

## **vocō, vocāre, vocāvī, vocātum** “to call”

### 1. Intro to Verbs

Ørberg, in his wisdom, has only been giving you bits and pieces of verbs. I'm going to jump ahead of him a little and unveil some useful info about how verbs work.

Remember that verbs (in Latin or English) have five features that vary: number (singular or plural), person (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, or 3<sup>rd</sup>), tense (present, future, etc.), voice (active or passive), and mood (indicative for statements of fact, imperative for commands, etc.). We use lots of ways to communicate these difference in meanings in English, but for Latin it's almost always the coded ending of the verb (a.k.a. the *inflection*, if you want more grammatical terminology).

For example, take the verb **vocat**: it's 3<sup>rd</sup> person, sg., present, active, indicative; it means “He/She/It shouts.” That one word **vocat** is a complete sentence, because the subject (the person doing the action) is hard-wired into the ending.

### 2. Principal Parts

Note the first thing on this page. That's what you'd see in the dictionary entry of a Latin verb. Those four versions of the verb in bold face are the *principal parts* of the verb. They're the things you need to conjugate the verb in all possible tenses/voices/moods.

We have these in English, too, but we don't think about them much. For the verb *to see*, the principal parts are *see, saw, seen*. There's no way, by just looking at *see*, to know that its past tense is *saw* instead of *see-ed*. You have to learn it. Once you've learned the forms, you can use the verb. With Latin it's the same way, only there are different forms.

The first principal part (**vocō**) is the verb in the 1<sup>st</sup> person, singular, active, indicative (the form that means “I VERB”). The second principal part (**vocāre**) is the infinitive (the form that means “to VERB”). If you strike the **-re** off the infinitive, you have the stem of the verb (which is also the imperative singular). The third principal part (**vocāvī**) is the 1<sup>st</sup> person singular in the perfect active indicative (the form that means “I have VERBed”). The last principal part (**vocātum**) is actually an adjective derived from the verb, the perfect passive participle (the form that means “having been VERBed”). You don't have to worry about the last two for a while, but I wanted you to have the whole set.

Principal Parts of <b>vocāre</b> with translations	
<b>vocō</b>	“I call.”
<b>vocāre</b>	“to call”
<b>vocāvī</b>	“I have called” / “I called”
<b>vocatum</b>	“having been called” / “called”

### 3. Conjugating **vocāre** in the indicative present

To *conjugate* a verb is to give all the possible forms in a given tense, voice, and mood. We'll start with the present active indicative.

To conjugate **vocāre** in the indicative present: go to the infinitive (the second principal part) and strike off the **-re**. That's the verb stem (**vocā-**). Write it down 6 times. Then add the coded endings for each person and number (**-o** for 1<sup>st</sup> person sg.; **-s** for 2<sup>nd</sup> person sg; **-t** for 3<sup>rd</sup> person sg., **-mus** for 1<sup>st</sup> person pl., **-tis** for 2<sup>nd</sup> person plural, **-nt** for 3<sup>rd</sup> person plural).

	<i>sg.</i>	<i>sg.</i>
<i>1st</i>	<b>vocō</b>	"I call."
<i>2nd</i>	<b>vocās</b>	"You (sg.) call."
<i>3rd</i>	<b>vocat</b>	"He/She/It calls."
	<i>pl.</i>	<i>pl.</i>
<i>1st</i>	<b>vocāmus</b>	"We call."
<i>2nd</i>	<b>vocātis</b>	"You (pl.) call."
<i>3rd</i>	<b>vocant</b>	"They call."

#### 4. Conjugating vocāre in the imperative present

To conjugate **vocāre** in the indicative present: go to the infinitive (the second principal part) and strike off the **-re**. That's the verb stem (**vocā-**). It's also the imperative singular. To get the plural, add the suffix **-te**. There are no 1<sup>st</sup> person or 3<sup>rd</sup> person present imperatives in Latin, so that's the complete set for **vocāre**.

	<i>sg.</i>	<i>sg.</i>
<i>2nd</i>	<b>vocā</b>	"Call!" (talking to one person)
	<i>pl.</i>	<i>pl.</i>
<i>2nd</i>	<b>vocāte</b>	"Call!" (talking to more than one person)

#### 4. Conjugating other verbs in the imperative present

In addition to verbs with **-ā-** in the stem (like **vocā-**), we've seen verbs with **-ē-** in the stem (e.g. **tacet**), **-i/-e-** in the stem (like **ponit**), and **-ī-** in the stem (like **audit**).

Two of these are no problem; they behave just like **vocāre**. It's that middle one that's the problem, so I'll look at it last.

For **-ē-** stem verbs (like **tacēre**) the principal parts and imperative look like this:

<b>taceō, tacēre, tacuī, tacitum</b> "to be quiet"		
	<i>sg.</i>	<i>sg.</i>
<i>2nd</i>	<b>tacē</b>	"Be quiet!" (talking to one person)
	<i>pl.</i>	<i>pl.</i>
<i>2nd</i>	<b>tacēte</b>	"Be quiet!" (talking to more than one person)

For **-ī-** stem verbs like (**audīre**) the principal parts and imperative look like this:

<b>audiō, audīre, audīvī, audītum</b> "to hear, to listen"		
	<i>sg.</i>	<i>sg.</i>
<i>2nd</i>	<b>audī</b>	"Listen!" (talking to one person)
	<i>pl.</i>	<i>pl.</i>
<i>2nd</i>	<b>audīte</b>	"Listen!" (talking to more than one person)

Those short-**i-**/short-**e-** verbs are the problem set. They don't really have a stem vowel, just a

kind of grunt that sounds like a short **-i-** in some places and a short **-e-** at other places. Neumann (who wrote the *Companion*) and others call this set of verbs the consonant conjugation.

For this trouble-making set of verbs the principal parts and the imperative look like this:

<b>discēdō, discēdere, discessī, discessum</b> "to depart, to leave"		
	<i>sg.</i>	<i>sg.</i>
<i>2nd</i>	<b>discēde</b>	"Depart!" (talking to one person)
	<i>pl.</i>	<i>pl.</i>
<i>2nd</i>	<b>discēdite</b>	"Depart!" (talking to more than one person)

That's a lot! "What's testable here?" is a fair question.

For the next quiz you'll want to memorize the conjugation of **vocāre** in the present active indicative; that'll be part 2 of the quiz. The imperatives you should be able to recognize and translate for the next test; they're all over the place in Ørberg's readings.