The Simple AP® Latin Unit 1 Cheat Sheet

1.1 Nouns: Gender, Number, Case & Declension

How a Noun Works

Every noun has a gender, number & case; its ending shows the case & number it's in.
Dictionary form: *rēx, rēgis, m.*; the genitive tells the declension & gives the stem.
Case jobs: nom. = subject; gen. = of; dat. = to/for; acc. = object; abl. = by/with/from.

Singular Endings

Case	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
Nom.	-a	-us/-um	varies	-us	-ēs
Gen.	-ae	-ī	-is	-ūs	-eī
Dat.	-ae	-ō	-ī	-uī	-eī
Acc.	-am	-um	-em	-um	-em
Abl.	-ā	-ō	-e	-ū	-ē

Plural Endings

Case	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
Nom.	-ae	-ī/-a	-ēs/-a	-ūs	-ēs
Gen.	-ārum	-ōrum	-um	-uum	-ērum
Dat./Abl.	-īs	-īs	-ibus	-ibus	-ēbus
Acc.	-ās	-ōs/-a	-ēs/-a	-ūs	-ēs

Neuter rule: nom. = acc.; neuter plurals end in -a in both cases (*bella*, *nōmina*, *cornua*).

⚠ One ending can mean several cases (-ae, -īs, -ēs); use the sentence to decide.

✓ Learn each noun's genitive: it shows the declension & the stem for its other forms.

1.1–1.3 Nominative, Accusative & Prepositions

Nominative

Subject: who does the action of the verb: *puella cantat* = the girl sings (the girl does it).
Predicate nominative: est links 2 nominatives: *Cicerō cōnsul erat* = Cicero was consul.
Implied subject: the verb ending tells you who: *venit* = he, she or it comes (3rd person).
Vocative: calling someone by name: *Mārce* = Marcus!; usually looks like the nominative.

Accusative

Direct object: receives the action: *mīles hostem vulnerat* = the soldier wounds the enemy.
Duration of time: how long: *multōs annōs* = for many years (no preposition used).
Place to which: *ad urbem* = to the city; *Rōmam* = to Rome (cities need no preposition).

Prepositions

Case	Common prepositions
Acc.	ad, ante, inter, per, post, trāns
Abl.	ā/ab, cum, dē, ē/ex, sine
Both	in, sub

in + acc. = into (*in silvam*); **in + abl.** = in (*in silvā*): the case changes the meaning.

⚠ Word order is flexible; the object can come first. Read the endings, not the order.

✓ Find the verb first, then its subject (nom.) & its object (acc.) by their endings alone.

1.3 Genitive & Dative

Genitive: "of"

Use	Example	Meaning
Possession	villa amīcī	friend's house
Description	vir magnae virtūtis	man of great courage
Partitive	plūs vīnī	more (of) wine
Objective	amor patriae	love for country

Possession: whose is it? *fīlius rēgis* = the king's son (the son of the king); often follows its noun.
Partitive: the whole a part comes from, often after *satis*, *nihil* or *pars* (part of the army).
Objective: the noun implies an action: *cupiditās rēgnī* = desire for a kingdom (to rule).

Dative: "to/for"

Indirect object: w/ giving, telling, showing: *puerō librum dat* = gives the boy a book.
Reference: for whose benefit: *tibi labōrō* = I work for you (to help you), not "to you."
Special verbs: crēdō, pāreō & persuādeō take the dative: *ducī pāret* = obeys the leader.
Dat. w/ adjectives: *similis patrī* = similar to his father; also amīcus, cārus & fidēlis.
Possession: *est mihi liber* = I have a book (lit. there is a book to me); it stresses the owner.

⚠ -ae can be gen. OR dat. singular (1st decl.); look for a verb of giving or telling.

✓ On MCQs, name the case AND its use (gen. of description), since both are tested.

1.4 Ablative

Core Uses

Use	Example
Means	gladiō = with a sword
Agent	ā rēge = by the king
Manner	magnā cūrā = w/ great care
Place where	in forō = in the forum
Time when	prīmā lūce = at dawn
Separation	ex urbe = from the city
Accompaniment	cum amīcīs = w/ friends

Means vs agent: a thing = plain abl. (*gladiō*); a person = ā/ab + abl. (*ā rēge* = by the king).
Manner: how it's done; cum can drop if there's an adj.: *magnā vōce* = in a loud voice.
Time when: *eō diē* = on that day; compare acc. *multōs diēs* = for many days (how long).
Place from which: ā/ab, dē, ē/ex + abl.: *ē silvā* = out of the forest; *Rōmā* = from Rome.
Comparison: abl. after a comparative = "than": *melior patre* = better than his father.
Separation: w/ verbs like *līberō* & *careō*: *metū līberāre* = to set free from fear.
Respect: in what way: *nōmine* = in name; *virtūte praestant* = they excel in courage.
Translate w/ by, with, from, in, on or at, whichever fits the verb & context; sometimes no word at all.

