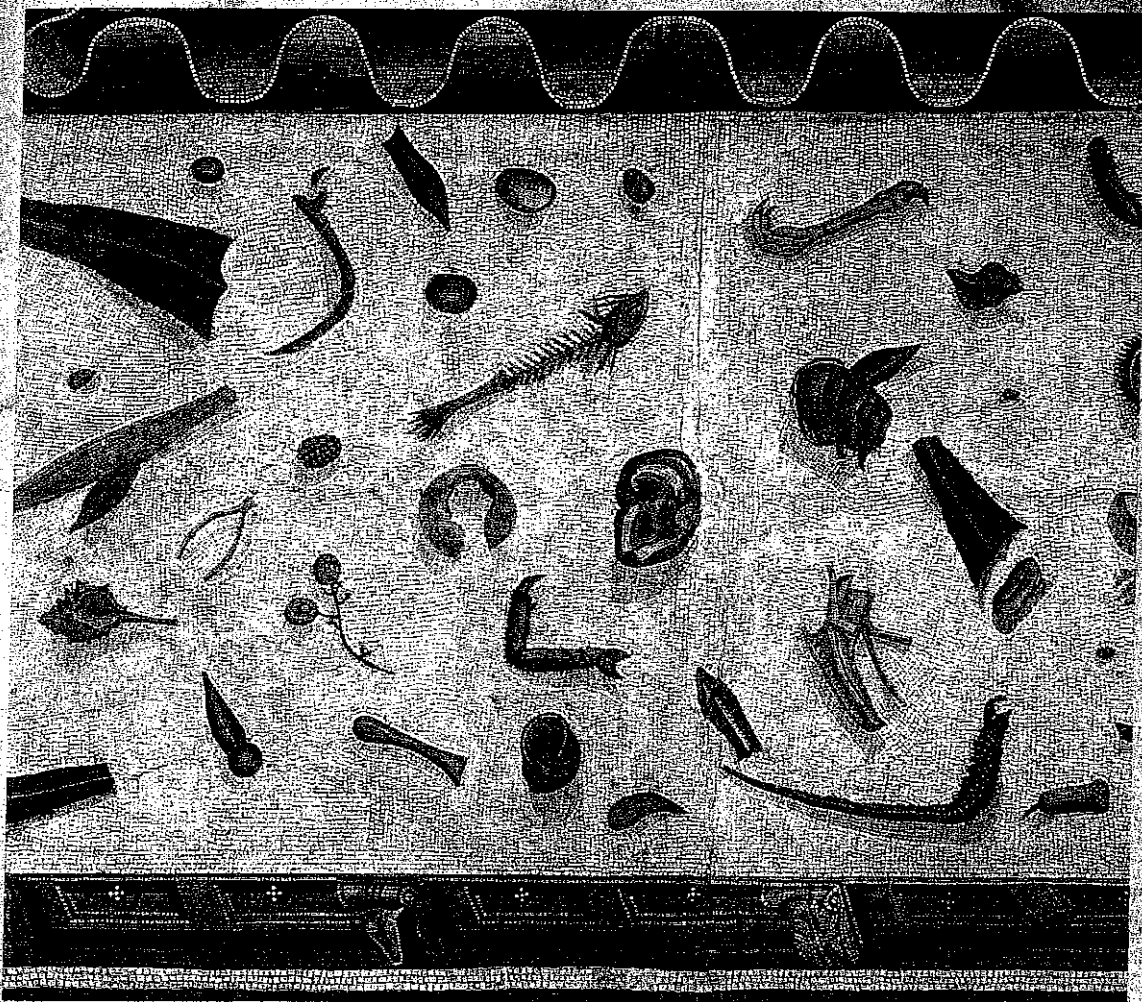


LESSON 7

Imperfect Tense; Future Tense;
Indirect Object; Dative of Reference



A mosaic showing an unswept floor covered with banquet leftovers.
Such decoration was popular on dining room floors to disguise the real debris.

FORMS

PRESENT SYSTEM

Three tenses are formed on the present stem of a verb; they are the Present Tense, the Imperfect Tense, and the Future Tense. These three tenses belong to the Present System.

Remember that the present stem is found by dropping the *-re* from the second principal part of the verb. The present tense is formed by adding the personal endings directly to the present stem. The other tenses of the present system insert a tense sign between the present stem and the personal ending.

IMPERFECT TENSE

To form the imperfect tense, add the tense-sign *-bā-* to the present stem, and then add the personal endings *-m*, *-s*, *-t*, *-mus*, *-tis*, and *-nt*, shortening the *ā* of *-bā-* before *-m*, *-t*, and *-nt*.

IMPERFECT TENSE

SINGULAR

PLURAL

vocābam	<i>I was calling, I used to call</i>	vocābāmus	<i>we were calling, we used to call</i>
vocābās	<i>you were calling, you used to call</i>	vocābātis	<i>you were calling, you used to call</i>
vocābat	<i>he (she, it) was calling, he (she, it) used to call</i>	vocābant	<i>they were calling, they used to call</i>

FUTURE TENSE

To form the future tense, add the tense-sign *-bi-* to the present stem of the verb, then the personal endings, *-ō*, *-s*, *-t*, *-mus*, *-tis*, and *-nt*, omitting the *i* of *-bi-* before *-ō* and changing it to *-u* before *-nt*.

