

## 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	
1 <sup>st</sup> (speaker)	<b>-o</b>	I	<b>-mus</b>	We
2 <sup>nd</sup> (spoken to)	<b>-s</b>	You	<b>-tis</b>	you (pl.)
3 <sup>rd</sup> (spoken about)	<b>-t</b>	he, she or it	<b>-nt</b>	they

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

**orō**

<b>orō</b>	<b>orāre</b>	<b>orāvi</b>	<b>orātum</b>
Present	Infinitive	Perfect	Passive Participle or Supine

**Infinitive**

**orāre = orā**

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 1<sup>st</sup> person singular, drop the “a” from the stem *ora* and add an “o” instead. This is the only exception.

Person	Singular	Plural
1 <sup>st</sup> (speaker)	orō - I pray	orāmus – we pray
2 <sup>nd</sup> (spoken to)	oras – you pray	orātis – you all pray
3 <sup>rd</sup> (spoken about)	orat – he, she, it prays	orant – they pray