

LATIN – ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF THE VERB TENSES FORMATION AND USAGE

Introduction. Conjugation has two meanings. The first sense is the derived forms of a **verb**, from basic forms or principal parts. The components are; **person (persona)** : 1st, the speaker(s), *I, we*; 2nd is the person spoken to, *you*, and the 3rd is the person spoken about, *he, she, it, they*. **Number (numerous)** indicates how many subjects, either singular or plural. **Tense** is the time of the action. Latin has six tenses: present (**tempus praesens**), imperfect (**tempus praeteritum imperfectum**), future (**tempus futurum simplex**), perfect (**tempus praeteritum perfectum**), pluperfect (**tempus praeteritum plusquam perfectum**), and future perfect (**tempus futurum exactum**). **Mood (modus)** indicates either the action or state of being of the verb. Latin has three moods: the **indicative** (which ‘indicates’ facts), the **imperative** (which orders actions), and the **subjunctive** (which describes particular, hypothetical, or potential actions). **Voice (vox)** indicates **transitive** and **intransitive** verbs. Verbs that take a **direct object** are **transitive**, therefore active voice. Verbs with **no direct object** are **intransitive**, therefore passive voice

The second sense of conjugation is the four verbal groups according to their present infinitive having the ending **-are, -ēre, -ere, or -ire** (or the passive equivalent of these), example: **amo, amare** (1). **to love, video, vidēre** (2). **to see, rego, regere** (3). **to rule, and audio, audire** (4). **to hear**. There are some verbs that fall outside this conjugation pattern, such as **capio, capere** (3 *io*-variant). **to capture, orior, oriri** (4). **to arise**, a deponent verb conjugated in the passive with an active sense, and finally **aio** (3 *io*-variant, irregular, defective). **to say**, with the verb’s usage defined narrowly

The model verb to illustrate the second sense of conjugation. porto, portare, portavi, portatum (1). **to carry, bear, convey**. Serves as the model verb to illustrate Latin-English conjugation and translation. Example :

porto 1st person singular present indicative active
portare present infinitive active
portavi 1st person singular perfect indicative active
portatum supine or perfect passive participle

| Tense | Person | Personal Tense Endings | | | |
|---------|--------|------------------------|---------------|---------------|--------|
| | | Active Voice | | Passive Voice | |
| | | Singular | Plural | Singular | Plural |
| Present | 1 | -o, -m | -mus | -or, -r | -mur |
| | 2 | -s | -tis | -ris | -mini |
| | 3 | -t | -nt | -tur | -ntur |
| Perfect | 1 | -i | -imus | | |
| | 2 | -isti | -istis | | |
| | 3 | -it | -erunt / -ere | | |



Nota bene : Translation of a verb is stand alone. A verb within a sentence, either oral or written, always look to syntax and context

Present-system tenses. The present-system tense includes the present, imperfect, and future. The present tense is used to show an uncompleted action that occurs in the current time

Present indicative. The present indicative expresses general truths, facts, demands, and desires

porto. 1st person singular present indicative active. **I carry** (now), **I do carry** (regularly), **I am carrying** (habitually or progressively)

portor. 1st person singular present indicative passive. **I am carried, I am being carried**

Imperfect indicative. The imperfect indicative expresses an action in the past that was not completed

portabam. 1st person singular imperfect indicative active. **I carried, I used to carry**

portabar. 1st person singular imperfect indicative passive. **I was being carried, I kept being carried, I used to be carried**

Future indicative. The future tense describes either an event or circumstance in the near to distant future

portabo. 1st person singular future indicative active. **I shall carry, I will carry**

portabor. 1st person singular future indicative passive. **I shall be carried**

Perfect-system tenses. The perfect-system tense includes the perfect, the pluperfect, and the future perfect. The perfect tenses express actions that have been, had been, or will have been completed

Perfect indicative. The perfect indicative expresses a finished action in the past

portavi. 1st person singular perfect indicative active. I carried, I did carry, I have carried

portatus sum. 1st person singular perfect indicative passive. I was carried, I have been carried

