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First and Second Conjugations: Passive Voice of the Present System; Ablative of Agent

FIRST AND SECOND CONJUGATION: PRESENT SYSTEM PASSIVE VOICE

In Latin as in English there are passive verb forms and passive sentence types, in which the subject is *recipient* of the action (rather than *performing* the action, as in the active voice). The rule for forming the passive of first and second conjugation present system passives (i.e., passives of the present, future, and imperfect tenses) is an easy one: simply substitute the new passive endings (-r, -ris, -tur; -mur, -mini, -ntur) for the active ones learned in Ch. 1 (-ō/-m, -s, -t; -mus, -tis, -nt). The few exceptions to this rule are highlighted in bold in the following paradigms.

PRESENT INDICATIVE PASSIVE OF *Laudō* and *Moneō*

PASSIVE ENDINGS

1. -r	laúd- or	móne or	<i>I am (am being) praised, warned</i>
2. -ris	laudā-ris	monēris	<i>you are (are being) praised, warned</i>
3. -tur	laudā-tur	monētur	<i>he is (is being) praised, warned</i>

1. -mur	laudā-mur	monēmur	<i>we are (are being) praised, warned</i>
2. -minī	laudā-minī	monēminī	<i>you are (are being) praised, warned</i>
3. -ntur	laudā-ntur	monēntur	<i>they are (are being) praised, warned</i>

IMPERFECT INDICATIVE PASSIVE

*I was (being) praised,
used to be praised, etc.*

1. laudā-ba-r
2. laudā-bā-ris
3. laudā-bā-tur

*I was (being) warned,
used to be warned, etc.*

- monēbar
- monēbāris
- monēbātur

1. laudā-bā-mur
2. laudā-bā-minī
3. laudā-bā-ntur

- monēbāmur
- monēbāminī
- monēbāntur

FUTURE INDICATIVE PASSIVE

I shall be praised

1. laudā-**b-or**
2. laudā-**be**-ris
3. laudā-bi-tur

I shall be warned

- monē**bor**
- monēberis
- monēbitur

1. laudā-bi-mur
2. laudā-bi-minī
3. laudā-bi-ntur

- monēbimur
- monēbiminī
- monēbuntur

The exceptional forms, highlighted in bold above, are few: in the first person singular, present and future, the **-r** is added *directly* to the full active form (with the **-o-** shortened before final **-r**); **-bi-** is changed to **-be-** in the future second person singular. Notice, too, that the stem vowel remains short in **laudantur/monentur** but is long in **laudātur/monētur** (review the rule in Ch. 1: vowels are generally shortened before **nt** in any position but only before a *final* **-m**, **-r**, or **-t**, hence **laudat** but **laudātur**). You should note the existence of an alternate second person singular passive ending in **-re** (e.g., **laudābere** for **laudāberis**); this ending is not employed in this book, but you will certainly encounter it in your later readings.

THE PRESENT PASSIVE INFINITIVE

The present passive infinitive of the first and the second conjugations is formed simply by changing the final **-e** of the active to **-ī**.

laudār-ī, *to be praised*

monēr-ī, *to be warned*

THE PASSIVE VOICE

When the verb is in the active voice (from **agō, agere, ēgī, āctum**, *to act*), the subject performs the action of the verb. When the verb is in the passive voice (from **patior, patī, passus sum**, *to undergo, experience*) the subject is acted upon: it suffers or passively permits the action of the verb. As a rule, only transitive verbs can be used in the passive; and what had been the object of the transitive verb (receiving the action of the verb) now becomes the subject of the passive verb (still receiving the action of the verb).

Caesarem admonet, *he is warning Caesar.*

Caesar admonētur, *Caesar is being warned.*

Urbem dēlēbant, *they were destroying the city.*

Urbs dēlēbātur, *the city was being destroyed.*

Patriam cōservābit, *he will save the country.*

Patria cōservābitur, *the country will be saved.*

ABLATIVE OF PERSONAL AGENT

The personal *agent* by whom the action of a passive verb is performed is indicated by **ab** and the “ablative of agent”; the *means* by which the action is accomplished is indicated by the “ablative of means” without a preposition, as you have already learned in Ch. 14.

