

## LATIN VERB SUM AND VERBS OF FEARING FORMATION AND USAGE

**Introduction.** Do Latin verbs have loose ends? Latin has the **regularly** conjugated, plus **irregular** and **defective** verbs. Loose end refers to an assortment of grammar and syntax not covered elsewhere. On offer... style and hints...

**sum, the root of being.** The progenitor of **sum, to be** is in the root of **Proto-Indo-European languages**, including **Latin, Greek, Sanskrit, Iranian, and German and Germanic sub-groups**. Each of the root languages has a form of **to be**. In addition to the verb's cross-cultural spread, **sum** has an existential quality : **esse aut non esse, To be or not to be** or **cogito ergo sum, I think therefore I am**

### SUM AND ITS ELEVEN COMPOUND VERBS

**sum, esse, fui, futurus** (irregular conjugation, no passive, no supine stem except in the future active participle). **to be**

	<b>Singular</b>				<b>Plural</b>		
<b>Indicative</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>3rd</b>		<b>1st</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>3rd</b>
<b>Active</b>							
<b>Present</b>	sum	es	est		sumus	estis	sunt
<b>Imperfect</b>	eram	eras	erat		eramus	eratis	erant
<b>Future</b>	ero	eris	erit		erimus	eritis	erunt
<b>Perfect</b>	fui	fuisti	fuit		fuimus	fuistis	fuerunt
<b>Pluperfect</b>	fueram	fueras	fuerat		fueramus	fueratis	fuerant
<b>Future Perfect</b>	fuero	fueris	fuerit		fuerimus	fueritis	fuerint
<b>Passive</b>							
<b>Present</b>	-	-	-		-	-	-
<b>Imperfect</b>	-	-	-		-	-	-
<b>Future</b>	-	-	-		-	-	-
<b>Perfect</b>	-	-	-		-	-	-
<b>Pluperfect</b>	-	-	-		-	-	-
<b>Future Perfect</b>	-	-	-		-	-	-
	<b>Singular</b>				<b>Plural</b>		
<b>Subjunctive</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>3rd</b>		<b>1st</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>3rd</b>
<b>Active</b>							
<b>Present</b>	sim	sis	sit		simus	sitis	sint
<b>Imperfect</b>	essem	esses	esset		essemus	essetis	essent
<b>Perfect</b>	fuerim	fueris	fuerit		fuerimus	fueritis	fuerint
<b>Pluperfect</b>	fuissem	fuisse	fuisset		fuissemus	fuissetis	fuisissent
<b>Passive</b>							
<b>Present</b>	-	-	-		-	-	-
<b>Imperfect</b>	-	-	-		-	-	-
<b>Perfect</b>	-	-	-		-	-	-
<b>Pluperfect</b>	-	-	-		-	-	-
	<b>Singular</b>				<b>Plural</b>		
<b>Imperative</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>3rd</b>		<b>1st</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>3rd</b>
<b>Present</b>	-	es	-		-	este	-
<b>Non-finite Forms</b>	<b>Active</b>	<b>Perfect</b>	<b>Future</b>		<b>Passive</b>	<b>Perfect</b>	<b>Future</b>
<b>Present</b>							
<b>Infinitives</b>	esse	fuisse	futurus, -a, -um esse		-	-	-
<b>Participles</b>	ens, -ntis	-	futurus, -a, -um		-	-	-

**sum** is an **irregular** verb with **no conjugational affiliation**. The verb is an **intransitive linking verb** often connecting the sentence subject with either a **predicate noun** or **adjective**. **sum** has an **active**, but **no passive** voice. **sum** has **11 compound verbs**. (A compound has a **prefix** added to the **finite verb**. The resulting compound verb mimics the finite verb's conjugation. The prefix may alter the **pronunciation** and **spelling** of the finite verb. See : **obsum, possum** and **prosum**.)

