

26TH LATIN SUMMER SCHOOL

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Eastern Avenue Building, University of Sydney

LEVEL 1C

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LATIN SUMMER SCHOOL 2015

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COURSE AIMS

This course has been structured with the aim of reintroducing you to Latin in an interesting and accessible manner. It assumes that you have studied Latin some time ago but no longer have it in the forefront of your minds. It also assumes that once reminded you are likely to recollect some at least of your previous studies and will wish to proceed to read original Latin as quickly as possible.

Accordingly this course will re-introduce you rapidly to the basics of Latin, including both morphology (i.e. forms of nouns and verbs, etc.) and syntax so as to enable you to start reading original Latin within a day or so. The first Latin readings are for revision and then we shall study actual Latin texts. If we get through the texts more quickly than expected we shall provide further texts for study. Equally, if we go more slowly we may skip sections.

There is no objection to your preparing the texts, but there is no need. We shall take the time to read these together as the course progresses and to deal with the difficulties you encounter as we go.

LATIN PRONUNCIATION

It is all too easy to forget when looking for the first time at a Latin text that the language was used in daily speech by ordinary flesh and blood human beings. The texts we have today would have been read aloud at public recitations and understood on first reading by the audience. When we read Latin today we should read the passages aloud, demonstrating our understanding as we do so. Very often, of course, this will only come on second reading, when we have puzzled out the meaning. Nevertheless, we should persevere with this. A deeper understanding will develop with reading aloud.

Vowels

Long vowels are pronounced as follows:

ā as *a* in *father*

ē as *ey* in *prey*, or (better) *é* in *été* in French or *ee* in *See* in German

ī as *i* in *machine*

ō as in the French *chose*

ū as *oo* in *shoot*

y as French *u*

Short vowels are pronounced as short versions of their long equivalents, but with exceptions:

a as *u* in *cup*

e as *e* in *fret*

i as *i* in *fit*

o as *o* in *hot*

u as *oo* in *foot*

Diphthongs

Diphthongs are pronounced as follows:

ae as *i* in *wide*

au as *ow* in *how*

ei as *ei* in *eight*

eu = e+u

oe as *oy* in *boy*

ui = u+i

Consonants

Consonants have the same values as in English except:

c is always hard, as in *cat*

g is always hard, as in *good*

r is always rolled and sounded

s is always as *ss* in *mass*

v is pronounced like the English w

The h in ch, th and ph (always in borrowed words) is always sounded, so e.g. “*nympha*” is pronounced “*nump-ha*” with the *u* pronounced in the French way and both the *p* and the *h* sounded, not as “*nimfa*”.

Accent

In words of two syllables the accent (or stress) falls on the first syllable. In words of three syllables or more the accent falls on the penultimate syllable (2nd last) if it long otherwise on the antepenultimate (3rd last). For this purpose a syllable is long if its vowel is followed by two consonants or if the syllable contains a diphthong.

Other vowels are long by nature – only practice will help here.

MORPHOLOGY.

NOUNS

In Latin almost every noun appears in the singular or the plural and in one of six cases. The cases are:

Nominative – the subject case

Vocative – the case used for addressing someone or something

Accusative – the object case

Genitive – the case describing possession, or the *of* case

Dative – the *to* or *for* case

Ablative – the *from*, *by* or *with* case

There is also a **Locative** case describing *where* a place is. Examples: **Romae = at Rome, Athenis = at Athens, Carthagini = at Carthage.**

Latin also has five declensions, i.e. five separate groups of nouns which form their endings in different ways from one another.

Declension	1	2	3(a)	3(b)	4	5
Examples	Mensa (f) (= table)	Annus (m) (= year), Magister (m) (= master) Bellum (n) (= war)	Pax (f) (= peace)	Civis (m & f) (= citizen)	Gradus (m), (= step), Genu (n) (= knee)	Dies (m & f) (= day)
Singular						
<i>Nominative</i>	a	us, er, um	various	is, es, e, l r	us, u	es
<i>Vocative</i>	a	e, er, um	various	is, es, e, l r	us, u	es
<i>Accusative</i>	am	um	em	em, im, e, l, r	um, u	em
<i>Genitive</i>	ae	i	is	is	us	ei
<i>Dative</i>	ae	o	i	i	ui (u)	ei
<i>Ablative</i>	a	o	e	i or e	u	e
Plural						
<i>Nominative</i>	ae	i, a	es, a	es, ia	us, ua	es
<i>Vocative</i>	ae	i, a	es, a	es, ia	us, ua	es
<i>Accusative</i>	as	os, a	es, a	es, is, ia	us, ua	es
<i>Genitive</i>	arum	orum	um	ium	uum	erum
<i>Dative</i>	is	is	ibus	ibus	ibus	ebus
<i>Ablative</i>	is	is	ibus	ibus	ibus	ebus

Don't bother to learn this now. Instead, look at the similarities. You will see that almost all the accusative singulars end in a single syllable of which *m* is the last letter. In addition, there are plenty of similarities between the genitive, dative and ablative plurals. As for the variety of nominative singulars, they will come naturally just from becoming acquainted with Latin nouns which, in dictionaries and word lists, you will always encounter in their nominative singular form.

