

THE FIRST VERSE BOOK

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The First Verse Book by Thomas Kerchever Arnold

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THOMAS KERCHEVER ARNOLD

**THE FIRST
VERSE BOOK**

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FIRST VERSE BOOK.

BY THE REV.

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C. stands for Carey; R. R. for Richmond Rules.

THE
FIRST VERSE BOOK.

Lesson 1.

INTRODUCTION.

1. AN hexameter verse has six feet, of which the fifth must be a *dactyl*; the sixth a *spondee*. The other four may be *dactyls* or *spondees*.

2. A *dactyl* consists of a *long* syllable followed by *two short* ones: as *dīcērē*. A *spondee* consists of two *long* syllables: as *mōrēs*.

3. The quantity of the *last syllable* of the line is not considered, so that the sixth foot may be either a *spondee* (as *nōstris*), or a *trochee* (as *ōrbā*).

4. The last word is generally either

(1) A *two-syllable* word with a *dactyl* before it; or,

(2) A *three-syllable* word with a *trochee*, that is, a *long* and a *short* before it.

- u u	}	- -	}	dīcērē		mōrēs
		- u		sōbrīus		īpsē
- u	}	u - -	}	mūltā sōrōrēs		
		u - u		tūrpē pūtarīs.		

(On Elisions.)

5. When a word ends in a *vowel*, or in *æ*, this final letter (*though left standing*) is considered to be

cut off, when the next word begins with a vowel or *h*.

(a) Thus *nāmyñā h'it* . . . is virtually *nāmy' h'it* (a *doctyl*).
 impro|visi ādērānt — impro|vis' ādē|rānt.
 tollērē hūmō — tollēr' hū|mō.

But ⚡ if another vowel remains, that is not thrown away: thus

cāpītōliā ād āltā = *cāp|tōh' ād | āltā*.

6. When a word ends in *m*, this *m* with its preceding vowel is considered to be cut off, when the next word begins with a vowel or *h*.

(a) Thus *mānstrēm hōr|rendum* is virtually *mānstr' hōr|rendum*.

(*Short final syllable, ending in a consonant.*)

7. A short final syllable ending in a consonant cannot remain short, unless the next word begins with a vowel or *h*: it is *made long*, if placed before a word beginning with any consonant except *h*.

Thus if '*dābit*' were placed in a verse before '*pœnas*,' it would become '*dābit pœnas*.'

Exercise I.

[Obs. A *trochee* is a dissyllable with first long, second short (*mātrā*).]

1. ⚡ Any trisyllable whose *first* syllable is *short* and *second long*, will stand as the last word.

2. The word that will stand before it, must either be, or end in, a *trochee*.

Thus *sāpē|*
nār|rārē } would all stand before *ēārīnās*.
tētī|gērē }

3. It follows from 7, that ⚡ If the last word begins with any consonant but *h*, no word that ends in a consonant can stand before it.

For the last syllable of *fāllit* (for instance) would become *long*, if placed before *imōrem*, or any word beginning with a consonant (except *h*).

4. If the last word begins with a vowel or *h*, no word that ends in a trochee but has a *vowel* or *m* for its last letter can stand before it, for its last syllable would be cut off (by *Introd.* 5, 6).

Thus *primum omnes* becomes in fact (though it is not so written) *prīm' ōmnēs*; and *nūptā amōrēs* = *nūpt' amōrēs*.

Make all the 'endings'¹ that you can out of each of the following lines, using a *three-syllable* word for the last.

[The pupil must remember that a *final vowel* is cut off before a *vowel* or *h*; and that the syllables underlined will become long if followed by a word beginning with any consonant except *h*.—All diphthongs are long.]

amōrēs sarpē ōmnēs dōlōsī ēffingērē rēndvārē.
 fāvēbīt sēmpēr āmicīs amātōr, tollērē,
 tēmplā tūis Quīrīnē fallīt, vīncērē ārmīs.
 hōnestōs sūbēuntē vītāt lātēbīt.
 tēmpūs nātālē Kālēndīs āmicīs.
 dēlūbrā tūlērūt dignā prīmūm ōpācā.

Lesson 2.

1. Any dissyllable with its first syllable long, will stand as the last word.

2. The word before it must *be*, or *end in*, a *dactyl*, or be a *short monosyllable*.

(a) Thus rūmpērē
 cōr|rūmpērē
 intēr|rūmpērē, &c. } would any of them
 stand before sēdēs
 or sēmēn.

3. If the last word but one is a *short monosyllable*, the word before it must *be*, or *end in*, a *trochee*².

fūr|ētūr ūt | ūnām.