**absum, abesse, afui, afuturus** (irregular conjugation, no passive, no supine stem except in the future active participle , with ablative). **to be away** or **distant**

**Nota bene :** **absum**, has two senses, a). **to be absent**, or b). **to be distant**. In both senses it is accompanied by **ab** with the ablative. Motion from is *not* implied, the preposition is required. Example :

**oppidum sedecim milia passum ab Romā abest**      The town is sixteen miles from Rome

**adsum, adesse, adfui, adfuturus** (irregular conjugation, no passive, no supine stem except in the future active participle, with dative). **to be present**

**desum, deesse, defui, defuturus** (irregular conjugation, no passive, no supine stem except in the future active participle, with dative). **to be lacking** or **failing**

**insum, inesse, infui, \_\_\_** (irregular conjugation, no passive, no supine). **to be in** or **upon**

**intersum, interesse, interfui, interfuturus** (irregular conjugation, no passive, no supine stem except in the future active participle, with accusative, with dative). accusative, sense : **to be between** or dative, sense ; **to take part**

**Nota bene :** **intersum**, in the sense **to be between**, is accompanied by **inter** with the accusative. Example :

**inter bina castra flumen intererat**      Between the two camps was [between] a river

**obsum, obesse, offui or obui, offuturus** (irregular conjugation, no passive, no supine stem except in the future active participle, with accusative, with dative). accusative, sense : **to be between** or dative, sense : **to be against**

**possum, posse, potui, \_\_\_** (irregular conjugation, no passive, no supine). **to be able** (alternate sense : **can**)

	Singular 1st	2nd	3rd	Plural 1st	2nd	3rd
<b>Indicative Active</b>						
Present	possum	potes	potest	possumus	potestis	possunt
Imperfect	poteram	poteras	poterat	poteramus	poteratis	poterant
Future	potero	poteris	poterit	poterimus	poteritis	poterunt
Perfect	potui	potuisti	potuit	potuimus	potuistis	potuerunt
Pluperfect	potueram	potueras	potuerat	potueramus	potueratis	potuerant
Future Perfect	potuero	potueris	potuerit	potuerimus	potueritis	potuerint
<b>Passive</b>						
Present	-	-	-	-	-	-
Imperfect	-	-	-	-	-	-
Future	-	-	-	-	-	-
Perfect	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pluperfect	-	-	-	-	-	-
Future Perfect	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Subjunctive Active</b>						
Present	possim	possis	possit	possimus	possitis	possint
Imperfect	possem	posses	posset	possemus	possetis	possent
Perfect	potuerim	potueris	potuerit	potuerimus	potueritis	potuerint
Pluperfect	potuissem	potuisses	potuisset	potuissemus	potuissetis	potuissent
<b>Passive</b>						
Present	-	-	-	-	-	-
Imperfect	-	-	-	-	-	-
Perfect	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pluperfect	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Imperative Present</b>						
Present	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Non-finite Forms</b>	<b>Active Present</b>	<b>Perfect</b>	<b>Future</b>	<b>Passive Present</b>	<b>Perfect</b>	<b>Future</b>
Infinitives	posse	potuisse	-	-	-	-
Participles	potens, -ntis	-	-	-	-	-

**possum** is a compound of **pot-**, from the irregular adjective **potis, potis**. 3<sup>rd</sup> declension, masculine or feminine. **able**,

**capable. potis + sum.** Forms of **sum** beginning with **s-**, the **-t-** was assimilated to **-s-**, **possum** from **potsum**, elsewhere the **-t-** remained unchanged. The irregular present infinitive **posse** has its origin in an earlier and un-contracted form, **potesse**

**Nota bene :** **possum**, is regularly accompanied by an **infinitive**. In English, the infinitive after **can** omits the preposition **to**, but it may be identified by changing **can**, **to be able**. Example :

**venire possum** I am able **to come**

The English **can** has no other tense beside **could**, and is often used with a **future sense**. To find the correct tense, change **can**, **to be able** as above. Example :

**poterisne cras venire** **Can you** [will you be able to] **come tomorrow?**

**possum**, has no future infinitive, present infinitive is used in lieu. Example :

**crediderunt se adesse posse** They thought they would **be able** to be present

**praesum, praesesse, praefui, \_\_\_\_** (irregular conjugation, no passive, no supine, with dative). **to be before something, in charge [of], in front [of], take the lead [in]**

