

FIRST STEPS IN LATIN

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First Steps in Latin by F. Ritchie

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F. RITCHIE

**FIRST
STEPS IN LATIN**

FIRST STEPS IN LATIN

Crown 8vo. 3s. 6d.

**A PRACTICAL GREEK METHOD
FOR BEGINNERS**

PART I.
THE SIMPLE SENTENCE

BY

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PREFACE

THE difficulty which inevitably surrounds the beginning of Latin by very young pupils is often unnecessarily increased by the common practice of separating the study of the Accidence from its practical application. Exercises in Translation and Composition, even of the most elementary kind, are too frequently postponed till the Declensions and Conjugations have been gone through, and the memory of the pupil being thus burdened with a mass of forms, the use and meaning of which are not yet apparent, inaccuracy and mental confusion are the result. An attempt has here been made to make the application run side by side with the study of the Accidence, and at the same time to introduce some of the simpler rules of Syntax. As each Declension or Tense is learned, the formation exhibited in the type is applied to other Nouns or Verbs, and sentences framed to illustrate the use of the inflexions, and the meaning of the Syntax rules.

With a view to avoiding or lessening the bewilderment usually produced upon the mind of a beginner by the use of a complete Grammar, everything not essential to the structure of a simple sentence has been carefully excluded.

Thus, in the conjugation of the Verbs the Indicative Mood only is introduced; irregularities of every kind have been, as far as possible, avoided, and the Vocabulary is limited to words of a simple and concrete meaning.

In the selection of types for Declension and Conjugation, and in the phraseology employed, the "Public School Latin Primer" has been closely followed, it being intended that the use of this little book should precede that of the ordinary Grammars.

It is not necessary that the whole of the preliminary matter should be mastered before beginning Exercise I.; the remarks on the Sentence, Nouns, Adjectives, and Verbs are placed here for convenience of reference, and can be studied as occasion requires; the Definitions, however, and the English Verb in Latin form should be thoroughly learned at first.

The practice of reading or writing the Exercises should not interfere with the constant repetition (*viva voce*) of the types so far as they have been learned. For this purpose the Accidence, which is taught progressively in the body of the book, is exhibited in a collected form at the end.

It may be observed that the method of Analysis suggested (on p. 3) has been employed for some years with very advantageous effect.

F. RITCHIE.

HIGH SCHOOL, PLYMOUTH,
October 1880.

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