

# **LATIN PROSE COMPOSITION**

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Latin prose composition by Herbert W. Sneyd-Kynnersley

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**HERBERT W. SNEYD-KYNNERSLEY**

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COMPOSITION**



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# LATIN PROSE COMPOSITION.

BY THE

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## PREFACE.

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THIS little book, the result of fifteen years' experience in teaching Latin Prose to young boys, is now published in the hope that it may be of use to those who are preparing boys for Public School Examinations.

It is recommended that before each Exercise is written, the boys should learn by heart the Syntax rules and Notes at the head of the Exercise, and also the Vocabulary belonging to it, which will be found at the end of the book.

No Vocabularies are given after Exercise XXVI., as by the time a boy has advanced so far, he ought to have a sufficient Vocabulary at his command.

A frequent and sensible use of a good *Latin-English* Dictionary should be insisted on in doing the connected pieces.

Any suggestions from brother-schoolmasters will be gratefully received.

H. W. SNEYD-KYNNERSLEY.

ST. GEORGE'S, ASCOT,  
March, 1886.

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# LATIN PROSE COMPOSITION.

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## EXERCISE I.

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### SYNTAX NOTES.

#### I. PARTS OF SPEECH.

There are eight Parts of Speech in Latin, four which can be changed in order to vary their meaning, four which cannot be changed :—

1. **Verb**, which states what the subject is, does, or suffers, as *amat*, he loves ; *amatur*, he is loved.
2. **Substantive**, which names a thing, as *Cæsar* (proper name) ; *regina* (common Noun).
3. **Adjective**, which qualifies a Substantive, as *puer sapiens*, the wise boy.
4. **Pronoun**, which stands for a Substantive, as *ego voco, tu regis*, I call, you rule.
5. **Adverb**, which limits the meaning of a Verb, Adjective, or another Adverb, stating how, why, when, or where anything happens, or is, as *puer celeriter currit*, the boy runs quickly. *Veni ad me hodie*, come to me to day.

6. **Preposition**, which is used with certain cases of a Noun, as *puer in aquam saluit*; the boy jumped into the water.
7. **Conjunction**, which joins together words (which must be the same parts of speech) or clauses, as *puer et puella*; *venit, sed non locutus est*, he came, but he did not speak.
8. **Interjection**, which is an exclamation, as **Heu!** alas!

**II.** The Verb is divided into two parts. (1.) The Verb **finite**, those parts of the Verb which have Person, Mood, and Tense, *i.e.*, the whole of the Indicative and Conjunctive Moods. (2.) The Verb **infinite**, those parts which have only Tense, *i.e.*, the Infinitive.

Verbs are either **Transitive** or **Intransitive**.

1. **Transitive Verbs** are those in which the action of the Verb passes on to an object, as :—*Cæsar vicit barbaros*, Cæsar conquered the barbarians. This object is put in the Accusative Case.
2. **Intransitive Verbs** are those in which the action does not pass on, and the Verb and its Subject make complete sense, as :—*puer currit*, the boy runs; *dormio*, I sleep.

Every Simple Sentence must contain one finite Verb, and only one, and a Noun term either expressed or understood.

The shortest form of sentence therefore is an Intransitive Verb, with its subject understood, as :—*dormio*, I sleep.

If the Verb is Transitive an object must be added, which (as a rule) must be put in the Accusative Case, as :—*audio vocem*, I hear a voice.

III. Every sentence must contain a **Subject** and a **Predicate**.

The **Subject** must be some Noun term, *i.e.*, a Substantive or something which can stand instead of a Substantive.

The **Predicate** must be some finite part of a Verb which declares (*prædico*) what the subject is, does, or suffers, and so completes the sense of the sentence.

Sometimes the Predicate is split up into two parts, **Copula**, and **Complement**. The **Copula** is some finite part of the Verb *sum* or other 'link-verb,' which joins together the Subject and the Complement as :—*videor*, I seem ; *vocor*, I am called ; *fit*, I become.

The **Complement** is the word which is joined by the Copula to the Subject, and which completes the sense of the Sentence, the Copula and Complement together forming the Predicate, as :—

SUBJECT.	PREDICATE.	
	Copula	Complement
<i>puer</i>	<i>videtur</i>	<i>sapient</i>
the boy	seems	wise.

*N.B.*—Copulative Verbs do not govern any Case ; but the Complement must agree with the Subject : if a Substantive, in Case ; if an Adjective, in Gender, Number, and Case.

IV. We now come to the 'Four Concords' or rules of Agreement. For Exercise I. the first two only are required.

1st Concord. The Verb Finite must agree with its Subject in Number and Person, as :—

<i>ego</i> voco,	<i>tu</i> respondes,	<i>pueri</i> veniunt.
I call ;	you answer ;	the boys are coming.