**prosum, prodesse, profui, profuturus** (irregular conjugation, no passive, no supine stem except in the future active participle, with dative). **to be useful or of use, good, help, benefit**

**Nota bene :** **prosum**, the prefix **pro-** changes to **prod-** before all parts of **sum** that begin with **e** phonetics : **prodesse, prodest, proderat, proderit, et cetera**

**subsum, subesse, \_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_** (irregular conjugation, no passive, no perfect, no supine, with dative). **to be underneath, close or near, at the bottom**

**Nota bene :** **subsum**, verb is conjugated only in the **indicative mood** : **present, imperfect** and **future**; and in the **subjunctive mood** : **present** and **imperfect**

**supersum, superesse, superfui, superfuturus** (irregular conjugation, no passive, no supine stem except in the future active participle, with dative of person or ablative of place). **remain over, survive**

**Nota bene :** **supersum**, takes the dative of person, otherwise it is accompanied by **ex** with the ablative. Example :

**filio suo superfuit** He survived **his son**

**e proelio superfuit** He survived **the battle**

## SUM AND THE PREDICATE NOUN

**Sum and the predicate noun.** A noun that completes the verb **sum** and describes the **subject** is a **predicate noun**, accordingly the noun is in the same case as the subject. In some instances, an adjective may act as a noun : **Marcus est iuvenalis. Marcus is youthful.** Example :

**Minerva est dea sapientiae** Minerva **is the goddess** of wisdom

**Romani dicebant Minervam esse deam sapientiae** The Romans used to say that Minerva **was the goddess** of wisdom



## VERBS OF FEARING

**Introduction.** A Latin **verb of fearing** is one that pertains to fear or concern. **Publilius Syrus** expresses best the dread that beset his fellow citizen, **cotidie damnatur qui semper timet. The man who is constantly in fear is every day condemned.** For the Romans the specter of fear came in one or all of three forms; fear of or for a person or a thing, fear of performing an act, or fear of an event occurring

Fear of or for a person or a thing. Fear of a person or thing is most often expressed using the verb **timeo, timere, timui** (2, no supine). **to fear** and a **noun**, either in the **dative** or **accusative**. The meaning, the sense of dread, of course is expressed by case and sentence construction. Example :

<b>hostes timet</b>	<b>He fears the enemy</b>
<b>filio timet pater</b>	<b>The father fears for his son</b>
<b>furem pomis timet agricola</b>	<b>The farmer fears the thief for his apples</b>

Fear of performing an act. The Latin uses the verb **timeo** and an infinitive. Example :

<b>timeo haec facere</b>	<b>I am afraid to do this</b>
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Fear of an event occurring and the inverted purpose clause. Fear seizes the mind. The Romans expressed fear by **inverting** the **purpose clause**. The inverted clause is counter to the listener's intuition

The inverted purpose clause uses the conjunctions : **ne, the negative is wished and the positive feared** and : **ut, the positive is wished and the negative feared**. The remainder of the sentence is in the subjunctive mood. The sequence of tenses is observed; the primary sequence is followed by a verb either in the present subjunctive or the perfect subjunctive, and historic or secondary sequence is followed by either the imperfect subjunctive or the pluperfect subjunctive

To illustrate the inverted purpose clause, the verb : **pluit, pluere, pluvit**, \_\_\_ (3, impersonal, no passive, no supine stem). **it rains, it is raining.** **pluit** is only conjugated in the 3<sup>rd</sup> person singular, with the personal pronoun : **it**, is cited. Example :

The negative is wished and the positive feared : **ne**

<b>timeo ne pluat</b>	<b>I fear that it will rain</b> [you wish for rain, but get dry weather]
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The positive is wished and the negative feared : **ut**

<b>timeo ut non pluat</b>	<b>I fear it will not rain</b> [you wish it not to rain, but get rain]
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Here are two Ciceronian sentences citing verbs of fear. Example :

