Principal parts and verb forms

Properties of finite verbs

- person

- number

- tense

- mood

- voice

Forming imperfect and perfect tenses

Imperfect: 1st and 2nd principal parts (both active and passive)

Perfect: 3rd (active), 4th (passive)

Looking at principal parts

1. *1st singular* present indicative active

2. present active *infinitive* (a noun)

3. *1st singular* perfect active indicative

4. perfect *participle* (an adjective)

Example

1. *am-o ->* stem for imperfect

2. *am-are -> -are* tells us *first conjugation*

3. *amav-i ->* stem for perfect active

4. *amatus, -a, -um ->* adjective for perfect passive

Infinitive forms: a verbal *noun*

- a neuter noun, naming the action of the verb

- used only in nominative/accusative

Infinitive forms: a *verbal* noun

- tense
- voice

Example

> Bonum est amare.

"It is good to love."

"Loving is a good thing."

amare

- present tense == "not completed"

- active voice

amari

Present *passive* infinitive

> Bonum est amari.

"It is good to be loved."

"Being loved is a good thing."

Complementary infinitive

- completes idea of main verb, e.g., "to be able (to ...)"

Possum, "to be able"

Etymology: *pot-* + forms of *sum*

possum, posse, potui, --

(*pot* + *sum*), (*pot* + *esse*)

Forms

Tense	Singular	Plural
Present	*potest*	*possunt (< pot + sunt)*
Imperfect	*poterat*	*poterant*
Perfect	*potuit*	*potuerunt*

> Non potuerunt natare ad insulam.

"They could not swim to the island."

nato, *natare*, *natavi*, ---, "to swim"