

Quickie Quotes
The Participle, Gerund, Gerundive, Supine, and Infinitive

Participles. Latin has **verbal adjectives**, an adjective formed from a **verb's stem**, the **participle**

A **transitive verb** has four participles, two are **active**, the **present participle active** and **future participle active**, and two are **passive**, the **perfect participle passive** and **future participle passive**

Formation of the participle. The **present participle active** and the **future participle passive** are formed on the **verb's stem**: **laudare**. The **future participle active** and the **perfect participle passive** are formed on the participle's stem, also known as, the **supine stem** **laudatum**. The table immediately below shows the declension of the participle. **exempli gratia** :

Active		Passive				
The model verb : laudo , laudare , laudavi , laudatum (1). I praise						
Present	Present stem + -ns (genitive -ntis)		-			
Perfect	-		Participial stem + -us, -a, -um			
Future	Participial stem + -urus, -ura, -urum		Present stem + -ndus, -nda, -ndum			
Present	laudans, -ntis praising		-			
Perfect	-		laudatus, -a, -um having been praised, praised			
Future	laudaturus, -a, -um going to praise, about to praise, likely to praise		landandus, -a, -um (about) to be praised, deserving to be praised, ought to be praised			
Gerund	Genitive	Dative	Accusative	Ablative	Supine	
	laudandi of praising	laudando to / for praising	laudandum praising	laudando by praising	laudatum praising	laudatu by praising

Nota bene : The **future participle passive** is also known as the **gerundive**

Declension of the
Present Participle Active

Verb - **laudo** (present infinitive **laudare**, perfect active **laudavi**, supine **laudatum**); first conjugation : **to praise**

Participle - **laudans** (genitive **laudantis**); third-declension one-termination participle : **praising**

Number	Singular		Plural		
	Case	M / F	N	M / F	N
N		laudans		laudantes	laudantia
G		laudantis		laudantium	
D		laudanti		laudantibus	
Ac	laudantem	laudans		laudantes	laudantia
Ab		laudante laudanti *		laudantibus	
V		laudans		laudantes	laudantia

Nota bene : **laudanti**, when used as an **adjective**

Verb - **video** (present infinitive **videre**, perfect active **vidi**, supine **visum**); second conjugation : **to see**

Participle - **videns** (genitive **videntis**); third-declension one-termination participle : **seeing**

Number	Singular		Plural	
	M / F	N	M / F	N
N	videns		videntes	videntia
G	videntis			videntium
D	videnti			videntibus
Ac	videntem	videns	videntes	videntia
Ab	vidente videnti *			videntibus
V	videns		videntes	videntia

Nota bene : **videnti**, when used as an **adjective**

Verb - **discedo** (present infinitive **discedere**, perfect active **discessi**, supine **discessum**); third conjugation : **to leave, depart**

Participle - **discedens** (genitive **discedentis**); third-declension one-termination participle : **leaving, departing**

Number	Singular		Plural	
	M / F	N	M / F	N
N	discedens		discedentes	discedentia
G	discedentis			discedentium
D	discedenti			discedentibus
Ac	discedentem	discedens	discedentes	discedentia
Ab	discedente discedenti *			discedentibus
V	discedens		discedentes	discedentia

Nota bene : **discedenti**, when used as an **adjective**

Verb - **sentio** (present infinitive **sentire**, perfect active **sensi**, supine **sensum**); fourth conjugation : **to feel, perceive** (with the senses)

Participle – **sentiens** (genitive **sentientis**); third-declension one-termination participle : **feeling, perceiving** (with the senses)

Number	Singular		Plural	
	M / F	N	M / F	N
N	sentiens		sentientes	sentientia
G	sentientis			sentientium
D	sentienti			sentientibus
Ac	sentientem	sentiens	sentientes	sentientia
Ab	sentiente sentienti *			sentientibus
V	sentiens		sentientes	sentientia

Nota bene : **sentienti**, when used as an adjective

Nota bene : the **i-stem verb** and the **third io-variant verb**, retain the **-ie-** spelling

Verb - **capio** (present infinitive **capere**, perfect active **cepi**, supine **captum**); third conjugation io-variant : **to seize, take**

Participle - **capiens** (genitive **capientis**); third-declension one-termination participle : **seizing, taking**

Number	Singular		Plural	
	M / F	N	M / F	N
N	capiens		capientes	capientia
G	capientis		capientium	
D	capienti		capientibus	
Ac	capientem	capiens	capientes	capientia
Ab	capiente capienti *		capientibus	
V	capiens		capientes	capientia