Pluperfect indicative. The pluperfect indicative is used to assert an action that was completed before another

portaveram. 1st person singular pluperfect indicative active. I had carried

portatus eram. 1st person singular pluperfect indicative passive. I had been carried

Future perfect indicative. The future perfect indicative is used to assert an action that will have been completed in futurity before another action. It is often combined with the future tense

portavero. 1st person singular future perfect indicative active. I will have carried, I shall have carried

portatus ero. 1st person singular future perfect indicative passive. I will have been carried, I shall have been carried

Subjunctive-system tenses. The subjunctive-system tense includes the present subjunctive, the imperfect subjunctive, the perfect subjunctive, and the pluperfect subjunctive. Transitive verbs have a passive voice. There is *no* future tense. The subjunctive is expressed **hortatorily**, to exhort an action; **jussively**, to express a command; or **optatively**, to express a wish. Accordingly, mood in the subjunctive is asserted through auxiliary words: **may, might, should, would, may have, would have**, and so forth. Finally, always look to the subjunctive clause type

Present subjunctive.

portem. 1st person singular present subjunctive active. I may carry, I would carry, I should carry

porter. 1st person singular present subjunctive passive. Let me be carried, may I be carried

Imperfect subjunctive.

portarem. 1st person singular imperfect subjunctive active. I should carry, I would carry

portarer. 1st person singular imperfect subjunctive passive. I should be carried, I would be carried

Perfect subjunctive.

portaverim. 1st person perfect subjunctive active. I may have carried

portatus sim. 1st person perfect subjunctive passive. I may have been carried

Pluperfect subjunctive.

portavissem. 1st person singular pluperfect subjunctive active. I should have carried, I would have carried

portatus essem. 1st person singular pluperfect subjunctive passive. I should have been carried, I could have been carried

Imperative-system tenses. The imperative mood expresses commands, pleas, and recommendations. The imperative occurs in the 2nd person active voice, rarely the passive. The common exception is the deponent verb, conjugated passively with an active sense. In Rome, either judges rendering a decision or lawyers pursuing recalcitrant losers, the future imperative was oft used, to wit : **eheu, res numquam mutant** Alas, things never change

porta, portate. 2nd person singular / plural present imperative active. (You) carry ! , Carry !

portato, portatote. 2nd person singular / plural future imperative active. You shall carry

Participles. Latin participles are formed from verbs. The participle may act as either a verbal noun or a verbal adjective. There are four participles: present active, perfect passive, future passive, and future active

Present active participle.

portans (*genitive portantis*); 3rd declension termination participle. Carrying, bearing, conveying

puer portans. Carrying boy

Perfect passive participle.

portatus (feminine **portata**, neuter **portatum**); 1st / 2nd declension participle. Carried, conveyed, borne

puer portatus. Carried boy

Future active participle.

portaturus, portatura, portaturum. 1st / 2nd declension participle. About to carry, bear, convey

puer portaturus. Boy [is] going to carry, Boy who is going to carry

Future passive participle (gerundive).

portandus (feminine **portanda**, neuter **portandum**); 1st / 2nd declension participle. Which is to be carried, borne, conveyed

The future passive participle, also known as the **gerundive**, implies a sense of obligation. **puer portandus.** Literal : **The boy is about to be carried** [obligation : The boy must be carried]

