

CHAPTER

7

The Irregular Verbs *Volō*, *Nōlō*, and *Mālō*; Use of *volō*, *nōlō*, and *mālō*; Negative Commands



Andrea del Castagno (ca. 1419–1457) painted a mural to honor the famous humanist Petrarch.

MEMORĀBILE DICTŪ

Nōlēns volēns.

Literally, “unwillingly or willingly,” the English “willy-nilly” tries to capture the effect of the Latin.

READING

The “Renaissance” is the French name for an intellectual movement—fueled by a deep admiration for the culture of ancient Rome and a strong desire to imitate it—that began in the city-states of Italy during the fourteenth century. This enthusiasm for revisiting and perpetuating ancient Roman cultural achievements inspired Italians of that era to immense creativity in many fields. The first major humanist (the term we use for those who championed the cause of the Renaissance) was Petrarch (1304–1374), an Italian who traveled often to other regions of Europe in part because he held a clerical office that required him to remain for several years in Avignon, then the seat of the papacy. But he also traveled alone, for pleasure—a rare practice in the fourteenth century.

Today Petrarch is recognized as a major literary figure in Latin: some of his Latin works, including the meditative *Sēcrētum* (*Secret Writing*) and his many letters, are treasured as classics of humanist Latin.

Petrarch, like other humanists, viewed himself as continuing the Latin literary tradition begun by the classical Romans and felt so close to the long-dead Roman authors that he wrote letters to them. Petrarch ran across some of Cicero’s private correspondence that revealed a worried, hesitant man. The contrast between Cicero’s personality in his public writings and in his personal letters prompted Petrarch to write to Cicero, who left the world 1300 years before it welcomed Petrarch.

FRANCISCUS CICERŌNĪ SUŌ SALŪTEM DĪCIT

- 1 Epistulās tuās diū multumque quaesītās atque, cum nōn exspectābam,
inventās, avidissimē lēgī. Vix crēdēbam, Mārce Tullī, quam multa
dīcerēs, quantās lacrimās funderēs, quam saepe animum tuum mūtārēs.
Iam sciēbam quālis magister aliīs fuissēs; nunc tandem intellegō
5 quis tū tibi fueris. Ubicumque es, audiās hoc nōn iam cōsilium, sed
lāmentum, quod ūnus posterōrum tuī nōminis studiōsissimus nōn
sine lacrimīs fundit. Ō, senex semper inquiēte atque anxie, cūr tot
contentiōnibus et simultātibus haud ūtilibus, interesse voluisti? Ubi
ōtium quod et aetātī et professiōnī et fortūnae conveniēbat relīquistī?
10 Quī tē falsus glōriae splendor senem adulēscentium bellīs implicuit et
ad indignam philosophō mortem rapuit?

Heu, prō aliīs lūmen tenēbās et viam ostendēbās ut rēctē ambulārent,
ipse tamen cecidistī. Cūr hoc est factum? Quī furor tē in tot hostēs
impēgit? Amor, crēdō, rei pūblicaē. At sī tantum fidē et libertāte

- 15 movēbāris, quid tē ad potentiōrēs trahēbat? Cūr dē virtūtibus verba
semper ōrnātissima dīcēbās, sī tēmetipsum audīre nōlēbās? Utinam
potuissēs in tranquillō locō rūsticō tamquam vērus philosophus
senēscere, utinam nē dē honōribus tam multum cōgitāvissēs, utinam nē
Catilīnās in animō tuō habuissēs!
- 20 In aeternum valē, mī Cicero!