<b>vereor ne dum minuere velim laborem augeam</b>	<b>I fear that, while I wish to lessen the toil, I am increasing it</b> Cicero <u>De Legibus</u> 1.4.12
<b>timeo ne tibi nihil praeter lacrimas queam reddere</b>	<b>I am afraid that I can give nothing in return save tears</b> Cicero <u>Pro Plancio</u> 42. 101

Usage of **ut** and **ne non** in the negative dependent clause. Negative dependent clauses introduced by **ut** or **ne non** : **that not**, if the verb of fearing is itself negative, use : **ne non**. Example :

<b>vereor <u>ut</u> veniat</b>	<b>I fear that he will not come</b>
<b>non vereor <u>ne non</u> venerit</b>	<b>I am not afraid that he has not come</b>

Fear clauses. If a Roman citizen is / was fearful that some type of verbal action is / was going to occur; he would express his fear of the act as a dependent clause. The dependent clause is referred to as a **fear clause**. A fear clause always follows an independent clause that contains a verb of fearing. Cited below are verbs of fearing. Example :

<b>metuo, metuere, metui</b> , ___ (3, no supine, no passive). <b>to fear</b>	} <b>metuo</b> and <b>timeo</b> , have the same meaning, and therefore they may be used interchangeably
<b>timeo, timere, timui</b> , ___ (2, no supine, no passive in the indicative perfect, no passive in the subjunctive perfect and pluperfect). <b>to fear</b>	
<b>terreo, terrere, terrui, territum</b> (2). <b>to frighten</b>	

Nota bene : **terreo**, is often cited in the passive voice : **terreor, I am frightened**

**vereor, vereri, veritus sum** (2, deponent). **to fear**

A fear clause is introduced by **ne**. Note, when a verb of fearing is followed by **ut**, it is a negative fear clause. Fear clauses always feature a subjunctive verb in either the present subjunctive or the imperfect subjunctive

When translating a fear clause, translate **ne** as **that**. If the verb in the fear clause is in the **present subjunctive**, translate the verb as **would** \_\_\_ (verb) \_\_\_. If the fear clause is the **imperfect subjunctive**, translate the as if in the past tense. Example :

timuit ut uxor amaret

He was afraid that his wife did not love him

hostes metuunt ne dux captus fugiat

The enemies fear that the leader who had been captured would escape

veritus est ne discordia ex ea re nasceretur

He was afraid that discord would be borne from this circumstance

**Nota bene :** In the last sentence cited above, note the underlined phrase : veritus est ne. The phrase is an accepted idiomatic expression to introduce a fear clause. veritus, -a, -um. 1 / 2 declension adjective / participle. a). respected, revered, b). feared, dreaded

If the personal pronoun ending for veritus is changed, from -us to -a; then the phrase would be : verita est ne discordia ex ea re nasceretur. She was afraid that discord would be borne from this circumstance

Here are two additional and similar idiomatic phrases that may introduce a fear clause. Example :

periculum est ne discordia ex ea re nasceretur. There is danger that discord would be borne from this circumstance. periculum, -i. 2 declension neuter noun. risk, hazard, danger, peril

metus est ne discordia ex ea re nasceretur. There is fear that discord would be borne from this circumstance. metus, -us. 4 declension masculine noun. fear, anxiety

The three cited examples provide variety for the speaker's narrative story

**Negative fear clause.** The negative dependent clauses are introduced by ut or ne non, that not. If the verb of fearing is itself negative, ne non must be used. Example :

vereor ut [ne non] veniat

I fear that he will not come

non vereor ne non venerit

I am not afraid that he has not come

**Nota bene :** For a fuller discussion of Clauses of Fearing, see Latin and the Subjunctive Verb : Formation and Usage. Page 1. Sequence of Tenses, and Page 8. Clauses of Fearing