Nota bene : **capienti**, when used as an adjective

Nota bene : the **i-stem verb** and the **third io-variant verb**, retain the **-ie-** spelling

Participles as Verbal Adjectives

Shared Characteristics. Participles share characteristics of both adjectives and verbs. As an adjective, participles agree in **case, number and gender** with the words they modify. Often, as **adjectives**; they do *not* modify an expressed noun but act as nouns, such as : **amans, a lover**; **sapiens, a wise man or a philosopher**; **venientes, those coming**. As **verbs**, participles have **tense and voice** and may take a **direct object** or other construction, such as, an **adverb** or an **adverbial phrase**

Time of action. A participle's **time** is *not absolute* but *relative* to the main verb : **vocans, vir auditus est, The man was calling and was heard**

The **time** relationship is illustrated in the table and sentences cited below. **exempli gratia** :

<u>Present, Perfect, and Future Participle</u> <u>Relative Time Agreement</u>	
Present Participle	Action <i>contemporary</i> with the verb : <i>same time</i>
Perfect Participle	Action <i>prior</i> to the verb : <i>time before</i>
Future Participle	Action <i>subsequent</i> to the verb : <i>time after</i>

Present	porculi, videntes lupum, timent, timerunt, timebunt	The piglets, having seen the wolf, are afraid, were afraid, will be afraid
Perfect	porculi, visi a lupo, timent, timerunt, timebunt	The piglets (having been) seen by the wolf, are afraid, were afraid, will be afraid
Future	porculi, visuri lupum, timent, timerunt, timebunt	The piglets, about to see the wolf, are afraid, were afraid, will be afraid



Present Participle Active Clause and Subordinate Clause Constructions

The present participle active, clause and subordinate clause constructions. Latin uses the participle phrase more than English. The Anglo-Saxon preference is the clause with a regular verb

A model sentence demonstrating, **present participle active** : **vocans, vir auditus est**, **The man was calling and was heard**

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <p>1. A participle</p> <p>2. A subordinate clause</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">temporal {</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">causal {</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">concessive</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">conditional</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">relative</p> <p>3. The main clause</p> | <p>1. While calling,</p> <p>2. Calling,</p> <p>3. While he was calling,</p> <p>4. When he was calling,</p> <p>5. Since he was calling,</p> <p>6. As he was calling,</p> <p>7. Because he was calling,</p> <p>8. Although he was calling,</p> <p>9. If he was calling,</p> <p>10. The man who was calling and was heard</p> <p>11. The man was calling and was heard</p> | <p style="font-size: 4em;">}</p> <p>the man was heard</p> |
|---|--|--|

Nota bene : The **present participle active** expresses the **same time** as the **main verb**

Another approach is to use a subordinate conjunction : **when, after, since, although** or the pronoun **who**. When the participle is changed, ensure the verb tense is adjusted as appropriate. **exempli gratia** :

	As a participle	As a clause
copiae e provincial ductae magnam gloriam habuerunt	After being led out of the province, the troops won great renown	After they had been led out of the province, the troops won great renown
copiae captae sunt miserae	The troops, having been captured, are unhappy	The troops, who had been led out of the province, won great renown
copiae captae non sunt miserae	The troops, having been captured, are not unhappy	Because they have been captured, the troops are unhappy
		The troops, who have been captured, are unhappy
		Although they have been captured, the troops are not unhappy
		The troops, who have been captured, are not unhappy

Conjunctions that may be used are: **postquam, after, since; quod, that, in that, because;** and **quamquam, although, yet.** **exempli gratia** :

copiae, postquam e provincia ductae sunt, magnam gloriam habuerunt

copiae, quod captae sunt, sunt miserae

copiae, quamquam captae sunt, non sunt miserae

Future Participle Active Futurity and Future Intent

The future participle active. The **future participle active** is formed on the participle's stem, also known as **supine** stem. Citing, again the model verb, **laudo, laudare, laudavi, laudatum** (1). **to praise**, with the endings : **laudaturus, -ura, -urum**. The future participle active is declined as an adjective of the first and second declensions

Nota bene: The English present participle ending in **-ing** is a **false present** when it refers to an action completed before the main verb. Latin, the actual time relationship is stressed and the perfect participle passive is used

pecunia accepta, discessit	Accepting the money, he departed
pecuniam accipiens visus est	He was seen accepting the money
meum patrem veritus, fugit	Fearing my father, he fled

