



# Lingua Latina per se Illustrata: Pars I: Familia Romana

*Hans Henning Ørberg*

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## **Lingua Latina per se Illustrata: Pars I: Familia Romana** Hans Henning Ørberg

Entirely composed in Latin, Part I, Familia Romana, provides an excellent introduction to Latin, including the essentials of Latin grammar and a basic vocabulary of over 1500 words. The thirty-five chapters describe the life of a Roman family in the 2nd century A.D., and culminate in readings from classical poets and Donatus's Ars Grammatica, the standard Latin school text for a millenium. Each chapter is divided into two or three lectiones (lessons) of a couple pages each followed by a grammar section, Grammatica Latina, and three exercises or Pensa. Hans Ørberg's impeccable latinity, humorous stories, and the Peer Lauritzen illustrations make this work a classic. The book includes a table of inflections, a Roman calendar, and a word index, Index vocabulorum.

## **Lingua Latina per se Illustrata: Pars I: Familia Romana Details**

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## From Reader Review *Lingua Latina per se Illustrata: Pars I: Familia Romana* for online ebook

### Dave Maddock says

I have so much to say about how awesome this book is, but instead I will point you to my review of Wheelock and say that *Lingua Latina* is everything *Wheelock* is not. Next, I will exhort you to check out the following resources about learning Latin, from which all my opinions are derived anyway (and which is supported fully by my subjective experience):

Evan der Millner's thoughts (aka. Latinum guy)

Ernest Blum on the inadequacy of modern Latin teaching methods

Randy Gibbon's blog

Latin by the Dowling Method

**Update:** Well, I've officially finished this; still love it. The final two lessons cover poetic meters and grammatical terms. Before starting *Lingua Latina II* I'm going to switch it up a bit and power through a bunch of Latin readers, get some big chunks of Latin prose under my belt.

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### Keegan says

I think LL is excellent. It got even better when I saw how other people were using it online.

I read LL after having done an intensive 2-month course with Wheelock's Latin, so I was extremely well-prepped in the grammar and could focus on what LL really offers: Training myself to read Latin fluently, left-to-right, as opposed to the "decoding" method instilled by grammar-heavy courses.

It was great! It got me excited about learning Latin out of a legitimate love for the language, not just as a part of a classical education in the abstract, and I was able to begin appreciating the nuances that are utterly lost when one decodes instead of reads.

I'm now tackling the second book in the series, which quickly shifts into unadapted texts, which is pretty damn exciting.

My advice for both of these: Take it slow, do the exercises, reread each chapter, make sure you know the grammar at each stage. It's much better than having to flip to the back all the time.

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### Marconi Lenza says

Hic est melius liber comesve cuicui Latine discere velle.

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### Wilfredo Rodríguez Dotti says

Hic liber bonus est introductio ut Latina eruditio, per modum usus auctor sit directum, accurate et activae. Hoc est arcanum quia discite linguam Latinam eadem lingua utens.

Translation: This book is a good introduction to learning Latin, the method used by the author is direct, precise and active. The secret used to learn the Latin language is using the same language.

This is the best book of this kind I have found, it proposes a Latin text in which it's possible to read and understand immediately without the need to translate. In this text each phrase is intelligible per se, because the meaning and function of all new words and of all forms is explained by the context, or by the illustrations or marginal notes. The method used by the author is the inductive-contextual, which is based on understanding through the context.

I found it relatively simple, to such an extent that I was able to put together a small sentence, although I'm afraid it may not be very accurate at all xD, yet I was able to get an idea. When I have more free time I will dedicate more time to this book to deepen my learning.

A final remark that I must make, if you speak any of the Romance languages ??like Spanish (my native language), Italian, Portuguese, French or Romanian, you will find it a little easier to learn, since Latin is the root of our Languages.

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### **Andrew Fairweather says**

After slogging through about an hour of latin a day on average (at least, when possible...) I've finally finished 'Familia Romana' part one of two of Orberg's *Lingua Latina* course.

Since I have't had the privilege (or misfortune) of learning Latin in school, I really can't compare the Orberg method with, say, Wheelocks, at which seems to fashionable to hurl insult, whether the veracity of claims to its falling short be true or not. What I will say is this : *Lingua Latina* has worked, thus far. Without a classroom, with the aide of exercises, grammar tests, and a dizzying amount of reading, I can now (basically) read latin. Tada!

A lot of work is required on behalf of the student, so a few sacrifices must be made to ready up some time... perhaps moving to a new city where you may escape the pointless distractions of a vibrant social life. Hey, it worked for me...

