

LATIN AND THE INDICATIVE VERB AND THE INFINITIVE FORMATION AND USAGE

The verbal system. Latin is an **inflected** language, from the verb : **inficio, inficere, infeci, infectum** (3, *io*-variant). **to stain, taint, dye.** Since word order is free, you look to the end of the word – the ending, the tainting – for function and meaning

Nouns are inflected for number and case; **pronouns** and **adjectives** (including **participles**) are inflected for number, case, and gender; and **verbs** are inflected for person, number, tense, voice, and mood

The verb, to meet the restraint of time, is **conjugated** : **conjugo, conjugare, conjugavi, conjugatum** (1). The word **conjugo** is formed from a **prefix** and a **noun**. Firstly, the noun : **jugum, -i**. 2n. **yoke**. A yoke is a wooden crosspiece used to join two oxen to form a work team. Secondly is the prefix **con**. The prefix's sense is to bring together several objects. When **con** is prefixed to a verb it has the added sense to either complete or intensify the action. Thus, the inflected verb – the yoked oxen – with its endings can **taint** the action through the nuance of person, number, tense, voice, and mood

Nota bene :



boves cum iugo

The Romans would have been puzzled by the words : **conjugo** and **jugum**. These words are spelt with the letter : **j**

The classical Latin alphabet did not have the letter : **j**

Latin was Europe's *lingua franca* during the Medieval period. By the end of the Renaissance era, the Latin alphabet had evolved and expanded from 23 letters to 26. The enlarged alphabet allowed both an expanded vocabulary and a greater range of pronunciation

Antiquity used the letter : **i, coniugo** and **iugum**

The verbal system. The noun is **conjugation** and the verb is **to conjugate**. The **finite** verb's characteristic are : **persona, person;** **numerous, number;** **tempus, tense;** **vox, voice;** and **modus, mood**. The finite verb also has **aspect**. Cited below are three finite verbs and their characteristics that enable them to stand alone. Example :

erat : third-person singular imperfect active indicative of **sum**. **he / she / it / was**

portavisti : second-person singular perfect active indicative of **porto**. **you carried / you did carry / you have carried**

venient : third-person plural future active indicative of **venio**. **they shall come / they will come**

persona : The subject, performs (active) or receives (passive) the action, from the speaker or speakers perspective : 1st, the speaker(s) (I, we), 2nd the person or persons spoken to who (you), and 3rd persons spoken about (he, she, it, they)

numerus : The inflection of a verb shows whether the subject is **singular** or **plural**

tempus : The tense of a verb states **when the action occurs, has occurred, or will occur**. The simplest categories of tense (time) are **present, past, and future**. There is the additional concern of a verb's **aspect**. Is the verb's action **completed** or **continuing**? Aspect from the perspective of present time:

he walks – **simple**
he is walking – **continuous (progressive)**
he has walked – **completed**

vox : There are two grammatical voices in Latin : the **active** indicates the subject is the doer of the action; the **passive** shows the subject as the recipient of the verbal action

modus : There are three moods or tones of verbal action of verbal action. By mood we refer to the manner in which the speaker conceives of the action. The mood of fact is the **indicative**, and is used for making **direct** statements or asking direct questions. The **subjunctive** is used to express an idea, intent, desire, uncertainty, potentiality, or anticipation. The **imperative** is used to express the action as a command

Tenses of the indicative. There are **six** tenses in the **indicative mood**. The tenses are : **present, imperfect, future, perfect, pluperfect, and the future perfect**. In addition, to a verb's tense, conjugation includes : **person, number, and voice**

Aspect, though not part of a verb's conjugation; it refers to a verb's relationship to another verb : is the action completed or continuing? Since all speech, both oral and written, is continuous; aspect is the ongoing **time relationship** of one verb to another to achieve clarity, conciseness, and completeness of narrative expression

Two tables are cited below. *The Tense-Aspect Relationship* and *The Primary and Secondary Tenses of the Indicative*. The model verb throughout is : **opto, optare, optavi, optatum** (1). **to desire, wish for, choose, select**. Example :

THE TENSE-ASPECT RELATIONSHIP				
TENSES				
	Present (Primary)	Past (Secondary)	Future (Primary)	
A S P E C T S	Simple	optat he desires (Present)	optavit he desired (Perfect)	optabit he will desire (Future)
	Continuous (Progressive)	optat he is desiring (Present)	optabat he was desiring (Imperfect)	optabit he will be desiring (Future)
	Completed	optavit he has desired (Perfect)	optaverat he had desired (Pluperfect)	optaverit he will have desired (Future Perfect)