The third cited sentence above, the perfect participle of a deponent verb denotes an action which began before the time of the main verb

The future participle active expresses **intention**. The commonest use of the future participle active is with the appropriate form of **sum** in the tense to express the sense of : **be going to**. The participle agrees with the subject of the verb. **exempli gratia** :

discessuri sunt	They are about to leave
discessura erat	She was going to leave
discessurus fuerat	He had intended to leave [literally : He had been intending to leave]

But...

discedet	He will leave [id est : expressing simple futurity, no intent is expressed]
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Additional sentences...

quid porculi facturi sunt	What are the piglets about to do [going to do, intending to do, likely to do, on the point of doing]?
porculi ab campo discessuri sunt	The piglets are about to leave the field
archiporculus dixit, nunc abiturus sum	The chief piglet said, I am going to leave
porculi agricolam oppugnaturi venerunt	The piglets came to assault [literally : being about to assault] the farmer

Nota bene : In the sentence **porculi agricolam oppugnaturi venerunt**, the **future participle active** may be used to express **intention** or **purpose** in the predicate after a **verb of motion**. If the construction is used, translate the verb as an **infinitive**

Transitive verbs may govern their own objects

Future Participle Active Purpose

Future participle active to express purpose. The **future participle** active may be used in constructions to express **purpose**, often with a **verb of motion**. **exempli gratia** :

lupus, pacem petiturus, venit	The wolf came to make peace [id est : The wolf came intending to make peace]
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Future Participle Active Dum

dum and the **while** clause. The verb in a **dum, while**, clause is always in the present indicative. **exempli gratia** :

dum agnus pugnat, interfectus est	While the lamb was fighting, he was killed
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The present participle passive does not exist in Latin. A **dum** clause and the verb in the present indicative passive may express the sense of a participle. **exempli gratia** :

casa, dum muniuntur, capta sunt	While the hut was being fortified, it was captured
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dum may be used with the **present indicative** to heighten the sense and immediacy of the action; though, a **present participle active** is the preferred construction. **exempli gratia** :

milites pugnantes interfecti sunt

The soldiers were fighting, they were slain

milites dum pugnans interfecti sunt

While the soldiers were fighting, they were slain

If the English subject of the main verb and the subject of the **while clause** are different, either a **dum** clause or the ablative absolute containing a present participle active may be used in Latin. **exempli gratia** :

dum milites pugnans, feminae domum venerunt

While the soldiers were fighting, the women came home

militibus pugnans, feminae domum venerunt

The Gerund

The English gerund. The English gerund has the suffix : **-ing**. The gerund has several constructions. By example :

The present progressive tense of the verb

I am *calling* you

As a verbal adjective

Crossing the street, I was injured

As a noun

We learn by *doing*

There is no means of *crossing*

Seeing is believing

The gerund as noun, the cited : *doing, crossing, seeing, and believing* are partly attributes of a **noun**, derived from a **verb**

English prepositions govern gerunds, two common prepositions are *after crossing, before crossing, et cetera*

The Latin gerund. The Latin gerund is a verbal noun used and declined in the singular of the **genitive, dative, accusative,** and the **ablative**. The gerund was never used as a sentence **subject**, a function performed by the **infinitive** : **errare est humanum, to err is human** but never : **erring is human**

The gerund is recognized by the presence of **-nd-** before the case ending

The gerund is **active voice** and may be possessed by a **deponent verb**

Irregular verbs lack the gerund, with the exception of : **fero, ferre, tuli, latum** (irregular). I bear, bring, carry and **eo, ire, ii** or **ivi, itum** (irregular). I go

The gerund is formed from the **present participle active**, changing **-ns** to **-nd-**, add the appropriate personal case ending : **genitive -i, dative, -o, accusative, -um, or ablative, -o**

<u>Declension of the Gerund</u>							
N	laudare (1)	videre (2)	mittere (3)	ferre (irr)	audire (4)	capere (3-io)	ire (irr)
G	laudandi of praising	videndi of seeing	mittendi of sending	ferendi of bearing	audiendi of hearing	capiendi of seizing	eundi of going
D	laudando to / for praising	videndo to / for seeing	mittendo	ferendo	audiendo	capiendo	eundo
Ac	laudandum praising	videndum seeing	mittendum	ferendum	audiendum	capiendum	eundum
Ab	laudando by praising	videndo by seeing	mittendo	ferendo	audiendo	capiendo	eundo

