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First and Second Conjugations: Future and Imperfect; Adjectives in -er

THE FUTURE AND IMPERFECT TENSES

The Romans indicated future time in the first two conjugations by inserting the future tense sign (-**bi-** in most forms) between the present stem and the personal endings. The tense sign -**bā-** was similarly employed (in all four conjugations) for the imperfect tense, a past tense generally equivalent to the English past progressive. The forms of these future and imperfect endings are seen in the following paradigms:

FUTURE AND IMPERFECT INDICATIVE ACTIVE OF *Laudō* AND *Moneō*

Future	Imperfect
Singular	
1. <i>laudā-bō, I shall praise</i>	<i>laudā-ba-m, I was praising, kept praising, used to praise, praised</i>
2. <i>laudā-bi-s, you will praise</i>	<i>laudā-bā-s, you were praising, etc.</i>
3. <i>laudā-bi-t, he, she, it will praise</i>	<i>laudā-ba-t, he was praising, etc.</i>
Plural	
1. <i>laudā-bimus, we shall praise</i>	<i>laudā-bā-mus, we were praising, etc.</i>
2. <i>laudā-bitis, you will praise</i>	<i>laudā-bātis, you were praising, etc.</i>
3. <i>laudā-bunt, they will praise</i>	<i>laudā-bant, they were praising, etc.</i>

Singular

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. monē-bō, <i>I shall advise</i> | monē-ba-m, <i>I was advising, kept advising, used to advise, advised</i> |
| 2. monē-bi-s, <i>you will advise</i> | monē-bā-s, <i>you were advising, etc.</i> |
| 3. monē-bi-t, <i>he, she, it will advise</i> | monē-ba-t, <i>he was advising, etc.</i> |

Plural

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1. monēbimus, <i>we shall advise</i> | monēbāmus, <i>we were advising, etc.</i> |
| 2. monēbitis, <i>you will advise</i> | monēbātis, <i>you were advising, etc.</i> |
| 3. monēbunt, <i>they will advise</i> | monēbant, <i>they were advising, etc.</i> |

Notice the vowel change in the first person singular and third plural future endings (remember **bō/bi/bi/bi/bu**—sounds like baby talk!), and the shortened **-a-** in the first and third singular and third plural of the imperfect (remember that vowels which are normally long are regularly shortened before **-m**, **-r**, and **-t** at the end of a word, and before **nt** or another vowel in any position).

The “infixes” **-bi-** and **-bā-** (with the distinctive **-i-** and **-ā-**) can be easily remembered as signs of the future and imperfect tenses, respectively, if they are associated with the English auxiliary verbs “will” and “was” (also spelled with **-i-** and **-a-**), which are generally used to translate those two tenses. Note that, where English requires three separate words for the ideas *he will praise* or *he was praising*, Latin requires only a single word with the three components of stem + tense sign + personal ending (**laudā + bi + t = praise-will-he** or **laudā-ba-t = praising-was-he**).

TRANSLATION

Translation of the future tense, usually with *shall* in the first person and *will* in the second and third, should present no difficulty: **dē amīcō cōgitābō**, *I shall think about my friend*; **multam sapientiam habēbunt**, *they will have much wisdom*.

The imperfect tense commonly indicates an action that was continuing or progressive in the past, as suggested by the term “imperfect” (from **imperfectum**, *not completed*), including actions that were *going on*, *repeated*, *habitual*, *attempted*, or *just beginning*. All the following translations are possible, depending upon the context in which the sentence appears:

Nautam monēbam, *I was warning (kept warning, used to warn, tried to warn, was beginning to warn) the sailor*.

Poetae vītam agricolae laudābant, *poets used to praise the farmer's life*.

Magister puerōs vocābat, *the teacher kept calling (was calling) the boys*.

Occasionally the imperfect may be translated as a simple past tense, especially with an adverb that in itself indicates continuing action: **nautam saepe monēbam**, *I often warned the sailor*.

ADJECTIVES OF THE FIRST AND SECOND DECLENSION IN -er

The problem with **e** before **r** appears in adjectives as well as in nouns like **puer** and **ager** (Ch. 3). This problem is no great one if you memorize the forms of the adjectives as given in the vocabularies (nominative masculine, feminine, neuter), since the base, whether with or without the **-e-**, appears in the feminine and the neuter forms, as seen in the following examples; likewise, just as with the **-er** nouns, your familiarity with English derivatives can be an aid to remembering the base (“liberal” from **liber**, “pulchritude” from **pulcher**, “miserable” from **miser**, etc.).

liber	liber-a	liber-um	<i>free</i>
pulcher	pulchr-a	pulchr-um	<i>beautiful</i>

The rest of the paradigm continues with the base and the regular endings:

	Masc.	Fem.	Neut.	Masc.	Fem.	Neut.
<i>Nom.</i>	liber	libera	liberum	pulcher	pulchra	pulchrum
<i>Gen.</i>	liberī	liberae	liberī	pulchrī	pulchrae	pulchrī
<i>Dat.</i>	liberō	liberae	liberō	pulchrō	pulchrae	pulchrō
		(etc.)			(etc.)	

