Clues to Latin Verb-Forms

Latin verb-forms usually have a **tripartite structure**. The <u>**first**</u> **part** is the **base** or **root** of the word. It carries the basic meaning or idea of the word:

vid- = see   **curr-** = run   **iuv-** = help

The <u>**third**</u> **part** is the **personal ending**. This part tells you **WHO** is being highlighted as **performing or receiving or governing** the action implied by the verb; that is, the personal ending indicates the **subject of the clause**:

<u>**You**</u> see.   <u>**They**</u> run.   <u>**We**</u> are being helped.

The Latin personal endings are taken from one of only **three sets of six endings** (three persons in singular and three in plural). These endings give you the <u>**person**</u> and the <u>**voice**</u>.

Personal Endings:	Active	Passive / Deponent	Perfect Indicative Active	These endings usually mean:
1ST SINGULAR	**- m / -ô**	**- r**	**- î**	**I**
2D SINGULAR	**- s**	**- ris** (= *-re*)	**- istî**	**you** *(singular)*
3D SINGULAR	**- t**	**- tur**	**- it**	**he / she / it**
1ST PLURAL	**- mus**	**- mur**	**- imus**	**we**
2D PLURAL	**- tis**	**- minî**	**- istis**	**you** *(plural)*
3D PLURAL	**- nt**	**- ntur**	**- êrunt** (= *-êre*)	**they**

Whereas the **active and passive / deponent personal endings** are used in many different tenses, and in both **indicative** and **subjunctive** moods, the **perfect indicative active** endings <u>**do not occur elsewhere**</u> in the table of verb-forms. Therefore, perfect indicative active endings attached to the stem of the third part of the verb (the perfect stem) give you a sure clue to recognizing the form. But usually the **tense and mood clues** are embedded in the **middle part of the verb**. Learn how to register these clues automatically by becoming aware of <u>**the letter or letters that immediately precede the personal ending**</u>.

-A- **-Â-**	present subjunctive for II, III, III-io, IV →	moneâtis, ponâtur, capiant, audiam
	present indicative for I →	laudant, precâminî, stat, fatur, amâtis
	future indicative, 1st singular for III, III-io, IV →	pônam, dûcam, capiar, audiam, legar

-E- **-Ê-**	present subjunctive for I →	amem, adôrêmus, stet, dês, hortêmur
	present indicative for II →	monet, tenêmur, continent, fatêminî
	future indicative for III, III-io, IV →	dûcêmus, capient, audiêris, sequêris
	pres ind passive / deponent 2d sg for III, III-io →	caperis, dûceris, sequeris, loqueris

-I- **-Î-**	present indicative for III, III-io, IV	premitur, capit, audîris, sequimur, dûcis

-U- **-IU**	present indicative 3d pl for III, III-io, IV	regunt, nesciunt, loquuntur, veniunt

-B- **-BI-** **-BE-** **-BU-**	future indicative for I, II	laudâbô, conâberis, amâbuntur, dêbêbit, monêbitur

- BA-	imperfect indicative for all conjugations	clamâbam, timêbat, regêbâmus, iungêbâmur, agêbam, monêbantur

-ERA- -ERÂ-	pluperfect indicative active for all conjugations	amâverâmus, didicerâtis, polîverant

-ER- **-ERI-** **-ERÎ-**	future perfect indicative active → [-**erô** in 1st sg.]	cantâverô, cênâverimus, dixêrint, monueris
	perfect subjunctive active → [-**erim** in 1st sg.; î in 2d sg, 1st and 2d plural]	amaverim, responderîs, incêperîmus

-ÂRE- **-ÊRE-** **-ERE-** **-ÎRE-**	imperfect subjunctive NOTE: This form looks like a **present active infinitive with a personal ending attached**.	ôrârêmus, dûcerentur, audîret, tenerêtur, caperêmur, sequerêtur, hortârêtur, servîrêminî

-ISSE-	pluperfect subjunctive active NOTE: This form looks like a **perfect active infinitive with a personal ending attached**.	mansissêmus, timuissent, amâvissês, cecinissêtis

When verbs have **two parts**, the past participle (ppl.) and a part taken from the verb *to be* (**esse**), they are usually **PERFECT** and **PASSIVE / DEPONENT**. (Other two-part forms are future infinitives like **actûrus esse, monitum îrî**.)

(PAST PPL.) + SUM	perfect indicative passive / deponent	amâtî sunt, locûta est, mentîtî sumus

(PAST PPL.) + ERAM	pluperfect indicative passive / deponent	ductus eram, recitâtum erat, secûtae erâtis

(PAST PPL.) + ERÔ	future perfect indicative passive / deponent	inventî erint, amâta eris, superâtus erô

(PAST PPL.) + SIM	perfect subjunctive passive / deponent	laudâtus sit, dêsîderâta sint, hortâtî sîmus

(PAST PPL.) + ESSEM	pluperfect subjunctive passive / deponent	sublâta essent, victus essem, ingressus esset

Other verbal forms also have easily noticeable clues:

-TUS / -SUS	perfect participle [endings change with case, 1 / 2 declension]	amâta, datô, dictîs, laudâtârum

-NS / -NT-	present participle [endings change with case, 3d declension]	currêns, audientis, venientibus

-ND-	gerundive (future passive participle) or gerund [endings change with case, 1 / 2 declension]	dêlenda, agenda, mittendî

-ÛR-	future active participle [endings change with case, 1 / 2 declension]	moritûrî, vîsûrus, mixtûrôrum