PRIMARY AND SECONDARY TENSES OF THE INDICATIVE	
PRIMARY	SECONDARY
All tense forms that refer to present and future time, includes the imperative	All tense forms that refer to past time, includes the historical infinitive
Present : opto , I desire Present perfect : optavi , I have desired Future : optabo , I shall desire Future perfect : optavero , I shall have desired	Imperfect : optabam , I was desiring Historical perfect : optavi , I desired Pluperfect : optaveram , I had desired

PRESENT INDICATIVE TENSE USAGE

Present tense. Of an action going on now or is habitual. Example :

optat He desires, he is desiring, he [continually, habitually] desires, he does desire

veritatem optat He desires the truth

Of general truths. Example :

dulce et decorum est pro patria mori Sweet and seemly 'tis to die for the fatherland

Of a past action in vivid narration [historical present]. Example :

reliqui se fugae mandant. omnibus locis fit caedes. tres nobilissimi Haedui capiuntur The rest betook themselves to fight. Everywhere slaughter ensued. Three Haeduans of noble rank were captured

With **iam now**, **iam diu now for a long time**, **iam pridem now long since**, of an action begun in the past and continuing into the present. Example :

Mithridates annum iam diu vicesimum regnat Mithridates has been reigning now going on twenty years [and is still reigning]

With **dum while**, **within the period that** even when referring to the past. Example :

dum haec geruntur, naves solverunt While this was going on, they set sail

Imperfect tense. Of action going on or was habitual in the past. Example :

optabat He desired [continually, habitually], was desiring, used to desire, kept on desiring

veritatem optabat

He desired [continually, habitually] the truth

Of an action either repeated or habitual in the past. Example :

crebras excursiones faciebant

They kept making frequent sallies

puer ad hoc templum veniebam

As a boy I often came to this temple

Of an action attempted in the past [conative imperfect : an attempted act as opposed to the action itself]. Example :

nos progredi prohibebant

They tried to prevent us from advancing

With **iam**, **iam diu**, **iam pridem** of an action in the more remote past and continuing into the near past. Example :

iam diu oppidum obsidebant

They had long been besieging the town [and were still besieging it]

Perfect tense. Of an action completed by the present time [present perfect]. Example :

optavit

He desired

veritatem optavit

He desired the truth

Of a present state resulting from a previously completed action. Example :

cognovi

I know [I have learned]

consuevi

I am accustomed [I have become accustomed]

memini

I remember [I have recalled]

odi

I hate [I have come to hate]

To denote that something took place in past time [historical perfect]. Example :

in castris Helvetiorum tabulae repertae sunt

In the camp of the Helvetians records were found

With **ubi when**, **postquam after**, **antequam before** and **priusquam before** [sense : sooner], **simul atque as soon as** referring to a single past occurrence. Such clauses are usually in the pluperfect in English. Example :

ubi signum datum est, impetum fecerunt

When the signal had been given, they charged

Pluperfect tense. Of an action already completed at some time in the past. Example :

optaverat

He had desired

veritatem optaverat

He had desired the truth

Of an action completed in the past before some other past action. Example :

cum copiis quas coegerat profectus est

He set out with the troops which he had collected

Of a past state resulting from a previously completed action. Example :

cognoveram

I knew [I had learned]

consueveram

I was accustomed [I had become accustomed]

Future tense. The **future tense** represents an action as going on in future time. The **future perfect** represents a future action completed before some point of time in the future. Example :

optabit

He will desire [will be desiring]

veritatem optabit

He will desire the truth

optaverit.

He will have desired

Kalendae veritatem optaverit

By the First day of the [coming] month, he will have desired the truth

After **when, if, or unless** English often uses the present tense in reference to a future action. To illustrate this usage and the **tense-aspect relationship** cited earlier, the two-sentence passage below illustrates these syntactic points. Example :

**cum ab urbe iter facies, pontem transibis. cum
pontem transieris, ad viam latam venies**

**When you are travelling from the city, you will
cross the bridge. When you cross the bridge, you
will come to a broad highway**

In the first sentence, **facies** and **transibis** are both in the **future** tense to denote concurrent action between main and subordinate clauses. In the second sentence, the future perfect **transieris** denotes a prior future completed action to the main clause's future tense **venies**. The two-sentence passage illustrates the skillful dance between tense and time of the **future perfect** and the **future** to achieve verbal timing and narrative drama

Nota bene : **English** has the **future** and the **future progressive** tenses. The future progressive is indicated by the ending : **-ing**. Latin does not distinguish between the future and the future progressive. **He will walk**. and **He will be walking** are both expressed in the same Latin verbal tense : **ambulabit**



THE INFINITIVE

The infinitives. The Latin verb has six infinitive forms : the **present active, present passive, perfect active, perfect passive, future active**, and the rarely used **future passive**. Of these forms, only first, five infinitives are used. In addition, the future active and the future passive participles combined with the infinitive of the verb **sum** yield the infinitives of the **active and passive periphrastic conjunctions**

Present infinitive.

