

# **OUTLINES OF LATIN GRAMMAR**

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Outlines of Latin Grammar by Cyrus S. Richards

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**CYRUS S. RICHARDS**

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LATIN GRAMMAR**



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OF  
LATIN GRAMMAR.

BY  
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## PREFACE.

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A LITTLE more than twenty years since, the writer published a book of Latin Lessons and Tables, the plates of which were destroyed in the great Boston fire in 1872. The references in grammatical etymologies and syntax were made to Andrews and Stoddard's Grammar, — so long a popular and standard text-book, — with also references to the added Tables. I quote, for a purpose, from the preface of that book: —

"We have added, with more labor on our part than in other parts of the book, a series of *Illustrative Tables*. They are designed principally to be *supplementary* to the Grammar, which, with all its excellences, is confessedly deficient in etymological and syntactical analyses, euphonic changes in inflection, etc., as are all the Latin Grammars yet published in this country. It must often have been a matter of surprise to the student of Latin, that, while so much has been done in this department in the Greek language, so little has been attempted in the Latin. The author finds on this subject the ground mostly unbroken, and very few way-marks to guide his investigations. He therefore claims the indulgence of his fellow-teachers in respect to many of his conclusions, for which he holds himself alone responsible. If this imperfect effort shall contribute to a more advanced system of Latin etymology and syntax, he will be rewarded for his labor."

Since then almost every year has brought out a new Grammar, with more or less improvements in the points indicated in the above quotation. Two or three popular authors have improved upon themselves in new editions, with remarkable changes, particularly in the department of etymology. Many of the results indicated in the author's Tables of twenty years ago have been reached almost identically. In other important particulars, the results of certain German writers on comparative philology have been adopted, no doubt important and valuable in their place, but often so far-fetched

and complex as to embarrass and confuse the early learner, rather than to assist him and simplify his task. To master with facility and success a new language, the beginner should not be diverted from the comparatively few fundamental elements that meet him at the threshold, and which are absolutely necessary for his work. In systematic rules and exact definitions, and distinct analyses of inflections and their euphonic changes, the hand-book of the student should be full and explicit, without abatement. But remoter and at least doubtful etymologies may well be left to a later period.

With this view these Outlines have been prepared, — the former work entirely rewritten and much enlarged, — to furnish, as nearly as possible, the golden mean, neither too much nor too little, for *first lessons* in Latin; enough at least for the entire preparatory course. It is the result of many years' experience in the school-room. Let none expect to find in this little book an exhaustive treatment of every subject, nor perhaps all that he may think ought to be here. Many definitions and distinctions, presumed to be already familiar in the study of English Grammar, are omitted. Much also is intentionally left to be supplied by the intelligent teacher, and to the right use of the lexicon. Let it then be used strictly as a *hand-book* for the class-room, and it will be found, it is believed, ample for all practical purposes in the early curriculum. The plan is designed to be methodical and simple, while thorough and exact. We invite a comparison with other works in these respects. We differ more widely from recent grammars in regarding the *flexible vowel* of declension and conjugation as *merely a connecting and mode vowel*, and not in any proper sense a part of the stem. This view at least greatly simplifies the subject, while the other, if proved, yields no practical advantage.

The author's long and intimate acquaintance with the late Professor Alpheus Crosby, certainly a *princeps in principibus* among American scholars, and his long use of his most excellent, though strangely neglected, Greek Grammar, will account for some valuable things transferred from that work; using the liberty freely

granted in the Latin Tables before referred to. In the rules of syntax, the identical words and statements of Mr. Crosby are retained, so far as applicable to the Latin, for two reasons: first, because in precision and comprehension of statement they are believed to be unrivalled by any author; second, it is a very great advantage to the student of both Latin and Greek to be obliged to commit and apply but a single identical rule for a principle which is identical in both languages. The peculiar arrangement and enumeration of these rules, though new, it is hoped will afford the advantage of a more distinct classification. The *letter* rules, it may be remarked, are usually corollaries to the rule to which they are subjoined, rather than the enunciation of any new principle. In the unexpected hurry of publication, some few things were left out of their proper places which will be found in the Appendix; and some other imperfections may be corrected in a future edition, should such be called for.

A companion volume is contemplated, if opportunity shall be granted, of First Lessons in Latin. And yet, with a little pains on the part of the teacher in giving to his class pencil references, these Outlines may easily be used with any introductory work.

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