

8

Third Conjugation: Present Infinitive, Present, Future, and Imperfect Indicative, Imperative

The third conjugation, particularly in its present system tenses (present, future, and imperfect), is the most problematic of the four Latin conjugations. Because the stem vowel was short (-e-) and generally unaccented, unlike the stem vowels of the other three conjugations (-ā- in the first, -ē- in the second, and -ī- in the fourth, introduced in Ch. 10—cf. **laudāre**, **monēre**, and **audīre** with **ágere**), it had undergone a number of sound and spelling changes by the classical period. The surest procedure, as always, is to memorize the following paradigms; a little extra effort invested in mastering these forms now will pay rich dividends in every subsequent chapter.

PRESENT INDICATIVE ACTIVE

	1. ág-ō	(I lead)
Sg.	2. ág-is	(you lead)
	3. ág-it	(he, she, it leads)

	1. ágimus	(we lead)
Pl.	2. ágitis	(you lead)
	3. águnt	(they lead)

FUTURE INDICATIVE ACTIVE

	1. ág-am	(I shall lead)
	2. ág-ēs	(you will lead)
	3. ág-et	(he, she, it will lead)

	1. agēmus	(we shall lead)
	2. agētis	(you will lead)
	3. ág-ent	(they will lead)

IMPERFECT INDICATIVE ACTIVE

- | | | |
|------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| | 1. ag-ēbam | (I was leading, used to lead, etc.) |
| Sg. | 2. ag-ēbās | (you were leading, etc.) |
| | 3. ag-ēbat | (he, she, it was leading, etc.) |
| | 1. agēbāmus | (we were leading, etc.) |
| Pl. | 2. agēbātis | (you were leading, etc.) |
| | 3. agēbant | (they were leading, etc.) |

PRESENT IMPERATIVE ACTIVE

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| 2. Sg. age (lead) | 2. Pl. agite (lead) |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|

PRESENT INFINITIVE

As **-āre** and **-ēre** by this time immediately indicate to you the first and the second conjugations respectively, so **-ere** will indicate the third. Once again you can see the importance of meticulous vocabulary study, including attention to macrons: you must be especially careful to distinguish between second conjugation verbs in **-ēre** and third conjugation verbs in **-ere**.

PRESENT STEM AND PRESENT INDICATIVE

According to the rule for finding the present stem, you drop the infinitive ending **-re** and have **age-** as the present stem. To this you would naturally expect to add the personal endings to form the present indicative. But in fact the short, unaccented stem vowel disappears altogether in the first person singular, and it was altered to **-i-** in the second and third persons singular and the first and second persons plural, and appears as **-u-** in the third plural. Consequently, the practical procedure is to memorize the endings.¹

FUTURE INDICATIVE

The striking difference of the future tense in the third conjugation (and the fourth, as we shall see in Ch. 10) is the lack of the tense sign **-bi-**. Here **-ē-** is the sign of the future in all the forms except the first singular, and by contraction the stem vowel itself has disappeared.

IMPERFECT INDICATIVE

The imperfect tense is formed precisely according to the rules learned for the first two conjugations (present stem + **-bam**, **-bās**, etc.), except that

¹ This mnemonic device may help: (a) for the present use an IOU (i in 4 forms, o in the first, u in the last); (b) for the future you have the remaining vowels, a and e. It may also be helpful to note that the vowel alternation is exactly the same as that seen in the future endings of first and second conjugation verbs (**-bō**, **-bis**, **-bit**, **-bimus**, **-bitis**, **-bunt**).

the stem vowel has been lengthened to *-ē-*, yielding forms analogous to those in the first and second conjugations.

PRESENT IMPERATIVE

Also in accordance with the rule already learned, the second person singular of the present imperative is simply the present stem; e.g., **mitte** (from **mittere**, *to send*), **pōne** (**pōnere**, *to put*). In the plural imperative, however, we see again the shift of the short, unaccented *-e-* to *-i-*: hence, **mittite** and **pōnite** (not **mittete* or **pōnete*).

The singular imperative of **dūcere** was originally **dūce**, a form seen in the early writer Plautus. Later, however, the *-e* was dropped from **dūce**, as it was from the imperatives of three other common third conjugation verbs: **dīc** (**dīcere**, *say*), **fac** (**facere**, *do*), and **fer** (**ferre**, *bear*). The other verbs of this conjugation follow the rule as illustrated by **age**, **mitte**, and **pōne**; the four irregulars, **dīc**, **dūc**, **fac**, and **fer**, should simply be memorized.