Dī Caesarem admonent, *the gods are warning Caesar.*

Caesar ā dīs admonētur, *Caesar is warned by the gods. (Agent)*

Caesar hīs prōdigīis admonētur, *Caesar is warned by these omens.*
(Means); prōdigium, -iī, *omen.*

Malī virī urbem dēlēbant, *evil men were destroying the city.*

Urbs ab malīs virīs dēlēbātur, *the city was being destroyed by evil men.*
(Agent)

Urbs flammīs dēlēbātur, *the city was being destroyed by flames. (Means);*
flamma, -ae.

Hī cīvēs patriam cōservābunt, *these citizens will save the country.*

Patria ab hīs cīvibus cōservābitur, *the country will be saved by these*
citizens. (Agent)

Patria armīs et vērītāte cōservābitur, *the country will be saved by arms*
and truth. (Means)

In summary, and as seen in the preceding examples, an active sentence construction can generally be transformed to a passive construction as follows: what was the direct object becomes the subject, the recipient of the

action; what was the subject becomes an ablative of agent (remember to add this to your list of ablative uses), if a person, or an ablative of means, if a thing; and the appropriate passive verb form is substituted for the active.

VOCABULARY

- flūmen, flūminis**, n., *river* (flume; cp. **fluō**, below)
gēnus, gēneris, n., *origin; kind, type, sort, class* (genus, generic, genitive, gender, general, generous, genuine, degenerate, genre, congenial; cp. **gēns**, Ch. 21, **ingenium**, Ch. 29)
hóstis, hóstis, m., *an enemy* (of the state); **hóstēs, -ium**, *the enemy* (hostile, hostility, host)
lūdus, -ī, m., *game, sport; school* (ludicrous, delude, elude, elusive, allude, allusion, illusion, collusion, interlude, prelude, postlude)
próbitās, probitātis, f., *uprightness, honesty* (probity; cp. **probāre**, Ch. 27)
sciéntia, -ae, f., *knowledge* (science, scientific; cp. **sciō**, Ch. 21)
clārus, -a, -um, *clear, bright; renowned, famous, illustrious* (clarify, clarity, claret, clarinet, clarion, declare, Clara, Clarissa, Claribel)
mortālis, mortāle, mortal (mortality, immortality; cp. **mors**)
cūr, adv., *why*
deinde, adv., *thereupon, next, then*
flūō, flūere, flūxī, flūxum, *to flow* (fluid, fluent, flux, influx, affluence, effluence, influence, confluence, influenza, flu, mellifluous, superfluous)
légō, légere, légī, lēctum, *to pick out, choose; read* (elect, elegant, eligible, lecture, legend, legible, intellect; cp. **intellegō, neglegō**)
miscēō, miscēre, miscuī, míxtum, *to mix, stir up, disturb* (miscellanea, miscellaneous, miscellany, miscible, meddle, meddlesome, medley, melee, admixture, intermixture, promiscuous)
móveō, movēre, móvī, mótum, *to move; arouse, affect* (mobile, motion, motive, motor, commotion, emotion, remote, locomotive, mutiny)
videor, vidēri, vīsus sum, pass. of **videō**, *to be seen, seem, appear*

