LESSON I

FIRST CONJUGATION – PRESENT SYSTEM – PRESENT TENSE

In Latin, verbs are part of verb families called **conjugations**. Conjugations tell us different qualities about verbs such as:

- ❖ Voice (active or passive)
- ❖ Number (singular or plural)
- ❖ Tense (present, past, future)
- ❖ Mood (the way a speaker views an action)
- ❖ Person (speaker's point of reference)

Latin is also a language of stems and endings. Each verb contains a stem plus a personal ending. The endings tell us all of the above qualities of verbs. Listed below are the personal endings for the present tense First Conjugation.

Person	Singular		Plural	
1st (speaker)	**-o**	I	**-mus**	We
2nd (spoken to)	**-s**	You	**-tis**	you (pl.)
3rd (spoken about)	**-t**	he, she or it	**-nt**	they

Verbs are divided into four principal parts represented in the boxes below: To conjugate a verb, drop the -re ending from the infinitive ōrāre in order to form the stem ōrā:

ōrō

ōrō	**ōrāre**	**ōrāvi**	**ōrātum**
Present	Infinitive	Perfect	Passive Participle or Supine

Infinitive

ōrā̶r̶e̶ = ōrā

In the present tense, verbs can be translated three different ways: *I pray, I do pray,* and *I am praying*. All three forms are used to show the present tense. Then add a personal ending to finish conjugating the verb as shown in the chart below. For the 1st person singular, drop the "a" from the stem ora and add an "o" instead. This is the only exception.

Person	Singular	Plural
1st (speaker)	ōr**ō** - I pray	ōrā**mus** – we pray
2nd (spoken to)	ōra**s** – you pray	ōrā**tis** – you all pray
3rd (spoken about)	ōra**t** – he, she, it prays	ōra**nt** – they pray