READING VOCABULARY

- *aetās, aetātis, f. – age
anxius, a, um – anxious
avidē (adv.) – eagerly, greedily
Catilīna, ae, m. – Catiline‡
contentiō, contentiōnis, f. – contest, fight
conveniō, īre, convēnī, conventum + dative – to be
becoming to, be appropriate for, meet
falsus, a, um – false
*fīdēs, fideī, f. – faith
Franciscus (ī, m.) Petrarca (ae, m.) – Francis Petrarch‡
*fundō, ere, fūdī, fūsum – to pour (out)
furor, furōris, m. – madness, fury
*glōria, ae, f. – glory
haud (adv.) – not
heu (interj.) – alas!
impingō, ere, impēgī, impāctum – to push, drive into
implicō, āre, implicuī, implicitum/āvī, ātum + dative
– to involve
in aeternum – forever
indignus, a, um + dative – unworthy of
inquiētus, a, um – restless, unquiet
intersum, interesse, interfui, — + dative – to get in-
volved in, participate into
ipse (tū) – yourself
lāmentum, ī, n. – lament, complaint
*lībertās, lībertātis, f. – freedom
*lūmen, lūminis, n. – light
*nōlēbās – you did not want
ō! – oh!
*ōrnātus, a, um – adorned
*ōtium, ī, n. – leisure, free time (usually engaged in
literary activity)
- philosophus, ī, m. – philosopher
*potēns, potentis – powerful
posterī, ōrum, m. pl. – descendants, coming generations
professiō, professiōnis, f. – profession
*pūblicus, a, um – common
rēs pūblica – state, republic
*quālis, quāle – what sort of
rapiō, ere, rapuī, raptum – to snatch
rēctē (adv.) – correctly
senēscō, ere, senuī, — – to get old, grow old
simultās, simultātis, f. – rivalry
splendor, splendōris, m. – splendor, glamor
*studiōsus, a, um + genitive – fond of
*tamquam – as
tēmetipsum – yourself
*tot (adv.) – so many
*trahō, ere, trāxī, trāctum – to drag, draw
tranquillus, a, um – quiet, calm
*ubi? – where?
ubicumque (conj.) – wherever
*ūnus, ūna, ūnum – one
*ūtilis, ūtile – useful
*vix (adv.) – hardly
*voluistī – you wanted
- *Words marked with an asterisk will need to be memo-
rized 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

Catilina Catiline was a bankrupt revolutionary whose plot to overthrow the republic was exposed by Cicero. More information on Cicero and Catiline can be found in Chapter 9 of Level 1.

Franciscus Petrarca Francis Petrarch's name in Italian is Francesco Petrarca.

tēmetipsum The suffix *-met* added to *tē* (or *mē* or *sē*), with the pronoun *ipse* (in the appropriate case, gender, and number) sometimes added, creates an extra-emphatic form of the personal pronoun "yourself."

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. What prompts Petrarch to write to Cicero?
2. What kind of objections does Petrarch have against Cicero?
3. What life would Petrarch like for Cicero?
4. What time span divides Petrarch from Cicero?

Petrarch spent some time serving in a clerical position with the papal court which was in Avignon for most of the fourteenth century. The Papal Palace stands as one of the largest and best examples of secular Gothic architecture in Europe. Built onto a natural outcropping of rock, the palace overlooks the Rhône River.



LANGUAGE FACT I

THE IRREGULAR VERBS *VOLŌ*, *NŌLŌ*, AND *MĀLŌ*

In the chapter reading passage, you read the following sentence.

*Cūr tot contentiōnibus et simultātibus haud ūtilibus, interesse **voluisti**?*

“Why did you want to participate in so many fights and not useful rivalries?”

The form *voluisti* is a perfect tense form from the irregular verb *volō, velle, voluī, —*, “to want.”

In the same passage, there is another sentence.

*Cūr dē virtūtibus verba semper ōrnātissima dīcēbās, sī tēmetipsum audire **nōlēbās**?*

“Why were you always speaking very ornate words about virtues, if you did not want to listen to yourself?”

The form *nōlēbās* is an imperfect tense form from the irregular verb *nōlō, nōlle, nōluī, —*, “not to want, be unwilling.”

There is one more irregular verb closely related to *volō*. It is the verb *mālō, mälle, māluī, —*, “to prefer.”

These three verbs do not belong to any conjugation, much in the same way the irregular verbs *sum* and *possum* do not belong to any conjugation. Also, like *sum* and *possum*, they have only an active voice.

The Irregular Verbs *volō*, *nōlō*, and *mālō*

<i>volō, velle, voluī, —</i>	to want
<i>nōlō, nōlle, nōluī, —</i>	not to want, be unwilling
<i>mālō, mälle, māluī, —</i>	to prefer



BY THE WAY

The verb *nōlō* is derived from the negative particle *nē-* and the verb *volō*. *Nōlō* is an antonym of *volō*. The verb *mālō* is derived from the adverb *magis* (“more,” “rather”) and the verb *volō*.