For the singular of these samples fully declined, see the Summary of Forms, p. 447, and remember to refer to this Summary on a regular basis, when reviewing declensions and conjugations.

VOCABULARY

adulēscēntia, -ae, f., *youth, young manhood; youthfulness* (adolescence, adolescent)

ānimus, -ī, m., *soul, spirit, mind*; **ānimī**, -ōrum, *high spirits, pride, courage* (animus, animosity, magnanimous, unanimous, pusillanimous)

caelum, -ī, n., *sky, heaven* (ceiling, celestial, Celeste, cerulean)

cūlpa, -ae, f., *fault, blame* (cp. **cūlpō** below; culpable, culprit, exculpate, inculpate)

glōria, -ae, f., *glory, fame* (glorify, glorification, glorious, inglorious)

vērbum, -ī, n., *word* (verb, adverb, verbal, verbiage, verbose, proverb)

tē, abl. and acc. sg., *you; yourself*; cp. **mē**

liber, libera, liberum, *free* (liberal, liberality, libertine; cp. **libertās**, Ch. 8, **liberō**, Ch. 19)

noster, nostra, nostrum, *our; ours* (nostrum, paternoster)

pulcher, pulchra, pulchrum, *beautiful, handsome; fine* (pulchritude)

sānus, -a, -um, *sound, healthy, sane* (sanity, sanitary, sanitation, sanitarium, insane)

igitur, conj., postpositive,¹ *therefore, consequently*

-ne, enclitic or suffix added to the emphatic word placed at the beginning of a sentence to indicate a question the answer to which is uncertain.

(For other types of direct questions, see **nōne** and **num** in Ch. 40.)

propter, prep. + acc., *on account of, because of*

crās, adv., *tomorrow* (procrastinate, procrastination)

herī, adv., *yesterday*

quāndō, interrogative and relative adv. and conj., *when*; **sī quāndō**, *if ever*

sātis, indecl. noun, adj., and adv., *enough, sufficient* (-ly) (cp. **satiō**; satisfy, satisfactory, satiate, insatiable, sate; assets, from **ad**, *up to* + **satis**)

tum, adv., *then, at that time; thereupon, in the next place*

cēnō (1), *to dine* (cenacle; cp. **cēna**, Ch. 26)

cūlpō (1), *to blame, censure* (cp. **culpa** above)

remāneō, remanēre, remānsī, remānsūm, or **māneō, manēre, mānsī, mānsūm**, *to remain, stay, stay behind, abide, continue* (permanent, remnant, mansion, manor, immanent—do not confuse with imminent)

sūperō (1), *to be above* (cp. **super**, adv. and prep. + abl. or acc., *above*), *have the upper hand, surpass; overcome, conquer* (superable, insuperable)

PRACTICE AND REVIEW

1. Officium liberōs virōs semper vocābat.
2. Habēbimusne multōs virōs et fēminās magnōrum animōrum?
3. Perīcula bellī nōn sunt parva, sed patria tua tē vocābit et agricolae adiuvābunt.
4. Propter culpās malōrum patria nostra nōn valēbit.
5. Mora animōs nostrōs superābat et remedium nōn habēbāmus.
6. Multī in agrīs herī manēbant et Rōmānōs iuvābant.
7. Paucae virī dē cūrā animī cōgitābant.
8. Propter iram in culpā estis et crās poenās dabit.
9. Vērum otium nōn habēs, vir stulte!
10. Nihil est sine culpā; sumus bonī, sī paucās habēmus.
11. Poēta amīcae multās rosās, dōna pulchra, et bāsia dabat.

¹ A postpositive word is one which does not appear as the first word of a sentence; it is put after (**post-pōnō**) the first word or phrase.

12. Will war and destruction always remain in our land?
13. Does money satisfy the greedy man?
14. Therefore, you (sg.) will save the reputation of our foolish boys.
15. Money and glory were conquering the soul of a good man.