<u>Declension of Gerund, Deponent Verbs</u>					
N	mirari	fateri	sequi	moliri	mori
G	mirandi of wondering	fatendi of confessing	sequendi of following	molendi of striving	moriedi of dieing
D	mirando to / for wondering	fatendo to / for confessing	sequendo	molendo	moriendo
Ac	mirandum wondering	fatendum confessing	sequendum	molendum	morendum
Ab	mirando by wondering	fatendo by confessing	sequendo	moliedo	moriendo

Nota bene : miror, mirari, minatus sum (1, deponent). I wonder at, be amazed
fateor, fateri, fassus sum (2, deponent). I confess, admit
sequor, sequi, secutus sum (3, deponent, takes accusative). I follow, come or go after
molior, moliri, molitus sum (4, deponent). I strive, endeavour, work at
morior, mori, mortus sum (3 io-variant, deponent). I die

Gerund as noun and verbal form. Usage of the gerund as noun and verbal form may be confusing. The following examples are cited in both constructions. The model verb : canto, cantare, cantavi, cantatum (1). I sing is transitive. **exempli gratia :**

	<u>Gerund as a Noun</u>	<u>Gerund as a Verbal Form</u>
N	cantare dulce est – Singing is pleasant	carmina cantare difficile est – Singing songs is difficult
G	ars cantandi difficilis est – The art of singing is difficult	ars carmina cantandi difficilis est – The art of singing songs is difficult
D	cantando operam dedit – He paid attention to singing	carmina cantando operam dedit – He paid attention to singing songs
Ac	cum amicis ad cantandum – He went off with his friends for the purpose of singing / to sing	cum amicis ad carmina cantandum abiit – He went off with his friends for the purpose of singing songs / to sing songs
Ab	cantando uxori placuit – By singing he pleased his wife	carmina cantando uxori placuit – By singing songs he pleased his wife

Nota bene : The nominative gerund does *not* exist, use the infinitive. The infinitive acts as if were a neuter noun
The gerund as noun cannot be modified by an adjective. The gerund as verbal form, its meaning is active and if the verb is transitive, the gerund may take a direct object. carmen, in the cited examples, is the direct object. Observe the direct object is usually positioned immediately before the gerund
The accusative of the gerund takes the preposition ad, to express purpose
The gerund as verbal form may be modified by an adverb or an adverbial construction. **exempli gratia :**
bene cantando uxori placuit By singing well he pleased his wife
carmina totum diem cantando uxori non placuit By singing songs all day long, he did not please his wife

Nine Nouns and Three Adjectives Completing the Gerund Genitive Case

Nine nouns and three adjectives, completing the gerund genitive case. The genitive case of the gerund is used to complete the sense of certain nouns. Cited below is a list of nine nouns commonly used in daily constructions. **exempli gratia** :

cupiditas, cupiditatis. feminine, 3 declension. noun	desire, longing, passion; lust, passion, cupidity
difficultas, difficultatis. Feminine, 3 declension. noun	difficulty, distress, trouble, hardship
facultas, facultatis. feminine, 3 declension. noun	ability, skill; opportunity, chances
finis, finis. masculine, 3 declension, i-stem. noun.	end, limit, boundary; limit / term (in duration)
initium, initii. neuter, 2 declension. noun	beginning, start; a going in, entrance
occasio, occasionis. feminine, 3 declension. noun	occasion, opportunity; the right / favourable time
potestas, potestatis. feminine, 3 declension. noun	power, ability; mastery, control
spes, spei. feminine, 5 declension. noun	hope (belief / expectation something wished happens)
tempus, temporis. neuter, 3 declension. noun	(literally) a portion / period of time, temporarily, for a time

exempli gratia :

porculus occasionem fugiendi amisit	Piglet lost his chance of fleeing
archiporculus finem oppugnandi fecit	The chief piglet put an end to the attacking
cupidus, -a, -um. 1 / 2 declension. adjective	eager, desirous, passionate
imperitus, -a, -um. 1 / 2 declension. adjective	inexperienced, unskilled; unfamiliar, ignorant of
peritus, -a, -um. 1 / 2 declension. adjective	skillful, expert, experienced (genitive or ad + accusative)
exempli gratia :	
porculi cupidi sunt dormiendi	Piglets are fond of sleeping
archiporculus peritus est aliis persuadendi	The chief piglet is skilled in persuading others

