

**LATIN AND THE ABLATIVE CASE  
FORMATION AND USAGE**

**The ablative case.** The ablative case has a wider range of functions than any of the other cases. From the pre-Classical era the ablative combines three distinct cases : the true ablative denoting **whence**; the instrumental denoting **how**; and the locative denoting **where**. **quis te linguam Latinam docuit ?**

Nominative	<b>Brutus</b> Caesarem interficit	<b>Brutus</b> kills Caesar
Genitive	Caesar <b>Bruti</b> amicus est	Caesar is <b>Brutus's</b> friend
Dative	Caesar librum <b>Bruto</b> dat	Caesar gives a book to <b>Brutus</b>
Accusative	Caesar <b>Brutum</b> amat	Caesar loves <b>Brutus</b>
Ablative	Caesar a <b>Bruto</b> interfectus est	Caesar was killed by <b>Brutus</b>
Vocative	<b>Brute</b> , Caesarem interfice !	<b>Brutus</b> , kill Caesar !

**Introduction to the ablative case.** The ablative case is referred to as an **adverbial case**, since it either modifies or limits the verb : **means**, by / with what; **agent**, whom; **accompaniment**, with whom; **manner**, how; **place**; where / from; and **time**, when / within which. The ablative is often used as the object of a preposition (when a preposition was not used). While Latin may not take a preposition, English translation often inserts a preposition : **by**, **with** or **from**

**ABLATIVE ABSOLUTE**

**Ablative absolute.** The ablative absolute is **an action or situation that is grammatically unconnected with the action or situation in the main clause** : set apart, **absolutus**, freed from the main clause expressing a sense of time, circumstance, cause, condition, or concession with facts stated in the rest of the sentence. Example :

<b>duce mortuo</b> , hostes fugerunt	<b>Because / when their leader had died</b> , the enemy fled [literal : Their leader having died, the enemy fled]
<b>duce moriente</b> , hostes fugerunt	<b>Because / when their leader was dying</b> , the enemy fled [literal : Their leader dying, the enemy fled]
<b>duce morituro</b> , hostes fugerunt	<b>Because / when their leader was going to die</b> , the enemy fled [literal : Their leader being about to die, the enemy fled]

**Nota bene** : The lack of connection between the action referred to in the ablative absolute and that in the main clause is strictly grammatical. In reality, there *may* have been a link between the leader's death and his soldiers fleeing, but; there is nothing in the wording of the main clause to connect it to the ablative absolute. A relative clause creates a grammatical relationship between two clauses, an ablative absolute can *never* be converted into a relative clause

The ablative absolute expresses a sense of time, circumstance, cause, condition, or concession. Example :

Time	<b>hoc proelio facto</b> , pontem fecit	After this battle had been fought, he built a bridge
Circumstance	<b>ea inscientibus</b> , eis fecerat	He had done this without their knowledge
Cause	<b>maiores nostri</b> , mercatoribus iniuriosius tractatis, bellum gesserunt	Because our traders had been somewhat rudely treated, our ancestors waged war
Condition	<b>vectigalibus amissis subsidia belli</b> , requiretis	If your revenues are lost, you will look in vain, for the sinews of war
Concession	<b>oppidum</b> , paucis defendentibus, expugnare non potuit	He was unable to take the town though the defenders were few

The ablative absolute often appears in constructions where the preposition **without** is used. **Without** expresses either an absence or not having the use or benefit of someone or something. Example :

<b>Caesare insciente pedem referre coeperunt</b>	<b>Without</b> Caesar's knowledge, they began to fall back
<b>re infecta redierunt</b>	They returned <b>without</b> having accomplished their mission
<b>naves ne una quidem amissa perduxit</b>	He brought his ships to land <b>without</b> losing any

**negaverunt se nisi capta urbe redituros esse** They said they would not return without taking the city

A noun that is connected as the subject or object with the main verb of the sentence cannot be used in the ablative.  
Example :

**militibus dimissis dux domum rediit** After dismissing the soldiers, the general returned home

**milites dimissi domum redierunt** The soldiers, after being dismissed, returned home

**centurionibus auditis milites dimisit** After listening to the centurions, he dismissed the soldiers

The ablative absolute cannot be used with the perfect participle of an intransitive verb, a verb lacking a direct object in the accusative case. Example :

**ubi ad Tiberim pervenerunt, moenia urbis videre potuerunt** On reaching the Tiber, they could see the battlements of the city