In the word lists appended to the texts the declension of almost every noun is identified. As you get to see more of these you will become quite familiar with them and gradually they will come back to you and cease to be as impenetrable as they may appear on first glance.

ADJECTIVES

An adjective agrees in number, gender and case with the noun which it qualifies. It declines like one of the following:

A noun of the first and second declensions (e.g. "**magnus, -a, -um = great**")

A noun of the third declension (e.g. "**omnis, -e = every, all**")

VERBS

Almost every Latin verb falls into one of four conjugations. Its ending indicates

Person, i.e. whether the verb is in the first, second or third person and whether it is singular or plural, or whether it is impersonal altogether, i.e. is an infinitive, a gerund or a gerundive

Tense, i.e. whether it is present, future, perfect etc.

Voice, i.e. whether the verb is active or passive

Mood, i.e. whether the verb is in the indicative or subjunctive (not applicable to infinitives, participles, gerunds or gerundives)

As you will recall, Latin grammars contain pages and pages of tables of verbs but there is no need to memorise all these – at least, not now. Some or even all of them may come back to you as we go through the course, but for the time being, and in order to read the passages selected for this course, the principal endings to bear in mind are the following:

-o (e.g. "**amo = I love**"): this indicates the **first person singular** indicative active, the form in which, in dictionaries and word lists, you will always encounter each verb.

-t (e.g. "**amat = he/she/it loves**"): this indicates **the third person singular** active. It may be indicative or subjunctive and any tense.

-nt (e.g. "**amant = they love**"): this indicates the **third person plural** active. It may be indicative or subjunctive and any tense.

-bat, -bant (e.g. "**amabat = he was loving**", "**amabant = they were loving**"): this indicates the third person singular or plural (note the *t* and *nt*) but also that it is in the **imperfect** tense.

-tur, -ntur (e.g. "**amatur = he/she/it is loved**", "**amantur = they are loved**", "**amabatur = he/she/it was loved**" etc.): this indicates the third person singular or plural (note again the *t* and *nt*) but also that it is in the **passive** voice. **NB**: Some verbs, called "deponent verbs" have a passive form but an active meaning (e.g. "**conatur = he/she/it tries**").

-erunt (e.g. "**amaverunt = they (have) loved**"): this indicates the third person plural (see above) but also that it is in the **perfect** tense active.

-erat, -erant (e.g. "**amaverat = he/she/it had loved**", "**amaverant = they had loved**"): this indicates the third person singular or third person plural (see above) but also that it is in the **pluperfect** tense active.

-re (e.g. "**amare = to love**"): this (generally) indicates the **present infinitive**.

-isse (e.g. "amavisse = to have loved") : this indicates the **perfect infinitive**.

-ndus, -nda, -ndum, etc (see **noun declensions 1 and 2** above) (e.g. "amandum = loving", "amanda = [she who is] fit to be loved"): this indicates the gerund or gerundive.

WHAT'S LEFT

Obviously there is a large amount of material which this summary deals with in cursory fashion only, such as forms of other tenses and the subjunctive. In addition, there are some matters not dealt with at all, such as

Nouns with exceptional forms

Comparison of adjectives

Formation of adverbs

Irregular verbs

Pronouns

Numerals

SYNTAX

SPECIAL CASE USES

Accusative

The accusative is used to describe the place to which a verb of motion in the sentence directs. E.g. "**Eo Romam = I am going to Rome**".

It is also used to express duration of time, e.g. "**Ibi paucos dies manebant = they remained there for a few days**", and extent of space, e.g. "**Tria milia passuum progressi erant = they had advanced three miles**". In the latter example note also the use of the genitive **passuum** with **tria milia**.

Genitive

The genitive is used to express price or value, e.g. "**Quanti hanc domum emisti? = how much did you pay (literally for how much did you buy) this house?**". With verbs of buying and selling Latin also uses the ablative and when a specific price is mentioned the price is always expressed in the ablative, e.g. "**Servum quadraginta minis emit = he bought the slave for (literally with) forty minae**".

The genitive is also used to describe a personal quality, e.g. "**vir summae virtutis = a man of outstanding bravery**".

Dative

The dative is used with **esse (= "to be")** to indicate possession. E.g. "**Est Horatio liber = (literally) there is to Horace a book**", i.e. "**Horace has a book**".

It is also used to describe purpose, e.g. "**Equitatum auxilio Caesari miserunt = they sent the cavalry as an assistance to (i.e. to assist) Caesar**". Note the other use of the dative in this sentence. **Caesari** is in the dative also, but here the dative has its standard meaning of **to**.

Ablative

The ablative is used in expressions of time to denote a period within which or a point of time at which some action will take place. E.g. "**duobus diebus veniet = he will come in two days**" and "**prima luce discessit = he left at dawn (literally at first light)**".

Certain verbs and adjectives take the ablative, e.g. "**miles gladio usus est = the soldier used his sword**" and "**dignus laude est = he is worthy of praise**".

