

TPR for the First Ten Hours

Bob Patrick, NBCT Latin
Parkview High School
Lilburn, GA

The Basics

- 1) I usually begin this on the second day of class with Latin 1. On the first day, I've done other start up of school things, and I've introduced the safety net words. I've also told them that on the next day, and for the next several days, we are going to be learning how to talk about all the things we do in the room, completely in Latin, and that we will be doing it in a number of interesting ways.

The approach for subsequent days: Keep in mind that the TPRS folks maintain that a student must hear a word 50-70 times in context before they know it. It may become tedious to you, but necessary for them to practice the words over and over with EVERYONE in the room.

- 2) Verbs first, singular imperative first. Model the action while you say it, and then point to a student and give the command and encourage him/her to do the action.
- 3) Call on (point to) multiple students to model the action. Make sure that everyone is being called on regularly.
- 4) You may do just verbs the first day or two. When it feels right begin to add some objects in by pointing to them and saying their name (nominative). When used as objects, however, you will of course use the accusative. This will raise questions for some students, and that will be your first, delightfully short, pop up grammar lesson—about 15 seconds.
- 5) Introduce 3-5 verbs and then begin to introduce some objects in the room that the verbs can be used with.
- 6) Go back and forth between verbs and new objects. You will have far more objects than verbs, but an almost endless combination of verbs and objects, even silly ones. The sillier the better. Humor and emotion help move short term memory into long term memory.
- 7) Add gestures where they are HELPFUL.
- 8) Always save a few minutes at the end of class for Q and A in English.
- 9) At the end of class note for yourself who seems to be struggling or whom you seem to call on less than the others. Be sure to include them early and often on the next day.
- 10) A sign that you are reading to move on from introductory TPR to your textbook series: students begin to verbalize the Latin themselves, giving commands to each other, to you, etc. In other words, they are ready to swap roles with you. One way to facilitate this is to assign as homework every couple of days that they teach 5-10 Latin words to someone at home. They love this, and you will hear back positively about it from parents.
- 11) Be aware that you can begin ANY unit in ANY level of Latin in ANY textbook by TPR-ing the verbs and many of the nouns with pictures. You cannot TPR every vocabulary word, but you can many of them. And if you can, why not?

Example: The following could be TPR-ed with students in AP Latin about to take up Catullus 30:

Misere amiculi (gesture a tear drop from the eye, pat a friend on the head)

Prode (prodere) me (have hand covered with a jacket and expose it)

Dubita (dubitare) (walk hesitatingly)

Falle (fallere) me (ask student: visne decem dollares? When student nods or says yes, give him/her a monopoly 10 dollar bill. Say: Magister te fallit. Nunc, falle me. Student repeats the scene.

Obliviscere (look confused: Quae nomen mihi est . . . obliviscor).

Meminisse—inf. (look confused: Que nomen mihi est . . ah, memini! Robertus sum!)

Me/Te paenitet cibi (act out eating something, and then rubbing your stomach, saying: me paenitet cibi. Ask students: te paenitet cibi?)

Classroom object list

What follows is a list of classroom objects that are fairly common place as well as verbs that one might use in the classroom as well as in beginning Latin texts.

1. surge, surgite—rise, stand
2. conside, considite—sit down
3. te verte, vos vertite—turn around
4. ambula, ambulate—walk (lente—slowly, cito—quickly)
5. curre, currite
6. tange, tangite—touch
7. demonstra, demonstrate—show, point at
8. sume, sumite—pick up
9. pone, ponite—put, place; depone, deponite—put down
10. extrahe, extrahite—take out
11. repone, reponite—replace, put back
12. pulsa, pulsate—knock, strike
13. aperi, aperite—open

14. claude, claudite—close
15. scribe, scribite—write
16. dele, delete—delete, erase
17. pingere, pingite—draw, paint
18. porta, portate—carry
19. ferre, ferte—bring, carry
20. ride, ridete—laugh
21. deride, deridete—laugh at
22. tectum, i, n. Ceiling
23. solum, i, n. Floor
24. paries, -etis, m. Wall
25. ianua, ae, f. Door
26. armarium, i, n. Closet, locker
27. fenestra, ae, f. Window
28. computatrum, i, n. Computer
29. computatrum magistri The Teacher's Computer
30. scamnum, i, n. Bench, student desk
31. mensa magistri Teacher's Desk/Table
32. mensa, ae, f. Table
33. scrinium, i, n. Filing Cabinet (lit. Case for scrolls)
34. pegma, -atis, f. Bookcase
35. televistrum, i, n. T.V. set
36. televisio, -onis, f. television (the abstract)

37. supraprojector, is, f. Ovedrhead Projector
38. carrulus, i, m. Cart
39. tabula, ae, f. Board, chalkboard, whiteboard
40. horologium, i, n. Watch, Clock
41. intercommunicator, -ris, f. Intercom
42. vexillum, i, n. Flag
43. tabula nuntiorum Bulletin Board
44. tabula picta--Poster
45. coniunctio electronica Power Plug
46. lanterna electronica--Light
47. virgula lanternarum—Light switch (twig)
48. monitus ignis-Fire Alarm
49. sirpiculus, i. m. Waste paper basket
50. sella, ae, f. Chair
51. sella magistri Teacher's Chair
52. cummis, is, f. (alt. cummi deletile) Eraser
53. peniculus, i, m. Marker
54. penna, ae, f. Pen
55. graphidis, is, f. (alt. stylus, i, m.) Pencil
56. labellum, i, n. Sink
57. manutergium, i, n. (manutergium chartgae) paper towels
58. spiramentum, i, n. Air vent
59. liber, libri, m. Book

60. sarcina, ae, f. pack, baggage, gear, “backpack” or “bookbag”
61. charta, ae, f. Paper
62. libellus, i, m. Notebook
63. praescriptum, i, n. Homework
64. probatio, -onis, f. Test, quizz
65. nota, ae, f. Grade, mark, mark of quality, note, comment, critical comment
(as an example of a word that might be used in multiple ways)
66. nomen, nominis, n. Name
67. magister, magistri, m. Teacher (pilot, master, the one in charge)
68. studens, studentis, m/c Student
69. discipulus, i, m. Young student
70. princeps scholae—principal
71. aedificium, i, n. building
72. ambulatorium, i, m. hallway
73. classis, is, f. fleet, class, classroom (multiple uses)
74. latrinum, i, n. Bathroom (public)
75. telephonum, i, n. Telephone