I am not much of a grammarian, and I feel that Orberg's emphasis on immersion rather than grammar (although grammar is still a large component of the course) suited me more than another approach to mastering the language might have. I'm the kind of person who progresses at their own pace. I don't thrive in institutionalized learning. If this sounds like you, go with the *Lingua Latina* program.

I recommend buying ALL of the supplemental material, including the workbooks, the college companion, and ESPECIALLY the additional readings. I noticed that many who leap from 'Familia Romana' to 'Roma Aeterna' speak of trouble with the increasingly difficult verbiage. Reading 'Fabulae Syrae' in conjunction with the standard readings will take care of this, no problem. You'll also get a great background in Grecco-Roman myth!

Rest assured, with the appropriate amount of time and effort, you'll be able to read things as challenging as Saint Augustine and the Venerable Bede if you have a dictionary beside you—poetry, and some of the more classical stuff, I'm afraid, may still give you a bit of a headache. In time, in time...

And now, a homage to those who suffered through Latin in school! I give you an excerpt of Tom Tulliver's struggles with the language in George Eliot's 'The Mill on the Floss':

"It is doubtless almost incredible to instructed minds of the present day that a boy of twelve, not belonging strictly to "the masses," who are now understood to have the monopoly of mental darkness, should have had no distinct idea how there came to be such a thing as Latin on this earth; yet so it was with Tom. It would have taken a long while to make conceivable to him that there ever existed a people who bought and sold sheep and oxen, and transacted the every-day affairs of life, through the medium of this language; and still longer to make him understand why he should be called upon to learn it, when its connection with those affairs had become entirely latent. So far as Tom had gained any acquaintance with the Romans at Mr. Jacob's academy, his knowledge was strictly correct, but it went no farther than the fact that they were "in the New Testament"; and Mr. Stelling was not the man to enfeeble and emasculate his pupil's mind by simplifying and explaining, or to reduce the tonic effect of etymology by mixing it with smattering, extraneous information, such as is given to girls.

[..., ..., ...]

[Tom Tulliver] had really been brighter, and had got through his lessons better, since [his sister, Maggie Tulliver] had been there; and she had asked Mr. Stelling so many questions about the Roman Empire, and whether there really ever was a man who said, in Latin, "I would not buy it for a farthing or a rotten nut," or whether that had only been turned into Latin, that Tom had actually come to a dim understanding of the fact that there had once been people upon the earth who were so fortunate as to know Latin without learning it through the medium of the Eton Grammar."

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## Keith says

I've read through several textbooks (Wheelock's, *Ecce Romani*, Cambridge) in search of an ideal source for my students, but was always somewhat disappointed until stumbling across *Lingua Latina*. Often Latin is treated like a burning house—you should grab what you need and get out as quickly as possible back to the safety of the English language (aka the grammar-translation method). The results are often disappointing, both for student and teacher.

Ørberg eschews the traditional method and opts for a full-immersion style text (the only English is on the copyright page), which is quite adept at building students' vocabulary, teaching reading fluency, and introducing students to Roman culture, all while telling a relatively entertaining story (by Latin textbook standards).

At least one of the accompanying grammar companions (either the *College Companion* or the *Latine Disco*) is advisable, particularly if you plan to read through the book without an instructor to help you grasp some of the grammar. The vocabulary manual isn't necessary—William Whitaker's *Words* will help you through whatever words you can't intuit from context or from the marginalia.

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## Paras2 says

can't say I've finished it but my basic course ended so until the next course I'm done with this.

and just so you know, Latin is mind-blowingly hard, don't even try it unless you have some deep interest or

you perhaps need it.

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## **Gonnamakeit says**

An excellent introductory Latin textbook with a pure immersion approach. You learn Latin through illustrations and simple explanation in pure Latin; you will find no English in this book at all. Each chapter explains and discusses a vast array of themes related to Roman society by following a rich Roman family living just outside of Rome. You will find yourself learning some Roman customs, but you will unfortunately not learn much of Roman politics or international disputes.

If you are a complete beginner of Latin and is looking for a complete textbook that covers everything you need with elaborate guides and explanations, this is NOT the book to use. It should rather be used as supplementary reading to a textbook written in English explaining all the various grammatical constructs in the language. In my experience, you may find yourself lost at a certain point in the text if you do not already know a great amount of the grammar as the grammar is generally not that thoroughly explained; you can chug yourself through tho, but I would not recommend it.

