

## ***Parsing and Explanation for Latin Exams and Assignments***

### **1. Parsing Latin Verbs: Active and Passive**

you must supply:

*person, number, tense, mood, voice & translation, and*

all four principal parts of a verb.

You must also supply **case and gender** for forms that have them (e.g. infinitives containing participles) as well as, when parsing in the context of a passage, **the word (e.g. noun) that determines these** (if known). See under Parsing Nouns, Adjectives, Gerunds & Pronouns and Parsing Participles and Gerundives in the Context of a Passage.

Other things to be included when **parsing** verbs in the context of a passage:

- For **subjunctive** verbs in subordinate clauses (also including cum and dum indicatives in primary sequence), give the **sequence** (primary or historic/secondary) and the **word (e.g. verb) determining that sequence** (if known).
- For all indirect constructions (e.g. indirect speech, commands and questions), give the **word (e.g. verb) that introduces** the indirect construction.
- Where a verb completes another verb (e.g. prolative infinitive, gerundive after suscipio etc.) give **the verb being completed** as well, e.g. “x completes the meaning of y”.

**portamus:**

1<sup>st</sup> person plural present indicative active, we carry

from porto portare portauī portatum to carry

**Parsing Deponent Verbs****loquitur**

3<sup>rd</sup> person singular present (indicative) deponent, he or she speaks, depending on context

from loquor loqui locutus sum

**Parsing Passive Verbs****amāmur**

1<sup>st</sup> person plural present indicative passive, 'we are loved', from amo amare amaui amatum 'to love'

**2. Parsing Nouns, Adjectives, Gerunds & Pronouns**

You must supply:

gender, case, number, part of speech, translation/ dictionary form.

**mensārum**

feminine genitive plural noun, of the tables

from mensa mensae 1f table

*Parse the word underlined in the context of a sentence or passage*

**multum filia seruat thēsaurum** (the daughter keeps much treasure)

multum:        masculine        accusative        singular        adjective,        much,  
qualifying/modifying/describing/agreeing with (choose one) the noun thesaurum.

From multus, multa multum, much, many

In the context of the sentence above, multum can only be masculine accusative singular, qualifying thesaurum. *Do not list other possibilities as you would do if parsing multum as a single word out of context. In the **context of the sentence**, the neuter cases are **incorrect**.*

**Scipio bonus est** (Scipio is a good man)

*Parse bonus above and explain its case*

bonus: masculine nominative singular adjective, here used as a noun to mean ‘good man’. From the adjective bonus, bona, bonum good.

bonus is in the nominative case rather than the accusative case because sum does not control an object. Instead sum controls a complement in the nominative to indicate that the complement is the same person

### 3. Parsing Participles and Gerundives in the Context of a Passage

Participles and gerundives require all relevant elements of both verbs and adjectives. “Gerundive” is sufficient to describe the voice and tense of a gerundive. See the examples below.

**mīlitēs igitur nostrī, fortissimī uirī, ad eam terram in nāuibus prōgressī sunt.**

**ad terram prōgressī, ex nāuibus celeriter ēgressī sunt.**

prōgressī, ‘having advanced’

masculine nominative plural perfect deponent participle from progredior progredi progressus sum, ‘to advance’ referring to/modifying/telling (choose) the reader more about the subject of the previous sentence, ‘they,’ the soldiers of Amphitruo.

**Amphitruō, hoc cōnspicātus, equitēs sē in proelium audācter ferre iussit.**

cōnspicātus ‘having caught sight of’

masculine nominative plural perfect deponent participle referring to/modifying/telling the reader more about the actions of Amphitruo, from conspicio conspiciari conspicatus sum, to catch sight of

#### 4. Parsing Adverbs

##### Indeclinable adverb.

semper **senex clamat** (the old man always shouts)

semper, indeclinable adverb, always, modifies the verb clamat/provides more information about the verb clamat.

**cūr, tēcum silenter loqueris ?**

indeclinable adverb 'silently', modifying loqueris.

#### 5. Parsing Prepositions

You must supply:

The preposition (X) governs (Y) (e.g. noun, pronoun) in the (case) to give the meaning to denote (position; movement etc)

e.g in **scaenā est** (he is on the stage)

The preposition in, meaning 'on' on governs scaenā (stage) in the ablative case to indicate position. Here the subject of the sentence is physically standing on the stage.

**or**

The preposition in (in, on) takes the ablative, hence scaenā (stage) is ablative to indicate position: the subject of the sentence is standing physically on the stage

**or**

The preposition in, when used with a noun in the ablative case, is used to express place or position. Here 'in' denotes 'position at'. The subject of the sentence is standing physically 'on the stage'.