A Grammatical Dictionary

ABLATIVE: see CASE

ABSTRACT: see NOUN

ACCUSATIVE: see CASE

ACTIVE: see VERB

ADJECTIVE: a word that describes a NOUN, e.g. the red car, six eggs, a sensible idea, a young child. In Latin (and other languages, e.g. German) an adjective must always have the same GENDER, NUMBER and CASE as the NOUN it describes in the sentence.

ADVERB: a word that describes how an action (VERB) is done. In English an adverb will often end in -LY, in Latin -E or -TER,

   e.g. The dog barked loudly.
       The athletes ran fast.

CASE: the different forms and uses of the NOUN (or ADJECTIVE) in Latin (also Greek, German, Russian and other languages). Latin has six cases:

NOMINATIVE: used for the person/thing doing the action of the VERB (also called the SUBJECT),

          nom
   e.g. The senator walked through the forum.

VOCATIVE: used when someone is being spoken to,

              voc
   e.g. Where are you, Quintus?

   voc
   Slaves, carry the wine jars.

ACCUSATIVE: used for the person/thing that the action is done to (also called the OBJECT),

      nom   acc
   e.g. Caecilius greets his friend.

             acc
   We are eating biscuits.

     nom   acc
   The cat caught sight of the mouse.

GENITIVE: this translates "of" or the apostrophe,

        nom   gen
   e.g. The house of Salvius is in Britain.

      gen   nom
  or Salvius' house is in Britain.

     nom   gen
   The spy was captured in the enemies' territory.

   nom   gen
  or The spy was captured in the territory of the enemies.

DATIVE: this translates "to" or "for",

      nom   acc   dat

e.g. Caecilius gives a gift to Quintus.

      nom   acc   dat

Caecilius found a gift for Metella.

ABLATIVE: this translates "by", "with" or "from", mainly. It is also used after PASSIVE VERBS, with or without "ab" (by),

      nom   abl   acc

e.g. The old man with the long beard entered the forum.

      nom   *(ab)*   abl

The soldier had been seriously wounded by the enemy.

CLAUSE: a group of words that contain a VERB.

MAIN CLAUSE: a group of words that make complete sense by themselves,

e.g. The sun is shining.
    The Romans used to build straight roads.

SUBORDINATE CLAUSE: a group of words that do not make complete sense by themselves, but must be joined to a MAIN CLAUSE to make a sentence,

      conj

e.g. because the car broke down

      conj

    when the music stops

Subordinate clauses must be introduced by a CONJUNCTION.

COMPARISON: ADJECTIVES and ADVERBS have COMPARATIVE forms, used when two NOUNS or two VERBS are being compared with each other.

In English the comparative ADJECTIVE is formed by adding -ER or -R, or "more" to the basic ADJECTIVE,

e.g. faster, braver, more beautiful
    The retarius is <u>swifter</u> than the murmillo.

The comparative ADVERB is usually formed by adding "more" to the basic ADVERB.

e.g. The soldiers fought <u>more fiercely</u> than they did yesterday.

N.B: It is correct to say "taller" or "more useful", but not "more taller" or "more usefuller"

ADJECTIVES and ADVERBS also have SUPERLATIVE forms. These are formed by adding -EST or "very" or "most" to the basic word.

e.g. SUPERLATIVE ADJECTIVE
    Mount Vesuvius is <u>very high</u>.
    That road is the <u>longest</u> way home.

    SUPERLATIVE ADVERB
    The athlete won the race <u>most easily</u>.
    Salvius hit his slaves <u>very cruelly</u>.

CONJUGATION: the name given to each of the four Latin groups of
VERBS. The endings which show who is doing the VERB are the same for
each conjugation, but for many tenses there is usually a different
vowel before the endings,

e.g. 1st CONJUGATION   A
     2nd CONJUGATION   E
     3rd CONJUGATION   I or E
     4th CONJUGATION   I

CONJUNCTION: a word used to lengthen sentences by joining two clauses
together,

e.g. when, if, although, because, after, while, since.
     Since it has stopped snowing, we will go for a walk.
     He watched television after he had fed the cat.

