LATIN GRAMMAR I
Wheelock 8: Third Conjugation Verbs

1. Characteristics of Third Conjugation Verbs

1.1. How to tell the difference between 1st, 2nd, 3rd (ch.8) and 4th (ch.10) conjugation verbs?
Check the verb's stem vowel, visible from the Present Infinitive (2nd principal part):

laudāre (to praise)   monēre (to warn)   agere (to lead)   audīre (to hear)

1.2 The verb stem's short e-vowel will cause some changes from what we expect from the 1st
and 2nd conjugations. But here are a few memory tips to try to help you remember the
forms:

Mnemonic device #1: "Ō, I and U are Present, the Imperfect is clear, but the Future can BI
unclear."

Mnemonic device #2: "1st and 2nd Conj. Futures will –BI–. 3rd and 4th Conj. Futures will not
–BI–, but they will –AM/E."

2. The forms of the Present, Imperfect, and Future Active of 3rd Conj vbs: agere (to lead):

2.1. Present Active: (Notice the vowels Ō, I, U)

Person	1 Conj	English Gloss		Person	1 Conj	English Gloss
1s	agō	I lead		1p	agimus	we lead
2s	agis	you lead		2p	agitis	you lead
3s	agit	(s)he/it leads		3p	agunt	they lead

What's added looks like the Fut tense morpheme + PEs without the B: bō/bi/bi/bi/bi/bu.

2.2. Imperfect Active: (Note how "clear" the Impf is here; the stem's short e lengthens to
long ē + BA tense morpheme + PEs.)

Person	2 Conj	English Gloss		Person	2 Conj	English Gloss
1s	agēbam	I was leading		1p	agēbāmus	we were leading
2s	agēbās	you were leading		2p	agēbātis	you were leading
3s	agēbat	(s)he/it was leading		3p	agēbant	they were leading

2.3. Future Active: (Note how the Fut here can BI unclear [since 3rd conj Futures do not use BI]; notice the 1s –AM and vowel –E before other PEs, see Mnemonic #2 above)

Person	1 Conj	English Gloss
1s	agam	I shall/will lead
2s	agēs	you will lead
3s	aget	(s)he/it will lead

Person	1 Conj	English Gloss
1p	agēmus	we shall/will lead
2p	agētis	you will lead
3p	agent	they will lead

WARNING: The Future of 3rd conj verbs (–ere) looks almost exactly like the Pres of 2nd conj verbs (–ēre).

Person	PRESENT 2nd Conj monēre	English Gloss	FUTURE 3rd Conj agere	English Gloss
1s	moneō	I advise	agam	I shall/will lead
2s	monēs	you advise	agēs	you will lead
3s	monet	he/she/it advises	aget	(s)he/it will lead
1p	monēmus	we advise	agēmus	we shall/will lead
2p	monētis	you/y'all advise	agētis	you will lead
3p	monent	they advise	agent	they will lead

The first forms differ (1s); all the other forms have the same endings! So, if I meet a verb that end with –ēmus (1p), how will I know whether or not it's Present ("I ___") or Future ("I will ____")? First, check the 2nd principal part (Pres Inf). Does it end with –ēre (=2nd conj) or –ere (3rd conj)? If it's 2nd conj., then it's Present; if it's 3rd conj, then it's Future. Let's practice:

discēs (discō, discere, to learn)   terrēs (terreō, terrēre, to terrify)

vident (videō, vidēre, to see)   scrībent (scrībō, scrībere, to write)

vincam (vincō, vincere, to conquer)   doceō (doceō, docēre, to teach)

2.4. Present Active Imperative:

Normally, you form the Impv by taking the Pres Infinitive, dropping –re, and then creating the Impv forms (no PE for 2s, -te for 2p). We do in fact do this for 2s: agere > age. But 2p uses short –i instead of -e before the PE –te: agere > age > agi-te.

	1ˢᵗ Conj. Impv	English Gloss	2ⁿᵈ Conj. Impv	English Gloss	3ʳᵈ Conj. Impv	English Gloss
2s	laudā	Praise!	monē	Advise!	age	Lead!
2p	laudāte	Praise!	monēte	Advise!	agite	Lead!

Irregular 2s Impv forms of 3ʳᵈ conj: 4 verbs drop the short –e vowel from the stem

dūcere (to lead, consider)   Dūc!   Lead! Consider!
dīcere (to say)   Dīc!   Say!
facere (to do)   Fac!   Do!
ferre (to bear)   Fer!   Bear!