UNIT 1

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IN ON THE ACTION-
VERBS IN THE PRESENT TENSE

1.1 What Verbs are and why they are important
 A Verb is a word which expresses the following :

• an *action*
• the *existence* of someone or something

Throughout this Course you will meet hundreds of Verbs in a large variety of contexts. This is not at all surprising since the Verb is an essential ingredient in any sentence. In other words you cannot have a sentence without at least one Verb in it. There are many kinds of sentences including long, complex ones containing several Verbs and short sentences consisting only of one word - the Verb. But there are none without a Verb. So Verbs are an unavoidable hazard to negotiate at all points.

1.2 THE FOUR CONJUGATIONS
Fortunately there exists a convenient system for classifying the countless Verbs in the Latin language. These are arranged into four groups called **Conjugations**. Each type of Conjugation can be regarded as a 'capsule' which contains all the information you need to

• find out who is doing what and when
• to recognise other Verbs of the same category when you come across them

Later on you will meet some Verbs that are irregular, that is they do not follow the usual pattern but diverge from it in some special or unexpected ways, but these, too, will slot into perspective if they are seen in the context of the standard paradigm for regular Verbs.

1.3 The Concept of Tenses
As Verbs are embedded in a context of time, the concept of **Tense** has to be taken into account in order to indicate whether the action takes place in the Past, Present or Future.   In this Unit we will be dealing only with the **Present Tense**.

1.4 Learning the Layout
You must also become familiar with the invariable pattern in which every Verb which you will meet is set out. This is simply a convenient way of indicating different **Persons** who have to do with the Verb, and of distinguishing between **Singular** and **Plural** :

	SINGULAR	PLURAL
1st Person	I	we
2nd Person	thou/you	you
3rd Person	he/she/it	they

1.5   THE PRESENT INDICATIVE ACTIVE TENSE

- so called because it *indicates* the 'here and now', that is either

• an *action* that takes place at the *present* time or
• the *current state of affairs* as perceived by the speaker or writer.

All regular Latin verbs in the Present Indicative Active are set out thus :

1st Conjugation

ORARE -TO PRAY	
Singular	Plural
oro - I pray	*oramus* - we pray
oras - thou prayest	*oratis* - you pray
orat - he/she prays	*orant* - they pray

2nd Conjugation

VIDERE - TO SEE	
Singular	Plural
video - I see	*videmus* - we see
vides - thou seest	*videtis* - you see
videt - he/she sees	*vident* - they see

3rd Conjugation

DICERE - TO SAY	
Singular	Plural
dico - I say	*dicimus* - we say
dicis - thou sayest	*dicitis* - you say
dicit - he/she says	*dicunt* - they say

4th Conjugation

VENIRE - TO COME	
Singular	Plural
venio - I come	*venimus* - we come
venis - thou comest	*venitis* - you come
venit - he/she comes	*veniunt* - they come

1.6 The Whole Picture

When you first look at them, these boxes may seem to be filled with just a list of Verbs to learn. But they are much more than that. They are in fact the blueprint for the entire range of regular Verbs of this kind in the Present Tense and are well worth memorising, as all the regular Active Verbs in the Present Tense you are likely to encounter will find their exact counterpart in one of the four models above.

1.7 Understanding the Clues

All four Conjugations have identical endings (*-o, -s, -t, -mus, -tis, -nt*) each of which tells you who or what is carrying out the action.

Vocabulary

laudo, laudare (1) - to praise	*habeo, habere* (2) - to have
vivo, vivere (3) - to live	*audio, audire* (4) - to hear

Exercise 1 Take each of the following Verbs and match them with the models given in **1.5** :

laudo (1)   *habeo* (2)   *vivo* (3)   *audio* (4)

Example : *laudo, laudas, laudat...* etc.
          *vivo, vivis, vivit...*etc.

The number in brackets indicates to which Conjugation each Verb belongs.

1.8 Translating into English

It is important to realise that although there is only *one* form of the Verb in Latin, there is a choice of translations into English depending on the context. Thus *venit* not only means 'comes' but also 'is coming' or 'does come', whichever translation fits the required context.

