

Ablative Absolute; *Īdem, ipse, iste*



Based on Theodore de Bry's (1528–1598) illustration which blends Columbus erecting a cross on the island of Guanahani and receiving presents from the Caciques of Hispaniola.

MEMORĀBILE DICTŪ

Nūlla terra exsilium est sed altera patria.

“No land is a place of exile, but merely another native land.” (Seneca, *About Remedies for Unexpected Grievances*)

This thought is expressed in the *Dē remediis fortuitōrum*, which is sometimes attributed to the first century CE Stoic philosopher Seneca. It articulates the characteristically Stoic idea that wise people who achieve harmony with themselves and with nature are at home anywhere. The sailors who accompanied Columbus to the New World, however, were unlikely to have been motivated by Stoic philosophy.

READING

Here is another passage from Book I of Sepúlveda's *Dē orbe novō* (1.8). The island first sighted by Columbus' men was probably in the Bahamas. Afterward Columbus explored the coasts of Cuba and Hispaniola. On Hispaniola, Columbus' flagship, the *Santa María*, ran aground. Here he realized that he needed more people if a permanent settlement were to be established.

RIXA INTER COLŌNUM ĒIUSQUE DUCĒS EST SŌPĪTA

1 Colōnus sē in Hispāniam redīre dēbēre intellēxit, ut aliōs mīlitēs cum
māiōre classe ad īnsulās ā sē inventās dūceret. Sed Colōnus omnēs
in Hispāniam redīre posse negāvit, et paucōs Hispānōs in illā īnsulā
relinquere voluit. Colōnus igitur turrim ligneam aedificārī iussit, ut
5 hominēs ibi relictī castra habērent. Tālia iubentī Colōnō vehementer
restitit Martīnus Alfōnsus Pinzon, quī inter Hispānōrum ducēs
numerābātur. “Cōnsilium istud,” inquit Martīnus, “nōn probō. Absente
māiōre Hispānōrum parte, hī paucī in tantā barbarōrum multitudīne
relictī in perīculō maximō versābuntur.” Animus Colōnī hīs Martīnī
10 verbīs est offēnsus. Martīnus quoque irātus est et cum nōnnūllīs sociīs
in aliam īnsulae partem discessit.

Hominēs, quī cum Colōnō manēbant, eum hortābantur, ut Martīnō
veniam daret. Colōnus, litterīs hūmānissimē scrīptīs, suam in
Martīnum benevolentiam dēclārāvit. Epistolam Colōnī et epistolās,
15 quās frātrēs Martīnī ad eum scrīpserant, ut ēius animum plācārent et
firmārent, barbarī tulērunt. Eīdem barbarī, cum epistolās Martīnō
dedissent, vīdērunt Martīnum, epistolīs lēctīs, Colōnī absentis verba et
animum et voluntātem ipsam intellegere, velut sī Colōnus ipse adesset.
Hanc rem vehementer mīrābantur: nam dē litterārum vī nihil omnīnō
20 sciēbant. Vim igitur dīvīnam in epistolīs esse putantēs et nefās esse
rem sacram manibus tenēre, litterās ā Martīnō scrīptās fissā virgā ad
Colōnum rettulērunt.

READING VOCABULARY

*absēns, absentis – away, absent: this adjective is also a present participle from *absum*, *abesse*, *āfuī*, which means “be away”

absente . . . parte – with a part . . . being absent

adesset – imperfect subjunctive of *adsum*, *adesse*, *adfui*, which means “to be present”

barbarus, ī, m. – barbarian, native‡

*benevolentia, ae, f. – good will

Colōnus, ī, m. – Columbus

*dēclārō, āre, āvī, ātum – to demonstrate, show

eīdem (nom. pl. masc.) – the same

epistulis . . . lēctīs – when the letters had been read

fissā – perfect passive participle from *findō*, *ere*, *fidī*, *fissum*, which means “split”

Hispānia, ae, f. – Spain

Hispānus, a, um – Spaniard

hūmānissimē (superlative adverb from *hūmānus*, *a, um*) – very kindly

*īdem, eadem, idem – the same

in Martīnum – towards Martín‡

*ipse, ipsa, ipsum – self ‡

*īrāscor, īrāscī, īrātus sum – to be angry

*iste, ista, istud – that (of yours)

litterīs . . . scriptīs – a letter having been written <by him> with great kindness . . .

