

## Latin Verbs: Personal Endings, Active

A Latin verb often has an ending that indicates something about its subject. The ending indicates which type of person goes with the verb as its subject, so it is called a **personal ending**.

Here the word *person* is a grammatical term indicating whether the subject is equivalent to **I / we; you (singular) / you (plural)**; or **he, she, it / they**.

If the subject is **the speaker or speakers**, then the statement is made in the **first person**: I see, we speak. The typical Latin active endings for the first person are **-m** or **-ô** for the singular and **-mus** for the plural.

**côgitô** = I think      **côgitâbam** = I used to think      **habêmus** = We have      **amâmus** = We love

If the subject is a **person or persons spoken to**, then the statement is made in the **second person**: you see, you (pl.) speak. The typical Latin active endings for the second person are **-s** for the singular and **-tis** for the plural.

**côgitâs** = you think      **amâs** = you love      **habêtis** = you (plural) have      **amâtis** = you (plural) love

If the subject is **someone else, a "third party,"** then the statement is made in the **third person**: he / she / it sees, they speak. The typical Latin active endings for the third person are **-t** for the singular and **-nt** for the plural.

**côgitat** = he / she / it thinks      **amat** = he / she / it loves      **habent** = they have      **amant** = they love

Therefore, if a verb ends in:	The subject must be:
<b>-m / -ô</b>	→ I
<b>-s</b>	→ you
<b>-t</b>	→ he / she / it
<b>-mus</b>	→ we
<b>-tis</b>	→ you (pl.)
<b>-nt</b>	→ they

**But notice:** The subject can be merely **embedded** in the form of the verb (**Côgitô** = "I think.") or it can be **expressed**, that is, explicit, in a separate word in the sentence (**Tempus fugit**. = **Time** escapes.). If the subject is explicit and the verb is in the third person, the pronoun is usually omitted and the expressed subject is used with the verb.

<b>currunt</b>	<b>They</b> are running. [Embedded subject, in the <b>-nt</b> ending]
<b>puerî currunt</b>	The <b>children</b> are running. [Explicit subject, <i>children</i> ]
<b>mê monet.</b>	<b>He / she / it</b> is reminding me. [Embedded subject, in the <b>-t</b> ending]
<b>mê monet Julia.</b>	<b>Julia</b> is reminding me. [Explicit subject, <i>Julia</i> ]

In the two other persons, pronouns and the expressed subject are both used in the translation:

<b>videô</b>	<b>I</b> see.
<b>senex videô</b>	<b>I, an old man</b> , see. As an old man, I see.
<b>timêtis</b>	<b>You</b> (plural) fear.
<b>Rômânî timêtis.</b>	<b>You Romans</b> fear.

Below is a typical way of showing the active personal verb-endings in a table, with the first column containing the singular forms and the second one the plural ones. The rows designate the three different persons.

	<i>Singular Number</i>	<i>Plural Number</i>
<i>1st person</i>	<b>-m/-ô</b>	<b>-mus</b>
<i>2d person</i>	<b>-s</b>	<b>-tis</b>
<i>3d person</i>	<b>-t</b>	<b>-nt</b>