Latin Verbs: Personal Endings, Passive

Latin verbs can often take **passive personal endings** that parallel the active ones. **What is the Passive Voice?** First, be aware that sentences usually have two major parts: (1) the **subject**, namely that **thing** that you are making a statement about, and (2) the **predicate**, namely the **statement** that you are making about that subject.

The **passive voice** is a grammatical category or "box" into which go verbs that indicate that the statement's **subject** is not the "actor" or "agent" or of the verb's action, but rather the **recipient** of that action. Often in English, the passive voice includes some form of the word *to be*.

> The tower **has been constructed**. *Tower* is the subject, but it receives the action of the building.
>
> The children **were taken** to the picnic. The *children* receive the action of the taking.
>
> We **will be saved**. *We* will receive the action of saving.

Compare the *active* forms of these verbs: They **have built** the tower. The parents **took** the children to the picnic. Our protector **will save** us.

> **Note:** In *English*, the only verbs that have both active and passive forms are those whose action can "cross over" to an object (e.g., *build*, *take*, *save*). These are called **transitive verbs**. Therefore a verb like *wait* does not take an object and so is never passive. But the verb *await* takes an object and therefore can be passive: I **await** the outcome. It **is awaited**. In *Latin*, the passive form can be used even for some intransitive verbs, like the word for *go*, but usually only in limited circumstances.

For the simple present, imperfect, and future tenses, the typical Latin passive endings for the first person are **-r** for the singular and **-mur** for the plural.

amor = I am (being) loved	**amâbar** = I was (being) loved	**moneor** = I am (being) reminded
monêbor = I will be reminded	**monêmur** = We are (being) reminded	**amâmur** = We are (being) loved

The typical Latin passive endings for the second person are **-ris** (sometimes **-re**) for the singular and **-minî** for the plural.

amâris / amâre = you are (being) loved	**monêris / monêre** = you are (being) reminded
amâminî = you (plural) are (being) loved	**monêminî** = you (plural) are (being) reminded

The typical Latin passive endings for the third person are **-tur** for the singular and **-ntur** for the plural.

amâtur = he / she / it is (being) loved	**monêtur** = he / she / it is (being) reminded
amantur = they are (being) loved	**monentur** = they are (being) reminded

Therefore, if a verb ends in:		**The subject must be:**
-r	→	I
-ris [-re]	→	you
-tur	→	he / she / it
-mur	→	we
-minî	→	you (pl.)
-ntur	→	they

Below is a typical way of showing the passive personal verb-endings in a table:

	Singular Number	*Plural Number*
1st person	**-r**	**-mur**
2d person	**-ris**	**-minî**
3d person	**-tur**	**-ntur**