

*Fecisti nos ad te et inquietum est cor nostrum donec requiescat in te.*<sup>1</sup>

## First Conjugation Verbs: Imperfect Tense



In the centre of page 19 of *Latin Without Tears* you will see set out the imperfect tense of the verb *cantare* to sing. Listen to the recorded example on the *Mothers' Companion* Flashdrive. The recorded example begins with the present tense and carries on with the future tense but you can ignore the future for the moment and concentrate on learning the imperfect and revising the present tense. Here are the verbs you know:

*amare* to love  
*excitare* to rouse, to stir up  
*salutare* to greet  
*vulnerare* to wound  
*deliberare* to deliberate, to consider seriously  
*aedificare* to build  
*occupare* to seize, to occupy, to attack  
*putare* to think  
*culpare* to find fault with, to blame  
*desperare* to give up hope, to despair  
*vulnerare* to wound  
*ambulare* to walk  
*liberare* to free  
*negare* to deny, to say that ... not  
*pugnare* to fight  
*superare* to overpower  
*oppugnare* to attack  
*parare* to prepare

Here are two new ones from the list of first declension verbs for IGCSE Latin:

*exspectare* to expect, wait for

Bible example:

***expectabam*** *bona et venerunt mihi mala praestolabar lucem et eruperunt tenebrae* Job30;26

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<sup>1</sup> You have made us for yourself and our heart cannot be quieted until it rests in you. Augustine of Hippo.

*habitare* to live, reside

Bible example:

*hoc autem factum est per biennium ita ut omnes qui **habitabant** in Asia audirent verbum Domini Iudaei atque gentiles* Acts 19:10

You will notice that I have chosen examples in the imperfect tense.

Learn to chant all the verbs you know in the imperfect in the same way as *canto*. How would you say “they were thinking”? What about “we were despairing”? (answers on the next page.)

Play around with the imperfect form of the verbs and make different one word Latin sentences like these. Then when you are confident you can put in different subjects instead of he/she/it and they, just as you did for the present tense. For instance: *femina salutabat* or *ancillae desperabant*. If you feel confident with that then try adding an object to your sentence, if the verb is one where you can do this,<sup>2</sup> for instance, you might make *ancilla feminam expectabat*.

There are some quiz sheets on the *Mothers' Companion* flashdrive (*Mothers' Companion* Volume 5, Latin Without Tears Part 1, Latin quizzes and tests.) You can try the second part of Quiz 1 and all of Test 2 now. (The answers are on the next page.)

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2 Such verbs are called transitive verbs.

Answers:

Quiz 1 part 2

*vulnerabamus pantheram* We were wounding the panther.

*Calcabatis* You were kicking.

*nautae navigabant* The Ssilors were sailing.

Notice that there are no articles (a, an, the) in Latin. When translating you need to supply them where needed. This means that *nautae navigabant* could mean just, "Sailors were sailing" and *vulnerabamus pantheram* could mean, "We were wounding a panther."

*vocabat* He/she/it was calling.

*delectabam* I was delighting.

*volabamus* We were flying.

*clamabas* You were crying.

*arabatis* You were ploughing.

*laudabant* They were praising.

*saltabat* He/she/it was dancing.

*monstrabam* I was showing.

*regnabamus* We were reigning.

*devorabatis* You were devouring.

*Navigabat* He/she/it was sailing.