

CHAPTER

8

Irregular Comparatives and Superlatives; *Quam* with the Superlative of Adjectives and Adverbs; Deponent Verbs



Marcus Furius Camillus (ca. 446–365 BCE), called from exile in Veii, breaks the treaty with the Gauls in this fresco from the Borghese Gallery in Rome. His victory against the Gauls earned him the title “Second Romulus.”

MEMORĀBILE DICTŪ

Nōn enim tam praeclārum est scīre Latīnē quam turpe nescīre.

“It is not as praiseworthy to know Latin as it is shameful not to know it.” (Cicero, *Brutus* 37.140)

In this dialogue about oratory, Cicero makes this famous remark, when characterizing the unaffected speech of an orator a generation older than himself, named Marcus Antonius. Cicero observes that although this man gave the impression of speaking in a casual manner, his Latin was pure and correct.

READING

The humanists who championed the Renaissance movement in their support of Latin were not merely motivated by admiration for classical antiquity but also by a more practical concern. In the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries CE a new more technical Latin developed in European universities. There was a serious danger that academic and scientific Latin might develop into a group of hybrid, mutually unintelligible jargons. Hence the humanists made it their mission to restore the international language of the European elite to its classical Roman norms. These efforts at humanistic reform of Latin were astoundingly successful. Latin remained the main language of the well educated and of the scientific community until the mid-eighteenth century. And from the mid-fifteenth century, the norm for nearly all who have written in Latin has been the revived classical Latin championed by the humanists. Even today, the basic Latin grammar taught in modern textbooks is basically that employed by Cicero.

One of the main leaders in the humanistic reform of Latin was Lorenzo Valla (1407–1457), a true “Renaissance man” who made many contributions to different branches of learning. Valla’s great work on the Latin language was entitled *Ēlegantiārum linguae Latīnae librī sex* (*Six Books Concerning Proper Uses of the Latin Language*). In the study of rhetoric, the Latin word *ēlegantia* means “carefully chosen and accurate use of words and phrases.” Valla’s work on this topic was a vast treasure trove of idiomatic phrases and grammatical constructions found in classical Roman authors, all of which Valla’s contemporaries could employ when writing and speaking Latin.

The reading below is adapted from the preface to Book I of Valla’s *Ēlegantiae*. From the perspective of the European community of the educated elite, Valla demands that Europe’s international language be restored to its pure and correct form, a situation which he represents allegorically as Rome, and thereby Latin, captured by the Gauls, who stand for corrupting, non-Latin influences on the language. What is more, Valla, who was not known for his modesty, represents himself as the great general who will expel the Gauls and restore the city. Valla’s allegory is based on an incident in earlier, ancient Roman history, memorably narrated by Livy: in 390 BCE, the invading Gauls actually captured Rome, and occupied it for a while, until the Romans regained their city.



This fresco celebrates the Donation of Constantine who is shown presenting his crown to the enthroned Pope Sylvester I. Valla carefully studied the document associated with this event that was designed to legitimize the pope's political power. Valla exposed it as a forgery written in the eighth century CE.

ĒLEGANTIĀRUM LINGVAE LATĪNAE PRAEFĀTIŌ PRĪMA

1 Cum saepe dē nostrōrum maiōrum et aliārum gentium rēbus gestīs
cōgitō, videntur mihi nostrī maiōrēs nōn solum imperiī sed etiam
linguae prōpāgātiōne aliōs omnēs superāvisse. Cerēs laudābātur, quod
frūmentum hominibus dederat; Minerva laudābātur, quod oleās
5 hominibus dederat; antīquī hominēs propter beneficia hominibus data
colēbantur tamquam deī. Eratne minus ūtile linguam Latīnam gentibus
dedisse, optimam frūgem et vērē dīvīnam, nec corporis sed animī
cibum? Haec enim lingua gentēs illās omnibus artibus, quae liberālēs
vocantur, instituit. Haec optimās lēgēs docuit. Haec viam ad omnem
10 sapientiam ostendit. Et maiōrēs nostrī aliōs omnēs hortābantur ut et
Rōmae et in prōvinciīs Latīnē loquerentur.

At imperium Rōmānum, tamquam onus ingrātum, gentēs
nātiōnēsque prīdem abiēcērunt. Linguam Latīnam omnī aurō
meliōrem putāvērunt, et sicut rem dīvīnam ē caelō missam apud sē
15 servāvērunt! Āmīsimus, Rōmānī, āmīsimus imperium et dominātum:
tamen per hunc splendidiōrem dominātum in magnā adhūc parte orbis
terrārum rēgnāmus. Nostra est Italia, nostra Gallia, nostra Hispānia,
Germānia, Pannonia, Dalmatia, Illyricum multaeque aliae nātiōnēs! Ibi
enim Rōmānum imperium est, ubicumque Rōmāna lingua dominātur!

20 Quis autem litterārum bonīque pūblicī studiōsus ā lacrimīs
temperābit, cum vīderit linguam Latīnam eō in statū esse quō ōlim
Rōma capta ā Gallīs? Quoūsque, Quirītēs—litterārum vocō et linguae
Latīnae cultōrēs, quī vērī Quirītēs sunt—quoūsque, inquam, urbem
nostram, parentem litterārum ā Gallīs captam esse patiēminī, id est
25 linguam Latīnam ā barbarīs esse oppressam? Parābō exercitum, quem
in hostēs dūcam! Animōs vestrōs firmābō. Ībō in aciem! Ībō prīmus!