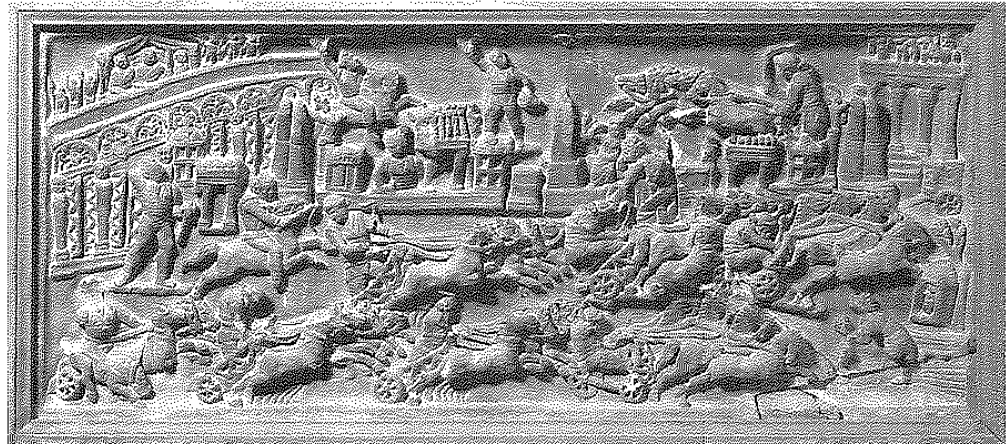
PRACTICE AND REVIEW

1. Multī morte etiam faciī nimis terrentur.
2. Beāta memoria amīcitiārum dulcium numquam dēlēbitur.
3. Illa fēmina caeca omnia genera artium quoque intellēxit et ab amīcīs iūcundīs semper laudābātur.
4. Pater senex vester, ā quō saepe iuvābāmur, multa dē celeribus perīculīs ingentis maris herī dīcere coepit.
5. Mentēs nostrae memoriā potentī illōrum duōrum factōrum cito moventur.
6. Cōnsilia rēgīnae illō tertiō bellō longō et difficili dēlēbantur.

7. Itaque māter mortem quartī filiī expectābat, quī nōn valēbat et cuius aetās erat brevis.
8. Bella difficilia sine cōnsiliō et clēmentīā numquam gerēbāmus.
9. Tē cum novem ex aliīs miserīs ad Caesarem crās trahent.
10. Rēgem ācrem, quī officia neglēxerat, ex urbe suā ēiēcērunt.
11. Ille poēta in tertiō libellō saturārum scrīpsit dē hominibus avārīs quī ad centum terrās aliās nāvigāre cupiunt quod pecūniam nimis dēsiderant.
12. Mercy will be given by them even to the citizens of other cities.
13. Many are moved too often by money but not by truth.
14. The state will be destroyed by the powerful king, whom they are beginning to fear.
15. Those ten women were not frightened by plans of that trivial sort.

SENTENTIAE ANTĪQUAE

1. Possunt quia posse videntur. (*Virgil.—**quia**, conj., *because*.)
2. Etiam fortēs virī subitīs periculīs saepe terrentur. (Tacitus.—**subitus**, -a, -um, *sudden*.)
3. Tua cōnsilia sunt clāra nōbīs; tenēris scientiā hōrum cīvium omnium. (Cicero.)
4. Malum est cōsiliū quod mūtārī nōn potest. (*Publilius Syrus.)
5. Fās est ab hoste docērī. (Ovid.—**fās est**, *it is right*.)
6. Eō tempore erant circēnsēs lūdī, quō genere levī spectāculī numquam teneor. (Pliny.—**circēnsēs lūdī**, *contests in the Circus*.—As here with **genere**, the antecedent is often attracted into the rel. clause.—**spectāculum**, -ī.)



*Relief with scene of
Circus Maximus
Museo Archeologico
Foligno, Italy*

7. Haec est nunc vīta mea: admittō et salūtō bonōs virōs quī ad mē veniunt; deinde aut scrībō aut legō; post haec omne tempus corporī datur. (Cicero.—**salūtāre**, *to greet* at the early morning reception.)
8. Nihil igitur mors est, quoniam nātūra animī habētur mortālis. (Lucretius.)

9. Amor miscērī cum timōre nōn potest. (*Publilius Syrus.)
10. Numquam enim temeritās cum sapientiā commiscētur. (*Cicero.—**temeritās, -tātis, rashness.**)
11. Dīligēmus eum quī pecūniā nōn movētur. (Cicero.)
12. Laudātur ab hīs; culpātur ab illīs. (*Horace.)
13. Probitās laudātur—et alget. (*Juvenal.—**algēre, to be cold, be neglected.**)

ON DEATH AND METAMORPHOSIS

Ō genus hūmānum, quod mortem nimium timet! Cūr perīcula mortis timētis? Omnia mūtāntur, omnia fluunt, nihil ad vērā mortem venit. Anīmus errat et in alia corpora miscētur; nec manet, nec eāsdem fōrmās servat, sed in fōrmās novās mūtātur. Vīta est flūmen; tempora nostra fugiunt et nova sunt semper. Nostra corpora semper mūtāntur; id quod fuīmus aut sumus, nōn crās erimus.