Active. The present active infinitive is the second principle part of the verb. Example :

optare to desire
ducere to lead

Passive. To form the present passive infinitive for 1st, 2nd, and 4th conjugations, replace the final **-e** of the active infinitive with **-i**. For the 3rd conjugation, replace the entire **-ere** with **-i**. Example :

optari to be desired
impleri to be filled
duci to be led
incipi to be begun
sentiri to be felt

Perfect infinitive.

Active. The perfect active infinitive is formed for all verbs by adding **-isse** to the stem, third principal part. Example :

optavisse to have desired
implevisse to have filled
duxisse to have led
incepisse to have begun
sensisse to have felt

Passive. the perfect passive infinitive is formed with the fourth principal part, perfect passive participle, plus the infinitive of **sum, esse**. Example :

optatus, -a, -um esse	to have been desired
impletus, -a, -um esse	to have been filled
ductus, -a, -um esse	to have been led
inceptus, -a, -um esse	to have been begun
sensus, -a, -um esse	to have been felt

Future infinitive.

Active. The future active participle plus **esse**, form the future active infinitive. Example :

optaturus, -a, -um esse	to be going to desire
impleturus, -a, -um esse	to be going to fill
ducturus, -a, -um esse	to be going to lead
incepturus, -a, -um esse	to be going to begin
sensurus, -a, -um esse	to be going to feel

Passive. The *rarely used* future passive infinitive is formed from the fourth principal part and the present passive infinitive of **eo, iri**. Example :

optatum iri	to be going to be desired
impletum iri	to be going to be filled
ductum iri	to be going to be lead
inceptum iri	to be going to be begin
sensum iri	to be going to be felt

Periphrastic infinitives. The **periphrastic conjugations** have infinitives formed by compounding the **present** or **perfect** infinitives of the verb **sum** with the **future active** and **future passive participles**. In the active periphrastic conjugation, this infinitive, with **esse**, merges with, and is in fact one and the same thing as, the **future active infinitive**. The infinitive of the passive periphrastic carries with it the notion of **obligation, necessity, or propriety**, just as the finite periphrastic forms do

Active.

optaturus esse	to be going to desire
optaturus fuisse	to have been going to desire

Passive.

optandus esse	to have to be desired
optandus fuisse	to have had to be desired



THE INFINITIVE AND ITS USAGE

The Infinitive. The verb forms discussed above are *finite* forms. The Latin word *finis* means *boundary* or *limit*, and consequently finite forms are bounded or limited by person, number, tense, voice, and mood. The *infinitive* is not limited as to person, number, and mood, but it does have *tense* and *voice*. The infinitive is an abstract noun. *optare*, translated : *to desire*, also : *desiring*, to express a verbal activity. Example :

<i>THE INFINITIVE</i>		
	Active	Passive
Present	<i>optare</i> to desire	<i>optari</i> to be desired
Perfect	<i>optavisse</i> to have desired	<i>optatus esse</i> to have been desired
Future	<i>optaturus esse</i> to be going to desire	<i>optatum iri</i> to be going to be desired
<u>Nota bene</u> : Classical Latin rarely used the future passive infinitive		

The four conjugations. With the exception of the verb *to be, esse*; every Latin verb belongs to one of four classes or *conjugations* : the *first, second, third, or fourth*.

- **First** conjugation verbs have a present infinitive ending : *-are*. Example : *optare, to desire*
- **Second** conjugation verbs have a present infinitive ending : *-ēre* (a long ē). Example : *implēre, to fill*
- **Third** conjugation verbs have a present infinitive ending : *-ere* (e is short). Example : *incipere, to begin*
- **Fourth** conjugation verbs have a present infinitive ending : *-ire*. Example : *sentire, to feel, perceive*

The principal parts. Most Latin verbs have four principal parts cited. The verb *opto, to desire*. Example :

- *opto, -are, -avi, -atus*

The forms, written in full. Example :

- *opto, optare, optavi, optatus*

The forms, explained in full. Example :