Present Active Indicative of *volō*, *nōlō*, and *mālō*

	Singular			Plural		
First person	<i>volō</i>	<i>nōlō</i>	<i>mālō</i>	<i>volumus</i>	<i>nolumus</i>	<i>mālumus</i>
Second person	<i>vīs</i>	<i>nōn vīs</i>	<i>māvīs</i>	<i>vultis</i>	<i>nōn vultis</i>	<i>māvultis</i>
Third person	<i>vult</i>	<i>nōn vult</i>	<i>māvult</i>	<i>volunt</i>	<i>nōlunt</i>	<i>mālunt</i>



STUDY TIP

Do not confuse *vīs*, the second person singular of the present indicative that means “you wish,” and *vīs*, the noun that means “strength.” Context will help you differentiate between the two.

Present Active Subjunctive of *volō*, *nōlō*, and *mālō*

	Singular			Plural		
First person	velim	nōlim	mālim	velimus	nōlimus	mālimus
Second person	velis	nōlis	mālis	velitis	nōlitis	mālitis
Third person	velit	nōlit	mālit	velint	nōlint	mālint

Present Active Infinitive of *volō*, *nōlō*, and *mālō*

velle nōlle mälle

Present Imperative of *nōlō*

Singular	—	nōlī	—
Plural	—	nōlite	—



STUDY TIP

Note that the endings of the present subjunctive of *volō*, *nōlō*, and *mālō* resemble the endings of the present subjunctive of *sum* and *possum*.

Imperfect Active Indicative of *volō*, *nōlō*, and *mālō*

	Singular			Plural		
First person	volēbam	nōlēbam	mālēbam	volēbāmus	nōlēbāmus	mālēbāmus
Second person	volēbās	nōlēbās	mālēbās	volēbātis	nōlēbātis	mālēbātis
Third person	volēbat	nōlēbat	mālēbat	volēbant	nōlēbant	mālēbant

Imperfect Active Subjunctive of *volō*, *nōlō*, and *mālō*

	Singular			Plural		
First person	vellēm	nōllēm	māllēm	vellēmus	nōllēmus	māllēmus
Second person	vellēs	nōllēs	māllēs	vellētis	nōllētis	māllētis
Third person	vellēt	nōllet	māllet	vellent	nōllent	māllent

Future Active Indicative of *volō*, *nōlō*, and *mālō*

	Singular			Plural		
First person	volam	nōlam	mālam	volēmus	nōlēmus	mālēmus
Second person	volēs	nōlēs	mālēs	volētis	nōlētis	mālētis
Third person	volet	nōlet	mālet	volent	nōlent	malent



STUDY TIP

In the imperfect and the future, *volō*, *nōlō*, and *mālō* behave exactly as if they were verbs of the third conjugation. In the imperfect subjunctive these three verbs behave like other verbs also—they feature the personal ending attached directly to the present active infinitive.

In the tenses formed from the perfect stem (perfect, pluperfect, future perfect), the irregular verbs *volō*, *nōlō*, and *mālō* conjugate as any other verb does. You just add to the perfect stem the endings you already know for these tenses.

Perfect Active Indicative of *volō*, *nōlō*, and *mālō*

	Singular			Plural		
First person	voluī	nōluī	māluī	voluimus	nōluimus	māluimus
Second person	voluistī	nōluistī	māluistī	voluistis	nōluistis	māluistis
Third person	voluit	nōluit	māluit	voluērunt	nōluērunt	māluērunt

Perfect Active Subjunctive of *volō*, *nōlō*, and *mālō*

	Singular			Plural		
First person	voluerim	nōluerim	māluerim	voluerimus	nōluerimus	māluerimus
Second person	volueris	nōlueris	mālueris	volueritis	nōlueritis	mālueritis
Third person	voluerit	nōluerit	māluerit	voluerint	nōluerint	māluerint