Martīnus (ī) Alfōnsus (ī) Pinzon (the word ‘Pinzon’ is indeclinable), m. – Martín Alonso Pinzón

*mīror, mīrārī, mīrātus sum – to marvel, be surprised at

*multitūdō, multitūdīnis, f. – crowd, throng

nefās (indeclinable), n. – crime, sacrilege

*negō, āre, āvī, ātum – to deny

nōnnūllī, ae, a – a good number, quite a few, some

*numerō, āre, āvī, ātum – to number, count among

*offendō, ere, offendī, offēnsūm – to offend, happen upon

omnīnō (adv.) – wholly, entirely

plācō, āre, āvī, ātum – to placate, soothe

*redeō, redire, redīvī, reditūm – to go back, return

*rettulērunt – perfect tense of *referō*, *referre*, *rettulī*, *relātum* which means “to carry back,” and sometimes “to report”

rixa, ae, f. – quarrel

sacer, sacra, sacrum – sacred

*socius, ī, m. – associate, partner, ally

sōpiō, ire, ivī, itum – to lull to sleep, settle

*tālis, tāle – such a

*turrim – accusative singular of *turris*, *is*, *f*., which means “tower”

velut sī – just as if‡

*venia, ae, f. – pardon, indulgence, forgiveness

*versor, versārī, versātus sum – to be situated in, be occupied in

*virga, ae, f. – twig, stick

*voluntās, voluntātis, f. – will

*Words marked with an asterisk will need to be memorized later in the chapter.

‡Additional information about the words marked with the double dagger will be in the **Take Note** section that follows the Reading Vocabulary.



TAKE NOTE

barbarus, ī, m. This word, with its meaning of “barbarian,” which had been used by both Greeks and Romans to indicate non-Greeks and non-Romans, whose languages sounded to Greco-Roman ears like “bar . . . bar . . . bar,” was reused by Latin authors of Sepúlveda’s time to denote native Americans, and sometime other non-Europeans. The unfortunate prejudice inherent in this word continues to have very negative effects.

in Martīnum The preposition *in* with the accusative can mean, as here, “towards,” when referring to feelings or attitude to someone.

ipse, ipsa, ipsum This word which means “self” is used not in the reflexive sense, but the intensive one, as in the phrase “here is the man himself.”

velut sī Note that this phrase which means “just as if” is normally joined with a verb in the subjunctive.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Why did Columbus want to go back to Spain?
2. Why did Martín Pinzón oppose Columbus' plan?
3. After the dispute had arisen between Pinzón and Columbus, what did Pinzón do?
4. Why did Columbus write a letter to Pinzón?
5. How was Columbus' letter delivered to Martín?
6. Why did the inhabitants/natives of the island think letters were sacred?



LANGUAGE FACT I

ABLATIVE ABSOLUTE

Look at this sentence from the chapter reading passage.

Absente māiōre Hispanōrum parte, hī paucī in tantā barbarōrum multitudīne relictī in periculō maximō versābuntur.

“With the larger part of the Spaniards being absent, these few left among such a great multitude of barbarians will be situated in very great danger.”

Note the long ablative phrase at the beginning of the sentence before the subject. This construction expresses circumstances logically linked to what is going on in the main clause (in this case—the fact that the few left on the island will be in danger) but makes no grammatical ties between the main and subordinate clauses (note that there are no subordinating conjunctions like *cum*, *postquam*, *quamquam*, etc.). The ablative absolute is made up of a **noun or pronoun in the ablative agreeing with a participle**, along with other words depending on them or modifying them. Sometimes an adjective or another noun can take the place of the participle, e. g., *Caesare duce* (“with Caesar as general”).

Dedicated in 1862, the citizens of Genoa honor their native son. In the tradition of Roman monuments, though in Italian, the inscription states “To Christopher Columbus, the Fatherland <erects this.>” On the back of the forty-square-foot base is inscribed “Having divined a world, he found it for the perennial benefit of the old one.”



This construction is called the **ablative absolute**. The name comes from the Latin verb *absolvō, ere, absolvi, absolūtum*, which has the basic meaning “to loosen.” The ablative absolute, therefore, is a phrase logically linked to the main sentence but grammatically “loosened” from it. It functions like one large adverb made up of many words. Hence it is not surprising that the case of the subject and its modifiers is ablative—since this is the case in Latin that expresses adverbial relations.

The subject of the ablative absolute is, with only very rare exceptions, different from the subject of the main clause.

The perfect participle in an ablative absolute refers to a time before the time of the verb in the main clause while a present participle refers to the same time as that of the verb in the main clause.

When the perfect participle is necessary in the ablative absolute, the action indicated in the ablative absolute has to be said passively, even if the same action could be expressed actively using a different type of construction. For example:

with an ablative absolute

Epistulīs lēctīs, Martīnus Colōnī absentis verba et animum et voluntātem ipsam intellēxit.