FUTURE TENSE

SINGULAR

PLURAL

vocābō	<i>I shall call</i>	vocābimus	<i>we shall call</i>
vocābis	<i>you will call</i>	vocābitis	<i>you will call</i>
vocābit	<i>he (she, it) will call</i>	vocābunt	<i>they will call</i>

SYNTAX

USE OF TENSES

Imperfect Tense

The imperfect tense (*imperfectum, incomplete*) describes an action as uncompleted by some time in the past. This can mean that the action is pictured as going on at some point in the past (as with the past progressive in English) or as repeated over a period of time in the past.

ACTION GOING ON:

Ōlim ad oppidum ambulābat. *Once he was walking to town.*

ACTION REPEATED:

Saepe ad oppidum ambulābat. { *He often used to walk to town.*
He would often walk to town.

The translation you choose will depend on the context.

Future Tense

The Latin future, like the future tense in English, merely states that an action will take place in the future.

Post ad oppidum ambulābit. *He will walk to town later.*

DATIVE OF INDIRECT OBJECT

With verbs or other expressions of *giving, saying, showing*, and the like, the dative indicates to whom something is given, said, shown, etc. This use

of the dative is called the Indirect Object. In English it has the preposition *to* or no preposition at all, depending on the word order.

Rēgīnae fābulam narrābat. { *He was telling a story to the queen.*
He was telling the queen a story.

Equum vocant dōnum deīs. *They call the horse a gift to the gods.*

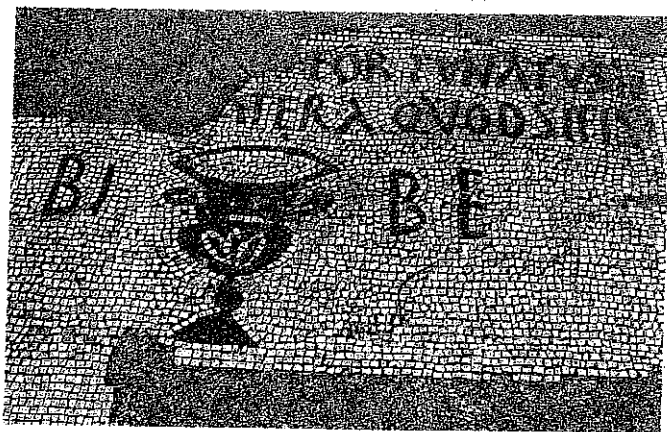
■ DATIVE OF REFERENCE

The dative is also used with other verbs to show to whose advantage or disadvantage the action of the verb is performed. The English translation may use the preposition *for*, or no preposition at all.

Meō amīcō villam aedificant. { *They are building a farmhouse*
for my friend.
They are building my friend
a farmhouse.
(They are building a farmhouse
to my friend's advantage.)

This dative may also be translated as if it were a genitive or an ablative of place from which.

Villam meō amīcō occupant. { *They are seizing the farmhouse*
from my friend.
They are seizing my friend's
farmhouse.
(They are seizing the farmhouse
to my friend's disadvantage.)



A mosaic on a sidewalk in Ostia advertises the **thermopolium** of Fortunatus with the imperative, "Drink!"

VOCABULARY

BASIC WORDS

annus, -ī, m. year
 dōnum, -ī, n. gift
 equus, -ī, m. horse
 porta, -ae, f. gate
 somnus, -ī, m. sleep

lātus, -a, -um wide, broad

superō, -āre surpass, overcome, defeat
 volō, -āre fly, move swiftly, speed, rush

ōlim (adv.) once, at one time, at some time

post (adv.) afterward, behind

saepe (adv.) often

per (prep. w. acc.) through; (in oaths) by

post (prep. w. acc.) after, behind, in back of

-que (enclitic conjunction) and

- Notes: 1. The adverb of lātus is often used with the adverb of longus to mean *far and wide*; but the Romans say wide and far: *lātē longēque*.
 2. The enclitic conjunction -que is a weaker kind of *and* than *et*; it is like the colloquial 'n' we often hear used in English. It is usually used to connect things which are thought of together: *virī fēminaeque, men 'n' women, puerī puellaeque, boys 'n' girls*.