- *opto* : first person singular, present active indicative : *I desire*
- *optare* : present active infinitive : *to desire*
- *optavi* : first person singular, perfect active indicative : *I desired, I have desired*
- *optatus* : perfect passive participle : *have been desired, desired*

The present active indicative system of the first two conjugations. A Latin verb usually consists of a *stem*, a *tense sign*, and an *ending*. The *stem* for the *present, imperfect, and future tenses* is called the *present stem*, derived from the second principal part of the verb, the present infinitive, the *-re* ending is dropped. The four conjugations, with stems. Example :

<i>THE STEM</i>	
<i>opto, -are</i>	<i>opta / re</i>
<i>impleo, -ēre</i>	<i>implē / re</i>
<i>incipio, -ere</i>	<i>incipi / re</i>
<i>sentio, -ire</i>	<i>senti / re</i>

Tense signs. The Latin verb in the **present tense** has no tense sign. However, all conjugations have a **tense sign** for the **imperfect** : **-ba-** . The first and second conjugation verbs have a tense sign for the **future** : **-bi-** . These signs are added to the stem. Example :

- **opto, optare** : **opta-** present, **optaba-** imperfect, **optabi-** future
- **impleo, implere** : **imple-** present, **impleba-** imperfect, **implebi-** future

The personal endings, person : the **first**, **second**, **third**, or **fourth** and the **number** : **singular** or **plural** of the verb. Example :

<i>FIRST CONJUGATION</i>				
Singular		Present	Imperfect	Future
1	-o or -m	opt o	optab am	optab o
2	-s	opt as	optab as	optab is
3	-t	opt at	optab at	optab it

<i>FIRST CONJUGATION</i>				
Plural		Present	Imperfect	Future
1	-mus	opt amus	optab amus	optab imus
2	-tis	opt atis	optab atis	optab itis
3	-nt	opt ant	optab ant	optab unt

<i>SECOND CONJUGATION</i>				
Singular		Present	Imperfect	Future
1	-o or -m	impel o	impleb am	impleb o
2	-s	imples s	implebas s	implebis s
3	-t	implet t	implebat t	implebit t

<i>SECOND CONJUGATION</i>				
Plural		Present	Imperfect	Future
1	-mus	imple mus	implebamus	impleb imus
2	-tis	implet is	implebat is	implebit is
3	-nt	implet nt	implebant	implebunt

Orthography of conjugation. The first person singular of the first conjugation, **-a-** of the stem is absorbed into the **-o** personal ending. This is true for all first conjugation verbs. The **-o** and **-m** endings are not interchangeable. The future of the first and second conjugations and the present indicative of all conjugations use the **-o** endings in the first person singular. All other tenses in the present system use the **-m** ending. In the future of the first two conjugations, the **-i-** of the tense sign is absorbed into the **-o** personal ending and changes to **-u-** in the third person plural

Interpreting a Latin verb. To read and understand a Latin verb, interpret by reading backwards. Example :

optabant -nt = **they**
 -ba- = imperfect tense sign
 opta- = **desire**
Therefore : **they used to desire**, third person plural imperfect active indicative

terremus -mus = **we**
 = present tense, no tense sign
 terre- = **frighten**
Therefore : **we are frightened**, first person plural present active indicative



THE COMPLEMENTARY INFINITIVE

Complimentary infinitive. Verbs that take an **infinitive** to complete their meaning, these verbs are the **complementary infinitive**. These verbs express ability, will, desire, and so forth. Example :

amicum <u>videre</u> opto	I desire <u>to see</u> [my] friend
ad Italiam <u>ire</u> solemus	We are accustomed <u>to go</u> to Italy
parentes et amicos noli <u>relinquere</u>	Don't <u>abandon</u> your parents and friends
amicum <u>videre</u> possum	I am able <u>to see</u> [my] friend
clarissimum virum <u>videre</u> potes ?	Can you <u>see</u> the very famous man ?
bonus populum <u>laudare</u> potest	The good man is able <u>to praise</u> the people
bonus <u>esse</u> videtur	He seems <u>to be</u> good
honestus vir <u>esse</u> videtur	He seems <u>to be</u> an honourable man

Nota bene : Infinitives complete the idea of the verb. In the first example cited above, the **infinitive** is paired with a **transitive verb**. Therefore, in this instance, the infinitive is acting as an **object infinitive**, since the infinitive functions as the direct object of the transitive verb

The last two examples use the verb **sum**, **to be**. **sum** expresses a **state of being**. **sum** can have a subject, but *no* direct object. In the example : **Marcus puer est**, **Marcus is a boy**, with **puer** in the nominative singular masculine being in agreement with **Marcus**, also in the nominative singular masculine