1.9 How it sounds - Pronunciation of 2nd and 3rd Conjugation Infinitives

These differ in pronunciation and emphasis in spite of the fact that they both end in *-ere*. In order to avoid confusion it is important to distinguish between the *long* 'e' of the 2nd Conjugation Infinitive (as in *videre*) and the *short* 'e' of the 3rd Conjugation (as in *dicere*). This means that you would pronounce the former as vid-EH-ray and the latter as DEE-che-ray, with the emphasis falling on the capitalised letters. This will help you to maintain the correct flow and rhythm of the Latin text.
Here are some Latin phrases to practice using the correct rhythm :

signum videre   - 'to see a sign' . That is what the Scribes and Pharisees demanded of Jesus

audemus dicere   - 'we dare to say' . These words appear in the Mass just before the Our Father

1.10 The Negative Form

To express the Negative, simply place **non** in front of the Verb :
eg. **non** *vident* - they do not see.

Vocabulary

expecto, expectare (1) - to wait (for), look forward to	*dico, dicere* (3) - to say
jubeo, jubere (2) - to command	*sedeo, sedere* (2) - to sit
custodio, custodire (4) - to protect, keep	*servio, servire* (4) - to serve
rego, regere (3) - to rule	*regno, regnare* (1) - to rule
amo, amare (1) - to love	*diligo, diligere* (3) - to love

Exercise 2   Translate the following:
jubes, custodiunt, vivis et regnas, laudamus, laudant, benedicimus, habemus, auditis, diligo, expectant, dicit, amo, regunt.

Vocabulary

mihi - for me	*mensam* - table
oculus - eye	*juventutem* - youth
beatus - blessed	*vir* - man
Deus - God	*unum* - one
semper - always	*paro, parare* (1) - to prepare, set out
in coelis - in Heaven	*glorifico, glorificare* (1) - to glorify
timeo, timere (2) - to fear	*scandalizo, scandalizare* (1) - to scandalise
adoro, adorare (1) - to adore	*credo, -ere* (3) - to believe
laetifico, laetificare (1) - to give joy to	*vigilo, -are* (1) - to watch, be awake
luce - at dawn	

Reading Practice

Credo in unum Deum	I believe in one God
Paras mihi mensam	Thou preparest a table before me
Si oculus tuus scandalizat te	If thy eye scandaliseth thee
laudamus te, benedicimus te, adoramus te, glorificamus te	we praise Thee, we bless Thee, we adore Thee, we glorify Thee
Deus, Deus meus, ad te luce vigilo	O God, my God, to Thee I watch at break of day
ad Deum qui laetificat juventutem meam	to God Who giveth joy to my youth
Beatus vir qui timet Dominum	Blessed (is) the man who feareth the Lord

Vocabulary

magnifico, magnificare (1) - to magnify	*tremo, tremere* (3) - to tremble, be in awe
do, dare (1) - to give	*Angeli* - angels
autem - but	*Dominationes* - dominations
animam meam - my soul	*Potestates* - powers
pacem - peace	*vobis* - to you
ad dexteram - at the right hand	*Patris* - of the Father

Exercise 3   Fill in the blanks using one of the following Verbs :
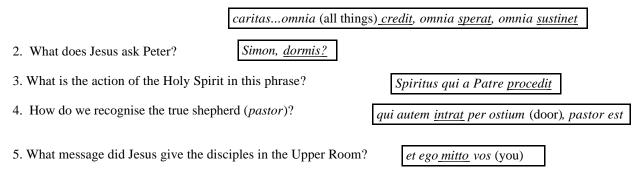
magnificat	audiunt	tremunt	laudant	dico
diligis	sedes	do	adorant	custodiunt

1. *beati qui _____verbum Dei, et _____ illud*   blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it

2. _____   *autem vobis*   But I say to you...

3. *majestatem tuam _____   Angeli...*   the Angels praise Thy majesty...
   _____ Dominationes...   the Dominations worship it...
   _____ Potestates   the Powers are in awe

4. _____ *anima mea Dominum*   My soul magnifies the Lord

5. *Pacem meam _____ vobis*   My peace <u>I give</u> to you

6. *Simon Joannis,_____ me?*   Simon (son) of John, <u>lovest thou</u> me?