⚠ cum + abl. = "with"; a person + ā/ab after a passive verb = "by" (the agent who does it).

✓ Ask: by what? by whom? how? where? when? from where? The answer names the use.

1.2 Verbs: Indicative Tenses & Voice

Verb Basics

Each verb shows person, number, tense, voice & mood; the ending tells you each one.
Principal parts: *amō, amāre, amāvī, amātum* give the stems for every tense & form.

6 Indicative Tenses

Tense	Sign	English
Present	—	loves
Imperfect	-ba-	was loving
Future	-bi- / -ē-	will love
Perfect	perf. stem	loved
Pluperfect	-era-	had loved
Fut. perfect	-eri-	will have loved

Active endings: -ō/-m, -s, -t, -mus, -tis, -nt (I, you, he/she, we, you all, they) in all tenses.
Perfect endings: -ī, -istī, -it, -imus, -istis, -ērunt: *vēnit* = he came, or he has come.

Voice

Active: the subject acts. **Passive**: it's acted on: *urbs capitur* = the city is taken.
Passive endings: -r, -ris, -tur, -mur, -minī, -ntur; *capta est* = it was captured (past).
Sum, esse (to be) is irregular (sum, es, est...) & sometimes left out: *factum* = (it was) done.

⚠ 3rd-conj. future uses -ē- (*reget* = he will rule), not -bi-; don't read it as present.

✓ On translation, keep tense & voice exact: "had been sent" ≠ "was sent"; each part is scored.

1.4 Subjunctive, Imperative & Participles

Subjunctive in Main Clauses

Subjunctive = wishes, possibility & commands; translate w/ may, might, would, should or let.

Use	Example	Meaning
Hortatory	eāmus	let us go
Jussive	veniat	let him come
Optative	utinam...	if only...
Deliberative	quid faciam?	what should I do?

Present subj. vowel: amet, moneat, regat, audiat (1st -e-, 2nd -ea-, 3rd -a-, 4th -ia-).

Imperative

Commands: *amā!* (love!), *amāte!* (love, all of you!); irregular forms: dīc, dūc, fac & fer.
Don't: nōlī/nōlīte + infinitive: *nōlī timēre* = don't be afraid (lit. be unwilling to fear it).

Participles

Participle	Ex	Meaning
Present act.	amāns	loving
Perfect pass.	amātus	having been loved
Future act.	amātūrus	about to love

Participles are verbal adjectives: they agree w/ a noun but keep their tense & voice.
Tense is relative: present = same time as main verb; perfect = before; future = after.

⚠ *captus* alone = "having been captured," not "he captured"; *captus est* = was captured.

✓ Translate a participle as a clause ("who was...," "after...") for smoother English.

1.3–1.4 Adjectives, Pronouns & Agreement

Adjectives

Agreement: adj. & noun match gender, number & case, not always ending: *agricola bonus*.
Forms: 1st/2nd decl. (*bonus, -a, -um*) or 3rd decl. (*fortis, -e*; *ingēns, ingentis* = huge).
Substantive: an adj. used as a noun: *bonī* = good men; *omnia* = all things (everything).
Separation: adj. & noun can be far apart; match their endings to pair them back up.
Comparison: *fortior* = braver (comparative); *fortissimus* = bravest or very brave.

Pronouns

Pronoun	Meaning
ego, tū, nōs, vōs	I, you, we, you all
is, ea, id	he, she, it; that
hic, haec, hoc	this
ille, illa, illud	that
ipse, ipsa, ipsum	-self (intensive)
quī, quae, quod	who, which, that

Antecedent: the noun a pronoun refers to; same gender & number, but its own case.
Ex: *puella quam vīdī* = the girl whom I saw (quam is f. sg. like puella, but acc. case).

⚠ sē/suus = the SUBJECT itself (himself, his own); eum/eius = someone else (him, his).

✓ "To whom does X refer?": match gender & number, then check that the sense fits.

1.1–1.4 Reading Skills & Exam Moves

Vocabulary in Context

Core vocab: learn the CED core list; guess new words from context & English derivatives.
Context clues: lists, opposites (nōn... sed) & repeated ideas can define an unknown word.

Prefix	Meaning	Ex
ab-/ā-	away	abīre
con-	together	convenīre
ē-/ex-	out	exīre
re-	back	redīre

Summarize

Explicit: who, what, where & in what order.
Implied: tone & meaning from figurative language.
Ex: "A father writes to his son, warns him about bad friends, then urges study."

Translate

Method: find the main verb, then its subject & object; attach phrases to what they modify.
Literal but idiomatic: keep every form exact but use natural English word order.

Interpret & Cite

Evidence: quote the exact Latin, translate it, then explain how it supports the claim.
Exam: 52 MCQ in 65 min (50%) & 5 FRQs in 115 min (50%), incl. sight-reading questions.

⚠ Long Latin quotes w/o translation or explanation earn little credit on essays.

✓ Sight prose: skim for the gist, read the English intro, then go sentence by sentence.