Modal verb. The **modal verb** indicates **modality** – that is : likelihood, ability, permission, request, capacity, suggestions, order, or advice. The modal verb's meaning is completed by the **present infinitive**, acting as the **complementary infinitive**, Example :

omnes arma <u>ferre</u> possunt	All are able <u>to bear</u> arms
nemo <u>progredi</u> extra agmen ausus est	No one dared <u>to advance</u> beyond the column

Nota bene : **fero, ferre, tuli, latum** (3, irregular). **to bear, bring, carry**
progredior, progredi, progressus sum (3, semi-deponent). **to come, go, advance, march forth / on / forward**



COMMONLY CITED MODAL VERBS

audeo, audere, ausus sum (2, semi-deponent). **to venture, dare**

coepi, coepisse, coeptum (defective, no present tense). **began** [used only in the perfect system] [For present system : **incipio, incipere, incepi, inceptum** (3, *io*-variant). **to begin**]

cogito, cogitare, cogitavi, cogitatum (1). **to think, ponder, consider, plan**

cogo, cogere, coegi, coactum (3). **to drive or bring together, force, compel**

constituo, constituere, constitui, constitutum (3). **to determine, confirm** [with infinitive : **decide, resolve**]

consuesco, consuescere, consuevi, consuetum (3). **am accustomed, inure or habituate**

cupio, cupere, cupivi, cupitum (3, *io*-variant). **to desire, wish, long for**

debeo, debere, debui, debitum (2). **to ought**

decerno, decernere, decrevi, decretum (3). **to decide + accusative, [law] pronounce decision, [military] decide by combat**

desisto, desistere, destiti, desitum (3, no passive). **to stand apart, cease, desist**

disco, discere, didici (3, no supine, no passive). **to learn, am taught**

instituo, instituere, institui, institutum (3). **to establish, undertake, begin**

iubeo, iubere, iussi, iussum (2). **to order** [someone to do something. *iubeo* cannot be used in the sense of a military command, use the verb : **impero, imperare, imperavi, imperatum** (1, + dative). **to command, give orders to, rule (over)**]

malo, malle, malui (irregular, no passive, no imperative). **to prefer**

maturatio, maturare, maturavi, maturam (1). **to hasten**

nescio, nescire, nescivi, nescitum (4). **do not know (how)**

nolo, nolle, nolui (irregular, no passive). **am unwilling, do not wish**

paro, parare, paravi, paratum (1). **to prepare**

patior, pati, passus sum (3, deponent, *io*-variant). **to allow (permit)**

possum, posse, potui (irregular, no passive). **am able, can**

prohibeo, prohibere, prohibui, prohibitum (2). **to prevent**

scio, scire, scivi, scitum (4). **to know (how)**

sino, sinere, sivi, situm (3, + accusative of person and infinitive). **to allow, permit**

soleo, solere, solitus sum (2, semi-deponent, no imperative, no future). **am accustomed**

statuo, statuere, statui, statutum (3). **to resolve**

studeo, studere, studui (2, no passive, no supine). **am eager**

timeo, timere, timui (2, no supine). **to fear**

vereor, vereri, veritus sum (2, semi-deponent). **to fear** [synonym : *timeo*]

veto, vetare, vetui, vetitum (1). **to forbid**

volo, velle, volui (irregular, no passive, no imperative). **to wish, am willing**

Modal verbs and *possum* and *debeo* usage. Phrases such as **could have gone** and **ought to have gone** are expressed by a past tense of **possum** and **debeo** with the present infinitive of the verb : **eo, ire, ii, itum** (4, irregular). **to go.** Example :

ire possum	I can go
ire debeo	I ought to go
ire potui	I could have gone
ire debui	I ought to have gone

Modal verbs and *prohibeo*. The verb : **prohibeo, prohibere, prohibui, prohibitum** (2). **to forbid, prohibit, prevent** takes a complementary infinitive. Example :

sororem ire prohibet	He prevents his sister from going
ire prohibetur	She is prevented from going

Modal verbs *iubeo* and *veto*. The verbs : **iubeo, iubere, iussi, iussum** (2). **to order** and **veto, vetare, vetui, vetitum** (1). **to forbid** may be translated variously. Example :

nos discedere iussit	He ordered [commanded, bade, told] us to leave
nos discedere vetuit	He forbade us [ordered us not, told us not] to leave

Predicate genitive, aka : genitive of characteristic. A noun in the **genitive case** which stands alone, or modified by an adjective, in the predicate denotes either a characteristic or a class. Example :

hominis sapientis est libros legere	It is [the mark] of a wise man to read books [Reading books is the mark of a wise man]
boni est deos laudare	It is [the mark] of a good [man] to praise the gods