READING VOCABULARY

abiciō, ere, abiēcī, abiectum – to throw away

aciēs, aciēī, f. – line of battle, sharp edge

***adhūc (adv.)** – still, up to this time

***antīquus, a, um** – ancient

***ars, artis, f.** – science, art, skill

barbarus, ī, m. – barbarian‡

beneficium, ī, n. – benefit, favor, service

bonum pūblicum, n. – the public good

Cerēs, Cereris, f. – Ceres‡

cultor, cultōris, m. – fosterer, supporter, cultivator

Dalmatia, ae, f. – Dalmatia‡

***dominātur** – rules

dominātus, dominātūs, m. – rule, sovereignty

ēlegantia, ae, f. – precision in language, elegance

frūmentum, ī, n. – grain

frūx, frūgis, f. – crop, produce of the earth

Gallī, ōrum, m. pl. – Gauls‡

Gallia, ae, f. – a region of modern France

Germānia, ae, f. – Germany‡

Hispania, ae, f. – Spain

***hortābantur ut loquerentur** – they were exhorting to speak

ibō – I shall go

id est – namely, that is to say‡

Illyricum, ī, n. – Illyricum‡

ingrātus, a, um – unwelcome, unpleasant

īnstituō, ere, īnstituī, īnstitutum + *accusative* + *ablative* – to train or educate someone in a skill

Italia, ae, f. – Italy

***Latīnē (adv.)** – in Latin

***Latīnus, a, um** – Latin, pertaining to Latin

liberālis, liberāle – befitting a free man, generous;
artēs liberālēs – the liberal arts‡

***lingua, ae, f.** – language, tongue (as physical part of the mouth)

***maior, maius** – bigger, greater;

maiōrēs, um, m. pl. – ancestors‡

***melior, melius** – better

Minerva, ae, f. – Minerva‡

***minus (adv.)** – less

nātiō, nātiōnis, f. – a race of people, tribe

nostrī maiōrēs – Valla means the ancient Romans

olea, ae, f. – olive

ōlim (adv.) – once upon a time

onus, oneris, n. – burden

***optimus, a, um** – best

orbis, is, m. – circle, disc, globe;

orbis terrārum – the world

Pannonia, ae, f. – Pannonia‡

***patiēminī** – you will tolerate

praefātiō, praefātiōnis, f. – preface

prīdem (adv.) – long ago

prōpāgātiō, prōpāgātiōnis, f. – spreading, propagation

prōvincia, ae, f. – province (territorial), any duty or sphere of activity (not territorial)

Quirītēs, Quirītium, m. pl. – Roman citizens‡

quod (conj.) – because

quoūsq̄ue (adv.) – how far, to what extent

rēgnō, āre, āvī, ātum – to reign, rule

rēs (rērum) gestae, ārum, f. pl. – things done, history‡

sapientia, ae, f. – wisdom

sē – here (as very often) the reflexive pronoun of the plural meaning “themselves”

splendidus, a, um – illustrious, distinguished, shining

status, statūs, m. – condition, state, attitude

superō, āre, āvī, ātum – to surpass, conquer

temperō, āre, āvī, ātum ā or ab + *ablative* – to refrain from

ubicumque (adv.) – wherever

vērē (adv.) – truly

*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

artēs liberālēs The liberal arts typically consisted of grammar, rhetoric, and dialectic (*trivium*); and geometry, arithmetic, music, and astronomy (*quadrivium*).

barbarus, ī, m. Originally this word primarily meant “non-Greek” or “non-Roman”; by Valla’s time it meant not only “foreign,” but “uneducated.”

Cerēs, Cereris, f. Ceres was the goddess of grain and agriculture; in Greek she was called Demeter.

Dalmatia The region called Dalmatia was a part of the Roman Empire next to Illyricum on the east coast of the Adriatic Sea. It corresponds in part to the area today called Croatia.

Gallī, ōrum, m. pl. The Gauls were the inhabitants of France: in antiquity they were Celtic, until they mingled with the Romans after the conquest of Gaul by Julius Caesar in the first century BCE.

Germānia The region of Europe called Germany approximately corresponds to modern Germany.

id est This is a common phrase used to make a previous assertion more specific and is sometimes abbreviated i.e.

Illyricum Illyricum is a region situated on the west coast of what is today the Balkan peninsula.

maiorēs, um, m. pl. The idea that one’s elders were morally superior and worthy of reverence, especially the ancestors of great families, was very prevalent in Roman society. Hence the use of the word *maiōrēs* which essentially means “the greater ones” to be equivalent to “ancestors” is a logical development.

Minerva Minerva is the goddess of wisdom and war; in Greek she is called Athena. She gave the Athenians the gift of the olive tree.

Pannonia This is a region which approximately corresponds to modern Hungary.

Quirītēs, Quiritium, m. pl. Roman citizens called themselves *Quirītēs*. According to legend, the primitive Romans took this name when they combined with the Sabines; originally the *Quirītēs* were inhabitants of a Sabine town.

rēs (rērum) gestae, ārum, f. pl. things done, history: the phrase *Rēs gestae* became a common title for historical or annalistic works in the Roman Empire itself from the time of Augustus onward and especially during the Middle Ages.



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Why does Valla consider the Latin language to be a “divine” gift?
2. What is Valla’s attitude to the political entity that was the ancient Roman Empire?
3. In what sense does Valla consider that the Roman Empire still exists in his own time?
4. To what historical situation does Valla compare the condition of the Latin language in his day, and why?
5. How did Valla establish philology as an academic discipline?

LANGUAGE FACT I

IRREGULAR COMPARATIVES AND SUPERLATIVES

In the chapter reading passage you noticed three comparative words that are not derived from the positive form of adjectives and adverbs according to the typical pattern you just learned in Chapter 6:

maiōr, maiōris, “greater”: the comparative of *magnus*;

minus, “less”: the comparative adverb (the same form is the neuter singular comparative adjective) of *parvus*;

melior, meliōris, “better”: the comparative of *bonus*.

The same passage also contains a superlative that is clearly not derived from the base of the positive adjective:

optimus, a, um, “best”: the superlative of *bonus*.

A whole group of irregular comparatives and superlatives must be learned, since they are all commonly found in works written in Latin.

Common Irregular Comparatives and Superlatives

Positive degree	Comparative degree	Superlative degree
bonus, a, um – good	melior, melius – better	optimus, a, um – best
malus, a, um – bad	peior, peius – worse	pessimus, a, um – worst
magnus, a, um – great	maior, maius – greater	maximus, a, um – greatest
parvus, a, um – small	minor, minus – smaller	minimus, a, um – smallest
multus, a, um – much	plūs (neuter noun) – more	plūrimus, a, um – most
multī, ae, a – many	plūrēs, plūra – more	plūrimī, ae, a – most



BY THE WAY

The comparative adverb of *magnus* is *magis*, which means “more greatly” or “rather.”