**postquam captivis ignovit, ad castra rediit** After forgiving the prisoners, he returned to camp

The ablative absolute, sense and translation. In the ablative absolute, the ablative noun or pronoun regularly comes first, the participle last. When the phrase contains additional words, such as the participle's direct object, they are usually enclosed within the noun-participle

In the following sentences cited below, even two nouns, or a noun and an adjective, can function as an ablative absolute

<b>Caesare <u>duce</u>, nihil timebimus</b>	Caesar [being] the commander Under Caesar's command With Caesar in command Since [when, if] Caesar is the commander	}	we shall fear nothing
---	--	---	--------------------------

**Caesare incerto, bellum timebamus** Since Caesar was uncertain [with Caesar uncertain], we were afraid of war

**Tarquinio rege, cives infelices erant** Tarquin [being] king, the citizens were unhappy

Nota bene : In the above sentences the verb **esse** is understood

### ABLATIVE OF AGENT AND MEANS

Ablative of agent and means. The ablative may express agent and means (a.k.a. instrument)

- To indicate the **agent** : a person responsible for the action, Latin uses the ablative with **a / ab**
- To indicate the **means** : a thing by which the action was accomplished, Latin uses the ablative on its own

To translate means / agent : **by means of what / by what ? / with what ?** For English, add the preposition. Example :

Agent	Means
<b>rex <u>a militibus</u> interfectus est</b> The king was killed / has been killed <u>by the soldiers</u>	<b>rex <u>armis</u> militum interfectus est</b> The king was killed / has been killed <u>by the soldiers' weapons</u>
<b>porcus <u>a lupo</u> territus erat</b> The pig had been terrified <u>by the wolf</u>	<b>porcus <u>dentibus</u> lupi territus erat</b> The pig had been terrified <u>by the wolf's teeth</u>

In instances of a **collective noun** that implies an animate agent, the ablative is used with **a / ab**. Example :

**urbs ab exercitu Romano [= a militibus Romanis] delebitur** The city will be destroyed by the Roman Army

**lupus a grege feroci porcorum [= a porcis ferocibus] territus est** The wolf was frightened by the fierce herd of pigs



### ABLATIVE OF CAUSE

**Ablative of cause.** The ablative is used to denote the **cause** or **reason** for which something is **done** or **happens**. Example :

**victoria tua gavis** sunt cives

The citizens rejoiced **at** [because of] **your victory**

**libertatis amore** urbem defendant cives

The citizens will defend the city **for** [because of] **love of freedom**

The sentences below, the ablative of cause are idioms in their own right. Example :

- The ablative of **causa**, -ae. 1 Declension feminine. **Cause, reason.** was used with a noun in the genitive to mean **for the cause of**
- The ablative of **gratia**, -ae. 1 Declension feminine. **Grace, thankfulness.** was modified by a pronominal adjective to mean **for the sake of**

cives **libertatis causa** pugnaverunt

The citizens fought **for the cause of liberty**

**mea gratia** rosas matri dedit frater

My brother gave roses to our mother **for my sake**

### ABLATIVE OF PRICE

**Ablative of price.** The ablative is used to indicate the price of something. There are three verbs that pertain to commerce in the Forum. Example :

- **vendo, vendere, vendidi, venditum** (3, defective, partial passive). **To sell, betray**
- **veneo, venire, venii, ventium** (4, defective, no passive). **To be sold, vend**
- **emo, emere, emi, emptum** (3, transitive). **To buy, purchase**

**ducentis porcis** casam emeramus

We had bought the house **for two hundred pigs**

urbem hostibus **multo auro** vendidit

He sold the city to the enemy **for much gold**

**Nota bene** : The verb **vendo**, in Classical Latin, lacked full conjugation. In the imperative, indicative active, and the subjunctive active **vendo** conjugated regularly. In the passive voice for both the indicative and subjunctive, a limited passive form existed with only two verbal forms being used : the **perfect passive participle venditus** and the **future passive participle (gerundive) vendendus**. (**Vendo** also meant **to betray**.) To meet the passive voice requirement **veneo** was used. Though **veneo** has no passive voice, its sense in the active is passive. **emo to buy** or **purchase** conjugates fully