When used with a comparative adjective or adverb it may express comparison, or sometimes the amount of difference, e.g. "**Nihil amabilius est virtute = nothing is more deserving of love than bravery**" and "**Uno pede altior sum quam frater = I am a foot taller (literally taller by one foot) than my brother**".

Ablative absolute

The ablative absolute deserves a heading of its own. It consists of a phrase linking a noun (or pronoun) and a participle and is called absolute (*Latin: absolutus = set free*) because it is grammatically free-standing and has no grammatical connection with the rest of the sentence. In English we occasionally use an equivalent, sometimes described as the 'nominative absolute', e.g. 'These things being so, Caesar began to march...etc.'. The English version is ungainly and cumbersome; not so the Latin. Latin adores this construction and you will find it everywhere.

Examples:

"Oratore locuto, cives tacebant = when the orator had spoken the citizens were silent".

"Augusto mortuo, Tiberius princeps factus est = when Augustus died, Tiberius became emperor".

The verb **esse = to be** does not have a present or past participle (though it does have a future participle **futurus**). When an ablative absolute would otherwise require a present or past participle of **esse** the participle is simply left out, e.g. "**me consule = in my consulship**" and "**Caesare duce = when Caesar was leader**".

We have now reached the point where you can read the next extract from Caesar's "De Bello Gallico". You will find plenty of ablative absolutes there.

GERUNDS AND GERUNDIVES

Far too much angst is expended over gerunds and gerundives. They are in fact quite simple.

A **gerund** is a neuter noun which appears in the accusative after **ad** to express purpose, in the genitive case and in the dative case. It equates more or less to an English gerund, i.e. a noun which ends in **ing**, e.g.:

"Pueri ad litus ad natandum descenderunt = the boys went down to the beach to swim (literally for the purpose of swimming)".

"Puer artem natandi a fratre didicit = the boy learnt the art of swimming from his brother".

Where the object of a gerund would be a noun in the accusative, Latin prefers to use the **gerundive**. The **gerundive** is an adjective which Latin turns into a phrase by coupling it directly with a noun, e.g.:

"Ad urbem capiendam milites misit = he sent soldiers to capture the city".

When coupled with the verb **esse (= to be)** the gerundive expresses the sense of obligation or necessity, e.g.:

"Delenda est Carthago = Carthage must be destroyed".

UT AND NE

These two all-purpose words are used for a variety of constructions and in all cases the verb that follows them is in the subjunctive. In all cases but one, **ne** (where it appears) is used as the negative version of **ut**, i.e. **ne** imports a negative whereas **ut** does not. The exception is in clauses introduced by words of fearing where it is the other way round.

Here are some examples:

Indirect commands

"Dux militibus imperavit ut arma deponerent = the leader urged the soldiers to lay down their arms".

If **ne** had been used instead of **ut**, i.e. **"...militibus ne arma deponerent"** this would mean **"...the soldiers not to lay down their arms"**.

Purpose clauses

"Puer arborem ascendit ut a militibus videretur = the boy climbed the tree so as to be seen by the soldiers".

If **ne** had been used instead of **ut**, i.e. **"...ne a militibus videretur"** this would mean **"...so as not to be seen by the soldiers"**.

Result (or consecutive) clauses

"Non sum ita hebes ut istud dicam = I am not so stupid as to say that".

Ne does not figure in result clauses. If a negative is needed **non** is inserted.

Clauses introduced by verbs of fearing

"Caesar metuebat ne Galli castra Romana oppugnarent = Caesar feared that the Gauls would attack the Roman camp".

The meaning of **ne** does not always come out so easily. The difficulty can often be resolved by translating **ne** as **"lest"**.

If **ut** had been used instead of **ne**, i.e. **"...ut Galli castra Romana oppugnarent"** this would mean **"...that the Gauls would not attack the Roman camp"**.

INDIRECT SPEECH

In Latin, just as in English, what someone says or thinks can be set out in direct speech, i.e. between quotation marks, or reported in indirect speech.

Indirect statements

To report statements in indirect speech Latin uses the device of the **accusative and infinitive**, e.g.:

"Dixit Caesarem Gallos vicisse = he said that Caesar had conquered the Gauls".

Where **se** (= **himself, herself, themselves** etc) or **suus** (= **his/their** etc) appears in an accusative and infinitive clause it usually refers to the subject of the main verb, e.g.:

"Caesar dixit se Gallos vicisse = Caesar said that he (i.e. Caesar) had conquered the Gauls".

"Caesar dixit Germanos milites suos superavisse = Caesar said that the Germans had overcome his (Caesar's) soldiers".

Where the indirect statement is introduced by a verb of hoping, promising etc. the infinitive used is the future infinitive (corresponding to the English **will** or **would**), e.g.:

"Caesar pollicetur se Gallos victurum [esse] = Caesar promises that he will conquer the Gauls".