Nota bene : **legere** and **laudare** are the subjects of the verb **est**. English translation, particularly the phrasing, “**It is the mark ...**” conveys a formal and cultured approach to the expressed sentiment

Infinitive as subject of *esse* and some impersonal verbs. The infinitive may be used as the subject of **esse** and some **impersonal verbs**. The infinitive as a subject is considered a **neuter noun** and is modified by a **neuter adjective**. Example :

humanum est errare	To err is human
castra munire erat difficile	It was difficult to fortify the camp
libros legere bonum est	To read books is [a] good [thing], Reading books is good , It is a good thing to read books
scimus bonum esse libros legere	We know that to read books is [a] good [thing], We know that reading books is [a] good [thing] [Nota bene : The infinitive legere is the subject accusative of the infinitive esse]

Infinitive as subject of a verb. The infinitive as **subject** of a verb. Example :

videre est credere	Seeing is believing. [literal : To see is to believe]
difficile non est vitam bene agere	It is not difficult to conduct life well
hoc est bonum, bene agere et multos amicos habere	This is good, to do well and to have many friends
facta fortia perficere optimum videtur	To accomplish brave deeds seems best
est nati omnibus dictis parentis credere	It is the mark of a child to believe all the sayings of his parent
bene vivere oportet	It is proper to live well [Nota bene : Common construction and use of an impersonal verb]

Infinitive as object of another verb. The infinitive, sometimes with the subject accusative, may be used as the object of another verb. Example :

Romam ire volumus	We want to go to Rome
dux milites oppidum oppugnare iussit	The leader ordered the soldiers to attack the town

vos hoc facere vetat

He forbids you to do this

dux milites se recipere prohibuit

The leader prevented the soldiers from withdrawing

Infinitive in apposition. The infinitive may be in apposition to a noun or neuter pronoun, such as **hoc** or **quid**. Example :

ea potestas magistratui maxima permittitur, exercitum
parare, bellum gerere

This is the greatest power conferred on a magistrate[the
power] to raise an army, and to wage war

vident et sentiunt hoc idem quod vos, unum virum esse
idoneum

They see and feel just as you do [literal : this same thing as
you], that there is [esse] only one man suitable

THE INFINITIVE IN THE INDIRECT STATEMENT

The infinitive in the indirect statement. The sentence : **lulius veritatem optat**, **Julius desires the truth** is a direct statement. A direct statement may be reported by another, turning the sentence from direct to indirect speech. Therefore, the indirect statement is the essence of the original speaker's words as reported by someone else, though not necessarily the speaker's exact words : **dicit lulium veritatem optare**, **He says that Julius is desiring the truth**

English introduces the indirect statement with the pronoun **that**, employed as a **subordinate conjunction** (for which there is no equivalent in classical Latin). Therefore, to change a **statement from direct to indirect**, the subject of the direct statement changes from **nominative** to the **accusative** case, the **finite verb** is changed to an **infinitive**. Example :

Nota bene : The original sentence **lulius veritatem optat** has a finite verb **optat**, a nominative **lulius**, and an accusative **veritatem**. Observing the syntactic change from direct to indirect construction, the sentence after the verb **dicit**, **he says** has **two objects** : **lulium** now in the **accusative** and **veritatem**, as a **predicate accusative**

An accusative in the predicate referring to the same person or thing as the direct object, but not in apposition is a **predicate accusative**. Exempli gratia : **Ciceronem consulem creare**, **To elect Cicero consul**

The tense of the infinitive is relative to that of the main verb.

- The **present** infinitive expresses the same time as the principal verb
- The **perfect** infinitive expresses time before the time of the principle verb
- The **future** infinitive expresses time after the time of the principal verb

Present infinitive.

dicit lulium veritatem optare

He says [now] that Julius is desiring the truth [now]

dixit lulium veritatem optare

He said [yesterday] that Julius was desiring the truth [yesterday]

dicet lulium veritatem optare

He will say [tomorrow] that Julius will be desiring the truth [tomorrow]

Perfect infinitive.

dicit lulium veritatem optavisse

He says [now] that Julius has desired / desired the truth [yesterday]

dixit lulium veritatem optavisse

He said [yesterday] that Julius had desired the truth [the day before yesterday]

dicet lulium veritatem optavisse

He will say [tomorrow] that Julius has desired the truth [today]

Future infinitive.

