

Chapter 17

sum, esse, eram (i), fui (p), irr, I am
superō, superāre, superāvī, 1, I overcome
discēdō, discēdere, discessi, 3, I go away, depart
legō, legere, lēgī, 3, I read
credō, credere, credidi + dat, 3, I believe, trust
prōmittō, prōmittere, prōmisi, 3, I promise
efficiō, efficere, effeci, 3, I effect, carry out
deinde, adv, then, next
enim, adv, for
igitur, adv, and so, therefore
tamen, adv, however, but
hōra, -ae, nf, hour

pecūnia, -ae, nf, money
divitiāe, -arum, nfpl, riches
candidātus, -i, nm, candidate
numerus, -i, nm, number
orātiō, orātiōnis, nf, speech
orātiōnem habere, to make a speech
vulnus, vulneris, nn, wound
candidus, -a, -um, adj, white
optimus, -a, -um, adj, best
pessimus, -a, -um, adj, worst
vērū, -a, -um, adj, true
vēra dicere, to speak the truth
gravis, grave, adj, heavy, serious
cum, conj, when

Vocabulary

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perfect stems	1 parāv-	2 monu-	3 rēx-	3io cēp-	4 audiv-
<i>I prepared</i>	<i>I warned</i>	<i>I ruled</i>	<i>I took</i>	<i>I heard</i>	
parāv-i	monu-i	rēx-i	cēp-i	audiv-i	
parāv-isti	monu-isti	rēx-isti	cēp-isti	audiv-isti	
parāv-it	monu-it	rēx-it	cēp-it	audiv-it	
parāv-imus	monu-imus	rēx-imus	cēp-imus	audiv-imus	
parāv-istis	monu-istis	rēx-istis	cēp-istis	audiv-istis	
parāv-erunt	monu-erunt	rēx-erunt	cēp-erunt	audiv-erunt	

The perfect stem is formed in various ways:

1 Regular verbs of the 1st, 2nd and 4th conjugations form perfects as follows:

The suffix **-v** or **-u** is added to the verb stem, e.g.

1st **para-**, perfect **parā-v-i**; 2nd **mone-**, perfect **mon-u-i** (the **e** of the stem drops out);

4th **audi-**, perfect **audi-v-i**

Perfect tense

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Tenses; imperfect tense

Verbs in Latin alter their endings to indicate different *tenses*, i.e. the time at which an action or event takes place. So far all the stories have been told in the *present tense*; this is used when the action of the verb is happening now or happens regularly, e.g.

Flaccus in agrō laborat. Flaccus is working in the field (now) or Flaccus works in the field (every day).

We now introduce two *past tenses*:

1 The imperfect tense

This tense is used when an action in the past is *continuous, repeated or incomplete*, e.g.

Flaccus in agrō diū laborābat. Flaccus was working in the field for a long time.

Quintus ad lūdum cotidie ambulabat. Quintus used to walk to school every day

Horātia iānuam claudēbat, cum māter 'nōlī' inquit 'iānuam claudere.'

Horatia was shutting the door when her mother said 'Don't shut the door'

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Imperfect tense

Note that English does not always indicate time so precisely e.g.

Flaccus *worked* in the field a long time: but Latin will say **laborābat**, since the action is continuous.

Quintus *walked* to school every day: but Latin will say **ambulābat**, since the action is repeated.

The imperfect tense is formed by adding the following endings to the present stem:

Imperfect endings		Present personal endings
-bam	I	[par-ō]
-bās	you (s)	par-ās
-bat	he/she/it	par-at
-bāmus	we	par-āmus
-bātis	you (pl)	par-ātis
-bant	they	par-ant

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Imperfect tense

stem	1 parā-	2 monē-	3 reg-	3io capi-	4 audi-
<i>I was preparing</i>	<i>I was warning</i>	<i>I was ruling</i>	<i>I was taking</i>	<i>I was hearing</i>	
parā-bam	monē-bam	reg-ē-bam	capi-ē-bam	audi-ē-bam	
parā-bās	monē-bās	reg-ē-bās	capi-ē-bās	audi-ē-bās	
parā-bat	monē-bat	reg-ē-bat	capi-ē-bat	audi-ē-bat	
parā-bāmus	monē-bāmus	reg-ē-bāmus	capi-ē-bāmus	audi-ē-bāmus	
parā-bātis	monē-bātis	reg-ē-bātis	capi-ē-bātis	audi-ē-bātis	
parā-bant	monē-bant	reg-ē-bant	capi-ē-bant	audi-ē-bant	

NB 1 3rd and 4th conjugation verbs insert **-ē-** after the stem before the imperfect person endings.