The comparative and superlative forms above, though not regularly derived from the base of the positive adjective, are declined according to the patterns for comparatives and superlatives you have already learned.

Declension of <i>peior, peius</i>				
	Singular		Plural	
	Masculine and Feminine	Neuter	Masculine and Feminine	Neuter
Nominative	peior	peius	peiōrēs	peiōra
Genitive	peiōris	peiōris	peiōrum	peiōrum
Dative	peiōrī	peiōrī	peiōribus	peiōribus
Accusative	peiōrem	peius	peiōrēs	peiōra
Ablative	peiōre	peiōre	peiōribus	peiōribus
Vocative	peior	peius	peiōrēs	peiōra

Declension of <i>plūs, plūris</i>				
	Singular		Plural	
	Neuter		Masculine and Feminine	Neuter
Nominative	plūs		plūrēs	plūra
Genitive	plūris		plūrium	plūrium
Dative	—		plūribus	plūribus
Accusative	plūs		plūrēs	plūra
Ablative	(plūre)		plūribus	plūribus
Vocative	—		plūrēs	plūra



BY THE WAY

Plūs has only a neuter singular. Both the dative and vocative singular do not occur, and the ablative singular rarely occurs. Also unlike other comparatives, the genitive plural of *plūrēs* ends in *-ium*.

Note that *plūs, plūris* is a neuter noun in the singular, which is typically modified by a genitive, e.g., *plūs aquae* “more (of) water.” This is known as a genitive of the whole or partitive genitive. In the plural, however, *plūrēs* is an adjective, e.g., *plūrēs militēs* “more soldiers.”



Minerva laudābātur, quod oleās hominibus dederat.



► EXERCISE 1

Translate the English into Latin and the Latin into English. The Reading Vocabulary may be consulted. Translate the English word “more” with the correct form of *plūs*.

1. Dē plūribus rēbus cōgitō.
2. Ceres gave more grain to humans.
3. I found more letters written by you, Marcus Tullius.
4. Maiōrēs nostrī linguam Latīnam plūribus gentibus dedērunt.
5. Because of the Latin language we have more wisdom.
6. Ē plūribus ūnum.
7. Propter linguam Latīnam apud (“among”) plūrēs nātiōnēs nunc rēgnāmus.
8. Plūs honōris et glōriae habēre voluit.

VOCABULARY TO LEARN

NOUNS

ars, artis, f. – science, art, skill

lingua, ae, f. – language, tongue (as physical part of the mouth)

plūs, plūris, n. – more

ADJECTIVES

antīquus, a, um – ancient

Latīnus, a, um – Latin, pertaining to Latin

maior, maius – greater

maximus, a, um – greatest

melior, melius – better

minimus, a, um – smallest

minor, minus – smaller

optimus, a, um – best

peior, peius – worse

pessimus, a, um – worst

plūrēs, plūra – more

plūrimus, a, um – most

VERBS

dominor, dominārī, dominātus sum – to dominate, rule

hortor, hortārī, hortātus sum – to exhort, urge

loquor, loquī, locūtus sum – to speak

partior, partīrī, partītus sum – to divide, distribute

patior, patī, passus sum – to endure, tolerate, suffer

sequor, sequī, secūtus sum – to follow

vereor, verērī, veritus sum – to fear, respect

ADVERBS

adhūc – still, up to this time

Latīnē – in Latin

magis – more

minus – less



STUDY TIP

Remember to distinguish between:

Timeō – fear, be afraid

Vereor – fear, respect, be in awe of

► 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. It is difficult for us now to imagine what conditions of daily life must have been like even for well-off people in ancient times.
2. The word “art” in its most narrow sense is restricted to painting and sculpture. In its wider meaning the word can refer to all the skills by which people give creative expression to their culture.
3. Although my uncle is a very loquacious man, I always listen attentively to whatever he says.
4. A person interested in the welfare of society as a whole knows we must maximize the resources available to the poorest members of society.
5. A patient person will persevere until s/he achieves success.
6. Pessimists, who assume the worst outcome for everything, create unnecessary obstacles for themselves.
7. My uncle achieved the rank of major in the army.
8. Avoid words that have a pejorative meaning.
9. Linguists study the structure and evolution of all languages.
10. In ancient warfare, it was customary before a battle for a general to exhort his troops to put forth their supreme effort.
11. You all know that three plus two equal five.
12. Minors are not allowed to purchase or consume alcoholic beverages.
13. Do not minimize the importance of luck in human life!
14. Although economists think inflation is too high now, we expect an amelioration of economic conditions next year.
15. Optimists, who expect the best, are likely to have a higher success rate in all their endeavors.
16. These episodes follow the first installment sequentially.
17. In a painting of a seascape, of course, the dominant color is likely to be blue.
18. Ten minus five equal five.

► EXERCISE 3

Change all the positive adjectives into comparatives, and all the comparative adjectives into superlatives. Translate the changed sentences.

Example: Epistolās multās lēgī.

Epistolās plūrēs lēgī.

I have read more letters.

1. Carmen tuum bonum mihi vidētur.
2. Plūrēs gentēs apud sē linguam Latīnam didicērunt.
3. Multīs magistrīs ōtium numquam prōmittitur.
4. Estne glōria Rōmānōrum parva?
5. Cibum huius gentis malum esse crēdimus.
6. Gallī plūs artium habēre vidēbantur.

LANGUAGE FACT II

QUAM WITH THE SUPERLATIVE OF ADJECTIVES AND ADVERBS

When *quam* is linked to a superlative adjective or adverb, it means “as . . . as possible.”

For example, *quam optimē* means “as well as possible,” and *quam fortissimus* means “as brave as possible.”

Here are some other examples:

quam vehementissimē – as strongly as possible . . .

quam pulcherrima – as beautiful as possible . . .

quam plurimī – as many as possible . . .

You have also learned the use of *quam* with comparatives and about *quam* as an accusative singular relative pronoun. Look at the example of each use of *quam*.

