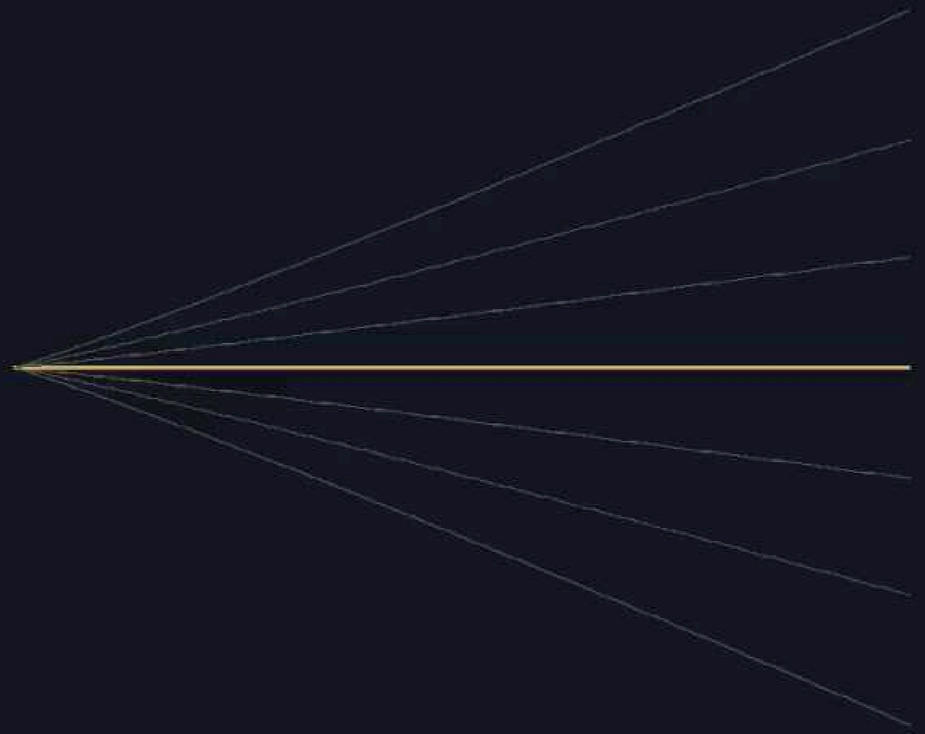
ANDERSON ACADEMY

LATN 102 B · Elementary Latin II (Brief course)

Lecture 4 · about 7 min

The Perfect System



A library of university-level courses

Three questions

- How is completed action expressed?
- Where does the perfect stem come from?
- What are the pluperfect and future perfect?

¶ 4.1

And how do the pluperfect and future perfect tenses extend the same idea into other times?

Two systems

Present system

- Amo, amare
- Present stem ama
- Present, imperfect, future

Perfect system

- Amavi
- Perfect stem amav
- Perfect, pluperfect, future perfect

¶ 4.2

It gives us the perfect system, three tenses built on a new stem.

Perfect endings

- I, isti, it
- Imus, istis, erunt
- Amavi: I loved
- Amaverunt: they loved

¶ 4.3

So the perfect of amo runs: amavi, I loved; amavisti, you loved; amavit, he loved; amavimus, we loved; amavistis,

Kinds of perfect stem

Present	Perfect
Amo	Amavi, with v
Moneo	Monui, with u
Rego	Rexi, with s
Capio	Cepi, with a vowel change

¶ 4.4

Rego gives rexi, where the g and s combine as x.

More perfect stems

- Venio: veni, I came
- Video: vidi, I saw
- Do: dedi, I gave
- Audio: audivi, I heard

¶ 4.5

Because the perfect stem cannot always be predicted, learn all four principal parts of every new verb together.

Veni, vidi, vici

Veni: I came

Vidi: I saw

Vici: I conquered

Caesar, 47 before the common era

¶ 4.6

The three short verbs, each of two syllables and each beginning with v,

Imperfect and perfect

Imperfect

- Amabam
- I was loving, used to love
- Sets the scene

Perfect

- Amavi
- I loved, I have loved
- Moves the plot

¶ 4.7

In a story, the imperfect sets the scene, and the perfect moves the plot forward,

Spotting a perfect

Look for the perfect endings

Check the stem for v, u, s, or x

Guess the present form

Duxit: he led, from duco

¶ 4.8

try removing the ending and asking which present stem might lie behind it.

Tenses in a story

- Ambulabant: they were walking
- Advenit: he arrived
- Cantavit: he sang
- Laudaverunt: they praised

¶ 4.9

Suddenly a poet arrived and sang a song: the perfects advenit and cantavit mark single events.

The pluperfect

- Perfect stem plus eram
- Amaveram: I had loved
- Amaverat: he had loved
- Amaverant: they had loved

¶ 4.10

amaveramus, amaveratis, amaverant.

The future perfect

- Perfect stem plus ero
- Amavero: I shall have loved
- Third plural: amaverint
- Common in if clauses

¶ 4.11

Latin uses it more than English does, especially in conditions: if you will have come, I shall be happy,

Six tenses

Ongoing

- Present
- Imperfect
- Future

Completed

- Perfect
- Pluperfect
- Future perfect

¶ 4.12

Each system has a past, a present, and a future.

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

Perfect of sum and possum

- Fui: I was, I have been
- Fuerunt: they were
- Fueram: I had been
- Potui: I was able

¶ 4.13

Its pluperfect is fueram, I had been, and its future perfect fuero, I shall have been.

Two kinds of erunt

Perfect

- Amaverunt
- After a perfect stem
- They loved

Future of sum

- Erunt
- Standing alone
- They will be

¶ 4.14

Standing alone, erunt means they will be.

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

Exercise

Three perfect tenses of four verbs

Translate three sentences

Check your answers

Next: pronouns

¶ 4.15

The answers are: the soldiers captured the town; the consul had warned the people; if you come, I shall rejoice.