THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
CLASSICS & ANCIENT HISTORY

PARSING LATIN WORDS

To parse a word (from the Latin *pars,* a part) is to say what part of its basic form it is*. The following examples will show you how to do it.

Parsing a noun or pronoun
Give the case(s), number, nominative singular, the ending of the genitive singular (with the new end of the stem, if it differs from the nominative), gender and meaning.

Examples:
aquam: accusative singular of *aqua, -ae*, f., water.
auxilia: nominative, vocative or accusative plural of *auxilium, -i*, n., help.
dominis: dative or ablative plural of *dominus, -i*, m., master.
temporis: genitive singular of *tempus, -oris*, n., time.

Parsing an adjective
Give the case(s), number, gender(s), nominative singular in all genders, and meaning.

Examples:
bono: dative or ablative singular, masculine or neuter, of *bonus, -a, -um*, good.
cararum: genitive plural feminine of *carus, -a, -um*, dear.
tristium: genitive plural, all genders, of *tristis, -e*, sad.

Parsing a verb
Give the person, number, tense, mood and voice (except for *sum* and deponent verbs) of a part of a verb which can be conjugated. If it is an infinitive, give its tense and voice. Treat the participles as adjectives. In all cases give the principal parts of the verb and its meaning.

Examples:
laudamus: 1st person plural, present indicative active of *laudo, -are, -avi, -atum*, praise.
videbas: 2nd person singular, imperfect indicative active of *video, -ere, vidi, visum*, see.
capient: 3rd person plural, future indicative active of *capio, -ere, cepi, captum*, take.
laudetur: 3rd person singular, present subjunctive passive, of *laudo, -are, -avi, -atum*, praise.
sequimur: 1st person plural, present indicative of *sequor, -i, secutus*, follow.
cucurrisse: perfect infinitive active of *curro, -ere, cucurri, cursum*, run.
amantibus: dative/ablative plural, all genders, of the present participle of *amo, -are, -avi, -atum*, love.

- Some people extend the meaning of the word to include saying what part a word plays in a phrase or sentence.