

**AN INTRODUCTION  
TO LATIN  
COMPOSITION**

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An Introduction to Latin Composition by William F. Allen

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**WILLIAM F. ALLEN**

**AN INTRODUCTION  
TO LATIN  
COMPOSITION**



AN

## INTRODUCTION

TO

## LATIN COMPOSITION.

BY

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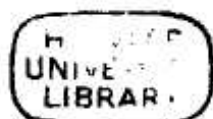
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## NOTE.

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THESE exercises are primarily designed as a training in Latin Syntax. It is taken for granted that the pupil has gone thoroughly through the Latin Lessons, or some other method of equal scope. No pains are taken, therefore, to illustrate the common rules of agreement and government. On the other hand, I have not aimed to introduce rare constructions and mere idiomatic expressions. It has seemed to me that the regular principles of prose construction should be the only object of attention at this stage of advancement; and that the rarer idioms will be acquired with little effort by those who follow out an extended course of Latin reading.

Nearly all the sentences in the Written Exercises are taken, without change, from classic authors. These sentences are translated as literally as practicable; still, it has been impossible to avoid a considerable variety of expression, so that the Vocabulary will be found to contain quite a wide range of words and meanings, considering the whole number of sentences. I have thought it best not to provide special vocabularies for the several Lessons, nor many explanatory notes; it has been my desire to have the student acquire the habit of referring to grammar and vocabulary for general principles in the choice of words and constructions, rather than depend upon special directions in each case. It may be mentioned here, that in quotations from classic authors, the names of Cæsar and Cicero, from whom the great majority of examples are taken, are not given, but only the name of the work: as, B. G., *Gallic War*; Cat., *Oration against Catiline*.

It is believed that these exercises can be taken up by any scholar who has gone thoroughly through the Latin Lessons. Still, except in the case of mature or unusually capable pupils, I should advise that some time should first be devoted to mere translation. The familiarity with vocabulary and constructions thus acquired will be the best preparation for writing. If the Latin Reader is used, I should let a class go through the extracts from Cæsar, or even those from Curtius or Nepos, as rapidly as is consistent with accuracy, and with very little parsing. Then I should take up parsing again, and introduce the writing of exercises. However, all such rules must vary with different classes and teachers.

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN,  
MADISON, WISCONSIN, June, 1870.

## GENERAL DIRECTIONS.

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In these Lessons, constant reference has been made to the sections of the Manual Latin Grammar; and it is desired not only that the rules be learned, but that the examples given in the Grammar, and also in the Lessons, should be committed to memory and carefully analyzed. This will be found a great help in doing the exercises.

In using the Vocabulary, it will be noticed that the most general meaning comes first, and the distinctions in meaning of the words that follow are given with special reference to their use in these exercises. Therefore, where a list of several words is given, the student should compare these definitions, in order to determine which will best suit the case in hand; if there appears to be no essential difference, it will be safest to take the first.

Study the rules of arrangement in § 76; remembering that, in most cases, no particular order is essential, but that the same words may be variously arranged, according to the emphasis desired. Notice, too, that the Latin will often follow the succession of thought in the mind of the writer, without the precise logical arrangement of English.



## NOTE TO FIFTH EDITION.

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In this edition, the References in the Exercises have been adapted to Allen and Greenough's Latin Grammar. In some cases, however, the *numeral letters* have been retained, instead of the corresponding figures of the sub-sections.

SEPTEMBER, 1878.

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