## VERBS OF HINDERING AND PREVENTING

**Introduction.** The Romans delighted in their use of the implied negative, such as : quin ego hoc rogem. Why shouldn't I ask this? insinuates there is nil reason for not asking. Accordingly, Latin has many verbs that hinder or prevent. A clause with its verb in the subjunctive is used to express what is prevented. Such clauses are introduced by : ne, quin, or quominus. Example :

ne is used if the main clause is positive. Example :

hi multitudinem deterrent ne frumentum conferant

These men are hindering the people from gathering the grain

quin is used if the main clause is negative. Example :

retineri non poterant quin pugnarent

They could not be kept from fighting

quominus is used regardless of the nature of the main clause, either positive or negative. Example :

vento retinentur quominus naves solvant

They are kept by the wind from setting sail

vento non retinebantur quominus naves solverent

They were not kept by the wind from setting sail

## PROHIBEO TAKES A COMPLEMENTARY INFINITIVE

**Introduction.** The verb : prohibeo, prohibere, prohibui, prohibutum (2). to forbid, prohibit takes a complementary infinitive to complete the action. Example :

sororem ire prohibet

He prevents his sister from going

ire prohibetur

She is prevented from going

### FIERI AND FACERE INFINITIVES AND THE QUIN-CONSTRUCTION

Fiere and facere, two infinitives and the quin-construction. The verb : **facio, facere, feci, factum** (3, *io*-variant, irregular passive voice). **to do, make** the : **fiere**, **present passive infinitive** and : **facere, present active infinitive** are used in negative expressions : **fiere non potest** and **facere non possum**. Example :

**fiere non potest quin te amem**

It is impossible for me not to love you [literal : It cannot happen but that I love you]

**facere non possum quin te amem**

I cannot help loving you [literal : I cannot act but that I love you]

### VEREOR AND TIMEO IN THE ACCUSATIVE AND THE DATIVE

Vereor and timeo in the accusative and the dative. The verbs : **vereor, vereri, veritus sum** (2, deponent). a) **to have respect for, b) am afraid** and : **timeo, timere, timui, \_\_\_** (2, supine stem). **to fear** each respectively has a different meaning in the accusative and the dative. In the **accusative** : **fear**, and in the **dative of interest**, **fear for**. Example :

**senem timent**

They **fear** the old man

**seni timent**

They **fear for** the old man

### VERBS OF DOUBTING

Introduction. Latin verbs of **doubting** and **phrases of doubting**, if positive, are followed by an indirect question. Example :

**dubito, dubitare, dubitavi, dubitatum** (1). **to doubt, hesitate**

**dubitamus** quails sit futurus eventus belli

**We are in doubt** [are doubtful] **as to what the outcome of the war will be**

When the phrase of doubting is negative, the follow-along phrase may be an indirect question. The usual construction is that the negative phrase of doubting takes the **quin**- construction. The sequence of tenses is the same as for the indirect question. Example :

**quin** nemo eorum progredi extra agmen audeat non debetis dubitare

You ought not to doubt that not a man of them dares to advance beyond the column

non erat dubium **quin** plurimum Helvetii possent

There was no doubt that the Helvetii were most powerful

quis du bitat **quin** amicus sit?

Who doubts [no one doubts] that he is a friend?

**dubito** may take the complimentary infinitive, when used negatively

**dicere non dubito**

I do not hesitate to say

### VERBS OF ASKING AND DEMANDING

Introduction. Latin verbs of **asking, demanding, teaching, and concealing** take two accusatives : one for the person, the second for the other matter. Example :

**rogo, rogare, rogavi, rogatum** (1) **to ask** [something of someone]

**flagito, flagitare, flagitavi, flagitatum** (1). **to demand** [repeatedly, something from someone]

**posco, poscere, poposci** (3, no supine stem). **to ask** [demanding insistently, something from someone]

**doceo, docere, docui, doctum** (1). **to teach** [someone something]

**celo, celare, celavi, celatum** (l). **to hide** or **conceal** [either tangible or intangible, something from someone]

**te haec rogo, te sententiam rogo**

I ask you this, I ask you your opinion [**Nota bene** : **rogo**, the accusative of the thing is usually a neuter pronoun or adjective or the noun *sententia*]

**Caesar Haeduos frumentum flagitabat**

Caesar kept demanding grain of the Haedui

**quis te linguam Latinam docuit**

Who taught you Latin?

