

b) Main part: exercises (*Pensa*) for more advanced vocabulary1/ Structure for each *Pensum*

On the left-hand page you will be given a text to read, with a short introduction to give you the context. You will see that ten of the words in the text are in italics. The texts have been taken from classical authors, and only in some cases has a line been ellided or has some Latin word been added to make the text a little easier for the student (for instance, the often omitted form *esse* in compound infinitives). These scarce additions always appear between square brackets [like this].

After the text we deal with those ten words in italics, words that may be new for you. Regarding what words may be new for a student that has covered the usual introductory course and what words are not, it will depend on the book that the student has used. The ten words chosen in each text will never be very basic ones like *urbs* or *magnus* while others like *nanciscor* have a higher probability of being unknown to most students at the intermediate stage for which this book is intended. Concerning middle-level words like *temere* or *erumpo*, they may be known to some and new to others.

By means of synonyms or opposites or a very short explanation we try to offer the meaning for each word, but not an English translation. The purpose of glossing the words in Latin itself rather than just giving an English translation is not only to try to make you go through the text without the need of an exact translation into English but also to make more Latin vocabulary go through your mind and increase your knowledge of synonyms and opposites. In fact it is in the exercises where you will find an English equivalent for each word.

On the right-hand page you are asked to do some exercises in which you are requested to use the ten glossed words, just once each, and here you will find an English equivalent for each. Some exercises (*Pensa* 1-20 and 51-60) will be a combination of incomplete Latin sentences to be filled as indicated and whole English sentences to be translated into Latin. The sentences are rather simple, because the purpose is not to practise grammar or high-level prose composition but just to make you practise the vocabulary, something fast that makes the language run fluidly through your mind. For the English sentences to be translated into Latin the terms for which you must use one of the ten glossed words

are indicated in italics.

Other exercises will consist of a continuous Latin text with gaps to be filled (again, each of the ten glossed words must be used just once). To offer some variety of difficulty (or just some fast exercises) sometimes the words will be in the same order as they appear glossed (*Pensa* 21-40) and sometimes in a different order (*Pensa* 41-50).

Finally, after these exercises that deal with the ten glossed words you will find a final short exercise in which you are requested to produce the Latin translation for six English words. You will observe that the requested words are really easy words, much more frequent than the ten glossed ones (and most probably included into the 997 elementary words of the preliminary part of the book), and they are related to specific words in the text other than the ten glossed ones. The purpose is just to reinforce the knowledge of basic vocabulary, as it is a proved fact that, especially for Prose Composition, lack of knowledge of even very basic terms is really a hindrance for fluency.

Note: Some of the English sentences in the exercises may appear in a not very natural English. English sentences have been “forced” in some cases to make the needed Latin word more evident.

2/ How to proceed?

There are several possibilities, what follows is just a suggestion.

a/ After reading the introductory heading just to know what the text goes about, read the text trying to get a general idea about it. **b/** Study the glossed words. **c/** Read the text again, now knowing what the ten words mean. You should now get a wider understanding of the content. **d/** Do the exercises, through which you will get an English translation for those ten words. **e/** Read the text for third and final time.

Or possibly you will prefer to start studying the meaning of the ten selected words, doing the exercises and reading the text just as final step. Do as you feel more comfortable.