Infinitives. The infinitive is a verbal (neuter singular) noun. The infinitive is used in the nominative and accusative, the gerund in other cases. Therefore, the infinitive may be used as the subject, as a complementary infinitive (**possum** (irregular), **to be able** or **can**; and **debeo** (2). **to owe, ought, must, should**), or as an accusative (**iussit eos venire. He ordered them to come.**). As with the participle, tense expresses time relative, not absolute, to the main verb. (The **present infinitive** indicates the **same time** as that of the main verb, the **perfect infinitive**, **time before** the main verb, and the **future infinitive**, **time after** the main verb.) A common use of the infinitive is the indirect statement. **magister dicit / dixit iulius esse discipulus bonus. The teacher says / said [that] Julius is a good student.** (that, is not translated.) The model verb to illustrate the indirect statement is : **dico, dicere, dixi, dictum** (3). **to say, speak, tell.** Example :

dicunt – They say

eum **iuvere** Iulius
eum **iuisse** Iulius
eum **uturum esse** Iulius

that he **is helping** Julius
that he **helped / was helping** Julius
that he **will help** Julius

dixerunt – They said

eum **iuvere** Iulius
eum **iuisse** Iulius
eum **uturum esse** Iulius

that he **was helping** Julius
that he **had helped** Julius
that he **would help** Julius

dicent – They will say

eum **iuvere** Iulius
eum **iuisse** Iulius
eum **uturum esse** Iulius

that he **is helping** Julius
that he **helped / was helping** Julius
that he **will help** Julius



The infinitive. Formation and translation of the six infinitives. Example :

Active

Present -are, -ēre, -ere, -ire
Perfect perfect stem + -isse
Future future active participle + esse

Passive

-ari, -ēri, -i, -iri
perfect passive participle + esse
supine in -um + iri

Active

Present portare, to carry
Perfect portavisse, to have carried
Future portaturus, -a, -um esse, to be about to carry, to be going to carry

Passive

portari, to be carried
portatus, -a, -um esse, to have been carried
portatum iri, to be about to be carried, to be going to be carried

Nota bene : portatum iri, To be going to be carried construction is normally found in indirect speech. Example : omnes senatores dixerunt templum conditum iri. All of the senators said that a temple would be built

Nota bene : The Romans did not widely use the future passive infinitive. In practice the common grammatical construction used the alternate expression, fore ut followed by a subjunctive clause

There are six infinitives. They are in the present active, present passive, perfect active, perfect passive, future active and future passive. Example :

Present active infinitive.

portare. Present active infinitive. The verb is important for its syntactic role (**accusativus cum infinitive**). **To carry**

Present passive infinitive.

portari. Present passive infinitive. **To be carried**

Perfect active infinitive.

portavisse. Perfect active infinitive. **To have carried**

Perfect passive infinitive.

portatus esse. Perfect passive infinitive. Verb agrees with what it is describing : number and gender. **To have been carried**

Future active infinitive.

portaturus esse. Future active infinitive. Verb agrees with what it is describing : number and gender. **Esse** has two future infinitives **futurus esse** and **fore** (**fore** is commonly used for the future passive infinitive). **To be going to carry**

Future passive infinitive.

portatum iri. Future passive infinitive. Verb is commonly used in indirect speech. **To be going to be carried**

Supine. The supine is a defective fourth declension verbal noun, based on the same stem as the perfect passive participle. The Romans used two forms, the **accusative singular** and the **ablative singular**. **portatum, -u**

Accusative supine. The accusative supine ends in **-um**, and is used with a verb of motion to show purpose. Example :

mater pompam me spectatum duxit. Mother took me to watch the procession

legati ad Caesarem gratulatum convererunt. Ambassadors came to Caesar to congratulate him

pater venit portatum liberos suos. The father came to carry his children

Ablative supine. The ablative supine ends in **-u**. The ablative is used with the neuter of certain adjectives to indicate in what respect a particular quality is applicable :

mirabile dictum. Amazing to say

facile dictum. Easy to do

difficile creditum. Hard to believe

si hoc fas est dictum. If this is right to say

nihil dignum dictum. Nothing worth of mention

Verbs of motion and the supine. The accusative (which must not be confused with the perfect passive participle) is used with verbs of motion to indicate purpose. Example : **ibant Romam rogatum pecuniam.** They were going to Rome to ask for money; **persuasum amicis venerunt,** They came to persuade their friends. (The supine can take a direct object, a dative or any other construction the basic verb can govern)

Gerund and Gerundive.

