

Principal parts

Before moving on to the other tenses in Latin we need to explain how principal parts work. All Latin verbs have strange things called **principal parts**. These are the four main parts of the verb, from which all other parts can be formed. The principal parts of *amō* are as follows:

1	2	3	4
<i>am-ō</i>	<i>am-ā-re</i>	<i>am-āv-ī</i>	<i>am-āt-um</i>
I love	To love	I have loved	In order to love

- The *first principal part* is the first person singular of the present tense and gives us the basic meaning of the verb.
 - The *second principal part* is the **present infinitive**, and is used to find the **present stem** of the verb (by chopping off the -re).
 - The *third principal part* is the 1st person singular of the perfect tense, and is used to find the **perfect stem** of the verb (by chopping off the -ī).
 - The *fourth principal part* is the supine. This is a very rare part of the verb, but is useful as it gives us (by chopping off the -um) the **supine stem**, used for forming some of the passive tenses of the verb (described later in the course).
- U.B. All the verbs which you have met so far go like *amō* and form their principal parts in exactly the same way as *amō* does (i.e. -ō, -āre, -āvī, -ātum). Thus *navigō* = I sail as the following principal parts:

<i>navigō</i>	<i>navigā-re</i>	<i>navigāv-ī</i>	<i>navigāt-um</i>
I sail	To sail	I have sailed	In order to sail

The perfect tense

When we wish to describe a state which is the result in the present of an action which *has happened* in the past we use the perfect tense. This tense is used to refer to a *completed* action in the past (unlike the imperfect, which refers to *continuous* actions).
E.g. I have lost my dog; he has lost his marbles; etc.

The perfect tense is formed by adding a set of endings to the **perfect stem**. As we saw above, this is found by looking at the verb's 3rd principal part.

<i>amāv-ī</i>	I have loved
<i>amāv-isti</i>	You (sing.) have loved
<i>amāv-it</i>	He, she, it has loved
<i>amāv-imus</i>	We have loved
<i>amāv-istis</i>	You (pl.) have loved
<i>amāv-erunt</i>	They have loved

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Exercise 1.9

Read the information on the left-hand page about principal parts. Notice how 1st conjugation verbs like *amō* tend to form their principal parts in the same way (-ō, -āre, -āvī, -ātum). Write out the principal parts and meanings of the following verbs:

1. *vocō*
2. *aedificō*
3. *cantō*
4. *expectō*

Exercise 1.10

Read the information on the left-hand page about the perfect tense. Then translate into Latin:

1. I have sailed
2. You (sing.) have called
3. You (sing.) have built
4. They have worked
5. She has hurried
6. I have built
7. We have not waited
8. He has sailed
9. You (pl.) have worked
10. We have asked

Exercise 1.11

Translate into English. Remember that the 2nd principal part of a verb ends in -re and is its present infinitive ('to love', 'to sing', etc.):

1. *navigāvimus*
2. *amāre*
3. *vocāvīt*
4. *labōrāvērunt*
5. *festināvistis*
6. *navigāvērunt*
7. *labōrāvī et aedificāvī*
8. *nōn vocāvī*
9. *nōn aedificāvistī*
10. *festināre*

Exercise 1.12

You have now learnt how to use four tenses plus the present infinitive in Latin. Taking care over which endings to use, translate the following into Latin:

1. We build
2. To work
3. You (sing.) will hurry
4. We were sailing
5. They were calling
6. You (pl.) will like
7. To fight
8. You (sing.) have called
9. I shall not build
10. She does not work

Using Latin

E.g.

E.g. stands for exempli grātia
= for the sake of example.