Perfect Active Infinitive of *volō*, *nōlō*, and *mālō*

voluisse nōluisse māluisse

Pluperfect Active Indicative of *volō*, *nōlō*, and *mālō*

	Singular			Plural		
First person	volueram	nōlueram	mālueram	voluerāmus	nōluerāmus	māluerāmus
Second person	voluerās	nōluerās	māluerās	voluerātis	nōluerātis	māluerātis
Third person	voluerat	nōluerat	māluerat	voluerant	nōluerant	māluerant

Pluperfect Active Subjunctive of *volō*, *nōlō*, and *mālō*

	Singular			Plural		
First person	voluissem	nōluissem	māluissem	voluissēmus	nōluissēmus	māluissēmus
Second person	voluissēs	nōluissēs	māluissēs	voluissētis	nōluissētis	māluissētis
Third person	voluisset	nōluisset	māluisset	voluissent	nōluissent	māluissent

Future Perfect Active Indicative of *volō*, *nōlō*, and *mālō*

	Singular			Plural		
First person	voluerō	nōluerō	māluerō	voluerimus	nōluerimus	māluerimus
Second person	volueris	nōlueris	mālueris	volueritis	nōlueritis	mālueritis
Third person	voluerit	nōluerit	māluerit	voluerint	nōluerint	māluerint

► EXERCISE 1

Translate into Latin.

1. you do not want
2. to prefer
3. s/he wanted
4. they had not wanted
5. we will have preferred
6. s/he wants
7. s/he prefers
8. I will want
9. you (plural) will not want
10. they were preferring
11. they are unwilling
12. you will have preferred
13. you (plural) had preferred
14. you (plural) want
15. s/he, it will be unwilling

VOCABULARY TO LEARN

NOUNS

aetās, aetātis, f. – age
fidēs, fideī, f. – faith
glōria, ae, f. – glory
libertās, libertātis, f. – freedom
lūmen, lūminis, n. – light
ōtium, ī, n. – leisure, free time

ADJECTIVES

ōrnātus, a, um – adorned, ornate, elaborate
potēns, potentis – powerful
pūblicus, a, um – common
quālis, quāle – what sort of
studiōsus, a, um + genitive – fond of
ūtilis, ūtile – useful

NUMERAL

ūnus, ūna, ūnum – one

VERBS

fundō, ere, fūdī, fūsum – to pour
mālō, mālle, mālūī, — – to prefer
nōlō, nōlle, nōlūī, — – not to want, be unwilling
trahō, ere, trāxī, trāctum – to drag, draw
volō, velle, volūī, — – to want

ADVERBS

tamquam – as
tot – so many
ubi? – where?
vix – hardly

PHRASE

rēs pūblica – state

► EXERCISE 2

Find the English derivatives in the following sentences based on the Vocabulary to Learn of this chapter. Write the corresponding Latin word.

1. The changes must be approved by both sides; any unilateral changes are unacceptable.
2. There is considerable traction between the wheels of the car and the road.
3. How much do you pay for utilities every month?
4. In our country, we have opted for a republican form of government.
5. All the products pass through quality control.
6. I signed the affidavit in front of a notary.
7. Anyone who considers war to be glorious is blind to tragedy.
8. I have taken the liberty to write a letter and explain everything on my own initiative.
9. If you are away from the lights of the city in the desert or out in the ocean, the moon can be so luminous on a cloudless night, that you can even read a book by its silver light.
10. The decorations were adorned with gold.
11. This young man demonstrates tremendous potential.

LANGUAGE FACT II

USE OF *VOLŌ*, *NŌLŌ*, AND *MĀLŌ*; NEGATIVE COMMANDS

You have already learned that the present imperative of *nōlō*, i.e., *nōlī*, *nōlīte* with an infinitive, is used for the negative command of any verb.

Nōlī fugere! “Do not run away!”

Nōlīte fugere! “Do not run (pl.) away!”

Another way to make a negative command is to use the negative particle *nē* and the perfect subjunctive.

Nē fugeris! “Do not run away!”

Nē fugeritis! “Do not run (pl.) away!”

The verbs *volō*, *nōlō* and *mālō* are used with the accusative and infinitive. But it should be noted that if the subject of the infinitive is the same as the subject of the main verb, the subject is normally not expressed by another word but is understood in the ending of the main verb. Notice the contrast between the paired sentences below.