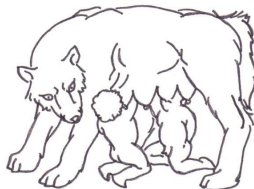
Gerund. The gerund is formed from the present active participle, the **-ns** becomes **-ndus**. Gerunds are neuter nouns, second declension. The gerund does *not* have the nominative case. The gerund as a noun, its meaning is ‘the act of doing (the verb)’, thus forming a suppletive paradigm to the infinitive, which cannot be declined

portandi. Genitive gerund. **Of carrying**

portando. Dative gerund. **To carrying**

portandum. Accusative gerund. **Carrying**

portando. Ablative gerund. **By carrying**



The gerund in four example sentences, the model verb : **vivo, vivere, vixi, victum** (3). Conjugation **-ere**. To come :

Genetive gerund. **studium vivendi cum amicis habet**. He has a fondness of [for] living with friends

Dative gerund. **bene vivendo operam dat**. He gives attention to living well

Accusative gerund. **ad bene vivendum Athenas iit**. He went to Athens to live well

Ablative gerund. **bene vivendo feliciores fimus**. We become happier by living well

Nota bene : The ablative gerund uses the preposition **ad** to indicate purpose. Example : **paratus ad oppugnandum** is translated as **Ready to attack**. When the sentence had an object, the gerund was avoided. The passive construction with the gerundive was preferred: **Ready to attach the enemy** is **paratus ad hostes oppugnandos**.

Gerundive. The gerundive's form is similar to the gerund. The gerundive is a first and second declension adjective, and functions as a future passive participle. The gerundive's sense is '(which is) to be...ed', **puer portandus**, **The boy (is) to be carried**

portandus, portanda, portandum. 1st / 2nd declension participle. **Which is to be carried, borne, conveyed**

Gerundive and the implied esse. Often the gerundive is used with an implicit **esse**, to show obligation, **puer portandus**, **The boy [is] to be carried**

Gerundive dative of obligation. **oratio laudanda est**, **The speech is to be praised**. The example sentence is grammatically and syntactically correct, however; the writer or speaker choose to insert a substantive dative for the purpose of identifying the agent of the obligation (**dativus auctoris**) . **oratio nobis laudanda est**, **The speech is to be praised by us** or **We must praise the speech**

Periphrastic conjugations. There are two types of periphrastic conjugations: active and passive. The active periphrastic conjugation uses the future participle, combined with **esse**. The active periphrastic asserts future or intended action. Example : **I am going to carry, I was going to carry**, et cetera. The passive periphrastic conjugation uses the gerundive, combined with **esse**. The passive periphrastic asserts obligation, necessity or propriety. Example : **I am to be carried, I was to be carried** or **I have to [must] be carried, I had to be carried**, et cetera

Active periphrastic conjugations.

| | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| Present indicative | portaturus sum | I am going to carry |
| Imperfect indicative | portaturus eram | I was going to carry |
| Future indicative | portaturus ero | I shall be going to carry |
| Perfect indicative | portaturus fui | I have been going to carry |
| Pluperfect indicative | portaturus fueram | I had been going to carry |
| Future perfect indicative | portaturus fuero | I shall have been going to carry |
| Present subjunctive | portaturus sim | I may be going to carry |
| Imperfect subjunctive | portaturus essem | I should be going to carry |
| Perfect subjunctive | portaturus fuerim | I may have been going to carry |
| Pluperfect subjunctive | portaturus fuissem | I should have been going to carry |

Passive periphrastic conjugations.

| | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| Present indicative | portandus sum | I am to be carried |
| Imperfect indicative | portandus eram | I was to be carried |
| Future indicative | portandus ero | I will deserve to be carried |
| Perfect indicative | portandus fui | I was to be carried |
| Pluperfect indicative | portandus fueram | I had deserved to be carried |
| Future perfect indicative | portandus fuero | I will have deserved to be carried |
| Present subjunctive | portandus sim | I may deserve to be carried |
| Imperfect subjunctive | portandus essem | I should deserve to be carried |
| Perfect subjunctive | portandus fuerim | I may have deserved to be carried |
| Pluperfect subjunctive | portandus fuissem | I should have deserved to be carried |

