

Tips to Translating More Difficult Latin

1. Begin by reading over the Nova Vocabula and becoming familiar with the words in the Lectio
2. Read the sentence aloud in Latin.
3. Read for comprehension first, thinking about the meanings of the words and phrases and the likely sense of the whole sentence.
4. Look for the main verb(s). If the main verb is in the first or second person then you already know the subject ("I," "we," or "you") and you can start there. If the main verb is in the third person then look for a noun or pronoun in the nominative that is the same person (he/she/they) and number (sg/pl); usually the subject will be near the beginning of the sentence. Put one line under the subject and two under the main verb.
5. Look for any prepositional phrases and put the entire phrase and modifiers in parentheses.
6. Look for any relative clauses and put the entire clause and modifiers in brackets.
7. Look for any infinitives and mark them with an infinitive sign. ∞
8. Try translating just the subject and main verb(s) first with their modifiers. Next translate the phrases and clauses. Finally put the entire sentence together in good English.
9. Remember do not write English in your "textbook" (aka Lectiones in Latin III).

*N.B. Parents, even if you are not able to fully translate the Latin you can help your student by identifying all the above items in your English translation. Nudge your student towards following the above steps in their Latin text.