2 3rd conjugation **-iō** verbs form imperfects like **audio: capi-ē-bam** etc.

3 The imperfect of **sum** is: **eram** I was; **erās** you (s) were; **erat** he/she/it was;
erāmus we were; **erātis** you (pl) were; **erant** they were

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Perfect tense

2 The imperfect tense

The *perfect tense* is most often used to express completed past action, e.g.

Flaccus ad agrum ambulāvit. Flaccus walked to the field.

Flaccus ad agrum nōn ambulāvit. Flaccus did not walk to the field.

nōne Flaccus ad agrum ambulāvit? Didn't Flaccus walk to the field?

The perfect person endings are the same for every conjugation:

singular		I	plural	-imus	we
	-isti	you (s)		-istis	you (pl)
	-it	he/she/it		-erunt	they

These endings are attached to the *perfect stem*:

1st	parāv-	3rd	rēx-
2nd	monu-	4th	audi-v-

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Perfect stems

The perfect stem is formed in various ways:

1 For regular verbs of the 1st, 2nd and 4th conjugations **-v** or **-u** is added to the verb stem, e.g.: 1st **para-**, perfect **parā-v-i**; 2nd **mone-**, perfect **mon-u-i** (the **e** drops out); 4th **audi-**, perfect **audi-v-i**

2 3rd conjugation verbs, the stems of which end in a consonant or in **u**, follow various patterns:

1 The suffix **-s** is added to the verb stem. e.g.:

reg-ō, reg-ere, perfect **rēx-i** (for **rēg-s-i**); **dic-ō, dic-ere**, perfect **dix-i** (for **dic-s-i**)

2 The verb stem is unchanged, e.g.:

contend-ō, contendere, perfect **contend-i**; **constitu-ō, constituere**, perfect **constitu-i**

3 The vowel of the present stem is lengthened, e.g.:

leg-ō, leg-ere, perfect **lēg-i**; **em-ō, em-ere**, perfect **ēm-i**

4 The present stem is reduplicated (i.e. the first syllable is doubled), e.g.:

cad-ō, cad-ere, perfect **ce-cid-i**; **curr-ō, curr-ere**, perfect **cu-curr-i**

5 The suffix **-v/iv** or **-u** is added to the stem, e.g.:

sin-ō, sin-ere, perfect **siv-i**; **pet-ō, pet-ere**, perfect **petiv-i**; **pōn-ō, pon-ere**, perfect **posui**

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Perfect stems

These rules will enable you to recognize most perfect forms in your reading.

At present only *learn the following*, which add the suffix **-s** to the present stem:

scribō, scribere, scripsi, 3, I write
dicō, dicere, dixi, 3, I say
ducō, ducere, dixi, 3, I lead
regō, regere, rēxi, 3, I rule
claudō, claudere, clausi, 3, I close
evadō, evadere, evasi, 3, I escape
cēdō, cedere, cessi, 3, I yield, I go
lūdō, ludere, lūsi, 3, I play
mittō, mittere, misi, 3, I send
surgō, surgere, surrēxi, 3, I get up, rise
gerō, gerere, gessi, 3, I carry, wear

When **-s** is added to the consonant in which the present stem ends, certain changes of spelling occur, e.g. **c + s = x** (**dic-si** becomes **dixi**); **d** drops out (**claud-si** becomes **clausi**), etc.

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Perfect stems

The perfect of compound verbs is usually the same as that of the simple, e.g.

ducō, ducere, dixi, 3, I lead **reducō, reducere, reduxi**, 3, I lead back
cēdō, cedere, cessi, 3, I yield, I go **accēdō, accedere, accessi**, 3, I approach
mittō, mittere, misi, 3, I send **remittō, remittere, remisī**, 3, I send back

A few 2nd conjugation verbs also form the perfect by adding suffix **-s**; *learn the following*

augeō, augere, auxi, 2, I increase
iubeō, iubere, iussi, 2, I order
maneō, manere, mānsi, 2, I remain, stay
persuadeō, persuadere, persuāsi + dat, 2, I persuade
rideō, ridere, risi, 2, I laugh

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Perfect stems

The perfect stem of **sum** is **fu-**:

fu-i I was
fu-isti you (*sing.*) were
fu-it he/she was
fu-imus we were
fu-istis you (*pl.*) were
fu-erunt they were