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 st (speaker)	-0	Ι	-mus	We
2 nd (spoken to)	- S	You	-tis	you (pl.)
3 rd (spoken about)	-t	he, she or it	-nt	they

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

ōrō

ōrō	ōrāre	ōrāvi	ōrātum
			Passive
Present	Infinitive	Perfect	Participle or
			Supine

Infinitive

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