dicit lulium veritatem optaturum esse

He says [now] that Julius will desire the truth [tomorrow]

dixit lulium veritatem optaturum esse

He said [yesterday] that Julius would desire the truth [today]

dicet lulium veritatem optaturum esse

He will say [tomorrow] that Julius will desire the truth [the day after tomorrow]

Nota bene : Reference the **future infinitive** : since the future active, perfect passive, and the periphrastic infinitives are composed of a participle and the infinitive **esse**; the participle acts as a **predicate adjective** and must agree with its noun, the subject of the indirect statement in gender, number, and case. **optatum esse** agrees with **lulium** , 2nd masculine, singular, accusative noun : **-um**

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS CONCERNING THE FUTURE INFINITIVE

The future passive infinitive. The **future infinitive passive**, example : **portatum iri** of the verb : **porto, portare, portavi, portatum** (1). **to carry** is formed of the accusative supine and the present infinitive passive of **eo** of the verb : **eo, ire, ii, itum** (4, irregular). **to go**. In the indirect statement the supine remains unchanged whatever the subject of the infinitive may be. Example :

certior fit aquam portatum iri

He is informed that the water **will be carried**

Usage of fore or futurum esse. **fore** or **futurum esse** with a noun clause, **ut** with the present or imperfect subjunctive, takes the place of the future infinitive of a verb that lacks the supine. In the primary sequence that is, when the subordinate clause occurs in a sentence whose principal verb is in a primary tense, the present tense of the subjunctive is used, in the secondary sequence that is, when the subordinate clause occurs in a sentence whose principal verb is in a secondary tense, the imperfect tense of the subjunctive is used. Example :

dicit fore ut Helvetii nobis resistant

He says that the Helvetii **will resist us**

dixit fore ut Helvetii nobis resisterent

He said that the Helvetii **would resist us**

This usage is often used in place of the future infinitive passive. You may see both. Example :

nuntiat Germanos expulsum iri

nuntiat fore ut Germani expellantur

}

He announces that the Germans **will be driven out**

Possum and the lack of a future infinitive. **possum, posse, potui** (irregular). **to be able, can**. Since the verb has no future infinitive, use the verb's present infinitive : **posse**. Example :

crediderunt se adesse posse

They thought that they would **be able to be present**

Usage of nego versus dico in the indirect statement. **nego, negare, negavi, negatum** (1). **to deny**. is used in place of **dico, dicere, dixi, dictum** (3). **to say, speak, tell**. followed by a negative in the indirect statement. Example :

nego puerum dormire

I say that the boy is **not sleeping**

se hoc umquam facturum esse negavit

He said that he would **never do this**

THE HISTORICAL INFINITIVE PURE VERBAL NOUN

The historical infinitive, a pure verbal noun. The infinitive may be used in narrative passages instead of a finite verb, where English uses a finite verb. In this instance, the infinitive is called the **historical infinitive** and emphasizes the **pure verbal action** rather than the agents of that action. Example :

in viis urbis heri currere, clamare, fortiter pugnare

{

In the streets of the city yesterday [there were] **running, shouting, fighting** bravely

In the streets of the city yesterday [men / they] were **running, shouting, fighting** bravely

In the historical infinitive you can see the infinitive as a pure verbal noun, one of the earliest uses of the infinitive : **Yesterday in the streets of the city running** [occurred], **shouting** [occurred], **brave fighting** [occurred]

The subject of an historical infinitive is in the **nominative** case, **homo acriter pugnare, The man fought fiercely**. Example :

multi in oppido clamare

Many men in the town **shouted**

milites multa cum vi pugnare

Soldiers **fought** with a lot of force

alii per vias oppidi currere, alii aperte plorare, alii manus ad deos tollere

Some **ran** through the streets of the town others **wept** openly, others **raised** their hands to the gods

Nota bene : **aperte**. adverb (non-declinable). **openly**

ploro, plorare, ploravi, ploratum (1). to weep, wail, cry out, lament

tollo, tollere, sustuli, sublatum (3). to lift, raise

THE EPEXEGETICAL INFINITIVE

Epexegetical infinitive. As for Greek, a Latin infinitive may be dependent on an adjective. Example :

poeta Carmen dignum legi fecit

The poet composed a poem worthy to be read

servus erat peritus docere

The slave was skilled in teaching

hic vir aptus erat regere

This man was fit to rule

Nota bene : peritus, -a, -um. 1 / 2 adj. skillful, skilled, expert

aptus, -a, -um. 1 / 2 adj. suitable, adapted, fit, opt

servus, -i. 2m. slave (male)

serva, -ae. 1f. slave (female)

THE INFINITIVE IN EXCLAMATIONS

The infinitive in exclamations. The infinitive, with the subject accusative, may be the main verb in exclamations. Example :

talem sceleratum imperium obtinuisse !