Indirect questions

Where a question is reported indirectly the question is related as it was asked except that the verb is put into the subjunctive and (if necessary) the tense is changed, e.g.:

"Rogavit cur Germani milites Romanos superavissent = he asked why the Germans had overcome the Roman soldiers" (*where the original question would have been: Cur Germani milites Romanos superaverunt? = why did the Germans overcome the Roman soldiers?*)

WISHES

To express a wish Latin uses the simple subjunctive, e.g.:

"Di prohibeant! = God forbid! (literally may the gods forbid!)".

* * *

There are, of course, many more things that we could have mentioned but these are the basic things you need to know in order to read a Latin text.

If you are interested to read more, a good starting point is **"The Latin Language"** prepared by the Scottish Classics Group.

A standard grammar is **"Kennedy's Revised Latin Primer"** in the edition revised by Sir James Mountford.

Several of the examples in this course paper have been taken from one or other of these books.

TEXTS

1. STORIES FROM GREEK HISTORY

Xerxes shows tyrannical anger when he is thwarted in his plan to bridge the straits of the Hellespont.

Xerxes, rex Persarum, gentes Asiae regebat et iam in Graeciam bellum magnum parabat. ubi copias ad Hellespontum ducit, machinatores multas naves in freto colligant. itaque trans mare pontem faciunt. rex est laetus quod omnes artem et virtutem Persarum magnopere laudant.

nocte autem ventus validus surgit et undas in pontem navium pellit. tempestas igitur pontem mox delet. Xerxes, homo saevus et superbus, primum flebat sed tum est iratus. ad ripas Hellesponti statim ruit et clamat: "O undae, non me terretis. ego dominus sum, vos servi!"

tum manicas in undas iacit et aquam verberat, quod imperium ostendebat. postea milites regis machinatores miseros necant et capita a corporibus abscidunt.

Persae - Persarum m.pl. Persians/ Asia - Asiae f. Asia/ regebat: imperfect tense of rego-regere-rexi-rectum: rule /in Graeciam "against Greece". /bellum - belli n. war /paro-parare-paravi-paratum: prepare /copiae-copiarum f. pl. forces / Hellespontus-Hellesponti m: the Hellespont (the sea straits that separate Asia from Europe) / duco-ducere-duxi-ductum: lead/ machinator-machinatoris m: engineer /multus-multa-multum: many / navis-navis f: ship /fretum- freti n: straits /colligo-colligare-colligavi-colligatum: tie together/ itaque: and so / mare-maris n: sea / pons-pontis m: bridge / facio-facere-feci-factum: do / laetus - laeta- laetum: happy / quod because / omnis - omnis all / ars -artis f. skill/ virtus- virtutis f. courage / magnopere greatly / laudo-laudare-laudavi -laudatum: praise / nox- noctis f. night / autem. however / ventus-venti m. wind / validus-valida-validum strong / surgo-surgere -surrexi-surrectum: rise up / unda-undae f. wave / pello-pellere-pepuli-pulsum: repel / tempestas - tempestatis f. storm / deleo-delere-delevi-deletum: (2nd conjugation) destroy / homo-hominis m. man / saevus-saeva-saevum: cruel /superbus-superba-superbum: arrogant/ primum at first / fleo-flere-flevi-fletum:(2) weep / iratus-irata-iratum: angry / ripa-ripae f. bank / ruo-ruere-ruir-rutum: rush / clamo-clamare-clamavi-clamatum shout / terreo-terre-terrui-territum:(2) terrify / dominus - domini m. master / manicae-manicarum f.pl. chains / iacio-iacere-ieci-iactum: throw / verbero-verberare-verberavi-verberatum: beat / ostendo-ostendere-ostendi-ostentum: show / postea afterwards / miles - militis m. soldier / neco-necare-necavi-necatium: kill / caput - capitis n. head / corpus-corporis n. body / abscido-abscidere-abscisi-abscisum: cut off

The Greeks under Leonidas vainly attempt to hold back the Persian invasion at the pass of Thermopylae.

dum exercitus Persarum appropinquat, duces Graecorum consilium audax ceperunt. nam iusserunt Leonidam, regem Laconum, milites ad saltum Thermopylarum ducere et ibi hostibus resistere. postquam hi milites Persas saepe superaverunt, Ephialtes, vir malus, Persas Graecos circumvenire docuit. deinde Leonidas alios Graecos discedere iussit, sed clamavit: "Lacones numquam effugient: soli hic stabimus et mortem salutabimus." itaque trecenti Lacones manserunt et mox mortui erant.

exercitus -exercitus m. army

consilium-consilii n. plan

audax: think of the English derivative

iubeo-iubere-iussi-iussum (2nd conjugation): order

Lacon- Laconis m. Spartan

saltus -saltus m. pass

Thermopylae-Thermopylarum f.pl. Thermopylae

hostis-hostis m. enemy

resisto-resistere (+ dative): resist

supero-superare-superavi-superatum: defeat

Ephialtes-Ephialtis m. Ephialtes, the Greek shepherd who betrayed the Greeks.

