

Teaching notes on 6.03 'To be'

Slide 1

Learning objective: LO: To read, translate and use the Latin verb 'to be'. So far, we've look only at regular Latin verbs, but now we're ready to look an irregular but important example – 'esse', 'to be'.

Mouse-click on this slide will also make lucundus say 'salvete!' ('sal-way-tay') to the class. This means 'hello!' The pupils can reply by saying 'salve!' ('sal-way'). 'Salve' is the greeting used to one person and 'salvete' is a greeting to more than one.

On mouse-click, a birthday cake will drop into lucundus hands as he tells us, 'mihi dies natalis est!' (It's my birthday!). The next mouse-click will bring up the appropriate Latin response, 'felix dies tibi sit!' (Have a happy birthday!), followed by the words to the familiar Happy Birthday song in Latin, with which the class can join in. At this point, you can sing a Latin Happy Birthday to anyone in the class who's celebrating on that day. NB replace 'lucunde' with the name of the person being celebrated. If you use their Roman names, the boys' names will end in '-e' as this ending shows that we're talking to that person. So if a boy was called Fabius, we'd address him directly as 'Fabie' ('fab-ee-ay'). Girls' names stay the same ('-a' on the end).

Slides 2



A game of Ecce Centurio to recap some of the words we'll be using in today's work.

Slides 3-5



Quick Fire Sentences with vocabulary drawn from what we've learned so far. The vocabulary is listed by word class and picture-cued at the left of the screen, but you may want to check the class remember the English meanings of the words. The pupils are cued to start the o-s-t chant by the appearance (on mouse-click) of the familiar picture in the top right-hand corner.

The next mouse-click will bring up a series of sentences, with the verb appearing first. Encourage the class to translate the verb before clicking to add further words to the sentence. The sentences are:

Slide 3: octo magos saluto [I greet eight wizards.]

Slide 4: hortum videtis [Do y'all see the garden?]

Slide 5: medicus decem feminas laete curat [The doctor happily takes care of ten women.]

Slide 6

This slide gets the pupils to consider that a verb is both a 'doing' word, but also a 'being' word. We've looked at how Latin deals with verbs of action (by using the end to show who is doing the action), so now we're going to take a look at the different forms of 'to be' in the present tense.

Slide 7

A first look at the present tense of 'to be' in Latin. On each mouse-click, a word and its English translation will appear until you have:

sum – I am
es – you are
est – he/she/it is
sumus – we are
estis – y'all are
sunt – they are

Some of the keener students in the class may notice that, apart from 'sum', these 'being' verbs stick to the same endings rules as other verbs they have learned (ie. o, s, t, mus, tis, nt). The irregularity is in what comes before the ending, swapping between 'su-' and 'es-'. Get the pupils to chant 'sum, es, est, sumus, estis, sunt' along with you. Once they are comfortable with this, you can do it in different styles. On mouse-click, a picture will appear on the left-hand side: pupils then perform the chant in the style of that picture:

 robotically,  angrily,  shivering and  in hushed tones

The class can do the 'styles' chant all together, or each group/table can be allocated to do the chant in a particular style.

Slides 8-13

A friendly equus now shows us how the different forms of 'to be' that we've seen may be used in sentences. Pupils can work in pairs (or small groups) with a whiteboard and marker to decode the following series of sentences.

equus sum – I am a horse
vacca es – You are a cow ('you' is singular as there is only one cow)
maga est! – It is a witch! Or She is a witch!
equi sumus – We are horses
porci estis – You/y'all are pigs (again, draw attention to the plural)
feminae sunt – They are women



The students then move onto their written exercise.

Slide 14

The plenary slide:

Question 1 What does 'sum' mean in Latin? [I am. Students may be able to compare with 'adsum', 'I am present/here.')

Question 2 What is the Latin for 'is'? [est]

Question 3 regina femina est? [A whole question in Latin – Is the queen a woman? Further mouse-click will give the class the option of saying, 'ita vero!' ('Yes!') or 'minime!' ('No!'). Obviously, the answer is 'ita vero!']