iter omnes celat

He conceals the route from everyone

Instead of the accusative of the person with verbs of **asking** and **demanding**, suggest the ablative with a preposition.  
Example :

peto ab

ask, seek

postulo ab

demand

posco ab

demand

pecuniam a me postulavit

He demanded money of me

auxilium a te posco

I demand aid of you

### VERBS OF DECIDING AND RESOLVING

**Introduction.** Latin verbs of **deciding** and **resolving**, the action is completed by a complementary infinitive when the action of the infinitive refers to the subject of the main verb, by an object clause, **ut** with the subjunctive, when there is a change of subject. Example :

constituo, constituere, constitui, constitutum (3). to decide, determine

decerno, decernere, decrevi, decretum (3). to decide, decree, resolve

ad Galliam proficisci constituit

He determined to set out for Gaul

constituit ut Labienus ad Galliam proficisceretur

He determined that Labienus should set out for Gaul

Senatus decrevit ut legati Athenas mitterentur

The Senate decreed that envoys should be sent [were to be sent] to Athens

### THE NEGATIVE IMPERATIVE COMMAND

**Introduction.** Prohibition is often expressed by the verbs : **nolo, nolle, nolui, \_\_** (irregular, no passive). **be unwilling, not want** and : **caveo, cavere, cavi, cautum** (2). **to beware, take care, guard against**, and : **ne**, adverb / conjunction. **not, that not, in order that not, lest**

**noli** takes the **infinitive**, **cave** the **present subjunctive**, and **ne** the **perfect subjunctive**. Example :

noli putare

Do not suppose [Be unwilling to suppose]

noli impudens esse

Don't be shameless or Do not be shameless

nolite cogere socios

Do not compel the Allies

cave putes

Do not suppose

cave ignoscas

Do not pardon

cave festines

Do not be in haste

ne necesse habueris

Do not regard it as necessary

ne sis admiratus

Do not be surprised

hoc facito, hoc ne feceris

Thou shalt do this, thou shalt not do that

**Nota bene :** To Roman ears **noli** is formal, **ne** is peremptory, and **cave** sits between



### VERBS OF PREVENTING

**dico, dicere, dixi, dictum** (3, irregular short imperative). **to say, speak, tell.** [compound verbs : **indico. to betray; interdico. to forbid, (in speech) to interpose; maledico. to curse, speak ill of, abuse; praedico. to say or mention beforehand, warn** ]

**distineo, distinere, distinui, distentum** (2). **to separate, keep apart, hold or keep back**

**excludo, excludere, exclusi, exclusum** (3). **to shut out, exclude, cut off**

**habeo, habere, habui, habitum** (2). **to have. habeo pro certo. to know for certain.** [compound verbs : **inhibeo. to restrain; perhibeo. to assert; prohibeo. to hinder** ]

**impedio, impedire, impedivi or impedii, impeditum** (4). **to entangle; hamper; hinder** [alternate spelling : **inpedio** ]

**intercedo, intercedere, intercessi, intercessum** (3). **to come between, intervene**

**obsto, obstare, obstiti, obstaturus** (1, no supine stem except in the future active participle impersonal in the passive, with dative). **to stand in the way of, block the path of**

**perimo, perimere, peremi, peremptum** (3). **to prevent; annihilate, extinguish**

**propello, propellere, propuli, propulsum** (3). **to drive away, drive or push forward**

**recuso, recusare, recusavi, recusatum** (1). **to decline, reject, refuse**

**retineo, retinere, retinui, retentum** (2). **to hold fast, hold back; detain; retain; restrain**

**terreo, terrere, terrui, territum** (2). **to frighten.** [compound verbs : **absterreo. to frighten away; deterreo. to deter; exterreo. to scare** ]

**venio, venire, veni, ventum** (4). **to come.** [compound verbs : **praevenio, to anticipate; provenio. to come forth; subvenio, to come to the aid of** ]

**verto, vertere, verti, versum** (3). **to turn.** [compound verbs : **adverto. turn or direct to; anteverto. to act first, precede, give priority to; evertio. to overturn; praevertio. to anticipate; pervertio. overthrow; subvertio. to subvert** ]

**Nota bene :** **dico** has one compound verb with a comradely composition : **benedico** [with dative]. **to praise, speak well of, speak kindly to**