malus-mala-malum: bad

doceo-docere-docui-doctum (2): teach

circumvenio-circumvenire-circumveni-circumventum: surround

effugio-effugere -effugi-effugitum: escape

solus-sola-solum: alone

sto-stare-steti-statum: stand

trecenti. three hundred

mortuus-mortua-mortuum: dead

The death of a great scientist

in secundo bello Punico Sicilia societatem quae cum Romanis fuerat diremit et pro Carthaginiensibus pugnavit. Marcellus, igitur, consul Romanus, cum infesto exercitu Syracusas, urbem Siciliae nobilissimam, oppugnavit. diu urbem Marcellus obsidebat; neque eam, nisi post tres annos, cepit. erat enim eo tempore in urbe vir doctissimus, Archimedes, mirabilis inventor machinarum quibus multos milites Romanos necavit. opera Romanorum vastabat, naves eorum plurimas delevit. tandem, ubi maximo impetu Romani urbem ceperunt, Marcellus (prudencia enim Archimedis delectatus est), militibus qui iam in urbem intrabant, “servate Archimedes,” inquit “et ad me ducite.” sedebat interea domi Archimedes, totius belli immemor; mens eius cum oculis in formas defixa est quas in pulvere descriperat, neque de victoria Romanorum audiverat. totus erat in re mathematica. tandem domum eius intravit miles qui truci vultu, “quis tu es?” inquit. “num tu ille Archimedes es a quo tam diu urbs defensa est?” alter nihil respondit; militem neque audivit neque vidit; totus enim in formis suis et cogitationibus erat. sed miles, iratus quod nihil Archimedes responderat, gladio eum necavit. mortem eius Marcellus deflevit et omni honore corpus sepelivit.

societas-societatis f. alliance

fuerat: pluperfect tense of sum-esse-fui: to be

dirimo-dirimere-diremi-direptum: break off

infestus-a-um: hostile

Syracusae-arum f.pl Syracuse

oppugno-are-avi-atum: attack

obsideo-ere-obsedi-obsessum (2): besiege

eam: refers to the city (fem pronoun acc case of is-ea-id. that)

annus-i m. year

cepit: perfect tense from capio-capere-cepi-captum: capture

tempus-oris n. time

quibus: ablative plural “by which”

opus-operis n. works

vasto-are-avi-atum: lay waste to

plurimas: “most” : superlative degree of multus

delectatus est “ was impressed” (a deponent verb from delector-delectari-deletatus sum)

servate: plural imperative of servo-are-avi-atum: protect

domi: at home

immemor-immemoris: forgetful of

forma-formae f. diagram

pulvis-pulveris n. dust

describo-describere-descripsi-descriptum: describe

truci vultu: ablative of description “with a cruel expression”

num: introduces a question expecting the answer no -

“surely you are not that...”

alter-altera-alterum: the other (man)

cogitatio-cogitationibus: f. thought

gladium-ii n. sword

sepelio-sepelire-sepelivi-sepelitum: bury

2. PLINY

A slave kills his master

rem atrocem Larcus Macedo a servis suis passus est. superbus erat dominus et saevus et qui patrem suum fuisse servum meminisse nollet. lavabatur in villa Formiana cum repente eum servi cinxerunt. alius fauces invadit, alius os verberat, alius pectus et ventrem contundit, et cum esse exanimem putarent, abiciunt eum in fervens pavimento ut experirentur num viveret. ille, sive quia non sentiebat, sive quia se non sentire simulabat, mortem obiisse videbatur. tandem effertur, excipiunt servi fideliores. eorum vocibus excitatus et recreatus loci frigore, sublatis oculis agitatoque corpore, vivere se demonstrat. diffugiunt servi; quorum magna pars capta est, ceteri quaeruntur. ipse paucis diebus aegre fociatus non sine ultionis solacio e vita decessit.

atrox-ocis: violent

passus est -perfect tense of deponent verb patior-pati-passus sum: endure

pater-patris m. father

suus-sua-suum: own

fuisse: perfect infinitive of sum-esse-fui

meminisse "to remember"

nollet: from nolo-nelle-nolui: be unwilling "he was unwilling"(nollet)

lavo-are-avi-atum: wash

repente: suddenly

cinxerunt: perfect tense of cingo: surround

fauces-faucium f.pl throat

invado-ere-vasi-vasum: attack

os-oris n. mouth

pectus-oris n. chest

venter-tris m. stomach

contundo-ere-tudi-tusum: bruise

exanimis-is-e: lifeless

puto-are-avi-atum: think

abicio-abicere-abieci-abiectum: throw

fervens-ferventis: hot

pavimentum-i n. pavement

experior-iri-expertus sum: test

vivo-ere-vixi-victum: live

sive...sive whether...or

sentio-ire-ivi-atum: be conscious

simulo-are-avi-atum: pretend

obicio-ere-ieci-iectum: offer

videbatur "seemed"

effero-efferre-extuli-elatum: carry out for burial

fideliores: comparative degree from fidelis

locum-i n place

sublatis oculis "by opening his eyes"

agito-are-avi-atum move dies-diei m. day

diffugio-ere-fugi-fugitum: flee aegre: with difficulty

ceteri: the rest foci-are-avi-atum: restored to life

quaero-ere-quaesivi-quaesitum: search for sine + ablative: without

pauci-ae-a: a few ultio-ionis f. revenge

3. JULIUS CAESAR

A brave soldier leads the way

atque nostris militibus cunctantibus, maxime propter altitudinem maris, is qui decimae legionis aquilam ferebat, contestatus deos, ut ea res legioni feliciter eveniret, “desilite”, inquit, “milites, nisi vultis aquilam hostibus prodere: ego certe meum rei publicae atque imperatori officium praestitero”. hoc cum voce magna dixisset, se ex navi proiecit atque in hostes aquilam ferre coepit. tum nostri cohortati inter se, ne tantum dedecus admitteretur, universi ex navi desiluerunt. quos cum milites qui erant in proximis navibus conspexissent, subsequuti hostibus appropinquaverunt.

