

English to Latin exercises: teaching notes

English into Latin exercises are under trial and development. The approach of some of these exercises is experimental, and any feedback you wish to provide will help us to improve the approach.

The writing of Latin requires a knowledge of the language beyond that necessary for reading Latin. As a result, we recommend that students who are learning to write Latin study not only the language notes within the main body of the student textbook, but also the additional language notes provided online in the '**Teacher Resources – Hands Up**' area of each chapter. In particular students should study the additional language notes for Chapters 1, 3, 4 and 5 concerning the forms of the conjugations.

Furthermore, students should be taught how to make use of the relevant areas of:

- the **English to Latin dictionary** (pp. 280-281)
- the **Reference Grammar** (pp. 265-278).

The full form of the present active indicative is provided in Chapter 4, and the present infinitive is introduced in Chapter 5. From Chapter 5 onwards, therefore, students attempting the English to Latin exercises are expected to be able to identify the conjugation of a verb. Until Chapter 5 vocabulary lists accompany the exercises giving the conjugation of the verb.

Adjectival agreement is explained in the textbook in Chapter 10, but is occasionally required in earlier chapters in the English to Latin exercises. Until Chapter 10, therefore, in Exercise 4 adjectives are paired with nouns only of the same declension, in order that their terminations may be adapted as though they operated exactly as nouns. Teachers who are not comfortable with this approach may wish to teach the adjectival agreement content from Chapter 10 at an earlier point in the course.

Our initial aim is to provide a series of English into Latin exercises for each chapter on the model of identify, adapt, select, complete, translate, and create.

Exercise 1: Identify the text

These exercises provide a very gentle introduction to translating English into Latin, requiring students only to identify, from a specified story, the Latin text which corresponds to the English sentence. Unless otherwise indicated, all sentences are drawn from the same story.

In each chapter, this exercise can be set as a stand-alone activity, or as preparation for **Exercise 2: Adapt the text**.

Exercise 2: Adapt the text

Students are asked to translate English sentences into Latin by adapting Latin text found in a specified story.

As far as possible the sentences in these exercises are adaptations of the corresponding sentences in **Exercise 1: Identify the text**. Students will therefore find it easier to complete Exercise 2 if they have already completed Exercise 1.

As these exercises often require knowledge of grammar introduced throughout the chapter, we suggest using them only once all the language notes for the chapter have been studied.

Where the study of an additional online language note is required for the exercise, this is specified in the introduction to the exercise.

Exercise 3: Identify and adapt the text

Exercise 3 is an alternative to Exercises 1 and 2. These exercises combine Exercises 1 and 2 into one activity in which the students identify and adapt each sentence in turn. For more information on the requirements for these activities, please see the notes on Exercises 1 and 2 above.

Exercise 4: Select, Complete, Translate

This is a set of three differentiated activities. Each set is based on the same English and Latin sentences and therefore any individual student should attempt only one of the three alternatives provided.

The exercises aim to focus on the language topics of the current and recent chapters, together with the vocabulary learning list of the chapter. In order to provide some variety, a broader vocabulary is sometimes used, in which case it is glossed, but vocabulary contained in the learning lists up to, and including, the relevant chapter is not provided.

Where the study of an additional online language note is required for the exercise, this is specified in the introduction to the exercise.

- **Exercise 4a: Select the translation**
This version requires students to translate English sentences into Latin by selecting each word or phrase from a choice of two options.
- **Exercise 4b: Complete the translation**
Students are given the stems of some or all of the words in the Latin sentences and are asked to provide the correct terminations.
- **Exercise 4c: Translate into Latin**
Students translate the entire English sentence into Latin.

Exercise 5: Create

This final activity type encourages students to use the language they have studied to create their own Latin sentences.

Further exercises

We would appreciate your feedback on these activities, in general in terms of the activity types provided, and specifically on particular activities. If there is a type of activity which you would like us to create, please do let us know.