Infinitive periphrastic.

| | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Present infinitive | portandus esse | To deserve to be carried |
| Perfect infinitive | portandus fuisse | To have deserved to be carried |

porto, portare, portavi, portatum (1). to carry, bear, convey

Compound verbs :

asporto, asportare, asportavi, asportatum (1). to carry off

comporto, comportare, comportavi, comportatum (1). to collect

deporto, deportare, deportavi, deportatum (1). to carry down

transporto, transportare, transportavi, transportatum (1). to transport

Conjugated verb :

| Indicative | | Singular | | | Plural | | |
|------------------|----------------|--|-------------|----------------------------|---------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 1st | 2nd | 3rd |
| Active | Present | porto | portas | portat | portamus | portatis | portant |
| | Imperfect | portabam | portabas | portabat | portabamus | portabatis | portabant |
| | Future | portabo | portabis | portabit | portabimus | portabitis | portabunt |
| | Perfect | portavi | portavisti | portavit | portavimus | portavistis | portaverunt |
| | Pluperfect | portaveram | portaveras | portaverat | portaveramus | portaveratis | portaverant |
| | Future Perfect | portavero | portaveris | portaverit | portaverimus | portaveritis | portaverint |
| Passive | Present | portor | portaris | portatur | portamur | portamin | portantur |
| | Imperfect | portabar | portabaris | portabatur | portabamur | portabamini | portabantur |
| | Future | portabor | portaberis | portabitur | portabimur | portabimini | portabuntur |
| | Perfect | portatus + present active indicative of <i>sum</i> [case, number, gender agreement] | | | | | |
| | Pluperfect | portatus + imperfect active indicative of <i>sum</i> [case, number, gender agreement] | | | | | |
| | Future Perfect | portatus + future active indicative of <i>sum</i> [case, number, gender agreement] | | | | | |
| Subjunctive | | Singular | | | Plural | | |
| | | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 1st | 2nd | 3rd |
| Active | Present | portem | portes | portet | portemus | portetis | portent |
| | Imperfect | portarem | portares | portaret | portaremus | portaretis | portarent |
| | Perfect | portaverim | portaveris | portaverit | portaverimus | portaveritis | portaverint |
| | Pluperfect | portavissem | portavisses | portavisset | portavissemus | portavissetis | portavissent |
| Passive | Present | porter | porteris | portetur | portemur | portemini | portentur |
| | Imperfect | portarer | portareris | portaretur | portaremur | portaremini | portarentur |
| | Perfect | portatus + present active subjunctive of <i>sum</i> [case, number, gender agreement] | | | | | |
| | Pluperfect | portatus + imperfect active subjunctive of <i>sum</i> [case, number, gender agreement] | | | | | |
| Imperative | | Singular | | | Plural | | |
| | | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 1st | 2nd | 3rd |
| Active | Present | - | porta | - | - | portate | - |
| | Future | - | portato | portato | - | portatote | portanto |
| Passive | Present | - | portare | - | - | portamini | - |
| | Future | - | portator | portator | - | - | portantor |
| Non-finite Forms | | Active | | | Passive | | |
| | | Present | Perfect | Future | Present | Perfect | Future |
| Infinitives | | portare | portavisse | portaturus -a, -um esse | portari | portatus esse | portatum iri |
| Participles | | portans | - | portaturus -a, -um esse | - | portatus | Gerundive portandus -a, -um |
| Verbal Nouns | | Gerund | | | Supine | | |
| | | Genitive | Dative | Accusative | Ablative | Accusative | Ablative |
| | | portandi | portando | portandum | portando | portatum | portatu |

Nota bene : 3rd person plural perfect indicative active may take the **-ere** ending