cunctantibus: ablative of the present participle from the deponent verb

cunctor-cunctari-cunctatus sum: hesitate

nostris militibus cunctantibus: ablative absolute

maxime: superlative adverb of magnus.

propter + acc: because of

decimus-a-um: tenth

aquila -ae f. the eagle, the standard of the legion

ferebat: “he was carrying”

contestor-ari-atus sum: pray

ut...eveniret: “in order that...” purpose clause

eveniret: imperfect subjunctive of evenio-ire-ivi-itum: happen

desilite: imperative plural of desilio-ire: jump down

vultis: “you wish”: present tense 2nd person plural of volo-velle-volui wish

prodo-ere-didi-ditum: betray

res publica -rei publicae f. the State

imperator-oris m. general

officium-ii n. duty

praestitero: I shall have fulfilled

proicio-ere-ieci-ectum: throw

coepit: “he began”

cohortati inter se “urging one another”

ne..admitteretur: indirect command “lest they commit...”

dedecus-oris n. disgrace

universi: all together

subsequor-subsequi-subsecutus sum: follow up

At the battle of Allia, Caesar sends reinforcements and joins the battle himself.

his rebus cognitis Caesar Labienum cum cohortibus sex subsidio laborantibus mittit. ipse adit reliquos, cohortatur ne labori succumbant. mittit primo Brutum adolescentem cum cohortibus Caesar, post cum aliis Gaium Fabium legatum; postremo ipse, cum vehementius pugnaretur, integros subsidio adducit. restituto proelio ac repulsis hostibus eo quo Labienum miserat contendit; cohortes quattuor ex proximo castello deducit, equitum partem se sequi, partem circumire exteriores munitiones et ab tergo hostes adoriri iubet. Labienus Caesarem per nuntios facit certiosem quid faciendum existimet. accelerat Caesar, ut proelio intersit.

cognosco-ere-novi-notum: find out
cohors-ortis f. cohort
subsidium - ii. n. help
adeo-iri-ii-itum: approach
succumbo-ere-sucubui-sucubitum: succumb
mitto-ere-misi-missum: send
alius-a-um: other
legatus -i. m. commander
postremo: finally
vehementius: comparative adverb of vehementer: savagely
integer-ra-rum: fresh
proelium -ii. n. battle
repulsis: from the verb repello
eo quo: to the place where
contendo-ere-tendi-tentum: hurry
castellum-i. n. fort
eques-itis (pl) cavalry
sequor-sequi-secutus sum: follow
munitio-ionis. f. fortification
ab tergo: from the rear
adorior-iri-ortus sum: attack
certiosem facere: to inform, advise
faciendum: a gerundive "what had to be done"
existimo-are-avi-atum: consider
intersum-esse-fui: take part in

4. DIO CASSIUS

Boudicca incites the Britons to rebel against the Romans

“quantum differat libertas a servitute, omnes usu didicistis. quas enim contumelias iniuriasque non accepimus quo ex tempore illi ad Britanniam pervenerunt? quae olim habebamus, eis iam sumus privati, et si quid superest nobis, ei imponitur vectigal. melius fuit sub corona venire quam illud inane nomen libertatis retinere. quis tamen nobis haec attulit mala? ipsi, inquam, attulimus. Romanos enim expellere debuimus in patriam intrantes, ut olim maiores nostri C. Iulium Caesarem expulerunt.

vos tamen admoneo ne Romanos timeatis qui neque numero neque virtute sunt nobis superiores. et haec loca, nobis notissima, illis ignota sunt atque infesta. demonstrate igitur illos, qui nihil nisi lepores ac vulpes sunt, canibus lupisque imperare velle”.