Haec ars est ūtilior quam illa. (Quam + comparative)
This skill is more useful than that one.

Rēgēs quam ōrnātissimī vidēbantur esse. (Quam + superlative)
The kings seemed to be as adorned as possible.

Haec est rēgīna quam laudāvī. (Quam as relative pronoun)
This is the queen whom I praised.

► EXERCISE 4

Translate into Latin.

1. As many students as possible should learn the ancient and useful Latin language.
2. More nations used to learn the Latin language than now.
3. We ought to find the best possible teachers for these students.
4. This is the peace which we were seeking.
5. Our armies want to be joined with us as quickly as possible.
6. The king had three daughters, of which the first was beautiful, the second more beautiful, & the third most beautiful.
7. Glory is better than fame.
8. There are many languages among you, but more among us.
9. The glory which we have is better than fame.

Valla's work as a philologist and as a theologian regularly earned him academic enemies. King Alfonso V of Aragon, a humanist, welcomed Valla to his court in Naples making him his Latin secretary in 1435. Alfonso celebrated his triumphal entrance into Naples in 1443 by adding a triumphal arch (in white) to the Castello Nuovo.



LANGUAGE FACT III

DEPONENT VERBS

In the chapter reading passage you noticed several sentences with new verbs—and these new verbs are distinctive because they have **passive** forms but **active** meanings.

Et maiōrēs nostrī aliōs omnēs hortābantur ut et Rōmae et in prōvinciīs Latīnē loquerentur.

“And our ancestors **urged** all the other peoples to **speak** Latin both at Rome and in the provinces.”

Ibi enim Rōmānum imperium est, ubicumque Rōmāna lingua dominātur!

“For wherever the Roman language **is dominant**, there is the Roman Empire!”

... Quoūsque, inquam, urbem nostram, parentem litterārum ā Gallīs captam esse patiēmini ... ?

“To what extent, I say, will **you put up with** <the fact that> our city, the parent of literature, has been captured by the Gauls?”

Some deponent verbs are very common and thus it will be useful to become familiar with them.

Common Deponent Verbs

arbitror, arbitrārī, arbitrātus sum – to think

dominor, dominārī, dominātus sum – to dominate, rule

hortor, hortārī, hortātus sum – to exhort, urge

loquor, loquī, locūtus sum – to speak

partior, partīrī, partītus sum – to divide, distribute

patior, patī, passus sum – to endure, tolerate, suffer

proficīscor, proficīscī, profectus sum – to set out, depart

sequor, sequī, secūtus sum – to follow

vereor, verērī, veritus sum – to fear, respect



BY THE WAY

The word “deponent” comes from the Latin verb *dēpōnere*, “to put aside.” So you can think of deponent verbs as having “put aside” their active forms but having kept their active meanings.

You already know the endings of deponent verbs because you have learned the passive forms of verbs in all the tenses and conjugations. As you can see from the list above, there are deponent verbs in all the conjugations.

Conjugation of *hortor* (First Conjugation)

Present

Indicative		Subjunctive
<i>hortor</i>	I exhort	<i>horter</i>
<i>hortāris</i>	you exhort	<i>hortēris</i>
<i>hortātur</i>	s/he exhorts	<i>hortētur</i>
<i>hortāmur</i>	we exhort	<i>hortēmur</i>
<i>hortāminī</i>	you (pl.) exhort	<i>hortēminī</i>
<i>hortantur</i>	they exhort	<i>hortentur</i>

Imperfect

Indicative		Subjunctive
<i>hortābar</i>	I was exhorting	<i>hortārer</i>
<i>hortābāris</i>	you were exhorting	<i>hortārēris</i>
<i>hortābātur</i>	s/he was exhorting	<i>hortārētur</i>
<i>hortābāmur</i>	we were exhorting	<i>hortārēmur</i>
<i>hortābāminī</i>	you (pl.) were exhorting	<i>hortārēminī</i>
<i>hortābantur</i>	they were exhorting	<i>hortārentur</i>

Future

Indicative	
<i>hortābor</i>	I will exhort
<i>hortāberis</i>	you will exhort
<i>hortābitur</i>	s/he will exhort
<i>hortābimur</i>	we will exhort
<i>hortābimīnī</i>	you (pl.) will exhort
<i>hortabuntur</i>	they will exhort

Perfect

Indicative		Subjunctive
<i>hortātus, a, um sum</i>	I (have) exhorted	<i>hortātus, a, um sim</i>
<i>hortātus, a, um es</i>	you (have) exhorted	<i>hortātus, a, um sis</i>
<i>hortātus, a, um est</i>	s/he (has) exhorted	<i>hortātus, a, um sit</i>
<i>hortātī, ae, a sumus</i>	we (have) exhorted	<i>hortātī, ae, a simus</i>
<i>hortātī, ae, a estis</i>	you (pl.) (have) exhorted	<i>hortātī, ae, a sitis</i>
<i>hortātī, ae, a sunt</i>	they (have) exhorted	<i>hortātī, ae, a sint</i>



Pluperfect

Indicative		Subjunctive
hortātus, a, um eram	I had exhorted	hortātus, a, um essem
hortātus, a, um erās	you had exhorted	hortātus, a, um essēs
hortātus, a, um erat	s/he had exhorted	hortātus, a, um esset
hortātī, ae, a erāmus	we had exhorted	hortātī, ae, a essēmus
hortātī, ae, a erātis	you (pl.) had exhorted	hortātī, ae, a essētis
hortātī, ae, a erant	they had exhorted	hortātī, ae, a essent

Future Perfect

Indicative	
hortātus, a, um erō	I will have exhorted
hortātus, a, um eris	you will have exhorted
hortātus, a, um erit	s/he will have exhorted
hortātī, ae, a erimus	we will have exhorted
hortātī, ae, a eritis	you (pl.) will have exhorted
hortātī, ae, a erunt	they will have exhorted

Infinitives

hortārī (present)	to exhort
hortātus, a, um esse (perfect)	to have exhorted
hortātūrus, a, um esse (future)	to be about to exhort