### ABLATIVE OF DESCRIPTION

**Ablative of description.** A noun in the ablative modified by an adjective can express a quality possessed by the noun on which it depends. This idiom is often interchangeable with the genitive of description. Example :

uxor nautae femina **maxima stultitia** erat

The sailor's wife was a woman **of very great stupidity**

canem **tribus capitibus** cepit Hercules

Hercules captured a dog **with three heads**

### ABLATIVE OF PLACE FROM WHICH

**Ablative of place from which.** The ablative of place from which regularly involves a verb of active motion, from one place to another. The ablative includes one of the following prepositions : **a / ab, de, or e / ex** away from, down from / out of. Example :

Graeci **a patria** sua ad Italiam navigaverunt

The Greeks sailed **from** their [own] **country** to Italy

flumen **de montibus** in mare fluxit

The river flowed **down from the mountain** into the sea

multi **ex agris** in urbem venient

Many will come **from the country** into the city

The **action from a place** is in the ablative : **a patria, de montibus, ex agris, ab urbe** while the **action to a place** is in the accusative : **ad Italiam, in mare, in urbem**

### ABLATIVE OF SEPARATION

**Ablative of separation.** The ablative of separation asserts some person or thing is separate from another. The verb **libero, liberare, liberavi, liberatum** (1, transitive, ± ablative of separation). To free, liberate may or may not take a preposition. Example :

eos **timore** liberavit

He freed them **from fear**

Camillus Romam **ex obsidione** Gallorum liberavit

Camillus liberated Rome **from the siege** of the Gauls

**timore** and **ex obsidione**, each, in their respective sentences, is in the ablative case. One noun takes a preposition, the other not, why ? In the first sentence, what is being freed or liberated is **intangible** : **timor, timoris**. 3<sup>rd</sup> declension, masculine, consonant, noun. **Fear, dread**. In the second sentence what is freed or liberated is **tangible** : **obsidio, obsidionis**. 3<sup>rd</sup> declension, feminine, consonant, noun. **Siege, blockade**

Another verb that shares the duality of **libero** is : **egredior, egredi, egressus sum** (3, deponent, *io*-variant). To disembark. **Intangible** versus **tangible**. Example :

hodie egrediuntur

Today, they are disembarking [a general sense of leaving]

**ex nave** egrediuntur

They are disembarking **from the ship** [leaving a specific location]

The following sentences cite the idea of separation with *no* motion. Example :

Cicero hostes **ab urbe** misit

Cicero sent the enemy away **from the city**

Cicero hostes **ab urbe** prohibuit

Cicero sent the enemy away **from the city**

The verbs **mitto, mittere, misi, missum** (3, transitive). To send and **prohibeo, prohibere, prohibui, prohibitum** (2, transitive). To keep [back], prevent, hinder, prohibit exhibit *no* movement from one place to another. The sense of motion is in the phrase **ab urbe**, the preposition and the following noun **urbs, urbis**. 3<sup>rd</sup> declension, feminine, i-stem, noun in the ablative. Observe the presence and lack of presence of the preposition in these two phrases : **ab urbe condita** **from the founding of the city** [ablative] and **urbi et orbi** **to the city and the world**[dative]

The verb **careo, carere, carui, cariturum** (2, transitive). To be without, be deprived of, want, lack, be free from does not take a preposition. The verb's sense of *lack* and *want* – separation – is inherent. Example :

agricolae **pecunia** saepe **carebant**

The farmers were often **lacking money**

discipuli **tempore** saepe **arent**

The students often **lack time**

### ABLATIVE OF MANNER

**Ablative of manner.** The ablative of manner is used to indicate the manner in which something is done. The noun in the ablative may stand alone, but it is usually modified by an adjective. Example :

**virtute** pugnant milites

The soldiers are fighting **with courage**

**summa virtute** pugnant milites

The soldiers are fighting **with the utmost courage**

**Ablative of manner and “cum.”** The ablative of manner with **cum**, expresses the manner in which the act is performed. If the noun is modified by an adjective, then **cum** often comes between the adjective and the noun. Example :

**cum celeritate** venit, **summa celeritate** venit

He came **with speed**, he came **with the utmost speed**

**magna cum virtute** pugnant milites

The soldiers are fighting **with great courage**

**magno cum periculo** et **magna cum virtute** res sunt administratae

Operations have been carried on **with great risk** and **with great valour**

**Ablative of manner employing “cum” in an a verbal phrase.** The ablative of manner, may use **cum** in a verbal phrase. Example :

**cum celeritate** venit, **summa celeritate** venit

He **came with speed**, **he came with the utmost speed**

### ABLATIVE IN ACCORDANCE

**Ablative in accordance.** The ablative may express a state that is in accord with a performed act. Example :

<b>suo more conclamaverunt</b>	According to their custom they cried out
<b>more Romano</b>	In accordance with Roman custom
<b>mea sententia</b>	In my opinion
<b>communi consilio</b>	By common consent