differo-ferre-distuli-dilatatum: differ

servitus-utis. f. slavery

usus-us. m. experience

disco-discere-didici: learn

contumelia-ae. f. insult

inuria-ae. f. wrong

accepimus: perfect tense of accipio-ere-cepi-ceptum: receive

sumus privati: 1st person, plural, perfect tense, passive voice of privo-are-avi-atum +ablative case: deprive of

supersum-esse-fui: remain, be left over

impono-ere-posui-positum: impose

vectigal-alis. n. tax

melius fuit: it would have been better

sub corona venire: to be sold into slavery

inanis-is-e: empty

nomen-inis. n. name

retineo-ere-ui-tentum (2): retain

affero-ferre-attuli-allatum: bring to

malum-i. n. evil

inquam: 1st person of inquit: I say

debeo-ere-ui-itum (2). ought

intrantes: present participle of intro: enter

C = Gaius

admoneo-ere-ui-itum(2): warn

timeo-ere-ui-itum (2): fear

virtus-utis. f. courage

superior-ior-ius: superior

notus-a-um: known

ignotus-a-um: unknown

infestus-a-um: dangerous

lepus-oris. m. hare

vulpes-is. f. fox

canis-canis. c. dog

velle: present infinitive of volo: wish

5. CICERO

The old can live an active life

etenim quattuor reperio causas cur senectus misera videatur; unam quod avocet a rebus gerendis; alteram quod corpus faciat infirmius; tertiam quod privet omnibus fere voluptatibus; quartam, quod haud procul absit a morte. eae causae quantae et quam iustae sint videamus.

a rebus gerendis senectus abstrahit. nihil ergo agebat Q. Maximus, nihil L. Paulus, pater tuus, socer optimi viri, filii mei? ceteri senes, cum rem publicam consilio et auctoritate defendebant, nihil agebant? ad Appi Claudii senectutem accedebat etiam ut caecus esset; tamen is, cum sententia senatus inclinaret ad pacem cum Pyrrho foedusque faciendum, non dubitavit dicere illa quae versibus persecutus est Ennius:

quo vobis mentes, rectae quae stare solebant antehac, dementes sese flexere viae?

etenim: and indeed

reperio-ire-repperi-repertum: discover

senectus-tutis.f. old age

videor-eri-visus sum: seem

avoco-are-avi-atum: remove

a rebus gerendis: "the active life"

alteram: the second

infirmius: comparative adjective of infirmus-a-um: weak

privo-are-avi-atum: deprive (supply the object homines after quod privet)

fere: almost

voluptas-tatis. f. pleasure

haud: not

absum-abesse-afui: be away

quam: how

videamus: jussive subjunctive "let us see"

abstraho-ere-traxi-tractum: cut off

Q. Maximus = Quintus Fabius Maximus Cunctator

L. Paulus = Lucius Aemilius Paulus

socer-eri.m. father-in-law

Appi Claudii = Appius Claudius

(the ut clause is the subject of accedebat - "to the old age of Appius Claudius was added also the fact that he was blind")

senatus: genitive case

Pyrrho: the story here is that an old, blind Claudius was carried into the senate to protest against negotiations with Pyrrhus, an enemy of Rome still on Italian soil.

foedus facere: to make a treaty

dubito-are-avi-atum: doubt

versus-us. m. verse

persequor-i-secutus sum: relate

Ennius = Quintus Ennius - first of the great Roman poets

quo..viae "to what course have your senses, which up to now have stood unmoved, turned mad?"

(rectus-a-um: unmoved; stare to stand; solere: be accustomed,

antehac: up to now; demens,tis mad; flexere=flexerunt: turned).

6. OVID

While the world lasts, so will poetry

carmina sublimis tunc sunt peritura Lucreti
exitio terras cum dabit una dies.
Tityrus et segetes Aeneiaque arma legentur
Roma triumphati dum caput orbis erit.
donec erunt ignes arcusque Cupidinis arma,
dicentur numeri, culte Tibulle, tui.

carmen-inis. n. poem
sublimis-is-e: lofty, sophisticated
tunc...cum: "only...when"
periturus-a-um: about to perish
Lucretius-i. m. a famous Roman poet and philosopher
exitium-ii. n. destruction
terra-ae. f. land
do-are-dedi-datum: give
Tityrus-i. m. a character in Virgil's Eclogues
seges-itis. f. crop
Aeneius-a-um: of the Aeneid (Virgil's most famous poem)
arma-orum. n. pl. weapons
lego-ere-legi-lectum: read
triumphatus-i. m. conquered
caput-itis. n. capital
orbis-is. m. world
erit: future tense of sum-esse-fui
ignis-is. m. fire
arcus-us. m. bow
Cupid-inis. the god of love
numerus-i. m. verse
cultus-a-um: elegant
Tibullus-i. a Roman poet

Ovid cannot recommend poetry alone as a lover's gift

quid tibi praecipiam teneros quoque mittere versus?
hei mihi! non multum carmen honoris habet.
carmina laudantur sed munera magna petuntur:
dummodo sit dives, barbarus ipse placet.
aurea sunt vere nunc saecula: plurimus auro
venit honos: auro conciliatur amor.

quid: here "why"
praecipio-ere-cepi-ceptum: teach
tener-era-erum: tender
munus-eris. n. gift
peto-ere-ivi-utum: seek
dummodo: provided that
dives-itis: rich
placet: an impersonal verb -pleases.
aureus-a-um: golden
saeculum-i: age, generation
plurimus: superlative degree of multus. much
concilior-ari-atus sum: win over

