ANDERSON ACADEMY

LATN 101 B · Elementary Latin I (Brief course)

Lecture 5 · about 7 min

Sentences, the Verb To Be, and Prepositions



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Questions or feedback: garyanderson@mail.grokbot.com · @garyanderson

Three questions

- How free is word order?
- How does to be work?
- Which cases do prepositions take?

¶ 5.1

How does the verb to be work?

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Flexible order

Latin	English
Puella agricolam amat	The girl loves the farmer
Agricolam puella amat	Same meaning
Agricola puellam amat	The farmer loves the girl

¶ 5.2

Only the endings decide who loves whom.

The usual order

Subject first

Objects and details next

Verb last

Change the order for emphasis

¶ 5.3

Changing this order adds emphasis.

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The verb to be

- Sum: I am
- Es: you are
- Est: he, she, it is
- Sumus: we are
- Estis: you all are
- Sunt: they are

¶ 5.4

Its present tense is: sum, I am; es, you are; est, he, she, or it is; sumus, we are;

To be in famous words

- Essence and essential
- Cogito, ergo sum
- I think, therefore I am
- Descartes, 1637, in French first

¶ 5.5

Descartes' famous phrase, I think, therefore I am, is cogito, ergo sum.

Linking with to be

Latin	English
Puella est bona	The girl is good
Agricola est poeta	The farmer is a poet
Insulae sunt magnae	The islands are large

¶ 5.6

Agricola est poeta means the farmer is a poet.

There is, there are

- Est insula: there is an island
- Sunt multi agricolae
- Often placed first
- Context makes it clear

¶ 5.7

Sunt multi agricolae in insula means there are many farmers on the island.

Two families of prepositions

Meaning

- Motion toward or through
- Accusative

Case

- Place, separation, company
- Ablative

¶ 5.8

The accusative tends to express motion toward or through, while the ablative tends to express place where, separation, or accompaniment.

With the accusative

- Ad: to, toward
- Per: through
- Post: after
- Ante: before
- Trans: across
- Contra: against

¶ 5.9

So ad insulam means to the island, per vias means through the roads,

With the ablative

- Ab: from, by
- Ex: out of
- De: about, down from
- Cum: with
- Sine: without
- Sub: under

¶ 5.10

So ex aqua means out of the water, cum amicis means with friends, and sine pecunia means without money.

The two meanings of in

Latin

- In insulam
- Into the island, motion

English

- In insula
- On the island, place

¶ 5.11

With the ablative it means in or on, expressing place: in insula, on the island.

Ablative with and without cum

Ablative alone

- Aqua: with water, means
- Sagittis: with arrows

With cum

- Cum amico: with a friend
- Person, accompaniment

¶ 5.12

The ablative is often used without any preposition.

Ablative with and without cum

Ablative alone

- Aqua: with water, means
- Sagittis: with arrows

With cum

- Cum amico: with a friend
- Person, accompaniment

¶ 5.12

When the means is a thing, Latin uses the plain ablative, but when it is a person accompanying someone,

Prepositions as English prefixes

- Ad: advance
- Per: permit
- Trans: transport
- Sub: submarine
- Ex: export

¶ 5.13

sub gives submarine and subway, ex gives exit and export, and de gives descend.

Conjunctions

- Et: and
- Sed: but
- Aut: or
- Que attached: and
- S P Q R: senatus populusque Romanus

¶ 5.14

The famous Roman abbreviation S P Q R stands for senatus populusque Romanus, the Senate and the Roman people,

Pronouns for emphasis

Pronoun	Example
Ego: I	Ego sum agricola
Tu: you	Tu es nauta
Nos: we	Stress the contrast

¶ 5.15

Ego sum agricola, tu es nauta means I am a farmer, you are a sailor,

Honours in Latin

- Magna cum laude: with great praise
- Summa cum laude: with highest praise
- Adjective before cum
- Ablative after cum

¶ 5.16

Summa cum laude means with the highest praise.

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Building a sentence

Puella cantat

▼

Puella fabulam narrat

▼

Add agricolis

▼

Add in via

¶ 5.17

Puella fabulam agricolis narrat, to the farmers.

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Exercise

Translate the first sentence

Translate the second

Check the cases

Next: reading a passage

¶ 5.18

Answer: the sailor sails with friends to the island.