“When the letter had been read, Martín understood the words and the mind and the will itself of the absent Columbus.”

with a temporal clause

Cum epistulās lēgisset, Martīnus Colōnī absentis verba et animum et voluntātem ipsam intellēxit.

“When he had read the letters, Martín understood the words, and the mind and the will itself of the absent Columbus.”



BY THE WAY

Since only deponent verbs in Latin can have a perfect participle with an active meaning, an exception occurs to perfect participles being phrased in the passive in ablative absolutes. The use of a deponent perfect participle in an ablative absolute is not common and is limited (in classical Latin) to deponent verbs without an object. For example:

Caesare mortuō, multī cīvēs bellum timēre coepērunt.

“After Caesar had died, many citizens began to fear war.”

► EXERCISE 1

Translate into English. The Reading Vocabulary may be consulted.

1. Turrī lignēa aedificātā, hominēs ibi relictī castra tandem habēbant.
2. Verbīs Colōnī auditīs, Martīnus irātus est et cum nōnnūllīs sociīs in aliam īnsulae partem discessit.
3. Cōnsiliō Colōnī ā Martīnō nōn probātō, multī tamen Hispānī in īnsulā cum duce manēre dēcrēvērunt.
4. Hortantibus nōnnūllīs Colōnum ut Martīnō veniam daret, multī tamen nautae nūllam pācem inter ducēs fieri posse crēdebant.
5. Litterīs Martīnī ad Colōnum relātīs, pāx inter ducēs tandem est facta.
6. Lūmine procul ā nāvibus vīsō, nautae Colōnī sententiam esse bonam nōn negābant.

VOCABULARY TO LEARN

NOUNS

benevolentia, ae, f. – good will
multitūdō, multitūdinis, f. – crowd, throng
socius, ī, m. – associate, partner, ally
turris, turris, f. – tower
venia, ae, f. – pardon, indulgence, forgiveness
virga, ae, f. – twig, stick
voluntās, voluntātis, f. – will

ADJECTIVES

absēns, absentis – away, absent
tālis, tāle – such a

VERBS

absum, abesse, āfuī, — – be away
dēclārō, āre, āvī, ātum – to demonstrate, show, make known, reveal
irāscor, irāscī, irātus sum + dative – to be angry at

mīror, mīrārī, mīrātus sum – to marvel, be surprised at
negō, āre, āvī, ātum – to deny
numerō, āre, āvī, ātum – to number, count among
offendō, ere, offendī, offēsum – to happen upon, offend
redeō, redīre, redīvī, reditum – to go back, return
referō, referre, rettulī, relātum – to carry back, report
versor, versārī, versātus sum – to be situated in, be occupied in (from the passive of *versō, āre*)

PRONOUNS

īdem, eadem, idem – the same
ipse, ipsa, ipsum – self
iste, ista, istud – that (of yours)

CONJUNCTIONS

atque – as (when linked with some form of *īdem*)

► EXERCISE 2

In the sentences below, find the words derived from the Vocabulary to Learn in this chapter. Write the corresponding Latin word.

1. A good historian always makes reference to his sources.
2. People who act without thinking about other people's feelings are often offensive.
3. He received a large gift from a benevolent uncle.
4. His resignation was completely voluntary; that was what he wanted, and no one forced him to do it.
5. A person who is absent from class without a legitimate excuse cannot make up the test.
6. So large was the multitude of pilgrims that no traffic could move in the street outside the shrine.
7. My associate must sign all the documents signed by me.
8. The history of the United States is considered by some historians to begin with the signing of the Declaration of Independence.
9. An irate person may do things which later evoke great self-regret.
10. Thirsty people in the desert who think they see water are often seeing only a mirage.
11. If we hope to maximize our chances of success, we should try hard to avoid negative thoughts.

LANGUAGE FACT II

MORE ON THE ABLATIVE ABSOLUTE

As you probably noticed in the chapter reading passage and in the sentences in Exercise 1, the ablative absolute can fulfill the same functions as temporal, causal, conditional, and concessive clauses. The temporal, causal, conditional, or concessive meaning is inferred from the context. Sometimes the presence of the word *tamen* in the main clause is an indication that the meaning is concessive. Study the following examples.

Temporal Meaning

Caesare duce dictō, milītēs sē ad iter parāre coepērunt.

“When Caesar had been named leader, the soldiers prepared themselves for the road.”

Causal Meaning

Hostibus appropinquantibus, cōsul exercitum parāvit.

“Because the enemy was approaching, the consul prepared an/the army.”