The material and vocabulary base granted through this book is unparalleled by any other Latin book I have met. There are close to 1600 word families covered, all used in classical Latin. Other textbooks such as "Learn to read Latin" by Andrew Keller has only about 400 word families not including the ones introduced in the various sample texts from different classical authors.

This book will help you actually read the book instead of just analyzing each and every sentence analytically by looking at the endings of each word as if it is a secret code. Thus it would be extremely helpful to use this book together with a grammar-based textbook so that the meaning of sentences come faster to you.

Lastly, the book comes with three different exercises, one where you are asked to complete words of different sentences, another where you are supposed to answer a question written in Latin about the meaning of the chapter and lastly another exercise with somewhat different questions. These may be useful at the beginning, but I found myself skipping them and instead merely read through them and see if I understood the content of the chapter correctly.

In other words, this is a highly useful book for beginning Latin, most of all for vocabulary acquisition.

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## **Naomi says**

I took the module 'Reading Classical Latin' as part of a language degree with The Open University, where we worked through Sidwell and Jones's Reading Latin. The course was good; I enjoyed it and achieved a high 1st in that module. But I still couldn't read fluently and resorted to the unnatural way of reading that is often taught with Latin: skipping about in the text, seeing which words agree with which others.

I am just astonished by this course. After about a week I was on chapter XX and could read fluently and 'properly' (linearly). One doesn't, however, need any previous knowledge of Latin (and if one is starting 'from scratch', one shouldn't expect to match my speed of progress!). The book teaches a good number of words and a good amount of grammar, which you start to understand naturally.

The book is beautifully presented with glossy paper and beautiful colour illustrations (realistic, not googly

cartoons as seem to be popular in books for language learning).

The course is suitable for children and adults and is enjoyable for both. It doesn't patronise the reader or insult their intelligence. The texts are based mainly on a Roman family and their household; it's a good introduction to Roman life and one even starts to feel like one knows the people - I will be sad to leave them at the end of the book!

I don't know why this method of language learning hasn't caught on - I've looked around to find similar books for other languages and am dismayed to see there are none, though I cannot understand why.

I simply cannot recommend this book highly enough!

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### **Philip says**

This book is an amazing introduction to Latin, and the main method which I used to teach myself the language. I don't know if it would be appropriate in a class, but for self-study I couldn't recommend it more. You definitely need to get through the second book in the series in order to be able to move on to genuine works in classical Latin, however, Vulgate is readable after finishing this first book.

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### **Iohannes Cienfuegos says**

Optima discendi Latinitatem methodus quae docentur discipuli simili ratione atque ipsi humanistae.

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### **Anise says**

Hunc librum satis laudare non possum. Primum linguam Latinam grammaticè reddendè discere cuncta sum, sed illè modè paulum didicè. "Modus naturalis" Oerbergi mihi melior modus discendè videtur. Nunc aliis modis linguas studere non!

I cannot praise this book highly enough. My first attempts at studying Latin by the "grammar translation" method met with little success, but I learned so much more with the "natural method" that Dr. Ørberg uses in this book. Now my problem is that I don't want to study languages using materials that don't employ this or a similar method!

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### **Nina-Alexa says**

AEMILIA UBI EST BACCULUM MEUM????!??

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### **Adrián says**

Italia in Europa est.

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## Aria Maher says

In my lifetime, I have taken about five different Latin courses, and this is the only one that ever really stuck.

Lingua Latina per se Illustrata (The Latin Language Taught by Illustration) is an entire novel written in Latin, complete with grammar sections in Latin and sidenotes in Latin helping explain the text. While that might sound impossible (and I did find it helpful to have the background in basic Latin I'd picked up from other courses), when used in conjunction with Mr. Dwane Thomas's online classes, I found that I learned far more from this difficult book than from any 'easy' Latin course based solely on memorization. Lingua Latina helps you learn the language through context, through repeated reading of a story, and not through translation, so that by the end you should be able to read fairly fluently in Latin without going through the hassle of translating it in order to understand.

This is a college level text, and it took me well over two years to struggle through, and the last three or so chapters were so difficult that they alone took me more than six months, but in the end, this was definitely worth it, and I will certainly be rereading this book again in the future. I like this method so much more than rote memorization, because unlike most courses, this book provides context for every word you learn (making it easier to learn to read and write the language), and I would highly recommend it (in conjunction with the online class) to anyone who wants a good solid foundation in the Latin language.

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