Volō ad tē venīre. “I want to come to you.”

Volō tē ad mē venīre. “I want you to come to me.”

Nōn vīs ad mē venīre. “You do not want to come to me.”

Nōn vīs mē ad tē venīre. “You do not want me to come to you.”

Mālumus ad vōs venīre. “We prefer to come to you.”

Mālumus vōs ad nōs venīre. “We prefer that you come to us.”

► EXERCISE 3

Change the *nōlī*, *nōlīte* and infinitive commands into *nē* and the perfect subjunctive constructions and vice versa. Translate the commands.

Example: *Nōlī mē relinquere!*

Nē mē relīqueris! Do not leave me!

1. *Nōlī lacrimās fundere!*
2. *Nōlīte in exercitum trahī!*
3. *Nē hās discipulās dēcēperis!*
4. *Nōlīte hērēdem tam saepe laudāre!*
5. *Nē aurum meum perdideris!*
6. *Nē dē victōribus tam multum scrīpseritis!*

The Ponte Vecchio, Italian for “Old Bridge,” in Florence; its present form dates from 1345 when it was rebuilt after floods destroyed the twelfth century bridge twelve years prior. It is believed to be located where the Roman Via Cassia crossed the Arno River. Petrarch may well have shopped here as the bridge has always housed merchants.





► EXERCISE 4

Translate into Latin. The Reading Vocabulary may be consulted.

1. Petrarch wants to find Cicero's letters.
2. Petrarch badly (strongly) wants Cicero to be a strong man.
3. Petrarch prefers to read Cicero's speeches.
4. We did not want Petrarch to say that Cicero was not a distinguished man.
5. I will not want to produce poems only about freedom.

A bird's eye view of the Palazzo Vecchio's tower and rooftop which continue to dominate the Florentine skyline just as they did in Petrarch's day. Built in the late thirteenth century to house Florence's city government, the building overlooks the Piazza della Signoria, one of the major public gathering places in Florence through the ages.



► EXERCISE 5

Fill in the blanks with the correct degree of the adjective or adverb in parentheses. Translate the sentences. The Reading Vocabulary may be consulted.

1. Petrarca lēgit epistulās Cicerōnis _____ quam aliōs librōs. (avidē)
2. Putāsne Cicerōnem esse omnium Rōmānōrum _____? (celeber)
3. Petrarca vidētur verba _____ scribere quam Cicero. (ōrnātus)
4. Cicero dicit nēminem rem pūblicam Rōmānam sē _____ amāre. (vehementer)
5. Ōrātiōnēs Cicerōnis sunt _____ omnium, quās umquam lēgī. (longus)



Petrarch's love for Laura was a classic example of love at first sight as well as unrequited love. The portrait captures the essence of Petrarch's description of the lovely, fair haired, and dignified woman who declined his interest as she was already married. His passion, unleashed in some 366 poems, consumed him even after Laura's death.

► EXERCISE 6

Translate into English. You will learn more about Petrarch's life from this passage.

Pater Petrarcae volēbat filium iūrisprudentiam colere. Petrarca tamen dicēbat nātūram hominum nōn semper esse bonam eamque inīquitātēs saepius amāre quam rēs iūstās. Petrarca igitur iūrisprudentiae nōn erat studiōsus, sed mālēbat litterīs studēre. Itaque librōs vetustōs quaerere coepit, ut dē rēbus vetustīs disceret. Petrarca quoque multa scrīpsit. Scīmus eum amāvisse fēminam, cui nōmen erat Laura, dē quā carmina scrīpsit, sed numquam eam uxōrem dūxisse. Sōlus cum librīs suīs vīvēbat. Incolae urbis Rōmānae putābant eum esse poētam omnium celebrerrimum, et corōnam lauream eī dedērunt.

corōna, ae, f. – crown

iūrisprudentia, ae, f. – the science of law, jurisprudence

Laura, ae, f. – Laura

laureus, a, um – made of laurel

nātūra, ae, f. – nature

Petrarca, ae, m. – Petrarch

sōlus, a, um – alone

TALKING ABOUT A READING

WHAT IS THE BEST WAY OF LIFE? AND UNADAPTED LATIN: ATTICUS LEAVES ATHENS

QUAE VĪTAE RATIŌ SIT OPTIMA?