Concessive Meaning

Hostibus appropinquantibus, cōsul tamen exercitum nōn parāvit.

“Although the enemy was approaching, nevertheless the consul did not prepare an/the army.”

The ablative absolute sometimes allows the writer to express shades of more than one meaning in the subordinate clause. For example:

Absente māiōre Hispanōrum parte, hī paucī in tantā barbarōrum multitudīne relictī in periculō maximō versābuntur.

“**If** (and/or) **when** the larger part of the Spaniards is absent, these few left among such a great multitude of barbarians will be situated in very great danger.”

Colōnus, litterīs hūmānissimē scrīptīs, suam in Martīnum benevolentiam dēclārāvit.

“Columbus, **because** (and/or) **when** he had written a letter in a very kind way, made clear his good will towards Martin.”



Queen Isabella “the Catholic” at the Royal Palace in Madrid which continues to serve as the official residence for the Kings of Spain. Though a Castilian royal possession since the Moorish outpost fell to Alfonso VI in 1065, it was Philip II who made it and Madrid the center of the kingdom in 1561. The current palace was built in 1734 by Philip V after a fire had devastated the original building.



BY THE WAY

When a present participle is in an ablative absolute, it usually ends in *-e*, not in *-ī*.



STUDY TIP

Note that many of the functions of the ablative absolute are equivalents for expressions with *cum*: either temporal, or concessive, or causal. Here is just one example:

Absente māiōre Hispanōrum parte, hī paucī in tantā barbarōrum multitudine relictī in periculō maximō versābuntur.

or

Cum māior Hispanōrum pars aberit/afutūra erit, hī paucī in tantā barbarōrum multitudine relictī in periculō maximō versābuntur.

“**If** (and/or) **when** the larger part of the Spaniards is absent, these few left among such a great multitude of barbarians will be situated in very great danger.”

► EXERCISE 3

Translate the sentences into English treating the ablative absolute as indicating either **time**, **cause**, **concession**, or **condition**. Consider the ablative absolutes as equivalents to sentences in Latin that begin with the conjunctions *cum*, *postquam*, *quia/quod*, *quamquam*, or *sī*. Sometimes more than one meaning—or combination of meanings—is possible. Give at least one plausible translation.

Examples:

Lūmine cōspectō, nautae intellēxērunt sē novam terram invēnisse.

“When (or “because”) the light had been observed, the sailors understood that they had found a new land.”

Benevolentīā Hispānōrum cōspectā, incolae tamen eōs esse amīcōs negāvērunt.

“Although the good will of the Spaniards had been made clear, the inhabitants nevertheless denied they were friends.”

1. Verbis Colōnī audītis, nautae per trēs aliōs diēs expectāre dēcrēvērunt.
2. Nullā terrā multōs per diēs vīsā, nautae iam spērāre nōlēbant.
3. Martīnō epistolam Colōnī legente, incolae expectābant.
4. Omnibus nautīs in Hispāniam redīre cupientibus, Colōnus tamen paucōs Hispānōs in illā īnsulā manēre dēbere putābat.
5. “Multis mīlitibus et nautīs absentibus,” inquit Martīnus, “paucī Hispānī in tantā incolārum multitudine relictī in periculō maximō versābuntur.”

► EXERCISE 4

Translate the following sentences into Latin using ablative absolutes for the subordinate clauses. The Reading Vocabulary may be consulted.

Example:

When the letter had been read, Martín understood the words of the absent Columbus.

Epistulīs lēctīs, Martīnus Colōnī absentis verba intellēxit.

1. When/since their good will has been revealed, we are not easily angry.
2. When/since the letter has been carried back on a slender stick, we are not surprised that pardon has been given to your associate.
3. If the island has been sighted/seen, we will not deny that Columbus' plan is good.
4. While the Spaniards were building a tower, Martin made known his good will.
5. Although the Spaniards do not approve of Columbus' opinion, no one however will deny that he (himself) ought to think about his own duty.
6. When many islands had been found by Columbus, a multitude of Spaniards afterwards was living there.

LANGUAGE FACT III

THE DEMONSTRATIVE PRONOUN *ĪDEM, EADEM, IDEM*

In the chapter reading passage, you encountered the following sentence:

Eīdem barbarī, cum epistulās Martīnō dedissent, vīdērunt Martīnum, epistulīs lēctīs, Colōnī absentis verba et animum et voluntātem ipsam intellegere.

“The same inhabitants/natives, when they had given the letters to Martín, saw that, when the letters had been read, Martín understood the words and the mind and the will itself of the absent Columbus.”