[To think] that such a scoundrel has obtained power ! [Such a scoundrel has obtained power]

me ut hunc diem viderem vixisse !

[To think] that I have lived to see this day ! [I have lived to see this day !]

me te facere hoc non dare !

I [did] not grant to you to do this !

The enclitic **-ne** may be added to the emphatic word to stress the interrogative nature of the exclamation. Example :

mene a te victum esse !

I'm [not] beaten by you !

Nota bene : sceleratus, -i. 2m. scoundrel

obtineo, obtinere, obtinui, obtentum (2). to obtain, get hold of

THE IMPERATIVE

The imperative mood. The imperative mood expresses the action as a command. Example :

timorem mortis supera !

Overcome your fear of death !

librum huc fer !

Bring the book here !

verba sapientis audite !

Listen to the words of the wise man!

noxam patere !

Endure the injury !



The future imperative. The future imperative is used to stress the futurity of the command, particularly if the other verb in the sentence is in the **future** or **future perfect**. Rome's law courts used the future imperative. Example :

cum te video, responsum mihi dicito

When I see you, you shall tell me your answer

mox veniet, poenas dato

He will come soon, he shall pay the penalty

res publica a duobus consulibus regitor

The republic shall be ruled by two consuls

The verb : **memini, meminisse** (3, irregular, conjugated only in the perfect, pluperfect, future perfect indicative active tenses; and perfect and pluperfect subjunctive active tenses, no supine, sense perfect forms with present meaning), **to remember, be mindful of.** uses the future imperative instead of the present. Example:

mementote horum factorum fortium !

Remember [plural] these brave deeds !

COMMONLY CITED VERBS IN THE INDIRECT QUESTION

SAYING

aio, aiere, ait (3, defective, irregular, *io*-variant). to say, affirm [synonyms: dico, inquam. antonym : nego]
demonstro, demonstrare, demonstravi, demonstratum (1). to point out, show, demonstrate
dico, dicere, dixi, dictum (3). to say, tell, speak, name, call [synonyms : aio, for, loquor]
doceo, docere, docui, doctum (2). to teach, instruct, inform
exsecror, exsecrari, exsecratus sum (1, semi-deponent). to curse or execrate, detest
moneo, monere, monui, monitum (2). to remind, advise, warn
nego, negare, negavi, negatum (1). to deny, [intransitive] to refuse, [transitive] to reject, refuse, say no to [something]
nuntio, nuntiare, nuntiavi, nuntiatum (1). to announce, declare, tell, report
ostendo, ostendere, ostendi, ostentum (3). to exhibit, show, display
peto, petere, petivi, petitum (3). to seek, aim at, beg, beseech
scribo, scribere, scripsi, scriptum (3). to write, compose
iuro, iurare, iuravi, iuratum (1). to swear, take an oath / vow

KNOWING

disco, discere, didici, __(3). to learn
intellego, intellegere, intellexi, intellectum (3). to understand
memoria, - ae teneo, tenere, tenui, tentum (2). to hold, keep, possess memory, recollection, time / remembrance, history
scio, scire, scivi, scitum (4). to know [a fact]. **cognosco, cognoscere, cognovi, cognitum** (3). to know [a person]

THINKING

cerno, cernere, crevi, cretum (3). to distinguish, discern, perceive
cogito, cogitare, cogitavi, cogitatum (1). to think, ponder, consider, plan
credo, credere, credidi, creditum (3 + accusative [thing] + dative [person]). to entrust to, trust, believe
habeo, habere, habui, habitum (2). to have, hold, possess, consider, regard
puto, putare, putavi, putatum (1). to reckon, suppose, judge, think, imagine
spero, sperare, speravi, speratum (1). to hope for, hope [that]

PERCEIVING AND FEELING

audio, audire, audivi, auditum (4). to hear, listen to
gaudeo, gaudere, gavisus sum (2, semi-deponent). to be glad, rejoice
sentio, sentire, sensi, sensum (4). to feel, perceive, think, experience
video, videre, vidi, visum (2). to see, observe, understand



videsne eum venire
Do you see him coming?

Nota bene : Four verbs are duplicated between the two lists : **Commonly Cited Modal Verbs** and **Commonly Cited Verbs in the Indirect Question** : **audio, cogito, disco, and scio**

gaudeamus igitur, iuvenes dum sumus *Let us therefore rejoice, while we are still young*