Participles

hortātus, a, um (perfect)	having exhorted
hortātūrus, a, um (future)	being about to exhort

Conjugation of *vereor* (Second Conjugation)

Present

Indicative		Subjunctive
vereor	I fear	verear
verēris	you fear	verēaris
verētur	s/he fears	verēatur
verēmur	we fear	verēamur
verēminī	you (pl.) fear	verēaminī
verentur	they fear	vereantur



Imperfect

Indicative		Subjunctive
verēbar	I was fearing	verērer
verēbāris	you were fearing	verērēris
verēbātur	s/he was fearing	verērētur
verēbāmur	we were fearing	verērēmur
verēbāminī	you (pl.) were fearing	verērēminī
verēbantur	they were fearing	verērentur

Future

Indicative	
verēbor	I will fear
verēberis	you will fear
verēbitur	s/he will fear
verēbimur	we will fear
verēbiminī	you (pl.) will fear
verēbuntur	they will fear

Perfect

Indicative		Subjunctive
veritus, a, um sum	I (have) feared	veritus, a, um sim
veritus, a, um es	you (have) feared	veritus, a, um sis
veritus, a, um est	s/he (has) feared	veritus, a, um sit
veritī, ae, a sumus	we (have) feared	veritī, ae, a simus
veritī, ae, a estis	you (pl.) (have) feared	veritī, ae, a sitis
veritī, ae, a sunt	they (have) feared	veritī, ae, a sint

Pluperfect

Indicative		Subjunctive
veritus, a, um eram	I had feared	veritus, a, um essem
veritus, a, um erās	you had feared	veritus, a, um essēs
veritus, a, um erat	s/he had feared	veritus, a, um esset
veritī, ae, a erāmus	we had feared	veritī, ae, a essēmus
veritī, ae, a erātis	you (pl.) had feared	veritī, ae, a essētis
veritī, ae, a erant	they had feared	veritī, ae, a essent



Future Perfect

Indicative

veritus, a, um erō	I will have feared
veritus, a, um eris	you will have feared
veritus, a, um erit	s/he will have feared
veritī, ae, a erimus	we will have feared
veritī, ae, a eritis	you (pl.) will have feared
veritī, ae, a erunt	they will have feared

Infinitives

verērī (present)	to fear
veritus, a, um esse (perfect)	to have feared
veritūrus, a, um esse (future)	to be about to fear

Participles

veritus, a, um (perfect)	having feared
veritūrus, a, um (future)	being about to fear

Conjugation of *sequor* (Third Conjugation)

Present

Indicative		Subjunctive
sequor	I follow	sequar
sequeris	you follow	sequāris
sequitur	s/he follows	sequātur
sequimur	we follow	sequāmur
sequimini	you (pl.) follow	sequāmini
sequuntur	they follow	sequantur

Imperfect

Indicative		Subjunctive
sequēbar	I was following	sequerer
sequēbāris	you were following	sequerēris
sequēbātur	s/he was following	sequerētur
sequēbāmur	we were following	sequerēmur
sequēbāmini	you (pl.) were following	sequerēmini
sequēbantur	they were following	sequerentur



Future

Indicative

sequar	I will follow
sequēris	you will follow
sequētur	s/he will follow
sequēmur	we will follow
sequēmini	you (pl.) will follow
sequentur	they will follow

Perfect

Indicative

secūtus, a, um sum	I (have) followed
secūtus, a, um es	you (have) followed
secūtus, a, um est	s/he (has) followed
secūtī, ae, a sumus	we (have) followed
secūtī, ae, a estis	you (pl.) (have) followed
secūtī, ae, a sunt	they (have) followed

Subjunctive

secūtus, a, um sim
secūtus, a, um sīs
secūtus, a, um sit
secūtī, ae, a simus
secūtī, ae, a sītis
secūtī, ae, a sint

Pluperfect

Indicative

secūtus, a, um eram	I had followed
secūtus, a, um erās	you had followed
secūtus, a, um erat	s/he had followed
secūtī, ae, a erāmus	we had followed
secūtī, ae, a erātis	you (pl.) had followed
secūtī, ae, a erant	they had followed

Subjunctive

secūtus, a, um essem
secūtus, a, um essēs
secūtus, a, um esset
secūtī, ae, a essēmus
secūtī, ae, a essētis
secūtī, ae, a essent

Future Perfect

Indicative

secūtus, a, um erō	I will have followed
secūtus, a, um eris	you will have followed
secūtus, a, um erit	s/he will have followed
secūtī, ae, a erimus	we will have followed
secūtī, ae, a eritis	you (pl.) will have followed
secūtī, ae, a erunt	they will have followed

Infinitives

sequī (present)	to follow
secūtus, a, um esse (perfect)	to have followed
secūtūrus, a, um esse (future)	to be about to follow



Participles

secūtus, a, um (perfect)	having followed
secūtūrus, a, um (future)	being about to follow

Conjugation of *partior* (Fourth Conjugation)

Present

Indicative		Subjunctive
<i>partior</i>	I divide	<i>partiar</i>
<i>partīris</i>	you divide	<i>partiāris</i>
<i>partītūr</i>	s/he divides	<i>partiātūr</i>
<i>partīmur</i>	we divide	<i>partiāmur</i>
<i>partīminī</i>	you (pl.) divide	<i>partiāminī</i>
<i>partiantur</i>	they divide	<i>partiantur</i>

Imperfect

Indicative		Subjunctive
<i>partiēbar</i>	I was dividing	<i>partīrer</i>
<i>partiēbāris</i>	you were dividing	<i>partīrēris</i>
<i>partiēbātūr</i>	s/he was dividing	<i>partīrētūr</i>
<i>partiēbāmur</i>	we were dividing	<i>partīrēmūr</i>
<i>partiēbāminī</i>	you (pl.) were dividing	<i>partīrēminī</i>
<i>partiēbantur</i>	they were dividing	<i>partīrentur</i>

Future

Indicative	
<i>partiar</i>	I will divide
<i>partiēris</i>	you will divide
<i>partiētūr</i>	s/he will divide
<i>partiēmūr</i>	we will divide
<i>partiēminī</i>	you (pl.) will divide
<i>partientur</i>	they will divide