(Ovid, *Metamorphōsēs* 15.153–216; prose adaptation.—The ancients had some imaginative views on the transmigration of souls.)

ETYMOLOGY

Hostis meant originally *stranger* and then *enemy*, since any stranger in early times was a possible enemy. From **hostis, enemy**, stems our “host” in the sense of “army.” **Hospes, hospitis**, which is an ancient compound of **hostis, stranger**, and **potis, having power over, lord of** (cf. Russ. **gospodin, lord, gentleman**), means *host* (one who receives strangers or guests) and also *guest*; cp. “hospital,” “hospitality,” “hostel,” “hotel” (Fr. **hôtel**), and Eng. cognate “guest.”

In the readings

6. circus.—spectator, spectacle, specter, spectacular. 10. temerity (contrast “timidity”).

LATĪNA EST GAUDIUM—ET ŪTILIS!

Salvēte! Wondering how the same verb, **legere**, can mean both *to pick out* and *to read*? Because the process of reading was likened to gathering and collecting the words of a text. What a splendid metaphor: we are all of us (especially Latin students) “word collectors”! “Gather ye rosebuds while ye may” . . . and also the delights of language.

Remember the special pass. meaning of **videor** introduced in this Vocab.; here it is in the pres. pass. inf. form, also newly introduced in this chapter: **esse quam vidērī, to be rather than to seem**, the state motto of North Carolina. **Scientia** also turns up in several mottoes: **scientia est potentia, knowledge is power**, is one favorite, and another is **scientia sōl mentis est, knowledge is the sun of the mind** (motto of the University of Delaware). **Valēte, discipulae discipulique!**

Chapter 18

PRACTICE AND REVIEW

1. Many are excessively terrified even by an easy death.
2. The happy memory of sweet friendships will never be destroyed.
3. That blind woman also understood all types of the arts and was always praised by her pleasant friends.
4. Your old father, by whom we were often helped, began to say many things about the swift dangers of the vast sea yesterday.
5. Our minds are quickly moved by the strong memory of those two deeds.
6. The queen's plans were destroyed by that third long and difficult war.
7. And so, the mother was expecting her fourth son's death, who was not well and whose life was short.
8. We never waged difficult wars without wisdom and mercy.
9. Tomorrow, they will drag you with nine of the other wretches to Caesar.
10. They threw out the harsh king from their city, who had neglected his duties.
11. The poet wrote in the third booklet of satires about greedy men who want to sail to a hundred other lands because they desire money too much.
12. Et civibus aliarum urbium clementia ab eis dabitur.
13. Multi nimis saepe pecunia sed non veritate moventur.
14. Civitas delebitur a rege potenti, quem timere incipiunt.
15. Illae decem feminae consiliis illius generis levis non terrebantur.

SENTENTIAE ANTIQUAE

1. They can because they seem to be able.
2. Even brave men are often frightened by sudden dangers.
3. Your plans are clear to us; you are restrained by the knowledge of all of these citizens.
4. Bad is the plan that cannot be changed.
5. It is right to be taught by an enemy.
6. In that time were the circus games, by which trivial type of spectacle I am never held.
7. This is now my life: I receive and greet good men who come to me; then I either write or read; after these things, all time is given to the body.
8. Therefore death is nothing, since the nature of the spirit is considered mortal.
9. Love cannot be mixed with fear.
10. Truly, temerity is never mixed together with wisdom.
11. We praise one who is not affected by money.
12. He is praised by these men; blamed by those.
13. Probity is praised – then left in the cold (i.e. neglected).

Chapter 18

ON DEATH AND METAMORPHOSIS

O human race, that fears death too much! Why do you fear the dangers of death? All things are being changed, all things are flowing, nothing comes to a true death. The spirit wanders and is mixed into other bodies; neither does it stay, nor does it keep the same forms, but it is changed into new forms. Life is a river; our times hurry away and there are always new ones. Our bodies always are being changed; that which we have been or are, we will not be tomorrow.