Purpose : causa or gratia Completing the Gerund Genitive Case

Purpose : causa or gratia. The genitive of the gerund may also express purpose, with the ablative of **causa** or **gratia**, having the meaning of : **for the sake of**. **causa** / **gratia** usually following the gerund. **exempli gratia** :

cum amicis cantandi causa / gratia abiit	He went off with his friends for the sake of singing (literally : to sing)
archiporculus venit nobis persuadendi causa	The chief piglet came to persuade us

Nota bene : The first cited example quotes both **causa** and **gratia**. In Latin, **causa** and **gratia** are inter-changeable though the nouns have different meanings with the same sense : **for the sake of**

The second Latin example cites **causa**, to meet the Roman requirement of societal assertiveness. The English translation omits **causa**, since phrase-equivalency is idiomatic, not literal

Accusative Case Completing the Gerund Genitive Case

The accusative genitive. The accusative takes the preposition **ad**, meaning, **for / for the purpose of**. **exempli gratia** :

milites ad pugnandum vererunt	The soldiers came for fighting
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The accusative and some adjectives. As met, **causa** and **gratia**, assert a purposeful state. A limited number of adjectives also exert their purposefulness : **aptus**, **paratus**, and **utilis**. *exempli gratia* :

copiae errant paratae ad pugnandum

The troops were ready for fighting (literal : to fight)

est homo aptus ad agendum

He is a man suited for acting (literal : to act)

Ablative Case Completing the Gerund Genitive Case

The ablative genitive. The ablative case is used in two ways. As an ablative of means. *exempli gratia* :

An ablative of means :

vivendo discimus

We learn by seeing

fortiter pugnando hostes pellunt

By fighting bravely, they defeat the enemy

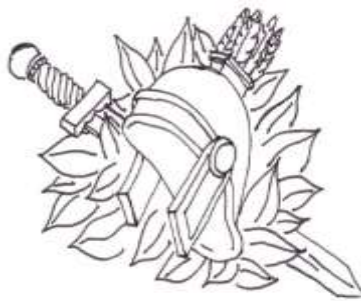
After prepositions, **in** :

occupata erat in scribendo

She was engaged in writing (id est : She was busy writing)

in pugnando occupati erant

They were engaged in fighting



The Gerundive

The Gerundive. The **gerundive** is a **verbal adjective** of the first and second declensions, formed from the **present stem** of both **active** and **deponent verbs** with the ending **-ndus**. The gerundive is declined in the same manner as **magnus**, **-a**, **-um**

Further, the gerundive, is formed from the **same stem as the gerund**, ending in the same distinctive letters : **-nd-**

The gerundive **expresses necessity**, and it is always **passive**. Finally, the gerundive's usage in English and in Latin differ

<u>Gerundive</u> <u>Formation and Meaning</u>			
<u>Conjugation</u>	<u>Infinitive</u>	<u>Genitive of the Gerund</u>	<u>Gerundive and Meaning</u>
1	laudare	laudandi	laudandus, -a, -um : to be praised
2	videre	videndi	videndus, -a, -um : to be seen
3	mittere	mittendi	mittendus, -a, -um : to be sent
4	audire	audiendi	audiendus, -a, -um : to be hearing
3-io variant	capere	capiendi	capiendus, -a, -um : to be seizing
3, deponent	sequi	sequendi	sequendus, -a, -um : to be following

The Gerundive and the Passive Periphrastic

The gerundive and the passive periphrastic. The **gerundive** and the **future passive participle** are one and the same thing. There is a difference which occurs when the **gerundive** is paired with the verb **sum**, I am

When the **gerundive** is paired with **sum**, the construction means, **periphrastic**, a roundabout way of speaking. When paired, the **gerundive** is a **predicate adjective**, agreeing with the subject of **sum** in **case**, **number**, and **gender** : **haec regina laudanda est**, this queen is to be praised

The **gerundive** sense is to convey : **necessity**, **obligation**, or **appropriate action** (not simple futurity). Observe the following constructions. **exempli gratia** :

id faciendum est this has to be done, this must / should be done

id faciendum erat this had to be done

id faciendum erit this will have to be done

Nota bene : In addition to **must**, **should**, or **ought**; additional auxiliary phrases are : **has to be**, **had to be**, or **will have to be**

The deponent verbs **utor** and **portior** may take the gerundive :

in Britanniam pervenerunt navibus utendis They reached Britain by using ships

nullam spem potiendae urbis habemus We have no hope of getting possession of the city