VOCABULARY

Cicerō, **Cicerōnis**, m., (*Marcus Tullius*) *Cicero* (Ciceronian, cicerone)
cōpia, -ae, f., *abundance, supply*; **cōpia**, -ārum, pl., *supplies, troops, forces*
 (copious, copy, cornucopia)

frāter, **frātris**, m., *brother* (fraternal, fraternity, fraternize, fratricide)

laus, **laūdis**, f., *praise, glory, fame* (laud, laudable, laudation, laudatory, magna cum laude; cp. **laudō**)

lībértās, **lībértātis**, f., *liberty* (cp. **līber**, **lībērō**, Ch. 19, **lībērālis**, Ch. 39)

rātiō, **rātiōnis**, f., *reckoning, account; reason, judgment, consideration; system; manner, method* (ratio, ration, rational, irrational, ratiocination)

scrīptor, **scrīptōris**, m., *writer, author* (scriptorium; cp. **scrībō** below)

sóror, **soróris**, f., *sister* (sororal, sororate, sororicide, sorority)

victória, -ae, f., *victory* (victorious; see **Latīna Est Gaudium**, Ch. 5, and cp. **vincō** below)

dum, conj., *while, as long as, at the same time that*; + subjunctive, *until*

ad, prep. + acc., *to, up to, near to*, in the sense of “place to which” with verbs of motion; contrast the dat. of indirect object (administer, ad hoc, ad hominem). In compounds the **d** is sometimes assimilated to the following consonant so that **ad** may appear, for instance, as **ac-** (**accipiō**: **ad-capiō**), **ap-** (**appellō**: **ad-pellō**), **a-** (**aspiciō**: **ad-spiciō**).

ex or **ē**, prep. + abl., *out of, from, from within; by reason of, on account of*; following cardinal numbers, *of* (exact, except, exhibit, evict). The Romans used **ex** before consonants or vowels; **ē** before consonants only. Like **ad** and many other prepositions, **ex/ē** was often used as a prefix in compounds, sometimes with the **x** assimilated to the following consonant; e.g., **excipiō**, **ēducō**, **ēventus**, **efficiō** from **ex** + **faciō**, etc.

nūquam, adv., *never* (cp. **umquam**, Ch. 23)

tāmen, adv., *nevertheless, still*

āgō, āgere, ēgī, āctum, *to drive, lead, do, act; pass, spend* (life or time);

grātiās agere + dat., *to thank someone*, lit., *to give thanks to* (agent, agenda, agile, agitate, active, actor, action, actual, actuate)

dēmōnstrō (1), *to point out, show, demonstrate* (demonstrable, demonstration, demonstrative; see the demonstrative pronouns in Ch. 9)

discō, discere, didicī, *to learn* (cp. **discipulus, discipula**)

docēō, docēre, docuī, dōctum, *to teach* (docent, docile, document, doctor, doctrine, indoctrinate)

dūcō, dūcere, dūxī, dūctum, *to lead; consider, regard; prolong* (ductile, abduct, adduce, deduce, educe, induce, produce, reduce, seduce)

gērō, gēre, gēssī, gēstum, *to carry; carry on, manage, conduct, wage, accomplish, perform* (gerund, gesture, gesticulate, jest, belligerent, congest, digest, suggest, exaggerate, register, registry)

scrībō, scrībere, scrīpsī, scrīptum, *to write, compose* (ascribe, circumscribe, conscript, describe, inscribe, proscribe, postscript, rescript, scripture, subscribe, transcribe, scribble, scrivener, shrive)

trāhō, trāhere, trāxī, trāctum, *to draw, drag; derive, acquire* (attract, contract, retract, subtract, tractor, etc.; see Etymology section below)

vīncō, vīncere, vīcī, vīctum, *to conquer, overcome* (convince, convict, evince, evict, invincible, Vincent, victor, Victoria, vanquish)

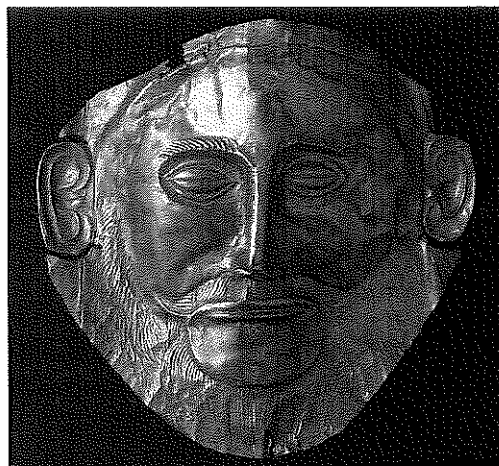
PRACTICE AND REVIEW

1. Tempora nostra nunc sunt mala; vitia nostra, magna.
2. Quārē soror mea uxōrī tuae litterās scrībit (scrībet, scrībēbat)?
3. Tyrannus populum stultum ē terrā vestrā dūcet (dūcīt, dūcēbat).
4. Ubi satis ratiōnis animōrumque in hominibus erit?
5. Cōpia vērae virtūtis multās culpās superāre poterat.
6. In liberā cīvitatē adulēscēntiam agēbāmus.
7. Rēgem malum tolerāre numquam dēbēmus.
8. Post parvam moram multa verba dē īnsidiīs scrīptōrum stultōrum scrībēmus.
9. The body will remain there under the ground.
10. Write (sg. and pl.) many things about the glory of our state.
11. Does reason always lead your (pl.) queen to virtue?
12. We shall always see many Greek names there.