DATIVE: see CASE

DECLENSION: a group of Latin NOUNS, each of which forms its CASES in
a different way. There are five declensions, but the first three are
the commonest. Some NOUNS and ADJECTIVES do not have CASES and are
called indeclinable. Examples are *nihil*, *tot* and most numbers over
three, e.g. *octo, viginti.*

DEPONENT: a small group of VERBS have PASSIVE endings in all TENSES,
but their meaning in English is always ACTIVE. These VERBS have laid
aside (deponere, to put down) their ACTIVE forms, and retain only the
PASSIVE ones. The main deponents needed for GCSE are listed at the back
of CLC, Unit IIIB.

e.g. *hodie venalicius multos servos vendere conatur.*
     Today the slavedealer is trying to sell many slaves.

     centurio milites hortatus est ut fortiter pugnarent.
     The centurion encouraged his soldiers to fight bravely.

FUTURE: see TENSE

GENDER: all Latin NOUNS are either masculine, feminine or neuter. Any
ADJECTIVE which describes a NOUN will have an ending that indicates the
same gender as the NOUN. Some NOUNS are obviously masculine, e.g. man,
master, farmer, senator, father. Some NOUNS are obviously feminine,
e.g. woman, mistress, slave-girl, queen, mother. Things, as opposed to
people, can be any of the three genders. As a general rule, most NOUNS
with NOMINATIVE ending in -A are feminine, in -US are masculine, and in
-UM are neuter.

GENITIVE: see CASE

GERUND: a verbal NOUN, i.e. it is formed from a verb and can take an ACCUSATIVE or an ADVERB. It declines like a 2nd DECLENSION NEUTER NOUN, e.g. *bellum*. In English it ends in -ING, but it differs from the PRESENT PARTICIPLE in that it is not an ADJECTIVE. In Latin its NOMINATIVE ends in -NDUM.

gerund
e.g. Sailors understand the art of sailing.

gerund
By attacking the town, the Romans defeated the enemy.

GERUNDIVE: a verbal adjective, formed from a VERB in the same way as a GERUND, but which behaves like an ADJECTIVE, and agrees with a NOUN in GENDER, NUMBER, and CASE. It declines like a 2nd DECLENSION ADJECTIVE, e.g. *bonus*.

gerundive
e.g. The soldier was killed in freeing his country.

gerundive
Athletes understand the art of running races.

GERUND OF OBLIGATION: this is one of the commonest ways of expressing something which has to be done. It consists of a GERUND in the NOMINATIVE CASE and a 3rd SINGULAR part of the VERB "to be" in PRESENT, IMPERFECT or FUTURE TENSE. The person who has to do the action will be in the DATIVE CASE,

e.g.   I must escape = *effugiendum est mihi.*
      literally = An escaping is to me.
  The slave had to escape = *effugiendum erat servo.*
      literally = An escaping was to the slave.
  We will have to escape = *effugiendum erit nobis.*
      literally = An escaping will be to us.

IMPERATIVE: (Latin *imperare*, to command) the part of the VERB which indicates what someone is being told to do,

e.g. Open the window.
  Slaves, carry the wine-jar.
  Tell me the time, please.

IMPERFECT: see TENSE

INDIRECT SPEECH: sentences which report what has been said, ordered or asked.
  They are either 1) INDIRECT STATEMENTS
        2) INDIRECT COMMANDS
        3) INDIRECT QUESTIONS

INDIRECT STATEMENTS can be introduced by a variety of VERBS, e.g. say, know, believe, think, understand, declare. They will be followed by "that",

e.g. DIRECT : "It is going to rain."
  INDIRECT : I knew that it was going to rain.
  DIRECT : "Agricola has been recalled from Britain."
  INDIRECT : The senate announced that Agricola had been
     recalled from Britain.

INDIRECT **COMMANDS** are introduced by the VERB "command" or "order" or a VERB that implies a polite command, such as "persuade" or "suggest",

e.g.   DIRECT : "Shut the door."
  INDIRECT : The centurion ordered the guard to shut the door.
   DIRECT : "Give your opinion about Agricola, Glabrio."
  INDIRECT : Domitian persuaded Glabrio to give his opinion about Agricola.