The demonstrative pronoun/adjective *īdem, eadem, idem* means “the same.” It is composed of *is, ea, id* plus the suffix *-dem*. Certain modifications take place before *-dem*.

- The **s** of the nominative masculine singular and the **d** of the neuter nominative singular drop out before *-dem*.
- The **i** of the nominative masculine singular becomes long.
- The letter **m** becomes **n** before *-dem*.



Pronoun/Adjective: <i>īdem, eadem, idem</i>						
	Singular			Plural		
	Masculine	Feminine	Neuter	Masculine	Feminine	Neuter
Nominative	<i>īdem</i>	<i>eadem</i>	<i>idem</i>	<i>eīdem</i>	<i>eaedem</i>	<i>eadem</i>
Genitive	<i>ēiusdem</i>	<i>ēiusdem</i>	<i>ēiusdem</i>	<i>eōrundem</i>	<i>eārundem</i>	<i>eōrundem</i>
Dative	<i>eīdem</i>	<i>eīdem</i>	<i>eīdem</i>	<i>eīsdem</i>	<i>eīsdem</i>	<i>eīsdem</i>
Accusative	<i>eundem</i>	<i>eandem</i>	<i>idem</i>	<i>eōsdem</i>	<i>eāsdem</i>	<i>eadem</i>
Ablative	<i>eōdem</i>	<i>eādem</i>	<i>eōdem</i>	<i>eīsdem</i>	<i>eīsdem</i>	<i>eīsdem</i>

The Latin equivalent of the English phrase “**the same as**” is

īdem quī, with, of course, the pronoun and the relative taking the case, number, and gender appropriate for their contexts

or

īdem atque. Note carefully that when *atque* is used in this way with some form of *īdem*, the conjunction *atque* does not have its usual meaning “and;” in this context it means “as.” Some examples:

Eaedem sunt puellae, quās anteā vīdimus.

“They are the same girls as/whom we saw earlier.”

Eīsdem āthlētīs praemia dedimus, quī ab omnibus laudātī erant.

“We gave rewards to the same athletes as/who had been praised by everybody.”

Īdem cibus mihi placet atque tibi.

“The same food pleases me as <pleases> you.”

Eadem dōna accēpī atque tū.

“I received the same gifts as you <received>.”

► EXERCISE 5

Translate into English. The Reading Vocabulary may be consulted.

1. Colōnus eōsdem sociōs sēcum manēre volēbat.
2. Incolae eāsdem epistulās, quae Martīnō datae erant, manibus tangere nōlēbant.
3. Colōnus eōdem modō irātus est Martīnō, quō Martīnus Colōnō irāscēbātur.
4. Ad eandem īnsulam nāvīgāre volumus atque tū.
5. Incolae eandem vim dīvīnam in epistulis esse putābant atque in rēbus sacrīs.

LANGUAGE FACT IV

THE INTENSIVE PRONOUN *IPSE, IPSA, IPSUM*

Have another look at the same sentence taken from the chapter reading passage.

Eīdem barbarī, cum epistulās Martīnō dedissent, vidērunt Martīnum, epistulīs lēctīs, Colōnī absentis verba et animum et voluntātem ipsam intellegere, velut sī Colōnus ipse adesset.

“The same inhabitants/natives, when they had given the letters to Martín, saw that, when the letters had been read, Martín understood the words and the mind and the will itself of the absent Columbus, just as if Columbus himself were present.”

The intensive pronoun/adjective *ipse, ipsa, ipsum* means “self” and should be carefully distinguished from the reflexive pronoun *sui, sibi, se, se*, which we also translate as “self.” While English uses one word to express these two distinct notions, Latin has separate words for each. The intensive pronoun/adjective **agrees** with what it refers to and has a nominative, whereas the reflexive pronoun refers to something else in the sentence with which it does **not** agree grammatically and has no nominative. The difference is illustrated in these sentences.

Nauta ipse haec dixit. **intensive pronoun/adjective**

“The sailor himself said these things.”

Nauta haec sibi dixit. **reflexive pronoun**

“The sailor said these things to himself.”

Nauta ipse amat. **intensive pronoun/adjective**

“The sailor himself loves/is in love.”

Nauta se amat. **reflexive pronoun**

“The sailor loves himself.”