7. *qui _____ ad dexteram Patris*   Who <u>sittest</u> at the right hand of the Father

Vocabulary

sustineo, -ere (2) - to endure, maintain	*spero, -are* (1) - to hope
dormio, -ire (4) - to sleep	*procedo, procedere* - (3) - to proceed
intro, -are (1) - to enter	

Exercise 4

1. What are the characteristics of *caritas* (love) according to St Paul?

caritas...omnia (all things) *credit, omnia sperat, omnia sustinet*

2. What does Jesus ask Peter?   *Simon, dormis?*

3. What is the action of the Holy Spirit in this phrase?   *Spiritus qui a Patre procedit*

4. How do we recognise the true shepherd (*pastor*)?   *qui autem intrat per ostium* (door)*, pastor est*

5. What message did Jesus give the disciples in the Upper Room?   *et ego mitto vos* (you)

Vocabulary

neque - neither	*horrea* - barns
gentes - Gentiles	*sculptilia* - graven things, idols
haec omnia - all these things	*sero, serere* (3) - to sow
intelligo, -ere (3) - to understand	*meto, metere* (3) - to reap
egenum - needy	*congrego, congregare* (1) - to gather
pauperem - poor	*dimitto, -ere* (3) - to dismiss
lugeo, lugere (2) - to mourn	*servus* - servant
vero - truly	*jam* - now, already
Dominus - the Lord	*inquiro, inquirere* (3) - to seek

Reading Practice

Beatus qui <u>intelligit</u> super egenum et pauperem   Blessed is he who <u>understandeth</u> concerning the needy and the poor

non <u>serunt</u>, neque <u>metunt</u>, neque <u>congregant</u> in horrea   they neither <u>sow</u> nor <u>reap</u> nor <u>gather</u> into barns

Haec enim omnia gentes <u>inquirunt</u>   For all these things do the Gentiles <u>seek</u>

omnes qui <u>adorant</u> sculptilia   all (those) who <u>adore</u> graven things

Beati qui <u>lugent</u>   Blessed (are they) that <u>mourn</u>

Nunc <u>dimittis</u> servum tuum, Domine   Now <u>Thou dost dismiss</u> Thy servant, O Lord

<u>Vivo</u> autem, jam non ego : <u>vivit</u> vero in me Christus   but <u>I live</u>, now not I : but Christ <u>liveth</u> in me

1.11 PRESENT INDICATIVE OF THE VERB 'TO BE' (*ESSE)*

The verb 'to be' is in a category of its own and does not conform to any of the patterns for the four Conjugations previously mentioned.   It is conjugated as follows:

ESSE - TO BE	
Singular	Plural
sum - I am	**sumus** - we are
es - thou art	**estis** - you are
est - he/she/it is	**sunt** - they are

1.12 Personal Pronouns
 Quite often the Verb 'to be' in Latin is accompanied by one of these **Personal Pronouns** :

ego - I	*nos* - we
tu - thou	*vos - you*

Vocabulary

resurrectio - resurrection	*vita* - life
vitis - vine	*palmes* (pl. *palmites*) - young branch esp. of vine
dignus - worthy	*amicus* - friend
sacerdos - priest	*Judaeus* - a Jew
Petrus - Peter	*corpus* - body
lux - light	*mundus* - world
multi - many	*omnia* - everything
Rex - King	*multi* - many
panis - bread	*hi* - these, they
unus, unum - one	

Reading Practice

Ego sum resurrectio, et vita	I am the Resurrection and the Life
Ego sum Vitis, vos palmites	I am the Vine, you (are) the branches
Domine, non sum dignus	Lord, I am not worthy
Non es amicus Caesaris	thou art not a friend of Caesar
Tu es sacerdos in aeternum	Thou art a priest forever
Tu es Rex Judaeorum?	Art Thou the King of the Jews?
Tu es Petrus	Thou art Peter
Unus panis et unum corpus multi sumus	We being many are one bread and one body
Vos estis lux mundi	You are the light of the world

hi in mundo <u>*sunt*</u>	<u>They are</u> in the world

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Vocabulary

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circumdo, circumdare (1) - to surround	*protego, -ere* (3) - to protect
permaneo, -ere (2) - to remain	*in aeternum* - for eternity
in tenebris - in darkness	*virgo* - a virgin
umbra mortis - the shadow of death	*maneo, -ere* (2) - to remain, abide
ecce - behold	*mater* - mother
foris - outside	*fratres* - brothers
sto, -stare (1) - to stand	*intro, intrare* (1) - to enter
coinquino, coinquinare (1) - to defile	*hominem* - a man
os - mouth	*ex ore* - out of the mouth
quod - that which	*hoc - this thing*