7. VIRGIL

Queen Dido of Carthage listens in awe to the Trojan hero Aeneas and wants to hear all his adventures

nec non et vario noctem sermone trahebat
infelix Dido longumque bibebat amorem
multa super Priamo rogitans, super Hectore multa;
nunc quibus Aurorae venisset filius armis,
nunc quales Diomedes equi, nunc quantus Achilles.
" immo age et a prima dic, hospes, origine nobis
insidias" inquit "Danaum casusque tuorum
erroresque tuos; nam te iam septima portat
omnibus errantem terris et fluctibus aestas".

nec non: indeed
sermo-onis. m. speech
traho-ere-traxi-tractum: drag
infelix-icis: unlucky
bibere-ere-bibi-bibitum: drink
rogitans: present participle of rogo-are: ask
super: concerning
Priamus-i: king of Troy
Hector-oris: Hector, greatest of the Trojan heroes
Aurorae ..filius: Memnon - king of the Ethiopians
equus-i: horse.(Diomedes stole some fine horses from King Rhesus)

age: imperative from ago-ere: do, come
dic: imperative from dico-ere: say
hospes-itis. m guest
origo-iginis. f. origin
insidiae-arum. f.pl treachery
Danai-orum. m.pl Greeks
casus-us. m. misfortune
tuorum: “ of your family”
error-oris. m wandering
septima ... aestas: the seventh summer
fluctus-us. m wave

King Priam’s wife points out to her husband the futility of donning the armour of his youth and urges him to seek the protection of the gods

ipsum autem sumptis Priamum iuvenalibus armis
ut vidit, “quae mens tam dira, miserrime coniunx,
impulit his cingi telis? aut quo ruis?” inquit.
tempus eget; non, ipse meus nunc adforet Hector.
huc tandem concede; haec ara tuebitur omnis.

sumptis: abl pl of perfect participle of sumo-ere-sumpsi-sumptum: take up
iuvenalis-is-e: youthful
mens-tis. f. mind. judgement
dirus-a-um: terrible
miserrime: vocative case of the superlative degree of miser: miserable
coniunx-iugis. m. husband
impello-ere-puli-pulsum: push, drive
cingo-ere-cinxi-cinctum: surround (passive infinitive here)
telum-i. n weapon
quo: where?
ruo-ere-rui-rutum: rush
auxilium-i. n help
defensor-oris. m defender
egere + ablative: to be in need of
adforet = adesset; imperfect subjunctive of absum-esse: be absent
concedo-ere-cessi-cessum: withdraw
ara-ae. f. altar
tueor-eri-tuitus sum: protect

The bitter memory of Turnus' slaying of Pallas fills Aeneas with rage and he kills Turnus despite his appeal for his life

et iam iamque magis cunctantem flectere sermo
coeperat, infelix humero cum adparuit alto
balteus et notis fulserunt cingula bullis
Pallantis pueri, victum quem vulnere Turnus
straverat atque humeris inimicum insigne gerebat.
ille, oculis postquam saevi monumenta doloris
exuviasque hausit, furiis accensus, et ira
terribilis: "tunc hinc spoliis indute meorum
eripiari mihi? Pallas te hoc vulnere, Pallas
immolat, et poenam scelerato ex sanguine sumit."
hoc dicens ferrum adverso sub pectore condit
fervidus. ast illi solvuntur frigore membra,
vitaque cum gemitu fugit indignata sub umbras.

iam iamque magis "more and ever more"
magis: comparative degree of magnopere; greatly
cunctor-ari-atus sum: delay
flecto-ere-flexi-flectum: influence
coeperat: "had begun"
humerus-i. m. shoulder
adpareo-ere-ui-itum(2): come in sight
balteus-i. m. sword-belt
fulgeo-ere-fulsi-fulsum(2): shine
cingula-orum. m. pl. belt
bulla-ae. f. stud
Pallas-antis. Pallas, the son of Evander, had been killed by Turnus
in battle and stripped of his armour. Turnus is wearing some of the armour he took as a trophy of
victory.
vulnus-eris. n. wound
inimicus-a-um. hostile
insignis-is. n. mark
gero-gerere-gessi-gestum: wear
saevi monumenta doloris exuviasque: "the spoils which reminded him of the cruel grief"
haurio-ire-hausi-haustum: drain
furia-ae. f. madness
accensus-a-um: inflamed
ira-ae. f. anger
tunc.....mihi: "Are you to be snatched away from me, clad in the spoils of those I love"
tunc = tu ne
indute: vocative from indutus: clad, clothed
eripiari = eripiaris: subjunctive in a deliberative question
immolo-are-avi-atum: sacrifice
poena-ae. f. punishment
sceleratus-a-um: impious
sanguis-uinis. m. blood
sumo-ere-sumpsi-sumptum: exact, inflict

dicens: present participle of dico-ere: say
ferrum-i. n blade
adversus-a-um: facing, opposed
pectus-oris.n breast
condo-ere-condidi-conditum: shove
fervidus -a -um: translate as an adverb “violently
ast = at: but
solvo-ere-solvi-solutum: loose
frigus-oris. n coldness
gemitus-us. m groan
membrum-i. limb
indignatus-a-um: indignant, reluctant
umbra-ae. f. shade (shades - the dead existed in a world of shadows)