Mārcus: Petrarca dicit Cicerōnem dēbuisse vītam rūsticam agere nec in urbe dē rē pūblicā semper pugnāre. At sī homō vītam rūsticam tantum agit, māgnam fāmam habēre vix potest. Ego volō esse athlēta praeclārus, cūius fāma erit ingēns.

Christīna: Hominēs, quōrum fāma nōn est māgna, videntur mihi esse fēliciōrēs. Sī homō bonam familiam habet, sī facit id quod vult, sī aliīs auxiliū dare potest, hic homō est fēlix. Fāma enim nōn solum rēs bonās, sed etiam rēs malās sēcum habet. Nam difficile est ab omnibus laudārī et homō quī ab omnibus laudārī vult, esse fēlix nōn potest. Quid tū putās, Helena?

Helena: Ego volō esse artifex (*artist*) et nōmina artificum multī scīre dēbent.

Marīa: Vōs igitur duo, Mārce et Helena, fāmam petātis! Mihi autem satis est pecūniam habēre. Tunc omnia quae volō facere poterō. Erō fēlix.

Christīna: Legāmus dē Atticō. Nam volō scīre quid sit factum, postquam Atticus nōluit cum Sullā Athēnīs discēdere et Rōmam petere. Putō Atticum fuisse virum fēlicem, quia (*because*) aliīs auxiliū semper dabat et multōs amicōs ubiq̄ue habēbat.

Helena: Nōlī igitur exspectāre, sed ōrō ut legās.

ATTICUS LEAVES ATHENS

CORNĒLIĪ NEPŌTIS ATTICUS, 4.3-5

Atticus kept in contact with his friends and associates in Rome. He gave financial help to Cicero, when Cicero had to go into exile. Eventually civil disturbances died down in Rome. At that point, Atticus finally decided to leave Athens and move back to his fatherland.

- 1 3. Hīc complūrēs annōs morātus, cum et reī familiārī tantum operae
daret, quantum nōn indiligēns dēbēret pater familiās, et omnia reliqua
tempora aut litterīs aut Athēniēnsium reī pūblicae tribueret, nihilōminus
amīcīs urbāna officia praestitit. 4. Nam et ad comitia eōrum ventitāvit,
5 et sī quae rēs māior ācta est, nōn dēfuit. Sicut Cicerōnī in omnibus ēius
perīculīs singulārem fidem praebuit; cui ex patriā fugientī HS ducenta
et quīnquāgintā mīlia dōnāvit. 5. Tranquillātīs autem rēbus Rōmānīs
remigrāvit Rōmam, ut opīnor, L. Cottā et L. Torquātō cōsulibus.
Quem discēdentem sīc ūniversa cīvitās Athēniēnsium prōsecūta est, ut
10 lacrimīs dēsīderiī futūrī dolōrem indicāret.

VOCABULARY

- 1 hīc (adv.) – here
complūrēs, complūrium – not a few, several
tantum . . . quantum . . . – so much . . . as . . .
rēs familiāris – family estate
operam dō + dative – give care to
- 2 indiligēns, indiligentis – careless, negligent
reliquus, a, um – remaining
familiās – archaic genitive singular of *familia*
- 3 aut . . . aut . . . – either . . . or . . .
tribuō, ere, tribuī, tribūtum – to assign, give
nihilōminus – nevertheless
- 4 officium, ī, n. – favor, duty
praestō, āre, praestitī, — – fulfill, perform
ventitō, āre, āvī, ātum – to go often
- 5 sī quae – if any
māior (m./f.) – greater
dēsūm, dēesse, dēfuī, — – to be absent, fail
sicut – just as, just in the same way
- 6 singulāris, singulāre – special, unparalleled
praebēō, ēre, praebuī, praebitum – to offer, give
sesterius, ī, m. – sesterce, Roman silver coin
ducenta et quīnquāgintā milia – 250,000
HS – an abbreviation for *sestertiōrum*
- 7 dōnō, āre, āvī, ātum – to give, bestow
tranquillō, āre, āvī, ātum – to make peaceful
- 8 remigrō, āre, āvī, ātum – to go back, return
ut + indicative – as, when
- 9 quem = et eum
discēdēns, discēdentis – leaving
ūniversus, a, um – all together
cīvitās, cīvitātis, f. – state, community of citizens
- 10 dēsīderium, ī, n. – grief for something absent
futūrī – future (the future active participle of *sum*)
indicō, āre, āvī, ātum – to show, indicate

