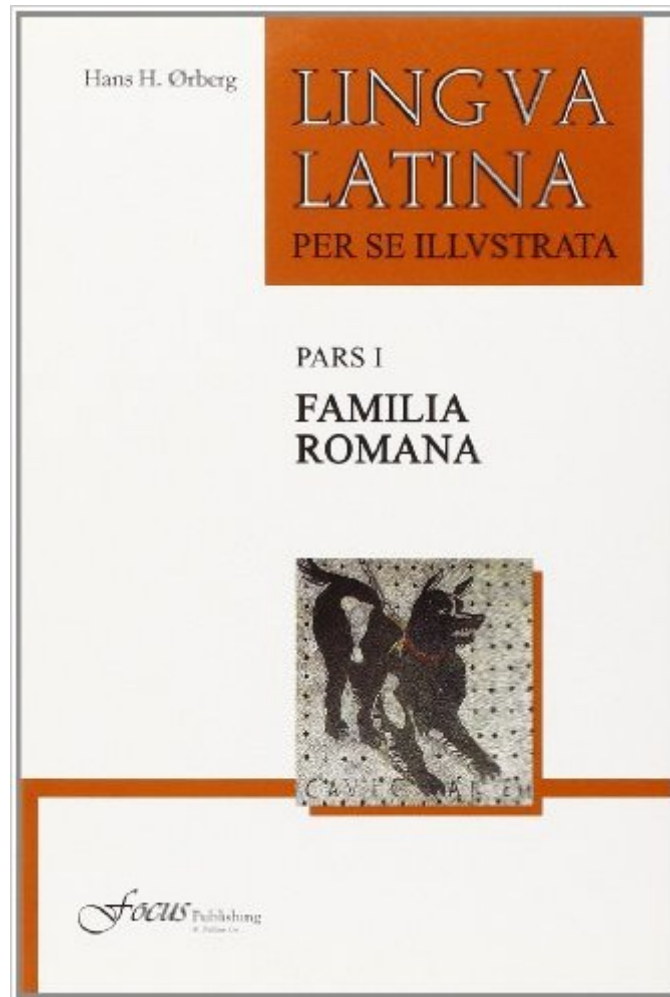


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Lingua Latina Per Se Illustrata, Pars I: Familia Romana



Synopsis

Hans Oerberg's *Lingua Latina per se Illustrata* is the world's premiere series for learning Latin via the Natural Method. Students first learn grammar and vocabulary intuitively through extended contextual reading and an innovative system of marginal notes. It is the only textbook currently available that gives students the opportunity to learn Latin without resorting to translation, but allows them to think in the language. It is also the most popular text for teachers, at both the secondary and collegiate levels, who wish to incorporate conversational skills into their classroom practice. *Familia Romana* (Pars I of the *Lingua Latina* series) contains thirty-five chapters and describes 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 millennium. 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 Oerberg'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*. The *Lingua Latina* series incorporates the following features: The most comprehensive treatment of Latin grammar available in an elementary textbook. A vocabulary of almost 1,800 words, reinforced by constant and creatively phrased repetition, vastly expands the potential for later sight reading. A complete line of ancillary volumes, exercises, and readers both in print and online.

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Customer Reviews

This is a list of important resources for self-learners, through Pars I-Familia Romana; followed by critical remarks concerning the later chapters of the book, and the passage into Pars II-Roma Aeterna:(Since reviewers are prohibited from giving more than 10 product links per review, I shall note only the ISBN numbers for some of the volumes mentioned; all are available on .)1. This has been mentioned in other reviews--the exercise book for Vol I: ISBN1585102121. Numerous 'fill-in-the-blank'-type exercises, that have been very well designed; they really help consolidate the material introduced in each chapter.2. The answer key to all the end-of-chapter drills (the Pensa), and exercise books, for *both* Vol.1 Familia Romana, and Vol.2 Roma Aeterna: ISBN1585100749. Indispensable for self-learners.3. Audiobook/CD-ROMs: ÅfÅ^rberg himself has recorded the first 31 chapters of Pars I (There are 35 in total), which recordings have been released by Focus Publishing in two different formats: The first ten chapters are available as an audio cd (Lingua Latina: Latine Audio (Audio CD ONLY) Chapters 1-10 only from "Familia Romana" (Latin Edition) (Pt. 1)); which I believe is enough to get a sense of what the language is supposed to sound like. The remaining 21 chapters are available, as mp3 files, only in cd-rom editions of the series, of which there are several releases.The release for Mac OS X, (

The book 'Lingua Latina: Familia Romana' is the first of a series of texts by the Natural Method Language Institutes designed to introduce the reader to Latin in a natural progression - there are few charts and boxes in this book, as it is not the typical Latin grammar. From the very start, this book is a reader, in many ways similar to the early childhood readers with which young readers gain an understanding of language. Page one does not start with a description of nouns, verbs, or other parts of speech; but rather with simple sentences - 'Roma in Italia est. Italia in Europa est.' And it proceeds from there.Readers learn Latin in a progression, as the readings get more complex very slowly, introducing new vocabulary, verb tenses, declensions, word order, etc. along the way. In addition to the introduction to the language, the reader gets an introduction to the Roman culture and history - this first volume looks at family matters and basic household items and ideas, in addition to very general facts about Rome, such as the fact that it is in Italy, which is in turn in Europe.There is a sidebar along each page that helps to expand the pieces of language - however, this is all done in Latin. There are no English (or German, or any other language) explanations - all is done in Latin, just as in early childhood readers for children, all of the other notations are likewise in the same language as the primary text.There are twenty sections (XX), in addition to a vocabulary list at the back of the book.

Folks, you can stop your search for a Latin textbook. This is one that really, really works. A true work of genius. Honestly, I wish that teachers of modern languages could use this guy's method. Arabic, for example, sorely needs a Hans Orberg-style textbook writer to remove all the accumulation of grammatical trappings and put them where they belong: at the end. Master each chapter completely before moving forward. And I mean master. Memorize all the vocabulary, and then re-read each chapter 3 times. You will then be well on your way to sight reading. You also need to get the supplemental reader *Colloquia Personarum*, AND Luigi Miraglia's *Fabulae Syrae*. Both of these readers complement *Familia Romana* and reinforce it. (Miraglia's *Fabulae Syrae* is a great condensation of Ovid's stories, and his Latin style is beautiful). If you are diligent and work hard, you will learn Latin to a degree you never thought possible. By the end of the book, for example, you are already being exposed to Catullus. However, the first time user does need some guidance on how best to use this book. There are a lot of supplemental materials offered from Focus Publishing, a publisher which distributes the *Lingua Latina* series in the US. They are very nice people, by the way. Some of these books you need, some you do not. I got the exercise workbooks, but never used them. They may work for some people, but I found them not necessary. So, I am going to go against the conventional wisdom here and say that *Exercitia Latina I* and *II* are optional, not mandatory. BUT this statement comes with a BIG caveat. Instead of doing the exercise books, you need to READ and RE-READ (aloud at least once) each chapter. Only in this way will the constructions sink into your head.

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