Genitive pronouns : **mei**, **tui**, **sui**, **nostris**, **vestris** the gerundive ends in **-ndi** without regard to gender or number of the person or persons meant :

occasio mei (tui, sui, nostris, vestris) **armandi** An opportunity of arming myself (yourself, himself, ourselves, yourselves)

The gerundive is used in agreement with the **direct object** of : **do**, **trado**, and **curo** to express purpose :

unam legionem in Morinos ducendam Fabio dedit He gave one legion to Fabius to lead into the country of the Morini

Gerundive Dative of Agent and the Passive Periphrastic

The dative of agent. The **dative of agent** is used with the **passive periphrastic**. When translating the Latin into English, the passive voice of the periphrastic is awkward, therefore, in English, use the active voice. **exempli gratia** :

hic liber mihi cum cura legendus erit This book will have to be read by me with care or I will have to (ought to, must, should) read this book with care

illa regina omnibus laudanda est That queen should be praised by all or everyone should praise that queen

pax ducibus nostris petenda erat Peace had to be sought by our leaders or our leaders had to seek peace

Final Word When to use the Gerund versus the Gerundive

Gerund versus the gerundive. The gerund is always used if the **verb is intransitive**. **exempli gratia** :

mihi credenda (confidendi, persuadendi) **est cupidus** He is eager to believe (trust, persuade) me

The **gerund** if the verb is transitive, but **governs a neuter pronoun or adjective**. **exempli gratia** :

hoc (multa) **faciendi causa venit** He came to do this (many things)

Continued...

The **gerundive** construction is used if a **transitive verb** with an **expressed object** is involved. **exempli gratia** :

Regularly after prepositions :

ad haec facienda venit He came to do this

in agris vastandis errant occupatissimi They were very busy ravaging the fields

Commonly in the genitive singular :

proelii committendi signum dedit He gave the signal for beginning the battle

Either the **gerund with an object** or the **gerundive** construction may be used in the **ablative case** to express **means** or **cause**. **exempli gratia** :

agros vastando or **agris vastandis socios terruit** By ravaging their lands he frightened the allies

The Supine

The supine. The supine is a **verbal noun**, based on the same stem as the **perfect passive participle**. Only two forms of the supine were used : the **accusative singular**, and the **ablative singular**. The supine is also defective

Formation of the supine. From the **perfect passive participle** stem, **accusative** : **-um** or **ablative** : **-u**

The accusative supine, usage. The accusative supine has two uses, to form the future infinitive passive and secondly it is used with a verb of motion to express purpose

The accusative supine has active meaning, is used with verbs of motion to express purpose, and may take a direct object. **exempli gratia** :

Romam venimus templa visum We have come to Rome to see the temples

Romam ii ludos spectatum I went to Rome to watch the games

The ablative supine, usage. The ablative supine is used with the neuter adjective to highlight either a quality or a characteristic : **mirabile dictu**, **amazing to say** (literally : amazing in respect to saying); **facile factu**, **easy to do**

In addition to the above two, cited 3rd declension **adjectives** in the neuter, **mirabilis** and **facilis**, there is a limited range of adjectives, including : **crudelis**, **detestabilis**, **difficilis**, **horribilis**, **incredibilis**, **miserabilis**, and **optimum**

The ablative supines in common use are : **auditum**, **visum**, **dictum**, and **factum**. Usage. **exempli gratia** :

hoc est facile dictu, difficile factu This is easy to say, but hard to do

optimum factu ratus est fortunam belli temptare The best to do he thought to try the fortune of war

Nota bene : Of the above two cited sentences, the second sentence cites **optimus** in the neuter singular

The ablative supine *never* takes an object. To express : **It is easy to say**, rephrase and say : **hoc dicere est facile**, **To say this is easy**

The Infinitive

The infinitive. 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). **I say, speak, tell**. **exempli gratia** :

dicunt – They say

eum **iuuare** Iulius
eum **iuuisse** Iulius
eum **iuturum** esse Iulius

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

dixerunt – They said

eum **iuuare** Iulius
eum **iuuisse** Iulius
eum **iuturum** esse Iulius

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

dicent – They will say

eum **iuuare** Iulius
eum **iuuisse** Iulius
eum **iuturum** 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. **exempli gratia** :

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 portauisse, 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. **exempli gratia** : 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. **exempli gratia** :

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

portauisse. 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