### ABLATIVE OF ATTENDANT CIRCUMSTANCE

**Ablative of attendant circumstance.** The ablative of attendant circumstance expresses the situation under which an act is performed. Example :

<b><u>imperio nostro</u> Graeci quam ornatissimi florentissimique erant</b>	Under our sway [as members of our empire] the Greeks enjoyed the utmost splendor and prosperity
<b><u>tuo periculo</u> iussi pontem rumpi</b>	At your risk I ordered the bridge to be broken down

### ABLATIVE OF COMPARISON IN LIEU OF "QUAM"

**Ablative of comparison in lieu of "quam."** The ablative of comparison is the direct comparison of two persons or things. The ablative of comparison may substitute the person or thing being compared if the direct object of the comparison is in either the nominative or accusative case. (English follows Latin when using the conjunction *than* with a comparative adjective : *John is smaller than Jack.*) Latin uses *quam*, much as English uses *than*. Example :

<b>Caesar est longior <u>quam</u> ille vir</b>	Caesar is taller than that man
<b>Caesar est longior illo viro</b>	Caesar is taller than that man

Caesar is being compared to *that man*. Changing the case of *vir*, from the nominative to the ablative, *viro* eliminates the use of *quam*. In both sentences, the translation and meaning are the same, with and without *quam* so long as the direct object of the comparison is in the ablative case. Observe the same construction in declarative and interrogative sentences. Example :

<b>quis in Roma est longior <u>quam</u> Caesar ?</b>	Who in Rome is taller than Caesar ?
<b>quis in Roma est longior Caesare ?</b>	Who in Rome is taller than Caesar ?

**The comparative and the superlative and "quam."** In comparative statements, two terms being compared are linked by the comparative form of the adjective followed by *quam*, both in the same sentence. Example :

<b>equus maior <u>quam</u> porcus est</b>	A horse is bigger than a pig
<b>porco meo maiori <u>quam</u> pullo cibum do</b>	I gave food to my pig [which is] bigger than a chicken

**Ablative of comparison, usage :** "plus quam", "amplius quam", and "minus quam" for "plus", "amplius", and "minus." The ablative of comparison contracts usage of *plus quam* more than, *amplius quam* more than, and *minus quam* less than, in lieu : *plus*, *amplius*, and *minus*. Example :

<b>uno die <u>amplius</u> viginti urbes incenduntur</b>	In a single day <u>more than</u> twenty cities were set on fire
<b>initio <u>non amplius</u> duobus milibus habuerat</b>	At first he had had <u>not more than</u> two thousand men

**"quam" before a superlative adjective or adverb.** *quam* is placed directly before either a superlative adjective or adverb to express the sense *as...as* possible. Example :

<b><u>canis</u> domino <u>quam</u> <u>carissimus</u> est</b>	The <u>dog</u> is <u>as dear as</u> possible to its owner
<b><u>equus</u> <u>quam</u> <u>gravissime</u> cecidit</b>	The <u>horse</u> fell <u>as heavily as</u> could be

### ABLATIVE OF MEASURE OR DEGREE OF DIFFERENCE

**Ablative of measure of difference.** The ablative of measure or degree of difference employs adjectives in the ablative neuter, singular and plural, here is a selection : *multo* / *multis* much [singular] many [plural], *paulo* / *paulis* little, small

[pertaining to physical size], **nihilo / nihilis** nothing, **dimidio / dimidiis** half, **paucio / paucis** few [quantity], **tanto / tantis** so large, so great, of such a size, **quanto / quantis** how large, how great, how much [quantity], et cetera. Example :

<b>Hibernia est <u>dimidio minor</u> quam Britannia</b>	Ireland is <u>smaller</u> than Britain <u>by half</u>
<b>mons est <u>altior</u> <u>multis</u> pedibus quam collis</b>	The mountain is <u>many</u> feet higher than <u>the other</u> hill
<b>hoc est multo [paulo / nihilo] <u>difficilius</u></b>	This is much [a little / no] more difficult

**Nota bene** : See the UNUS NAUTA adjectives : **unus, -a, -um** one; **nullus, -a, -um** no, none; **ullus, -a, -um** any; **solus, -a, -um** alone, any; **neuter, neutra, neutrum** neither; **alius, -a, -ud** another, other; **uter, utra, utrum** either, which [of two]; **totus, -a, -um** whole, entire and **alter, altera, alterum** the other [of two]