Perfect

Indicative		Subjunctive
<i>partītus, a, um sum</i>	I (have) divided	<i>partītus, a, um sim</i>
<i>partītus, a, um es</i>	you (have) divided	<i>partītus, a, um sīs</i>
<i>partītus, a, um est</i>	s/he (has) divided	<i>partītus, a, um sit</i>
<i>partītī, ae, a sumus</i>	we (have) divided	<i>partītī, ae, a simus</i>
<i>partītī, ae, a estis</i>	you (pl.) (have) divided	<i>partītī, ae, a sitis</i>
<i>partītī, ae, a sunt</i>	they (have) divided	<i>partītī, ae, a sint</i>

Pluperfect

Indicative		Subjunctive
partītus, a, um eram	I had divided	partītus, a, um essem
partītus, a, um erās	you had divided	partītus, a, um essēs
partītus, a, um erat	s/he had divided	partītus, a, um esset
partītī, ae, a erāmus	we had divided	partītī, ae, a essēmus
partītī, ae, a erātis	you (pl.) had divided	partītī, ae, a essētis
partītī, ae, a erant	they had divided	partītī, ae, a essent

Future Perfect

Indicative	
partītus, a, um erō	I will have divided
partītus, a, um eris	you will have divided
partītus, a, um erit	s/he will have divided
partītī, ae, a erimus	we will have divided
partītī, ae, a eritis	you (pl.) will have divided
partītī, ae, a erunt	they will have divided

Infinitives

partīrī (present)	to divide
partītus, a, um esse (perfect)	to have divided
partītūrus, a, um esse (future)	to be about to divide

Participles

partītus, a, um (perfect)	having divided
partītūrus, a, um (future)	being about to divide

Conjugation of *patior* (Third Conjugation –*iō* Verbs)

Present

Indicative		Subjunctive
patior	I endure	patiar
pateris	you endure	patiāris
patitur	s/he endures	patiātur
patimur	we endure	patiāmur
patiminī	you (pl.) endure	patiāminī
patiuntur	they endure	patiāntur



Imperfect

Indicative		Subjunctive
patiēbar	I was enduring	paterer
patiēbāris	you were enduring	paterēris
patiēbātur	s/he was enduring	paterētur
patiēbāmur	we were enduring	paterēmur
patiēbāminī	you (pl.) were enduring	paterēminī
patiēbantur	they were enduring	paterentur

Future

Indicative	
patiar	I will endure
patiēris	you will endure
patiētur	s/he will endure
patiēmur	we will endure
patiēminī	you (pl.) will endure
patientur	they will endure

Perfect

Indicative		Subjunctive
passus, a, um sum	I (have) endured	passus, a, um sim
passus, a, um es	you (have) endured	passus, a, um sīs
passus, a, um est	s/he (has) endured	passus, a, um sit
passī, ae, a sumus	we (have) endured	passī, ae, a sīmus
passī, ae, a estis	you (pl.) (have) endured	passī, ae, a sītis
passī, ae, a sunt	they (have) endured	passī, ae, a sint

Pluperfect

Indicative		Subjunctive
passus, a, um eram	I had endured	passus, a, um essem
passus, a, um erās	you had endured	passus, a, um essēs
passus, a, um erat	s/he had endured	passus, a, um esset
passī, ae, a erāmus	we had endured	passī, ae, a essēmus
passī, ae, a erātis	you (pl.) had endured	passī, ae, a essētis
passī, ae, a erant	they had endured	passī, ae, a essent

Future Perfect

Indicative

passus, a, um erō	I will have endured
passus, a, um eris	you will have endured
passus, a, um erit	s/he will have endured
passī, ae, a erimus	we will have endured
passī, ae, a eritis	you (pl.) will have endured
passī, ae, a erunt	they will have endured

Infinitives

patī (present)	to endure
passus, a, um esse (perfect)	to have endured
passūrus, a, um esse (future)	to be about to endure

Participles

passus, a, um (perfect)	having endured
passūrus, a, um (future)	being about to endure



BY THE WAY

With each deponent verb, you will learn the first person singular of the present passive indicative and the present passive infinitive. These two forms will give you an indication of the conjugation of the verb and identify it as a deponent.

hortor, hortārī – first conjugation (vowel *ā* in the infinitive)

vereor, verērī – second conjugation (vowel *ē* in the infinitive)

sequor, sequī – third conjugation (infinitive formed only with *ī*)

partior, partīrī – fourth conjugation (vowel *ī* in the infinitive)

patior, patī – third conjugation –*iō* verbs (infinitive formed only with *ī*; first person singular of the present passive indicative looks like fourth conjugation)



► EXERCISE 5

Identify the conjugation of each of the following forms.

Example: *partīrī* fourth conjugation

- | | |
|------------------|-------------|
| 1. hortātī estis | 5. sequimur |
| 2. patiēbāris | 6. partiar |
| 3. dominārī | 7. verētur |
| 4. loqueris | |



STUDY TIP

There are a few exceptions to the rule that deponents have passive forms with active meanings.

1. The present and future participles are active forms with active meanings.
2. The future infinitive is an active form with an active meaning.



BY THE WAY

The perfect participle of a deponent verb is a perfect passive form with an **active** meaning. So *secūtus* means “having followed,” while *amātus* means “having been loved.” Thus you might reasonably ask “How do I say ‘having loved’ in Latin?” You can do this by using one of a variety of other constructions: for example, you could say *postquam amāvit*, which means literally “after s/he loved.”

► EXERCISE 6

Translate into English.

1. Meliōrēs hominēs sequēbāmur.
2. Pessima vereāminī!
3. Plūrimī mē sunt hortātī.
4. Omnia bona inter nōs partiēmur.
5. Nōlī mala loquī!
6. Sciō tē pessima esse passum.
7. Dīcō linguam Latīnam in omnibus terrīs esse dominātūram.
8. Locūtus erō. Verba mea deinde sequēris.
9. Veritus erat peiōra. Meliōra sunt facta (*happened*).

► EXERCISE 7

Translate into Latin.