READING NOTES

- 1 *Hīc complūrēs annōs morātus* The perfect participle *morātus* from the deponent verb *moror* (see Chapter 8) means “having stayed.” The accusative of duration of time *complūrēs annōs* means “for several years.”
- 1–2 *cum et . . . tantum operae daret* “although he gave so much care.” The partitive genitive *operae* with *tantum* literally meaning “so much of care,” translates more fluidly as “so much care.”
- 2 *quantum nōn indiligēns dēberet pater familiās* “as much as a head (father) of a family who was not careless ought to <give>.”
- 3 *Athēniēnsium rēi pūblicaē* Often meaning “state, republic,” here the singular collective phrase *rēs pūblica* means “the public affairs of the Athenians”
- 4 *amicīs* “for <his> friends.”
urbāna The noun *urbs* sometimes means “the city,” namely “Rome.” Likewise the adjective *urbānus, a, um* can mean “relating to Rome.”
comitia The *comitia* (*ōrum, n. pl.*) was the Roman assembly where magistrates were elected.
- 6 *cui ex patriā fugientī* Meaning “to him (i.e., Cicero) fleeing from <his> fatherland,” *fugientī* is a present active participle (see Chapter 11).
- 6–7 *HS ducenta et quīnquāgintā milia* 250,000 sesterces, a very substantial sum of money.
- 7 *Tranquillātis autem rēbus Rōmānis* Literally, “<with> Roman affairs having been made peaceful,” the ablative absolute (see Chapter 13) translates better as “when Roman affairs were made peaceful.”
- 8 *ut opīnor* “as I suppose.” *opīnor* is deponent.
L. Cottā et L. Torquātō cōsulibus The more fluid translation of this ablative absolute is “during the consulship of Lucius Cotta and Lucius Torquatus.”
- 9 *Quem discēdentem . . . prōsecūta est* The phrase *quem discēdentem* means “him (i.e., Atticus) leaving.” The deponent verb *prōsecūta est* means “accompanied.”
- 9–10 *ut . . . indicāret* The result clause (see Chapter 14) means “so that . . . it was showing.”

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE TEXT

Answer in complete Latin sentences.

1. Quās rēs cūrābat Atticus, dum erat Athēnīs?
2. Cūrābatne Atticus rēs Rōmānās, dum erat Athēnīs?
3. Cūrābatne amīcōs Rōmānōs eō tempore, quō erat Athēnīs?
4. Quid prō Cicerōne fēcit?
5. Quid factum est, postquam rēs Rōmānae sunt tranquillātae?
6. Quid Athēniēnsēs sentiēbant eō tempore, quō Atticus Athēnīs discēdēbat? Cūr?

QUAE VĪTAE RATIŌ SIT OPTIMA? CONTINUED

Mārcus: Ita, sciēbam Cicerōnem patriam suam relinquere dēbuisse et Graeciam petere. Nesciēbam tamen Atticum Cicerōnī auxiliū dare voluisse.

Helena: Hoc est vērū. Atticus et Cicero erant amīcī et multās epistulās scrīpsērunt, quae ad nostrum tempus sunt servātae. Ex eīs possumus multa dē temporibus quibus vīxit Cicero discere. Nam Cicero nōlēbat rēs ab Atticō occultāre et omnia hīs in epistulis dīcēbat.

Mārcus: Cicero saepe multa dīcit. Hoc quoque Petrarca dīxit in epistulā quam mīsīt ad Cicerōnem.

Helena: At illa epistula nōn est vēra. Cum enim Petrarca scrībēbat, Cicero iam nōn erat in vītā.

Mārcus: Hominēs quī litterīs student semper vīvunt. Fortasse hoc putābat Petrarca.