Intensive Pronoun/Adjective: *ipse, ipsa, ipsum*

	Singular			Plural		
	Masculine	Feminine	Neuter	Masculine	Feminine	Neuter
Nominative	ipse	ipsa	ipsum	ipsī	ipsae	ipsa
Genitive	ipsīus	ipsīus	ipsīus	ipsōrum	ipsārum	ipsōrum
Dative	ipsī	ipsī	ipsī	ipsīs	ipsīs	ipsīs
Accusative	ipsum	ipsam	ipsum	ipsōs	ipsās	ipsa
Ablative	ipsō	ipsā	ipsō	ipsīs	ipsīs	ipsīs



The marriage of Queen Isabella of Castile and Aragón and King Ferdinand of León and Navarre in 1469 joined the two largest kingdoms of Spain. The two monarchs ruled independently and Isabella sponsored Columbus' expedition. On the coat of arms are: clockwise, León, Navarre, Aragón, and Castile. The fleurs-de-lis at the center stand for the Bourbons.

► EXERCISE 6

Translate into Latin.

Colōnus, ī, m. – Columbus

Martīnus, ī, m. – Martín

1. Columbus said all these things to himself.
2. Columbus himself said all these things.
3. Columbus heard all the words of the sailors themselves.
4. Martín himself led quite a few associates into another part of the island.
5. Columbus himself said that he was angry.
6. The inhabitants saw that Martín, when the letters had been read, understood the words themselves of the absent Columbus.
7. I do not praise myself but glory itself.
8. Columbus did not praise himself but the sailors themselves.

LANGUAGE FACT V

DEMONSTRATIVE PRONOUN *ISTE, ISTA, ISTUD*

In yet another sentence in the chapter reading passage you can see a new demonstrative pronoun/adjective.

“Cōnsilium istud,” inquit Martīnus, “nōn probō”.

“I do not approve of that plan of yours,” said Martín.”

The demonstrative *iste, ista, istud* means “that <of yours>.” The notion “of yours” may be literally true or it may simply refer figuratively to a connection between the thing indicated by the pronoun and something else. In some cases—but certainly not always—the use of this pronoun can have a derogatory or dismissive connotation.

Demonstrative Pronoun/Adjective: *iste, ista, istud*

	Singular			Plural		
	Masculine	Feminine	Neuter	Masculine	Feminine	Neuter
Nominative	iste	ista	istud	istī	istae	ista
Genitive	istīus	istīus	istīus	istōrum	istārum	istōrum
Dative	istī	istī	istī	istīs	istīs	istīs
Accusative	istum	istam	istud	istōs	istās	ista
Ablative	istō	istā	istō	istīs	istīs	istīs



STUDY TIP

Notice the genitive and dative singular of the demonstratives *idem, ipse, and iste*. These forms closely resemble the genitive and dative singular of *ille* or of the naughty nine adjectives like *ūnus* and *sōlus*.

► EXERCISE 7

Translate into English.

- “Dē istīs officiīs,” inquit nautae, “semper cōgitāre vidēris.”
- “Iste,” inquit Martīnus, “dē castrīs ipsīs nec autem hominum relictōrum periculō loquitur.”
- Istōs tē mīlītēs in illam urbem ductūrum esse dīcis. In labōre ibi semper versābuntur nec redībunt.
- Istī armīs suīs ūtuntur; nōs virtūte nostrā et benevolentīā dēfendimur.
- Istī lēgātī epistulās ad Martīnum tulērunt. Ille voluntātem Colōnī intellēxit.
- Istīs litterīs benevolentiam tuam in Martīnum dēclārāvistī.

► EXERCISE 8

The following text is adapted from another history entitled *Dē orbe novō*, which narrates the explorations of Columbus. Peter or Petrus Martyr (1457–1526) was born in Italy and migrated to Spain as an adult. He wrote a great deal about the explorations of Central and South America, including the history *Dē orbe novō*. In this passage Peter describes the first encounter between the Spaniards and the Native Americans upon Columbus' arrival in the West Indies. The happy end of this encounter was, sadly, all too rare on future occasions.

Translate this passage into English. The Reading Vocabulary may be consulted. Some other new words are explained below the passage.

Ibi primum ad terram ēgressi incolās nōn paucōs vidērunt. Incolae, cum gentem inaudītā cōspexissent, in silvā māgnā, agmine factō, fūgērunt. Nostrī incolās secūtī mulierem tandem capiunt. Hanc cum ad nāvēs dūxissent, nostrīs cibīs et vīnō bene saturātā atque ōrnātā vestibis liberāvērunt et in terrā reliquērunt. Cum ad suōs mulier vēnisset—sciēbat enim illa quō alii incolae fūgissent—ostendissetque mīram esse nostrōrum hominū liberālitātem, omnēs ad litora certātīm currunt. Hanc gentem novā esse missā ē caelō dicēbant. Ē nāvibus dēscendunt nostrī et ā rēge et aliīs incolīs honōrificē accipiuntur.

