

# **THE REVISED LATIN PRIMER**

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The revised Latin primer by Benjamin Hall Kennedy

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**BENJAMIN HALL KENNEDY**

**THE REVISED  
LATIN PRIMER**



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LATIN PRIMER

BY  
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## PREFACE

THIS BOOK is a complete revision of the Public School Latin Primer.

The report of the Public School Commission of 1862 having recommended the use of a common Latin Grammar in Public Schools, the Head Masters of the Schools included in that Commission resolved to adopt my Elementary Latin Grammar, which had for some years been widely used, as the basis of such a common Grammar, and the Public School Latin Primer, prepared in accordance with that resolution, was published with their sanction in the year 1866.

During the period which has since elapsed, various improvements have from time to time occurred to me or been suggested by others. But, looking at the joint authority under which the Primer was issued, I did not feel myself free to introduce into it the alterations which under other circumstances I should have made. When, however, I found that a revision of the Primer was generally desired, and when, after communication with the Conference of Head Masters, I found myself in a position to act in the matter of revision upon my own responsibility, I gladly entered upon the work of which the present Revised Primer is the result. My first step was to collect as widely as

possible from Masters of Public and Private Schools opinions with regard to the objections to the Primer as it stood, and the nature and extent of the changes which teachers of experience deemed to be desirable. With the kind and generous aid of my old pupils and friends Mr. Hallam, of Harrow, and Mr. Page, of Charterhouse, and by the courtesy of many teachers who have communicated with me either directly or through them, I have been enabled to obtain a number of valuable suggestions on these points.

The aim which I have kept steadily in view in this revision of the Primer has been that the book should be suitable both for beginners and for all boys up to the Fifth Form in Public Schools.

The greatest care has been taken to make the arrangement in respect of form as clear and plain as possible. For this purpose I have (1) brought into the text under the appropriate headings the matter which in the original Primer is contained in Appendix I.; (2) omitted such technical terms as seemed to be reasonably open to objection.

The Declension of Substantives and Adjectives has been arranged upon the 'Stem' principle, and the words are classed as far as possible in accordance with the latest results of the comparative study of Latin and the related languages, especially the ancient Italian dialects. The old order of the Declensions has, after careful consideration, been retained. In a text-book of this kind there is an obvious advantage in keeping, wherever it is possible, a popular and well-understood system, and I believe that the old order of Declension is, from a purely philological point of view, wholly unobjectionable. With regard to Verbs, I

have adhered in the Paradigms to the arrangement of the four Conjugations, as I am satisfied that an alteration would involve such inconvenience to teacher and learner as would far outweigh any possible gain in scientific accuracy.

To meet a general wish, I have prefixed to the Accidence a chapter on Letters and Laws of Sound. I desire it to be understood that this chapter is placed at the beginning of the book because that seemed to me to be the most natural and, for purposes of reference, the most convenient position for it—and not from any intention that it should necessarily be learnt as a whole at the outset.

I have purposely refrained from any attempt to give fixed rules for the pronunciation of Latin, because in the present stage of the investigation of that subject, such rules could be only of a provisional kind. For the results which have so far been reached I would refer to the small pamphlet lately issued by the Cambridge Philological Society.

In order to simplify as far as possible the marking of quantity, I have marked the quantity as a rule only on the long vowels. In this book vowels which have no mark of quantity are generally to be taken as short, and the short quantity is marked only where it seems especially necessary to guard against mistake.

The memorial lines on Gender are placed in an appendix instead of being, as in the original Primer, included in the text.

Throughout the book—except in a few cases in the chapter on Letters and Laws of Sound, where Word-formation, not Grammar or meaning, is being dealt with—Latin words are immediately followed by their translation in English.



Some of these improvements of course involve additional printed matter, but the addition is rather in the apparent size of the book than in the actual matter to be learnt.

In conclusion I offer my cordial thanks to many teachers, Head Masters and Assistant Masters in Public Schools, and also Masters of Private Schools (among whom I must mention especially the Rev. E. D. Stone and Mr. C. S. Jerram) for the assistance which they have directly and indirectly rendered to me by communication and correspondence.

Of the special co-operation which has been given throughout by Mr. Page and Mr. Hallam I have already spoken. For many reasons their constant help has been to me invaluable.

During the progress of the work I have received criticisms on many points of philology and grammar from my friends Dr. Peile, Master of Christ's College, and Professor J. E. B. Mayor, which, last, but not least, I desire gratefully to acknowledge.

B. H. KENNEDY.

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#### PREFACE TO THE SEVENTH EDITION.

IN bringing out the present edition the Editors have taken the opportunity to make some improvements in points of detail which have been suggested to them by various Teachers. They desire in particular to thank Mr. Frank Ritchie for several criticisms and suggestions.

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