With comparatives **the...the** is expressed by the ablatives **quanto...tanto** or **quo...eo**. Example :

<b><u>quanto</u> melior est vir, <u>tanto</u> fortis</b>	<u>The</u> better a man is, <u>the</u> braver he is
<b><u>quo</u> plura habemus, <u>eo</u> plura cupimus</b>	<u>The</u> more we have, <u>the</u> more we want

### **ABLATIVE AND GENITIVE OF DESCRIPTION**

**Ablative and genitive of description.** A noun in either the ablative or the genitive case may be modified by another noun. The modifying noun pertains to either physical or moral qualities. While either the ablative or the genitive could be employed, the ablative tended to be used for describing physical traits. As for adjectives, these descriptive phrases follow the noun they modify. Example :

<b>vir magnae audaciae est [genitive] or vir magna audacia est [ablative]</b>	He is a man of great daring
<b>dux magni sapientiae</b>	A commander of great wisdom
<b>pax in hominibus bonae voluntatis</b>	Peace among men of good will
<b>diligo hominem antique virtute</b>	I esteem a man of old-fashioned morality
<b>miles firma manu</b>	The soldier with the strong hand
<b>statura fuit humili, sed magna corporis pulchritudine</b>	He was a man of low stature but of great personal beauty

### **ABLATIVE OF SPECIFICATION OR RESPECT**

**Ablative of specification or respect.** The ablative of specification or respect is employed to assert in what respect a statement may or may not be true. Example :

<b>Romani virtute Gallos superant</b>	The Romans surpass the Gauls in valour
<b>pueri erant defessi corpore</b>	The boys were weary in body
<b>Ambiorix erat princeps nomine</b>	Ambiorix was chief in name
<b>re frumentaria non premimur</b>	We are not hard pressed for corn supplies

### **ABLATIVE WITH ADJECTIVES "CONTENTUS" ETC AND "DIGNUS" ETC**

**Ablative with adjectives "contentus" and "fretus."** Ablative with adjectives : **contentus** and **fretus** are used with an ablative of means. **dingus** and **indignus** are used with an ablative of respect. Example :

<b>contentus, -a, -um. 1 / 2 Adjective. Contented, satisfies</b>	
<b>fretus, -a, -um 1 / 2 Adjective. Relying on [literal : supported by]</b>	
<b>dingus, -a, -um. 1 / 2 Adjective. Worthy, deserving, fitting</b>	
<b>indignus, -a, -um. 1 / 2 Adjective. Unworthy, undeserving, unfitting</b>	
<b>gratia mea fretus in urbe mansit</b>	Relying on my favour he remained in the city
<b>dingus est omni honore</b>	He is worthy of every distinction

### ABLATIVE WITH CARDINAL NUMBERS

**Ablative with cardinal numbers.** Ordinal numbers are : **primus, secundus** or **alter, tertius**, et cetera. These numbers order either placement or sequence. Ordinal numbers are declinable. Cardinal numbers are : **unus, duo, tres**, et cetera. These numbers 'count.' Except for several numbers which are declinable, these numbers are employed without regard to case, number, and gender. Cardinal numbers or the noun **pauci** a few and **quidam** a certain one with the preposition **e / ex** or **de** plus a noun designate the whole in the ablative. Example :

<b>tres ex amicis meis</b>	Three of my friends	<b>pauci ex amicis</b>	A few of the friends
<b>centum ex viris</b>	100 of the men	<b>duodecim ex viris</b>	17 of the men
<b>quinque ex eis</b>	Five of them	<b>viginti unus de pueris</b>	21 of the boys
<b>unus ex hostibus</b>	One of the enemy	<b>quidam ex eis</b>	A certain one of them
<b>quattuor de nostris</b>	Four of us	<b>quidam ex militibus</b>	Certain of the soldiers

**Nota bene** : **tres ex amicis meis** three of my friends but **tres amici** three friends

**Nota bene** : Never use this construction with **milia** one thousand

### ABLATIVE OF TIME WHEN OR WITHIN WHICH

**Ablative of time when or within which.** The Romans indicated the time when or within which an act occurred by using the ablative *without* a preposition. Translate by inserting the appropriate preposition : **at, on, or within**. Do not use the preposition **for**, which indicates a *duration of time* within which an act occurs. The use of **for** takes the accusative. Example :