capiunt – although this verb is in the present tense, it refers of course to an action in the past; this historical present is used in narration to make action seem more vivid and present.

certātīm (adv.) – eagerly

currunt – another example of the historical present

ēgressi – nominative plural of the perfect participle of *ēgredior, ēgredi, ēgressus sum*, which means “to set forth” or “to go out”

honōrificē (adv.) – with honor and respect

inaudītus, a, um – unheard of

liberālitās, liberālitātis, f. – generosity

mīrus, a, um – marvelous, amazing

primum (adv.) – for the first time

quō – to where, whither

saturātus, a, um – filled up

The Cathedral of Seville incorporating a mosque is the world's largest church in terms of volume. La Giralda tower, formerly a minaret, in its present form, is echoed in buildings like Chicago's Wrigley Building. Columbus set sail from Seville's port of San Lucar and an elaborate tomb in the cathedral is said to hold his remains.



TALKING ABOUT A READING

ABOUT ALL PEOPLE BEING EQUAL AND UNADAPTED LATIN: THE ASSASSINATION OF JULIUS CAESAR

DĒ HOMINIBUS INTER SĒ AEQUĀLIBUS

Marīa: Populī quōs Colōnus in terrā novā invēnit nōn erant doctī. Nesciēbant enim scribere et legere nec sciēbant quālēs essent litterae. Dēbuērunt igitur ab Eurōpaeīs (*Europeans*) vincī.

Helena: Litterārū quidem vīs est ingēns. At male agis, Marīa, sī putās hominēs indigenōs (*native*) fuisse propter hanc causam inferiōrēs (*inferior*). Nam hominēs indigenī aliās rēs sciēbant, quās Eurōpaeī nōn sciēbant.

Mārcus: Putō Helenam bene dīcere. Omnēs hominēs nōn sunt eīdem. Vīs ūniuscūiusque (*each one*) hominis est in suīs rēbus posita. Cōgitāte dē omnibus gentibus ex quibus fit nunc populus Americānus: sunt Hibernī (*Irish*), Afrī (*African-Americans*), Ītalī (*Italians*), Sinēnsēs (*Chinese*), multī aliī. Omnēs rēs suās bonās sēcum ferunt et ita populum Americānum meliōrem atque fortiōrem faciunt. Nūllus populus est aliīs inferior.

Marīa: Nunc intellegō, Mārce, tē et Helenam bene dīcere. Multa bella in orbe terrārū sunt gesta, quia quīdam (*some*) hominēs putābant sē esse aliīs superiōrēs (*superior*).

Helena: Sed signum (*statue*) Libertātis omnēs eōdem modō salūtat omnibusque eandem libertātem prōmittit . . .

Nunc cōgitēmus dē Atticō. Mārcō enim vītā Atticī legente, mē Nepōtem loquentem paene audire crēdō.

Mārcus: Ista verba mihi placent. Putāsne mē bene legere?

Helena: Bene legis. Tē recitante (*recitō, āre* “to recite, read aloud”), verba Nepōtis facile intelleguntur.

Marīa: Satis dē hāc rē locūtī estis. Vōs, Mārce et Helena, nimis inter vōs laudāre solētis. Recitā, Mārce, locum, quī sequitur. Mentibus nostrīs fingēmus (*fingō, ere* “to create, pretend”) ipsum Nepōtem recitāre!

Sed signum (statue) Libertātis omnēs eōdem modō salūtat omnibusque eandem libertātem prōmittit . . .





Julius Caesar stands guard in the Tuileries Gardens in Paris. Originally a royal retreat near the Louvre, the royal palace and the gardens were begun by Catherine de' Medici. Today they are a much beloved public park where families stroll.

THE ASSASSINATION OF JULIUS CAESAR

CORNĒLIĪ NEPŌTIS ATTICUS, 8.1–3

After Julius Caesar had been assassinated, the conspirators against Caesar seemed to be in control of the state. Atticus remained on good terms with Marcus Brutus, who, together with Cassius, had been at the head of the conspirators. Members of the anti-Caesarian party wanted the Roman equestrians to establish a private fund for the assassins of Caesar. Atticus was asked to be in charge of this project.

- 1 1. Secūtum est illud tempus, occīsō Caesare, cum rēs pūblica penes
Brūtōs vidērētur esse et Cassium ac tōta cīvitās sē ad eōs convertisse
vidērētur. 2. Sīc M. Brūtō ūsus est, ut nūllō ille adulēscēns aequālī
familiārius quam hōc sene <ūterētur>, neque sōlum eum prīncipem
5 cōsiliī habēret, sed etiam in convictū. 3. Excōgitātum est ā
quibusdam, ut prīvātum aerārium Caesaris interfectōribus ab equitibus
Rōmānīs cōstituerētur. Id facile effici posse arbitrātī sunt, sī prīncipēs
ēius ōrdinis pecūniās contulissent. Itaque appellātus est ā C. Flāviō,
Brūtī familiārī, Atticus, ut ēius reī prīnceps esse vellet.