<u>Reading Practice</u>

Deus, qui nos...<u>*circumdas*</u> *et* <u>*protegis*</u>	O God, Who <u>dost encompass</u> and <u>shield</u> us
in aeternum <u>*permanes*</u> *Virgo*	a Virgin evermore <u>thou dost remain</u>
qui in tenebris et umbra mortis <u>*sedent*</u>	who <u>sit</u> in darkness and in the shadow of death
<u>*qui non diligit,*</u> <u>*manet*</u> *in morte*	<u>He that loveth not,</u> <u>abideth</u> in death
Ecce mater tua, et fratres tui foris <u>*stant*</u>	Behold, Thy mother and Thy brethren <u>stand</u> without
Non quod <u>*intrat*</u> *in os,* <u>*coinquinat*</u> *hominem : sed quod* <u>*procedit*</u> *ex ore, hoc* <u>*coinquinat*</u> *hominem*	Not that which <u>goeth into</u> the mouth <u>defileth</u> a man, but what <u>cometh out</u> of the mouth, this <u>defileth</u> a man

Now read through this whole passage of the Gospel (John x 11-16) of the Second Sunday after Easter. All the Verbs in the Present Tense are underlined. Some you have already met in this Unit. Others are new, but their endings conform to the patterns set out in **1.5**. So although you may not have met them before, you will know precisely who is carrying out the action by recognising their endings.

Sequentia Sancti Evangelii secundum Joannem. In illo tempore : Dixit Jesus pharisaeis : Ego <u>*sum*</u> *pastor bonus. Bonus pastor animam suam* <u>*dat*</u> *pro ovibus suis. Mercenarius autem, et qui* <u>*non est*</u> *pastor, cujus* <u>*non sunt*</u> *oves propriae,* <u>*videt*</u> *lupum venientem, et* <u>*dimittit*</u> *oves, et* <u>*fugit*</u> *: et lupus* <u>*rapit,*</u> *et* <u>*dispergit*</u> *oves : mercenarius autem* <u>*fugit,*</u> *quia mercenarius* <u>*est,*</u> *et* <u>*non pertinet*</u> *ad eum de ovibus. Ego* <u>*sum*</u> *pastor bonus : et* <u>*cognosco*</u> *meas, et* <u>*cognoscunt*</u> *me meae. Sicut novit me Pater, et ego* <u>*agnosco*</u> *Patrem : et animam meam* <u>*pono*</u> *pro ovibus meis. Et alias oves* <u>*habeo*</u> *quae* <u>*non*</u> <u>*sunt*</u> *ex hoc ovili : et illas* <u>*oportet*</u> *me adducere, et vocem meam audient, et fiet unum ovile, et unus pastor.*

Continuation of the holy Gospel according to St. John. At that time Jesus said to the Pharisees : <u>I am</u> the good shepherd. The good shepherd <u>giveth</u> his life for his sheep. But the hireling, and he that <u>is not</u> the shepherd, whose own the sheep <u>are not,</u> <u>seeth</u> the wolf coming and <u>leaveth</u> the sheep and <u>flieth</u> : and the wolf <u>catcheth</u> and <u>scattereth</u> the sheep : and the hireling <u>flieth,</u> because <u>he is</u> a hireling, and <u>he hath no care</u> for the sheep. <u>I am</u> the good shepherd : and <u>I know</u> Mine, and Mine <u>know</u> Me, as the Father knoweth Me, and <u>I know</u> the Father : and <u>I lay down</u> My life for My sheep. And other sheep <u>I have</u> that are not of this fold : them also <u>I must</u> bring, and they shall hear My voice, and there shall be one fold and one shepherd.