When	<b>eo tempore non poteram id facere</b>	At that time I could not do it
When	<b>agricolae bonis annis valebant</b>	In the good years the farmers flourished
Within	<b>eodem die venerunt</b> [die, ablative of dies, day]	They came [on] the same day
When	<b>aestate ludebant</b> [aestate, ablative of aestas, summer]	In the summer they used to play
Within	<b>paucis horis id faciet</b>	In [within] a few hours he will do it
When	<b>eodem die iit</b>	He went on the same day
Within	<b>paucis horis domum ibit</b>	He will go home in / within a few hours

**Nota bene** : It is easy to identify this construction, for a unit of time without a preposition is present

### ACCUSATIVE OF THE DURATION OF TIME

**Accusative of the duration of time.** The accusative of the duration of time indicates not the time at or within which an act occurs, but the duration : a period of time an act occurs. The ablative of time does not take a preposition. The accusative of time also does not take a preposition. Translate by inserting **for**, to indicate duration. Example :

<b>multos annos vixit</b>	He lived [for] many years
<b>paucis horas domi manebit</b>	He will stay at home [for] a few hours
<b>quinque et viginti annos <u>natus</u>, imperator factus est</b>	At the age of 25 [literal : having been born for 25 years] he became commander

**Nota bene** : The accusative of time is used in citing a person's age





### SUMMARY OF PREPOSITIONS

**Summary of prepositions.** Are ya' feelin' frayed at the edge, when to use a prep' ? The following prepositions are found in the ablative construction. Example :

<b>a, ab</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>in</b>	<b>In, on, upon</b>
<b>cum</b>	<b>With</b>	<b>sine</b>	<b>Without</b>
<b>de</b>	<b>From, down from, off from, about, concerning</b>	<b>pro</b>	<b>For, instead of, in return for, in behalf of, in front of</b>
<b>e, ex</b>	<b>Out of, from</b>	<b>sub</b>	<b>Under, at the foot of</b>

The accusative is used as follows : **in** and **sub** to express the place to which something moves. The ablative expresses the place where something is or is done. Example :

<b>in castra contendebant</b> [accusative]	<b>They were hurrying into camp</b>
<b>in castris manebant</b> [ablative]	<b>They remained in camp</b>
<b>sub nostram aciem successerunt</b> [accusative]	<b>They came up under our line</b>
<b>sub monte consederunt</b> [ablative]	<b>They encamped at the foot of a hill</b>

To express **of** with the sense : **concerning** use **de**. Example :

<b>de proelio cognoscere</b>	<b>To learn of the battle</b>
<b>de victoria desperare</b>	<b>To despair of victory</b>
<b>legatum certiore facere de adventu hostium</b>	<b>To inform the general of the approach of the enemy</b>

Ablatives with a preposition. Example :

<b>cum</b> to indicate <b>accompaniment</b>	<b>cum amico id scripsit</b> <b>He wrote it with his friend</b>
<b>cum</b> to indicate <b>manner</b> [whether / not an adjective is used]	<b>cum cura id scripsit / magna cum cura id scripsit</b> <b>He wrote it with care / He wrote it with great care</b>
<b>in</b> and <b>sub</b> to indicate <b>place where</b>	<b>in urbe id scripsit</b> <b>He wrote it in the city</b>
<b>a / ab, de, e / ex</b> to indicate <b>place from which</b> [motion]	<b>ex urbe id misit</b> <b>He sent it from the city</b>
<b>a / ab, de, e / ex</b> to indicate <b>separation</b> [no motion implied]	<b>ab urbe eos prohibuit</b> <b>He kept them from the city</b>
<b>a / ab</b> to indicate <b>personal agent</b>	<b>ab amico id scriptum est</b> <b>It was written by his friend</b>
<b>ex</b> or <b>de</b> following certain <b>cardinal numerals</b> [to indicate a group of which some part is specified]	<b>tria ex navibus discesserunt</b> <b>Three of the ships departed</b>

Ablatives without a preposition. Example :

<b>Means / instrument</b>	<b>sua manu id scripsit</b> <b>He wrote it with his own hand</b>
<b>Manner</b> [when an adjective is used]	<b>magna cura id scripsit</b> <b>He wrote it with great care</b>
<b>Time when / within which</b>	<b>eo tempore / una hora id scripsit</b> <b>He wrote it at that time / in one hour</b>
<b>Separation</b> [sense of freeing, lacking, depriving]	<b>metu eos liberavit</b> <b>He freed them from fear</b>