1. We have followed.
2. Let us talk (use *loqui*).
3. They were dominating.
4. You (sg.) will share.
5. Do not put up (pl.) with injustice.
6. I shall not fear the enemies (use *verēri*).
7. We had exhorted the consul.
8. <People> being about to divide the food.
9. I believe the soldiers are going to follow me.
10. Having exhorted the soldiers, I shall follow you.

Valla served at the University of Pavia as a professor of eloquence. One of the oldest universities of Europe, it was established in 1361 by the Visconti family. A school of higher learning, however, had served Pavia since 825. A series of inner courtyards and balconies in the older buildings keeps students protected from the elements.





► EXERCISE 8

Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verb in parentheses. Translate each sentence. The Reading Vocabulary may be consulted.

Example: Volō _____ . (loquor)

Volō loquī.

I want to speak.

1. Valla nōs _____ ut linguam Latīnam parentem litterārum discāmus. (hortor)
2. Nōs viam ad omnem sapientiam semper _____, sī linguam Latīnam bene didicerimus. (sequor)
3. Illā aetāte, quā vivēbat Valla, quamquam gentēs Eurōpaeae imperium Rōmānum iam abiēcerant, lingua tamen Latīna multis in terrīs etiam tum _____. (dominor)
quamquam (*conj.*) – although **Eurōpaeus, a, um** – European
4. Valla librum dē linguā Latīnā scrīpsit, nē hominēs sapientiam perdī _____. (patior)
5. Sī ducem fortissimum _____, libertātem habēbimus. (sequor)
6. Sī urbem nostram iterum habēre potuerimus, Gallōs numquam _____. (vereor)
iterum (*adv.*) – again

► EXERCISE 9

The following passage is adapted from the Roman historian Livy's narrative of the looting of Rome by the Gauls in 390 BCE. It comes from *Ab urbe conditā* (5.41). While young Romans of military age retreated to high ground to defend the citadel and women with children fled from the city, many of the old men of noble status decided to remain in their homes and face the invaders with dignity.

Translate into English.

Seniōrēs domōs regressī adventum hostium firmātō ad mortem animō expectābant. Vestimentis ōrnātissimis indūtī iānuās aperuērunt et maximā cum dignitāte sedēbant. Gallī urbem intrāvērunt templaque deōrum cōspiciēbant. Custōdēs posuērunt nē Rōmānī impetum in sē facerent. Tunc aliī aliās viās in urbe secūtī sunt ut praedam peterent. Quīdam ē Gallīs domōs prīncipum apertās vidēbant. Prīmō magis aedificia nōbilium aperta quam casās pauperum clausās verēbantur. Nam prīncipēs vidēre poterant augustōs, quī in ātriīs sedēbant gravissimī maiestāteque deōrum similēs vidēbantur. Cum autem quīdam Gallus Rōmānī sedentis barbam tangere temptāvisset, senex Rōmānus eum scīpiōne percussit. Tunc irā mōtī Gallī vehementissimā Rōmānōs occidērunt et urbem vastāre coepērunt.

adventus, adventūs, m. – arrival

aedificium, ī, n. – building

alius . . . alius . . . – one . . . another . . .

ātrium, ī, n. – the entry hall of a Roman house

augustus, a, um – venerable, august, majestic

clausus, a, um – closed

cum temptāvisset = postquam temptāvit

dignitās, dignitātis, f. – dignity (*this is an ablative of manner*)

Gallī, ōrum, m. pl. – Gauls

iānuā, ae, f. – door

indūtus, a, um + ablative – clad, dressed in

maiestās, maiestātis, f. – majesty (*the ablative here expresses the respect in which they were like gods*)

nōbilēs, nōbilium, m. pl. – nobles

percutiō, ere, percussī, percussum – to strike

pōnere custōdēs – to station guards

praeda, ae, f. – booty, prey

prīnceps, prīncipis, m. – leading citizen

quīdam, quaedam, quoddam – a certain

regredior, regredī, regressus sum – to go back

scīpiō, scīpiōnis, m. – staff

sē – them(selves)

sedēns, sedentis – sitting

senior, seniōris, m./f. – elder, older (*comparative of senex*)

vastō, āre, āvī, ātum – lay waste, ravage



TALKING ABOUT A READING

ABOUT LATIN AND ABOUT OTHER LANGUAGES AND UNADAPTED LATIN: ATTICUS AND HIS UNCLE

DĒ LINGUĀ LATĪNĀ DĒQUE ALIĪS LINGUĪS

Christīna: Laurentius Valla bene loquitur dē linguā Latīnā. Nam lingua Latīna est optima atque pulcherrima.

Marīa: Ego autem putō linguam Hispānam (*Spanish*) esse ūtiliōrem. Nam plūrēs hominēs linguā Hispānā loquuntur.

Helena: At nōnne (*don't you*) intellegis, Marīa, linguam Hispānam esse linguae Latīnae filiam et linguam Latīnam esse mātrem nōn solum linguae Hispānae, sed etiam linguae Italicae (*Italian*), linguae Gallicae (*French*), linguae Lūsitānicae (*Portuguese*) et aliārum linguārum? Sī linguam Latīnam bene scīs, facilius est aliās linguās discere.

Mārcus: Putō multōs hominēs linguā Sinēnsī (*Chinese*) nunc loquī. Fortasse etiam linguam Sinēnsē discere dēbēmus.

Christīna: Hoc est vērū. Sī autem linguam Latīnam discimus, discimus quoque dē cultū cīvīlī (*culture*) Eurōpaeō (*European*) et antīquō et recentīore (*of more recent times*). Cultus cīvīlis Americānus (*American*) ex cultū cīvīlī Eurōpaeō tandem (*ultimately*) vēnit. Sī igitur dē linguā Latīnā discimus, plūra dē nōbīs discere possumus.

Helena: Discāmus dē linguā Latīnā: dē Atticō nunc legāmus!

Mārcus: Quōmodo (*how*) tantam pecūniam (*money*) accēpit Atticus?

Marīa: Avunculum dīvitem habuit, quī eum hērēdem fēcit.