SENTENTIAE ANTĪQUAE

1. Frāter meus vītam in ōtiō semper aget. (Terence.)
2. Age, age! Iuvā mē! Dūc mē ad secundum filium meum. (Terence.—
age, age = *come, come!*)

3. Ō amīcī, libertātem perdimus. (Laberius.—**perdere**, to destroy.)
4. Nova perīcula populō Rōmānō expōnam sine morā. (Cicero.—**expōnere**, to set forth.)
5. Numquam perīculum sine perīculō vincēmus. (Publilius Syrus.)
6. Ex meīs errōribus hominibus rēctum iter dēmōnstrāre possum. (Seneca.—**error**, -rōris.²—**rēctus**, -a, -um, right.—**iter**, itineris, n., road, way.)
7. Catullus Mārcō Tulliō Cicerōnī magnās grātiās agit. (Catullus.—See “Thanks a Lot, Tully!” Ch. 27.)
8. Eximia fōrma virgīnis oculōs hominum convertit. (Livy.—**eximius**, -a, -um, extraordinary.—**convertere**, to turn around, attract.)
9. Agamemnon magnās cōpiās ē terrā Graecā ad Trōiam dūcet, ubi multōs virōs necābit. (Cicero.—**Agamemnon**, -nonis.)



Gold funerary mask of “Agamemnon”
Mycenae, 16th century B.C.
National Archaeological Museum, Athens, Greece

10. Amor laudis hominēs trahit. (Cicero.)
11. Auctōrēs pācis Caesar cōservābit. (Cicero.—**auctor**, -tōris, author.—**Caesar**, -saris.)
12. Inter multās cūrās labōrēsque carmina scrībere nōn possum. (Horace.—**inter**, prep. + acc., among.)
13. Dum in magnā urbe dēclāmās, mī amīce, scrīptōrem Trōiānī bellī in ōtiō relegō. (Horace.—**urbs**, urbis, f., city.—**dēclāmāre**, to declaim.—**Trōiānus**, -a, -um.—**relegere**, to re-read.)
14. Nōn vītae, sed scholae, discimus. (*Seneca.—**vītae** and **scholae**, datives expressing purpose; see S.S., p. 443—**schola**, -ae, school.)
15. Hominēs, dum docent, discunt. (*Seneca.)
16. Ratiō mē dūcet, nōn fortūna. (Livy.)

² Hereafter in the notes, when a Latin word easily suggests an English derivative, the English meaning will be omitted.

CICERO ON THE ETHICS OF WAGING WAR

Civitas bellum sine causa bona aut propter iram gerere non debet. Si fortunās et agrōs vitāsque populī nostrī sine bellō defendere poterimus, tum pacem cōservāre debēbimus; si, autem, non poterimus esse salvī et servāre patriam libertātemque nostram sine bellō, bellum erit necessārium. Semper debēmus dēmōstrāre, tamen, magnum officium in bellō, et magnam clēm-entiam post victōriam.

(Cicero, *Dē Officiis* 1.11.34–36 and *Dē Rē Publicā* 3.23.34–35, and see L.A. 7 for a fuller adaptation.—**causa**, -ae.—**dēfendere**.—**autem**, conj., *however*.—**necessārius**, -a, -um.—**clēmēntia**, -ae.)

ETYMOLOGY

Also connected with **trahō** are: abstract, detract, detraction, distract, distraction, distraught, extract, protract, portray, portrait, retreat, trace, tract, tractable, intractable, traction, contraction, retraction, trait, treat, treaty, train, training.

In the readings

6. rectitude; cp. Eng. cognate “right.”—itinerary, itinerant. 11. kaiser, czar. 14. “School” comes through Lat. **schola** from Greek **scholē**, *leisure*. “Waging War”: causation; defense, defensive; necessary; clement, clemency.

LATĪNA EST GAUDIUM—ET ŪTILIS!

Salvēte! With this chapter’s copious new vocabulary, you can see again what a veritable linguistic cornucopia (a “horn of plenty,” from **cōpia** + **cornū**, *horn*, which is cognate with “cornet”!) you have in Latin. **Scrīptor** is one of a large group of masc. third decl. nouns formed by replacing the -um of a verb’s fourth principal part with -or, a suffix meaning essentially *one who performs the action of the verb*. So, a **monitor**, -tōris, is *one who advises*, i.e., *an advisor*; an **amātor** is *a lover*; etc. What would be the similarly formed nouns from **docēre** and **agō**? Look at the other verbs introduced in this chapter and at the vocabularies in the previous chapters; what other such -or nouns can you form and recognize?

The point is that if you know one Latin root word, then you will often discover and be able to deduce the meanings of whole families of words: the verb **discere**, e.g., is related to **discipulus** and **discipula**, of course, and also to the noun **disciplīna**. I like to point out that “discipline” is *not* “punishment” but “learning.” If you saw the popular 1993 film *Man Without a Face*, you heard lots of Latin, including a favorite old injunction and the motto of England’s Winchester College, **aut discere aut discēde**, *either learn or leave* (I have this posted on my office door). You’ll be learning, not leaving, I have no doubt, but for now, **valēte, discipulī et discipulae!**