INDIRECT **QUESTIONS** are introduced by an INTERROGATIVE. This is often preceded by the VERB "ask" or a VERB that implies ignorance, such as "do not know" or "wonder".

e.g.   DIRECT : "When will you arrive, Quintus?"
  INDIRECT : Caecilius asked Quintus when he would arrive.
   DIRECT : "What time is it?"
  INDIRECT : The boy on the beach wondered what the time was.

N.B.   The VERB in the INDIRECT CLAUSE often goes one TENSE further back into the past from that of the DIRECT SPEECH.

INFINITIVE: Most VERBS have six:

PRESENT ACTIVE = portaRE	: to carry
PRESENT PASSIVE = portarI	: to be carried
PERFECT ACTIVE = portavISSE	: to have carried
PERFECT PASSIVE = portatus ESSE	: to have been carried
FUTURE ACTIVE = portaturus ESSE	: to be about to carry
FUTURE PASSIVE = portatum IRI	: to be about to be carried
(very rare)	

N.B. The INFINITIVE in English always begins with "to __".

INTERROGATIVE: a word that begins a question in DIRECT or INDIRECT SPEECH, e.g. who, what, when, why, where. In Latin (and French) many INTERROGATIVES begin with "QU" to remind you of "question," e.g. *quis, quid, quotiens, quot, qualis.*

LOCATIVE: a special, narrowly defined CASE. It indicates "place where" (Latin *locus*, a place) and is usually translated by "at" or "in." It is used only with the names of towns and small islands and *domus, rus,* and *humus.*

e.g. *Romae manebamus.*
 We were staying at Rome.

 illum librum domi reliqui.
 I have left that book at home.

NOMINATIVE: see CASE

NOUN: name given to a person or thing; e.g. cat, boy, biscuit, wheel, pencil, painter.

PROPER NOUN: name of a specific NOUN and spelt with a capital letter, e.g. Richard, Julie, Manchester, Mr Smith, Coronation Street, Mount Vesuvius.

ABSTRACT NOUN: a NOUN which has no substance and cannot be seen, e.g. love, terror, greatness, bravery, immortality.

NUMBER: i.e. singular or plural. This term is used for NOUNS, ADJECTIVES and VERBS.

PARTICIPLES: see VERB

PASSIVE: see VERB

PERFECT: see TENSE

PERSON: to refer easily to the SUBJECT of a VERB, the term PERSON is used as follows:

I = 1st person singular   We = 1st person plural
You = 2nd person singular   You(pl.) = 2nd person plural
He/she/it = 3rd person singular   They = 3rd person plural

PLUPERFECT: see TENSE

PREPOSITION: a word used in front of a NOUN to indicate place, time or manner, e.g. in, up, before, outside, by, with.

e.g. We caught the train at 10:30 am on platform 3.
I had those chocolates from my friend for my birthday.

PRESENT: see TENSE

PRINCIPAL PARTS: most VERBS have four. They are so called because other parts of the VERB are formed from them. They are, in order: 1s PRESENT, PRESENT INFINITIVE, 1s PERFECT, PERFECT PASSIVE PARTICIPLE.

e.g. *porto   portare   portavi   portatus*

They are given in this order in vocabulary lists and dictionaries.

PRONOUN: a word used to replace a NOUN, e.g. I, you, him, us. Pronouns are often omitted in Latin, especially in the NOMINATIVE.

RELATIVE PRONOUN: "who", "that", or "which" when it relates to a NOUN or PRONOUN just mentioned,

rel.pr
e.g. Here is the dog which lives next door
rel.pr
The enemy who defeated us are marching to war again.

SUBJUNCTIVE: a form of the VERB which occurs very frequently in Latin. It is used after certain CONJUNCTIONS, e.g. *cum* (when), *ut* (in order that). There are four TENSES of the SUBJUNCTIVE; PRESENT, PERFECT, IMPERFECT and PLUPERFECT. The last two are the most common. The SUBJUNCTIVE nearly always means the same as the equivalent TENSE of the ordinary VERB, e.g.

