

## GRAMMAR REVIEW: Old and New Concepts

Last week, we discussed Chapter 17's new grammar section, which included omissions – both the ellipsis of forms of *esse* and contractions of verb forms. Just as in English, we sometimes leave out words and Latin uses the same device often for syntax. We use dashes or ... and Latin omits forms of *esse* and sometimes other words, which we may see in our Latin future. However, this doesn't mean that their use in a sentence is ignored. There is no rule that requires the use of an ellipsis, but rather it is used by an author and the reader should recognize it when considering the context and meaning of the sentence.

Likewise, Latin sometimes drops the syllable *-vi-* in the perfect active stem of verbs. For example, *rogavisset* is written *rogasset* on line 10 of this reading. We are not strangers to contractions in English – *do not* becomes *don't* and *he would* becomes *he'd*. Again, there is no rule requiring when this should occur, but something you will come to recognize as you see it more frequently.

Additionally, I noticed that some of you are having a hard time recognizing/translating Ablative Absolutes (abl abs) so I have included my notes from a few weeks ago when we first met them. Unlike the "omission" grammar from above, we know that a noun and a participle ending in an ablative ending, which are typically set off by commas, is an ablative absolute:

### **Ablative Absolutes – an introduction:**

1. phrase made up of a noun/pronoun and participle
2. noun/pronoun and participle are in the ABLATIVE case
3. Ablative Absolute phrase – is from the Latin "loosened from" (*absolvere, absolutum*) - from the rest of the sentence, so the noun in the ablative absolute is not referred to in the main clause and are often set apart by commas in the sentence.
4. most literal translation: with "noun" having been "verbed"

Other translations:      When/After the noun was verbed  
                                     Having verbed the noun  
                                     After verbing the noun  
                                     The noun having been verbed

**We will review questions in section 18 tomorrow.**

Looking Back -- in response to some earlier questions –

In section 15, there are some older grammar concepts I want to address. **We have seen ablatives of manner, means, and cause for quite some time:**

They sometimes may look similar but are distinct and different uses of the ablative case.

**Ablative of means:** (remis, line 7)

We have seen this since the first year of Latin when we called it “ablative thing used, no prep.” The ablative of means is used when there is a noun, a THING, being used in some type of action. The boy is hit with a switch – puer virgA verberatur. The keys to this ablative are threefold: the ablative noun is a thing, it is used without a preposition and there is some type of action involved in using this thing – the means or instrument (tool) with which something is accomplished.

N.B. When the thing used is actually a person, not a thing, the ablative use is ablative of agent and includes the preposition a,ab.

**Ablative of Manner:** (gaudio, line 1, celeritate, line 8)

When we encounter an ablative of manner noun, it is because something is being accomplished or done with an abstract quality/concept – it indicates the manner or style in which an action is accomplished as opposed to a physical thing in ablative of means. Many ablatives of manner will include the preposition *cum*. Obvious is *summa cum laude* – with the highest praise. Another example is *cum gaudio currit* – she runs with joy.

**Ablative of Cause-** We meet an ablative of cause when you act from some or because of emotion or situation. This ablative noun indicates the cause of some situation. There is no preposition with this ablative and we translate “because of” a noun. The prepositions *ob/propter* mean because of in Latin and may take its place. An example of this is found on line 5 in section 15 – *hoc dolore* – because of this pain.

**Also: Take a look in the Handy Dandy under VERB FORMS and under Part C of the Infinitives Section entitled *Basic Information on the Indirect Statement*.**

It is a simple and straight forward explanation of how we translate the tenses of indirect statements. We had a question a few weeks ago and I wanted to point this out for your information. Often, we translate these tenses automatically, as they seem natural in the English language, but this section gives us the how and why we do this.

An example of a present infinitive – meaning the SAME TIME as the main verb is on line 7 in section 15: **..qui bene sciebant rem in discrimine esse...** which is translated **who (Argonauts) knew well that the manner was in crisis**. Please note that the tense of *sciebant* is imperfect and the infinitive *esse* is present. Therefore, the *esse* is translated as “was” - the same tense as the main verb – *sciebant*, imperfect.

Likewise, a perfect infinitive in an indirect statement means that it is translated as the TIME BEFORE the main verb. For example, see line 4 in this same section:

**...ubi cognovit filiam suam non modo ad Argonautas se contulisse....or when he recognized that his daughter not only had gone to the Argonauts....**In this case the main verb is perfect and the infinitive in the indirect statement is perfect. Therefore, the tense of the translated infinitive must be TIME BEFORE the main verb or pluperfect.