

Lesson 1

✠ **In nomine Patris et Filii et Spiritūs Sancti. Amen.**

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

In = in

Patris = of the Father

nomine = name

Filii = of the Son

et = and

Spiritūs Sancti = of the Holy Ghost

You can already see some of the ways Latin differs from English. Not only does this beautiful, sacred language use different words, but also uses a different way to put meaning into its phrases and sentences.

For example, in English we use three words to express “of the Father,” but in Latin, as you can see above, we use only one. Latin sentences store meanings in the endings of their words. English sentences store meanings in the placement of words within it.

Here is the first versicle and blessing for Compline:

V. Jube, Domine, benedicere.

Graciously grant, O Lord, to bless (us).

(Blessing:) Noctem quietam et finem perfectum concedat nobis Dominus omnipotens.

A quiet night and perfect end may He grant to us, the Lord almighty.

R. Amen

Only one word here appears twice, and it is colored. It may not look like it is really the same word, because it appears in two different forms here: however, it is the same word. “Dominus” and “Domine” are different forms of the same Latin word for “Lord.”

“Domin-” is the part of the word that remains the same in both forms. This is called the *stem*. The parts of the word that change are, naturally enough, called the *endings*. The endings tell us how we should understand the meaning of the word in each sentence.

Dominus: Lord

We use this form when describing when He does or may do something

Domine: O Lord

We use this form when addressing and calling upon Him

Dominus (in all its forms) is a noun. Nouns are words for persons, places, things, and ideas. Father, Son, and (Holy) Ghost are nouns as well, having different forms like **Dominus** does.

At the very end of Compline, right before the Marian antiphon, you find the final blessing (it is also found at the end of Holy Mass):

**Benedicat et custodiat nos omnipotens et misericors Dominus, Pater, et Filius, et Spiritus Sanctus.
Amen.**

May he bless and may he keep us, the almighty and merciful Lord, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Here are these forms along with two others to match what we have for Dominus:

Father	Son	Holy Ghost	Lord
Pater (The Father)	Filius (The Son)	Spiritus Sanctus (The Holy Ghost)	Dominus (The Lord)
Patris (of the Father)	Fili (of the Son)	Spiritūs Sancti (of the Holy Ghost)	Domini (of the Lord)
Patre (O Father)	Fili (O Son)	Spiritus Sancte (O Holy Ghost)	Domine (O Lord)

With the above chart you can now translate this phrase from a sentence in the *Gloria* at Holy Mass:

Filius Patris.