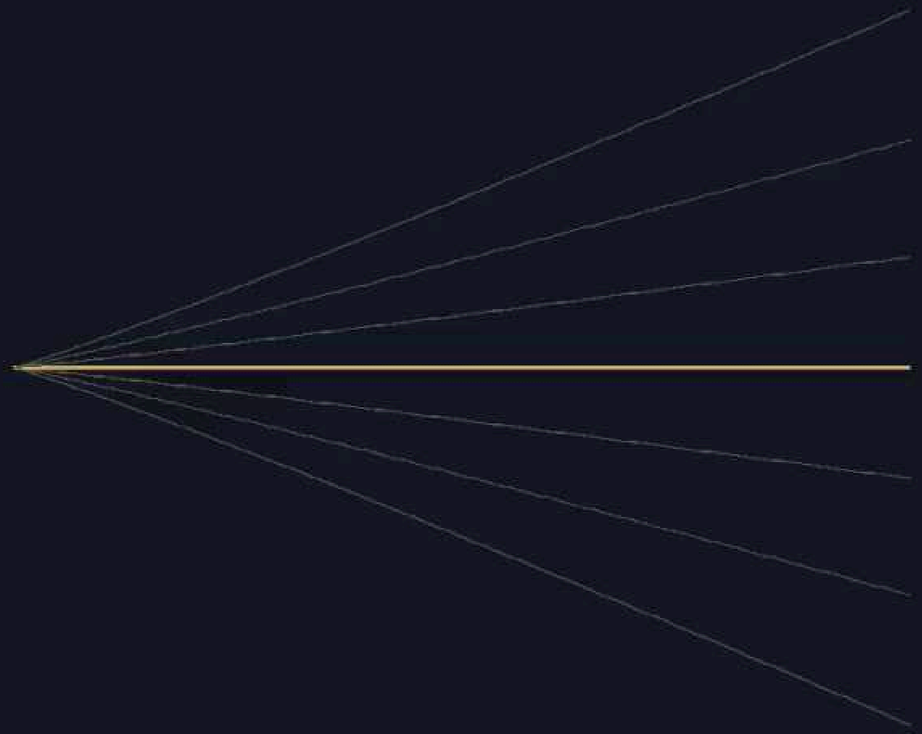
ANDERSON ACADEMY

LATN 102 B · Elementary Latin II (Brief course)

Lecture 2 · about 7 min

The Imperfect and Future Tenses



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Three questions

- How does Latin show ongoing past action?
- How is the future formed?
- How do sum and possum behave?

¶ 2.1

How does it form the future tense, and why does it use two different patterns?

Time and aspect

Feature	Question
Time	Past, present, or future
Aspect	Ongoing or completed

¶ 2.2

The imperfect tense describes an ongoing, repeated, or habitual action in the past.

The imperfect of amo

- Amabam: I was loving
- Amabas, amabat
- Amabamus, amabatis
- Amabant: they were loving

¶ 2.3

Notice that the first person ends in m, not o.

Imperfect markers

Form	Marker
Amabam	Vowel a, then ba
Monebam	Vowel e, then ba
Regebam	Long e, then ba
Audiebam	I e, then ba

¶ 2.4

So the marker is always ba, preceded by a vowel that depends on the conjugation.

Translating the imperfect

- He was loving
- He used to love
- He kept loving
- He began to love

¶ 2.5

Imagine a story: Romani in agris laborabant, the Romans were working in the fields,

The future of amo

- Amabo: I shall love
- Amabis, amabit
- Amabimus, amabitis
- Amabunt: they will love

¶ 2.6

Notice the vowels: o, i, i, i, i, u, which students often chant as bo, bi, bu.

Two kinds of future

First and second

- Amabo, amabit
- Monebo, monebit
- First and second: the b future

Third and fourth

- Regam, reget
- Audiam, audiet
- Third and fourth: the e future

¶ 2.7

The fourth conjugation adds the same endings to its stem: audiam, I shall hear; audies, audiet; and so on.

The e trap

Third conjugation

- Regit: he rules, present
- Reget: he will rule, future

Second conjugation

- Monet: he warns, present
- Monebit: he will warn, future

¶ 2.8

If a verb is third conjugation, an e in the ending means future.

Sum in past and future

Imperfect

- Eram
- Erat
- Erant

Future

- Ero
- Erit
- Erunt

¶ 2.9

Notice that the future third plural erunt has the same nt ending, and remember it,

Possum

- Possum, potes, potest
- Possumus, potestis, possunt
- Poteram: I was able
- Potero: I shall be able

¶ 2.10

In the imperfect and future, every form begins with pot followed by the forms of sum: poteram,

Complementary infinitive

- Possum ambulare: I can walk
- Non poterant navigare: they could not sail
- Debeo: I ought
- Volo: I want

¶ 2.11

This pattern, with a main verb and an infinitive, is called the complementary infinitive,

A story in three tenses

Olim habitabat: once he lived

Cotidie laborabat: he worked every day

Cras ambulabit: tomorrow he will walk

¶ 2.12

Now you can tell a short story across time.

A story in three tenses

Olim habitabat: once he lived

Cotidie laborabat: he worked every day

Cras ambulabit: tomorrow he will walk

¶ 2.12

Words like olim, once upon a time; cotidie, every day; and cras, tomorrow, help signal the tense.

Time words

Adverb	Tense
Nunc	Now: present
Heri	Yesterday: past
Olim	Once: past
Cras, mox	Tomorrow, soon: future

¶ 2.13

Learning these little adverbs helps you anticipate the tense before you reach the verb,

Asking questions

- Ne added to the first word
- Amatne poetam?: does she love the poet?
- Ubi: where
- Cur: why
- Quando: when

¶ 2.14

Other questions begin with a question word, such as ubi, where; cur, why; and quando, when: Ubi habitabas?

Irregular infinitives

- Sum, esse, fui
- Possum, posse, potui
- Debemus esse fortes: we ought to be brave
- Volo posse legere: I want to be able to read

¶ 2.15

These forms are irregular, so learn them as part of each verb's principal parts: sum, esse, fui, and possum, posse, potui.

Exercise

Imperfect and future of four verbs

Translate three sentences

Check your answers

Next: the third declension

¶ 2.16

The answers are: the boy was playing in the garden; tomorrow we shall hear the poet;