SENTENTIAE ANTĪQUAE

1. Invidiam populī Rōmānī crās nōn sustinēbis. (Cicero.—**invidia**, -ae, *dislike*.—**sustinēre**, *to endure, sustain*.)
2. Perīculumne igitur herī remanēbat? (Cicero.)
3. Angustus animus pecūniam amat. (Cicero.—**angustus**, -a, -um, *narrow*.)
4. Superā animōs et īram tuam. (Ovid.)
5. Culpa est mea, Ō amīcī. (Cicero.)
6. Dā veniam filiō et filiābus nostrīs. (Terence.—**venia**, -ae, *favor, pardon*.)
7. Propter adulēscēntiam, filiī meī, mala vītāe nōn vidēbātis. (Terence.)
8. Amābō tē, cūrā filiā meā. (Cicero.—**cūrāre**, *to take care of*.)
9. Vīta hūmāna est supplicium. (Seneca.—**supplicium**, -ī, *punishment*.)
10. Satisne sānus es? (Terence.)
11. Sī quandō satis pecūniae habēbō, tum mē cōnsiliō et philosophiae dabō. (Seneca.—**pecūniae**, gen. case.)
12. Semper glōria et fāma tua manēbunt. (Virgil.)
13. Vir bonus et perītus aspera verba poētārum culpābit. (Horace.—**perītus**, -a, -um, *skillful*.—**asper**, **aspera**, **asperum**, *rough, harsh*.)

HIS ONLY GUEST WAS A REAL BOAR!

Nōn cēnat sine aprō noster, Tīte, Caeciliānus:
bellum convīvam Caeciliānus habet!

(*Martial 7.59. This is the first of several selections included in this book from the *Epigrams* of Martial, a popular poet of the late 1st cen. A.D., briefly discussed in the Introd.; these poems are generally quite short, like this two-verse elegiac couplet, satirical, and targeted at a specific, but usually fictitious, character, here the glutton Caecilianus.—**Titus**, the poem's addressee, but not its victim.—**aper**, **apri**, *boar, pig*.—**convīva**, -ae, one of a few masc. first decl. nouns, *dinner-guest*.)

THERMOPYLAE: A SOLDIER'S HUMOR

"Exercitus noster est magnus," Persicus inquit, "et propter numerum sagittārum nostrārum caelum nōn vidēbitis!" Tum Lacedaemonius respondet: "In umbrā, igitur, pugnābimus!" Et Leōnidās, rēx Lacedaemoniōrum, exclāmat: "Pugnāte cum animīs, Lacedaemoniī; hodiē apud īferōs fortasse cēnābimus!"

(Cicero, *Tusculānae Disputātiōnēs* 1.42.101; an anecdote from the battle of Thermopylae, 480 B.C., in which the Persians under king Xerxes defeated the Spartans under Leonidas.—**exercitus**, *army*.—**Persicus**, -ī, *a Persian*.—**inquit**, *says*.—**sagitta**, -ae, *arrow*.—**Lacedaemonius**, -ī, *a Spartan*.—**respondere** = Eng.—**umbra**, -ae, *shade, shadow; ghost*.—**pugnare**, *to fight*.—**rēx**, *king*.—**exclamare**, *to shout*.—**cum** + abl., *with*.—**apud** + acc., *among*.—**inferī**, -ōrum, *those below, the dead*.—**fortasse**, adv., *perhaps*.)

ETYMOLOGY

Related to **animus** is **anima**, -ae, *the breath of life*; hence: animal, animated, inanimate.

“Envy” came to us from **invidia** (sent. 1) indirectly through French; “invidious” we borrowed directly from Latin.

“Expert” and “experience” are both related to **perītus** (13). The **ex** here is intensive (= *thoroughly*) and the stem **perī-** means *try, make trial of*. What, then, is an “experiment”? Apparently there is no experiment without some risk (**perī-culum**).

In sent. 13: asperity, exasperate (**ex** again intensive). In “Thermopylae”: sagittate; umbrella (through Italian, with diminutive ending), umbrage, ad-umbrate; pugnacious, pugilist.

LATĪNA EST GAUDIUM—ET ŪTILIS!

Salvēte, et amīcī et amīcae meae! Quid agitis hodiē? In fact, I hope you are **sānī et sānae**, both physically and spiritually; if so, you have attained what the 1st cen. A.D. Roman satirist Juvenal suggested was the highest good in life, **mēns sāna in corpore sānō**, *a healthy mind in a healthy body* (you’ll encounter the two third decl. nouns **mēns** and **corpus** later on, but in the meantime you can keep this famous quotation **in mente**). It’s rumored, by the way, that the athletic gear brand-name ASICS is an acronym for **animus sānus in corpore sānō**; with a glance back at the Vocab. you can figure that one out too. NIKE, an ASICS competitor, takes its name from the Greek word for “victory,” which in Latin is **victōria**, a winning name for a queen or any powerful lady (whose male counterpart might well be dubbed “Victor,” from Lat. **victor**).

You may have encountered the expressions **verbum sap** and **mea culpa** before; if not, you will. The former is an abbreviation of **verbum satis sapientī est**: **sapientī** is dat. of the third decl. adj. **sapiēns**, *wise*, used here as a noun (remember substantive adjs. from Ch. 4?), so you should already have deduced that the phrase means *a word to the wise is sufficient*. If you couldn’t figure that out, just shout “**mea culpa!**” and (here’s a **verbum sap**) go back and review the vocabulary in Chs. 1–5. **Valēte!**