<div style="text-align:right">impf. subj</div>

Salvius tam iratus erat ut servum verberaret.
Salvius was so angry that he was beating the slave.

<div style="text-align:center">plup. subj</div>

Salvius, cum servum verberavisset, e villa emisit.
When Salvius had beaten his slave, he sent him out of the villa.

But sometimes the SUBJUNCTIVE can be vaguer and can mean "may", "might", "could" or "would." When translating SUBJUNCTIVE VERBS, follow your instincts as to what sounds most natural in English, e.g.

Salvius locum quaerebat ubi conspicuus esset.
Salvius was looking for a place where he could be conspicuous.

hostes timebant ne Romani castra oppugnarent.
The enemy was afraid that the Romans might attack their camp.

TENSE: indicates the time when the VERB is done, e.g. past, present or future. Latin has six TENSES of the ordinary VERB, and four TENSES of the SUBJUNCTIVE VERB.

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        PRESENT = I do, I am doing
         FUTURE = I shall do
FUTURE PERFECT = I shall have done
PAST:  PERFECT = I have done, I did
     IMPERFECT = I was doing, I used to do
   PLUPERFECT = I had done
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VERB: a word that expresses an action. Every sentence must contain a VERB, e.g. run, shout, sit, see, think, swim.

ACTIVE: VERBS are called ACTIVE when the SUBJECT (NOMINATIVE) is doing the action,

<div style="text-align:center">nom</div>

e.g. The slave was preparing dinner.

PASSIVE: VERBS are called PASSIVE when the action is being done to the SUBJECT (NOMINATIVE),

<div style="text-align:center">nom   impf. passive</div>

e.g. The dinner was being prepared by the slave.

<div style="text-align:center">nom   pres. passive</div>

The captives are being led to prison.

N.B. "Being" or "been" will often be used in translating a PASSIVE VERB into English.

PARTICIPLES: are part VERB and part ADJECTIVE, i.e. they are formed from VERBS and can take an ACCUSATIVE or an ADVERB. They agree with a NOUN or PRONOUN in GENDER, NUMBER and CASE.

PRESENT: ends in -ING in English. It contains NT (prese**NT**) before the CASE ending and declines like "*ingens.*" Its NOMINATIVE SINGULAR ends in -NS,

<p style="text-align:center">nom.s.m   nom.s.m</p>

   e.g. *Salvius* in villam irrupit, *clamans.*
     Salvius burst into the villa, shouting.

     acc.m.p   acc.m.p
     servos amphoras *portantes* vidimus.
     We saw the slaves carrying the wine jars.

PERFECT PASSIVE: the 4ᵗʰ PRINCIPAL PART, it declines like "*bonus.*" Its NOMINATIVE SINGULAR MASCULINE ends in -TUS. It means "having been _____ed."

     nom.s.m   ppp n.s.m
   e.g. *miles* gladio *vulneratus* humi decidit.
     Having been wounded by the sword, the soldier fell to the ground.

PERFECT ACTIVE: the 3ʳᵈ PRINCIPAL PART of DEPONENT VERBS (minus *sum*). It declines like "*bonus*" also. Its meaning is "having ____ed".

     nom.s.m   pap n.s.m
   e.g. *Salvius*, villam *ingressus*, servos vituperavit.
     Having entered the villa, Salvius blamed the slaves.

FUTURE: formed by taking the PERFECT PARTICIPLE and inserting UR (fut**UR**e) before US,

   e.g. *portatus* becomes *portaturus.*
     ductus becomes *ducturus.*

It means "going to _____", "about to _____", "on the point of _____".

     acc.m.p   fut p a.m.p
   e.g. *dux* *milites* e pugna *discessuros* incitavit.
     The leader encouraged the soldiers on the point of leaving the fight.

     nom.s.m   fut p n.s.m.
     rex *moriturus* filios ad se vocavit.
     About to die, the king called his sons to him.

VOCATIVE: see CASE