LEARNING ENGLISH THROUGH LATIN

annual	yearly
donation	a gift or contribution
equestrian	pertaining to horses, horsemen, or horseback riding
insuperable	not able to be overcome, insurmountable
latitude	width, freedom from narrow restrictions
portal	doorway, gate, or entrance
somnolent	sleepy
volatile	explosive, unpredictable

From Latin Prepositions:

perchance	by chance, perhaps, accidentally
postwar	after the war

PRACTICE

- A.** Find a slot in these two sentences for each of the English derivatives in this lesson.
1. He is allowed much ____ in choosing his seats at the ____ horse show, ____ because his ____ to the ____ Association was so large. 2. The ____ depression in France seemed ____, but the people were far from ____, and their ____ spirits soon brought them through the ____ of prosperity again.
- B.** Change to the imperfect tense, keeping the same person and number:
1. volant 2. portābō 3. amātis 4. aedificābit 5. superāmus
- C.** Change to the future tense, keeping the same person and number:
1. narrās 2. spectābātis 3. habitāmus 4. parābant 5. occupat
- D.** Conjugate in the present, imperfect, and future:
1. volō 2. portō 3. aedificō 4. superō 5. amō
- E.** Pronounce and translate each form:
1. narrāmus, spectābās, aedificābant 2. habitābimus, occupās, parābam
3. superābō, narrābunt, occupant 4. amābis, ambulō, volābāmus 5. laudat, ambulābit, portābātis 6. laudābitis, vocābat, nāvigātis
- F.** Construe each numbered noun (i.e. give its number and case and explain the case use):
1. Sunt multī¹ liberī² in agricolae³ villā. 2. Poētae⁴ fēminam⁵ pulchram vocant
Helenam⁶ rēginam⁷. 3. Puellisne⁸, mī fili⁹, fābulam¹⁰ narrābis? 4. Nauta cum
amīcīs¹¹ ab Asiā¹² ad Africam¹³ nāvigābat. 5. Equum¹⁴ puerō¹⁵ portābant.
- G.** Read the Latin and translate:
1. Ōlim in poētārum Graecōrum fābulis equus altē super terrās volābat.
2. Nostrī ferōs Graecōs in bellō saepe superābant. 3. Per multās terrās
longē ā meā patriā in Graeciam ambulābō. 4. Rēgīna pulchra Trōiānum
spectat; post miserē amābit. 5. Virī fēminaeque cum filiīs filiābusque deōs
deāsque nostrae patriae laudābunt. 6. Es servus miser, sed et meus amīcus
es. 7. Deus lātē longēque super silvās agrōsque volābit. 8. Vestrī meōs
agrōs paucōs inimicē occupābant.

READING

Developing Reading Skills

In this reading there are more words which are not yet part of your active vocabulary, but you may not have to look them all up in the back of the book: intelligent guessing will tell you the meanings. Guessing can be based on English derivatives: it's not hard to guess what *victōria* (l. 7) means, and *vīcīnam* (l. 6) is easy if you know the word *vicinity*. Or it may be based on derivation from a word you have learned: *nāvigia* (l. 5) is not so hard if you remember *nāvigō*. Likewise, if you know *ē* and *volō* you know *ēvolō* (l. 11). Knowledge of the context may also help: if you know the story of the Trojan Horse you would know that *lignum* (l. 4) means *wooden*.

The Trojan Horse

Aenēas rēgīnae et amīcīs fābulam dē Bellō Trōiānō narrābat: "Graecī bellum parābant contrā Trōiam et ad Asiam nāvigābant. Diū pugnābant, sed oppidum nōn occupābant. Dēnique, post multōs annōs, magnum equum ligneum aedificābant. Equum dōnum deae Minervae vocābant. Deinde ā nostrō oppidō nāvigābant quasi ad Graeciam; sed profectō nāvigia post insulam vīcīnam Tenedum cēlābant.

"Trōiānī laetī clāmābāmus, 'Nostra est victōria! Cum ferīs Graecīs nōn iam pugnābimus! Equus ligneus profectō est dōnum diīs nostrī oppidī,' et equum per oppidī portās portābāmus.

"Sed equus multōs Graecōs in uterō cēlābat. Itaque ubi Somnus oculōs nostrōs caecābat, Graecī ex equī ligneī uterō ēvolābant per oppidum et lātē longēque Trōiānōs obtruncābant. Sic Trōiānōs superābant Graecī."

5. *profectō*: This adverb does not end in *ē* because it comes from the prepositional phrase *prō factō*, *for a fact*. 7. *Trōiānī*: In Latin, a noun may be the subject of a verb in the first or second person; in English we use apposition: *We Trojans . . .* *Nostra est victōria* When a predicate adjective precedes the verb *to be*, the verb is used as a linking verb even if it precedes the subject: not *There is victory . . .* but *Victory is . . .* 8. Although *iam* by itself means *now* or *already*, with a negative it means *longer*: *nōn iam*, *no longer*. 10. *uterō*: By using the word *womb* to describe the hollow inside of the horse, Virgil presents the horse as giving birth to the destruction of the city.



Wall painting from Pompeii showing the wooden horse being drawn into Troy

READING COMPREHENSION

1. What did the Greeks build after many years of fighting with Trojans?
2. What did they call it? 3. What did they do then? 4. Why did the Trojans shout "Nostra est victōria"?
5. How did the Greeks trick the Trojans? 6. Why didn't the Trojans see what the Greeks were doing?



FROM THE PHILOSOPHER'S HANDBOOK . . .

Ab ōvō usque ad māla.
From the egg right to the apples.

—HORACE

Can you quote an English proverb that has the same meaning?
 What does it mean?