



## Comparison of Adjectives

Work through *Latin Without Tears* from page 87 to the first half of page 91. For some of the examples you could try substituting the superlative form of the adjective given. Do not try this with *bonus-a-um* or *malus-a-um*, however, as (just like their English equivalents<sup>2</sup>) they are irregular.

Two more adjectives for your notebook:

*laetus, -a, -um* happy

How would you say “most happy” or “happiest”? Answer on the last page.

Bible example:

*dixitque pater ad Ioseph, iam **laetus** moriar quia vidi faciem tuam et superstitem te relinquo*

Genesis 46:30

Jacob ( or Israel, he is the *pater*; “father” in the text) is speaking to (*ad*) Joseph here after being reunited with him in Egypt. The Vulgate is quite different to the English here although the general sense is the same. *Iam* is a useful little word for your notebook meaning “now.” Jacob is saying that he is happy to die (*moriar*) because he has seen (*vidi*) Joseph's face and leaves (*relinquo*) him surviving. Think of English words related to *moriar, vidi and relinquo*. Answers on last page.

*magnus, -a, -um* large, great

This word is not regular in its comparative forms. The superlative (“greatest”) is *maximus-a-um*.

What was *Magna Carta*? What is a *magnum opus*? Answers on the last page.

Bible example:

*fecitque Deus*

*duo **magna** luminaria,*

*luminare maius ut praeesset diei*

*et*

*luminare minus ut praeesset nocti*

*et stellas* Genesis 1:16

This wonderful verse from Genesis easy if you are a good guesser! I have set it out above in a way that will help. *Fecit* is “made” *duo* is a number – guess! *Luminaria* is a plural noun (qualified by *duo magna*). If you piece the first part together from that you can guess the two pairs of opposites *maius/minus* and *diei/nocti*. *Praeesset* is to “lead,” “rule” or “command.” *Ut* is another useful little word for your notebook meaning “so that” or “in order that.” The grammar in this verse is more complicated than you need to deal with but “in order to” works well! What a wonderful expression of God's power the last two words of this text are!

<sup>1</sup> Constancy is the basis of virtue. Old motto.

<sup>2</sup> Good, better, best, bad, worse, worst. **Not** good, gooder, goodest, bad, badder, baddest!

Answers:

*laetissimus-a-um*

<b>Masculine singular:</b>	<b>Feminine singular:</b>	<b>Neuter singular:</b>
<i>laetissimus</i>	<i>laetissima</i>	<i>laetissimum</i>
<i>laetissime</i>	<i>laetissima</i>	<i>laetissimum</i>
<i>laetissimum</i>	<i>laetissimam</i>	<i>laetissimum</i>
<i>laetissimi</i>	<i>laetissimae</i>	<i>laetissimi</i>
<i>laetissimi</i>	<i>laetissiae</i>	<i>laetissimo</i>
<i>laetissimo</i>	<i>laetissimā</i>	<i>laetissimo</i>
<b>Masculine plural:</b>	<b>Feminine plural:</b>	<b>Neuter plural:</b>
<i>laetissimi</i>	<i>laetissimae</i>	<i>laetissima</i>
<i>laetissimi</i>	<i>laetissimae</i>	<i>laetissima</i>
<i>laetissimos</i>	<i>laetissimas</i>	<i>laetissima</i>
<i>laetissimorum</i>	<i>laetissimarum</i>	<i>laetissimorum</i>
<i>laetissimis</i>	<i>laetissimis</i>	<i>laetissimis</i>
<i>laetissimis</i>	<i>laetissimis</i>	<i>laetissimis</i>

Examples:

*Moriar* “mortal”

*vidi* “video”

*relinquo* “relinquish”

*Magna Carta* means “Great Charter.” Read about it in *The Story of God’s Dealings with our Nation* Chapter 6 on Volume 3 of *The Mothers’ Companion*.

Someone’s *magnum opus* is their “great work” or masterpiece. The term is usually used to describe a piece of music (a composer’s *magnum opus*) a painting (a painter’s *magnum opus*) or a poem or book (a writer’s or poet’s *magnum opus*.)