¹ By 'ending' is meant the final *dactyl* and *spondee* (or *dactyl* and *trochee*). In making the endings, there will sometimes be the beginning of a word that is not contained in it; thus in *medi|tārīs ā|mōrēs*, the ending is *-tārīs ā|mōrēs*.

² That is, a *virtual trochee*; for the word might end in a *dactyl* if the last syllable would be elided; *cūrrēre ād | āriās* = *cūrrēr' ād | āriās*.

Exercise 2.

[What becomes of a final vowel, when the next word begins with a vowel or *h*? [It is cut off.] What becomes of a final syll. ending in *m*, when the next word begins with a vowel or *h*? [It is cut off.] Is 'āgmānē sūm' a correct ending? [No; the *s* being cut off, it leaves only a *trochee* in the fifth foot: 'āgmān' sūm.'] Why is not *pāllēret tūrmā* a correct ending? [The *h* of *pāllēret* becomes long, when followed by *turmas*.] Is *pāllēret hōrās* right or wrong?

Make all the endings that you can out of each of the following lines, using a two-syllable word for the last ¹.

[The pupil is advised to draw a line with his pen under the short syllables that will be made long, if followed by a consonant.]

dēmēntiā undā vērsāt.
 cōercēt Mānēs Prōserpīnā.
 ēvasērāt omnēs cāsūs.
 ignōscitē orō Nymphæ.
 cāsūs rēfēsēt serā Titūrē.
 facti injuriā cōgnitā est.
 prōcēssit ab illō āgmīnē mātrūm.

Lesson 3.

1. In choosing your ending, first try a *trisyllable* (if there is one) for the last word; for such a trisyllable as will stand last, is a more difficult word to dispose of elsewhere, than such a *dissyllable* as will stand last.

Exercise 3.

Make all the endings you can out of the following words.

[Underline the syllables that will be lengthened before a consonant.]

fātēbōr mērūissē tē dāmnāntē pōnās jūstissimē.
 tollit pālmās in æthērā.
 quercūs magnificās opēs hābēbāt.
 antē tūās cōrōnās, virgō pulcherrimā.
 vivāci cæspitē cārpēbānt grāmēn et flōrēs cādūcōs.
 fēmīnā vidit nātūm nepōtēm.

¹ If a pupil has time, he may increase the number of endings, by putting together words from different lines.

cūm plēnā sūōrūm clāssē vēnērāt.
nūdā siccābāt cāpillōs litōrē.

Lesson 4.

1. *Cæsura* means *cutting*.

2. A foot has the *cæsura*, or *cutting*, when it is so divided that part of it is in one word, part in another.

3. Thus the { (1) *saxpē mē* | orum } have all a
dactyls in { (2) *nēc tūā* | mater } *cæsura*.
(3) *renō* | cārē pātāres }

4. A foot has the *strong cæsura* when it is cut after a *long* syllable: the *weak cæsura* when it is cut after a *short* syllable. Hence the dactyls in (1), (3), have the *weak*, that in (2) the *strong cæsura*.

5. († The fifth foot may not (in ordinary cases¹) have the *strong cæsura*.

Thus { *nēc mārīs* | ūndas } are endings to be
{ *dabimūs tibi* | pōenās } avoided.
But { *pīnās ab* | hōrīs } are correct, as we
{ *tētīgērē quē* | rēlāe, &c. } have seen.

Exercise 4.

[Form endings as before; underline the syllables that will become long before a consonant.]

incipiunt patērnōs hūmērōs rēlōvārē.
nōs tūā prōgēnīē mātēr pūlchērīmā.
hūnc tūās Tībērīnūs olīm hābēbīt.
hōspēs Hālēsūs pāvīt armētūm in hērbīs.
quūm pōstērā Aurōrā rēfēcērīt hērbās.
cūr mībī hōspēs hōstē crūdēlīōr pārcīs ?
cōmmēdānt nātōs sūā pīgnōrā.
tū patēr ēs illis cērtīssīmūs.
cūr tōgā libērā dētūr ?
fīnīt tēmpōrā hūjūs quōquē² mēnsīs.

¹ The principal exceptions are the occurrence of a monosyllabic word (*non, in, ab, &c.*) as the beginning of the fifth foot so that *see maris undas* is not wrong.

Quam Priami lacrimis offensus | non sit Achilles. (Ov.)
Illa mens ut forte tetenderat | in maris | undas. (Ov.)

² Qu are pronounced like *hw*; the *u* does not make a syllable.