amavero
You	amas	amabas	amavisti	amaveras	amabis	amaveris
He, she, it	amat	amabat	amavit	amaverat	amabit	amaverit
We	amamus	amabamus	amavimus	amaveamus	amabimus	amaverimus
You	amatis	amabatis	amavistis	amaveratis	amabitis	amaveritis
They	amant	amabant	amaverunt	amaverant	amabunt	amaverint

Second conjugation indicative

This is characterised by a long 'ē' in the stem.

gaudeo, gaudēre - to rejoice, be happy

	Present	Imperfect	Perfect	Pluperfect	Future	Future Perfect
I	gaudeo	gaudebam	gaudui	gaudueram	gaudebo	gauduero
You	gaudes	gaudebas	gauduisti	gaudueras	gaudebis	gaudueris
He, she, it	gaudet	gaudebat	gaudit	gauduerat	gaudebit	gauduerit
We	gaudemus	gaudebamus	gauduimus	gaudueramus	gaudebimus	gauduerimus
You	gaudetis	gaudebatis	gauduistis	gaudueratis	gaudebitis	gaudueritis
They	gaudent	gaudebant	gauduerunt	gauduerant	gaudebunt	gauduerint

Third conjugation indicative

This is characterised by a short 'e'.

occido, occidere - to kill

	Present	Imperfect	Perfect	Pluperfect	Future	Future Perfect
I	occido	occidebam	occisi	occiseram	occidam	occidero
You	occidis	occidebas	occisisti	occiseras	occides	occideris
He, she, it	occidit	occidebat	occisit	occiserat	occidet	occiderit
We	occidimus	occidebamus	occisimus	occiseramus	occidemus	occiderimus
You	occiditis	occidebatis	occisistis	occuseratis	occidetis	occideritis
They	occidunt	occidebant	occiserunt	occiserant	occident	occiderint

Fourth conjugation indicative

This is characterised by an 'i'.

audio, audire - to hear

	Present	Imperfect	Perfect	Pluperfect	Future	Future Perfect
I	audio	audiebam	audivi	audiveram	audiam	audivero
You	audis	audiebas	audivisti	audiveras	audies	audiveris
He, she, it	audit	audiebat	audivit	audiverat	audiet	audiverit
We	audimus	audiebamus	audivimus	audiveramus	audiemus	audiverimus
You	auditis	audiebatis	audivistis	audiveratis	audietis	audiveritis
They	audiunt	audiebant	audiverunt	audiverant	audient	audiverint

First conjugation subjunctive

	Present	Imperfect	Perfect	Pluperfect
I	amem	amarem	amaverim	amavissem
You	ames	amares	amaveris	amavisses
He, she, it	amet	amaret	amaverit	amavisset
We	amemus	amaremus	amaverimus	amavissemus
You	ametis	amaretis	amaveritis	amavissetis
They	ament	amarent	amaverint	amavissent

Second conjugation subjunctive

	Present	Imperfect	Perfect	Pluperfect
I	gaudeam	gauderem	gauduerim	gauduissem
You	gaudeas	gauderis	gaudueris	gauduissetis
He, she, it	gaudeat	gauderet	gauduerit	gauduisset
We	gaudeamus	gauderemus	gauduerimus	gauduissemus
You	gaudeatis	gauderetis	gaudueritis	gauduissetis
They	gaudeant	gauderent	gauduerint	gauduisissent

Third conjugation subjunctive

	Present	Imperfect	Perfect	Pluperfect
I	occidam	occiderem	occiderim	occidissem
You	occidas	occideres	occideris	occidisses
He, she, it	occidat	occideret	occiderit	occidisset
We	occidamus	occideremus	occiderimus	occidissemus
You	occidatis	occideretis	occideritis	occidissetis
They	occidant	occiderent	occiderint	occidissent

Fourth conjugation subjunctive

	Present	Imperfect	Perfect	Pluperfect
I	audiam	audirem	audiverim	audivissem
You	audias	audires	audiveris	audivisses
He, she, it	audiat	audiret	audiverit	audivisset
We	audiamus	audiremus	audiverimus	audivissemus
You	audiatis	audiretis	audiveritis	audivissetis
They	audiant	audirent	audiverint	audivissent

Examples drawn from the exercises

1. puellae sacra canunt. *Exercise 1*
2. quanta illum toto versant suspiria lecto. *Exercise 6*
3. videtis intestinam aliquam. *Exercise 7*
4. fata iubet. *Exercise 6*
5. sternuit approbationem. *Exercise 8*
6. Ac ne totam quidem urbem tectis occupaverunt. *Exercise 10*
7. etiam armis de principatu contendunt. *Exercise 11*
8. praemia poenasque constituent. *Exercise 11*
9. sacrificia privata et publica procurant. *Exercise 11*
10. florida fulserunt. *Exercise 9*