Mārcus: Itaque cāsū (*by chance*), nōn virtūte dīvitiās accēpit.

Marīa: Nōn. Virtūte. Audiās verba Nepōtis.

ATTICUS AND HIS UNCLE

CORNĒLIĪ NEPŌTIS ATTICUS, 5.1-2

Atticus befriended his maternal uncle, which was no easy task, since this man had a very difficult personality. As it happened, this uncle was a wealthy man, and when he died, Atticus was the heir to three-quarters of the old man's estate.

- 1 1. Habēbat avunculum Q. Caecilium, equitem Rōmānum, familiārem
L. Lūcullī, dīvitem, difficillimā nātūrā. Cūius sīc asperitātem veritus
est, ut, quem nēmō ferre posset, huius sine offēsiōne ad summam
senectūtem retinuerit benevolentiam. Quō factō tulit pietātis frūctum.
- 5 2. Caecilius enim moriēns testāmentō adoptāvit eum hērēdemque fēcit
ex dōdrante; ex quā hērēditāte accēpit circiter centiēs sēstertium.

READING VOCABULARY

- 1 **Q.** – the abbreviation for the praenomen *Quintus*
Q. Caecilius, i, m. – *Quintus Caecilius*
familiāris, familiāris, m./f. – a family member or relation
- 2 **L.** – the abbreviation for the praenomen *Lucius*
L. Lūcullus, i, m. – a powerful Roman general and politician in the last century BCE
nātūra, ae, f. – nature, character
sīc (adv.) – in such a way
asperitās, asperitātis, f. – harshness
- 3 **ferre** – to endure
offēnsiō, offēnsiōnis, f. – offense, cause for offense
summus, a, um – extreme, highest
- 4 **retineō, ēre, retinui, retentum** – to keep, retain
benevolentia, ae, f. – good will
factum, i, n. – fact, action
tulit – he gained, he got
pietās, pietātis, f. – sense of duty, dutifulness to family and society
frūctus, frūctūs, m. – profit, gain, fruit
- 5 **moriēns, morientis** – dying
testāmentum, i, n. – will
adoptō, āre, āvi, ātum – to adopt
- 6 **ex dōdrante** – from a portion of three-quarters, i.e., Atticus was made heir to $\frac{3}{4}$ of Caecilius's estate
hērēditās, hērēditātis, f. – inheritance
circiter (adv.) – approximately
centiēs sēstertium – ten million sesterces (in Roman currency), a significant sum

READING NOTES

- 1–2 *Habēbat avunculum . . . difficillimā nātūrā* “He had an uncle . . . <a man of> very difficult nature.”
The ablative of quality, usually consisting of a noun and an adjective, is often used to indicate the quality of a person, as in the phrase *difficillimā nātūrā*.
- 2 *Cūius . . . asperitātem* The relative pronoun can be used at the beginning of a sentence to refer to something specific or even to a general idea in the previous sentence. In such cases as here it almost has the meaning of a demonstrative and thus *Cūius asperitātem* means “< And> . . . <this man's> harsh nature.”
- 3–4 *ut, quem nēmō ferre posset, huius sine offēnsiōne ad summam senectūtem retinuerit benevolentiam*
Again *ut* introduces a result clause (see Chapter 14) “that he retained the good will of this man, whom no one could endure, without offense right up to his <the uncle's> extreme old age.”
- 4 *Quō factō tulit pietātis frūctum* “By this action he got the gain of his dutifulness.” Compare the use of the relative *quō* here with that of *cūius*, explained in the note above.
- 5 *Caecilius enim moriēns testāmentō adoptāvit eum*
The present participle *moriēns* means “while/when dying” (see Chapter 11). The pronoun *eum* or “him” refers to Atticus.



During Atticus's time, the *sestertius* was cast in silver but under Augustus's monetary reforms it was made of brass. On the left a god figure sits between the abbreviation for *Senātūs cōsultō*, “by decree of the Senate,” and on the right a profile of Emperor Augustus with the engraving *Augustus pater*, “Augustus father.”

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE TEXT

Answer in complete Latin sentences.

1. Cūius hominis erat Q. Caecilius familiāris?
2. Quālis erat Caecilius?
3. Quis Caecilium ferre poterat?
4. Quōmodo Atticus Caecilii benevolentiam sine offēnsiōne ūsque ad summam senectūtem retinuit?
5. Quālem pietātis frūctum tulit Atticus?

DĒ LINGUĀ LATĪNĀ DĒQUE ALIĪS LINGUĪS CONTINUED

Mārcus: Itaque quia (*because*) Atticus mōrēs bonōs habuit, nōn sōlum doctrīnam (*learning*), sed etiam dīvitiās accēpit.

Marīa: Cāsū (*by chance*) hominēs dīvitiās invenīre et accipere possunt, sed nōn doctrīnam.

DERIVATIVES

ars – art, artful, artifice, artificial, artillery, artisan, artist, inert, inertia

lingua – language, linguist, bilingual, multilingual, monolingual

plūs – pluperfect, plural, plurality, surplus

antīquus – antiquarian, antique, antiquity

Latīnus – Latin, Latinize, Latino, Latin Quarter, Latin America, Latin square

maior – major, majestic, majesty, majority, mayor

maximus – maxim, maximum, maximize, maximal

melior – ameliorate, amelioration

minor – administer, minister, ministry, minority, minstrel, minor

optimus – optimism, optimist, optimal, optimize, optimum

peior – impair, pejorative

pessimus – pessimist, pessimism

dominor – dangerous, predominant

hortor – exhort, hortatory

loquor – circumlocution, colloquial, elocution, eloquence, loquacious, obloquy, soliloquy, ventriloquist

patior – compassion, compatible, impassive, impatient, passion, passive, patience, patient

sequor – consecutive, consequence, ensue, execute, executive, intrinsic, lawsuit, obsequious, persecute, prosecute, pursuance, pursue, sect, sectarian, sequel, segue, sequence, set, subsequent, sue, suitable, suitcase, suit, suite, suitor

vereor – irreverent, revere, reverend, reverent, reverence

magis – maestro, master, masterpiece, mistress, postmaster, taskmaster, mistral