VOCABULARY

- 1 penes + accusative – in the possession of
- 2 Brūtōs – the conspirators Marcus Brutus and Decimus Brutus
cīvitās, cīvitātis, f. – the state, political entity
convertō, ere, convertī, conversum – to turn
- 3 aequālis, aequāle – equal, contemporary in age
- 4 familiārius – comparative degree of the adverb *familiārīter*, which means “familiarily,” or “intimately”
- 4–5 neque solum . . . sed etiam . . . – the same meaning as *nōn solum . . . sed etiam*, but *neque* means the same as *et nōn*
- 4 prīnceps, prīncipis, m. – leader, chief
- 5 convictus, convictūs, m. – social relationships, a living together
excōgitō, āre, āvī, ātum – to think up, devise
- 5–6 ā quibusdam – by some
- 6 prīvātus, a, um – private, apart from the public sphere
aerārium, ī, n. – treasury, fund, account
interfector, interfectoris, m. – slayer, assassin
equitēs, m. pl. – the order of knights
- 7 cōstituō, ere, cōstituī, cōstitutum – to establish, institute, decide
efficiō, ere, effēcī, effectum – to bring about, effect
arbitror, arbitrārī, arbitrātus sum – to suppose, judge
- 8 ōrdō, ōrdinis, m. – order, class (in society)
cōnferō, cōnferre, contulī, collātum – to contribute, confer, bring together.
appellō, āre, āvī, ātum – to call upon, name, address
C. Flāvius = Gāius Flāvius
- 9 familiāris, familiāre – belonging to the same family

READING NOTES

- 1–3 *rēs pūblica penes Brūtōs vidērētur esse et Cassium ac tōta cīvitās sē ad eōs convertisse vidērētur* The preposition *penes* literally meaning “in the possession” of the two Bruti and Cassius, here means they seemed to be in charge and in control. Marcus Brutus headed the conspirators (including Decimus Brutus, who had formerly been a soldier under Caesar) who assassinated Julius Caesar.
- 3–5 *Sic M. Brūtō ūsus est, ut nullō ille adulēscēns aequālī familiārius quam hōc sene <ūterētur>, neque solum eum prīncipem cōnsiliī habēret, sed etiam in convictū* Again *ut* introduces a result clause. (See Chapter 14.) When it refers to the interactions of people, *ūsus est* can mean “to treat someone” in a particular way. In apposition to another noun, *prīnceps* means “first of its kind or class.” The sentence means “He treated Marcus Brutus in such a way that the young man (Brutus) treated no one of his own age in a more familiar manner than he did this older man (i.e., Atticus) and he not only had him (i.e., Atticus) as chief in counsel, but also <had him as a best friend> in social relationships.”
- 5–7 *Excōgitātum est ā quibusdam, ut prīvātum aerārium . . . cōstituerētur* The verb *excōgitātum est* is an impersonal passive linked to an *ut* clause with the verb *cōstituerētur* in the subjunctive because the construction after the phrase “it was devised that . . .” is like a purpose clause or an indirect command: “it was devised . . . that . . . an account should be set up . . .”
- 7–8 *Id facile effēcī posse arbitrātī sunt, sī prīncipēs ēius ōrdinis pecūniās contulissent* The demonstrative *id* refers back to the *aerārium*. And *ēius ōrdinis* is the equestrian order.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE TEXT

Answer in complete Latin sentences.

1. Penes quōs, occīsō Caesare, rēs pūblica vidēbātur esse?
2. Quō homine aequālī Mārcus Brūtus adulēscēns familiārius ūtēbātur quam Atticō sene?
3. Quod auxilium Caesaris interfectōribus ab equitibus Rōmānīs cōstituī volēbant quīdam hominēs?
4. Quōs hominēs pecūniās in prīvātum aerārium cōferre volēbant illī, quī hortābantur ut hoc auxilium Caesaris interfectōribus cōstituerētur?
5. Cūius rei ut prīnceps esse vellet, appellātus est Atticus?

DĒ HOMINIBUS INTER SĒ AEQUĀLIBUS CONTINUED

Marīa: Eadem verba dīcō, quae Helena dīxit—Mārcum bene legere!

Mārcus: Grātiās tibi agō.