XXX. Convīvium

Rēs Grammaticae Novae

1. Verbs
   a. Uses of the Subjunctive
      i. Hortatory Subjunctive
   b. Future Perfect Indicative Tense
   c. *miscēre/aspergere*
   d. *fruī*
2. Nouns
   a. *sitis* (Pure *i*-Stem)
   b. *vās*
3. Adjectives
   a. Distributive Numbers
4. Adverbs from 3rd Declension Adjectives (continued)

Convīvium (Dinner Party)

In this and the following chapter, you read about a dinner party at the home of Julius and Aemilia. The guests are good friends of the family. The dinner begins at the early (to us) hour of four o'clock in the afternoon (*hōra decima*), a normal time for the principal meal of the Romans. We hear about the arrangement of a typical Roman dining-room, the *triclīnium,* where the guests reclined on couches. Such a dining-room was not designed for large parties, as not more than three guests could lie on each of the three couches grouped around the little table.

Lēctiō Prīma (Section I)

Fruor, fruī

Like *ūtī, ūsum esse* (Cap. XXIII) the deponent verb *fruī* ("delight in," "enjoy") takes the ablative:

> *Ego numquam īnstrūmentō rūsticō ūsus sum.* (l.38)
> *ōtiō fruor* (l.23)

Orontēs...vītā̲ rūsticā nōn fruitur (l.35)
cotīdiē bonō̲ vīnō̲ fruor (l.59)

Adverbs from 3rd Declension Adjectives (continued)

3rd declension adjectives in *-ns* form adverbs in *-nter*, e.g.:

> *cōnstāns -ant|is* → *cōnsta<u>nter</u>* (contraction of *cōnstantiter*)
> *prūdēns -ent|is* → *prūde<u>nter</u>*
> *dīligēns -ent|is* → *dīlige<u>nter</u>*
> *patiēns -entis* → *patie<u>nter</u>*

Examples:

> *dīlige<u>nter</u> cūrō ut colōnī agrōs meōs bene colant.* (ll.33–34)
> *Prūde<u>nter</u> facis.* (l.35)
> *Patie<u>nter</u> exspectā, dum servī lectōs sternunt.* (l.82; cf. Cap. XXXIII, l.120)

Lēctiō Altera (Section II)

Distributive Numbers

When using repetitive numbers to say, for example, how many guests are reclining on each couch, we might say in English, "three to a couch," or "three each/apiece," or "in threes." Latin does not use the usual numerals *ūnus, duo, trēs,* but the numbers *singulī, bīnī, ternī*:

In <u>singulīs</u> lectīs aut <u>singulī</u> aut <u>bīnī</u> aut <u>ternī</u> convīvae accubāre solent.	Dinner guests usually recline on individual couches in ones or twos or threes. (ll.74–75)

These distributive numerals:

- are adjectives of the 1st/2nd declension
- all end in *-<u>n</u>|ī -ae -a,* except *singul|ī -ae -a*
- are used when the same number is used repetitively, that is, applies to more than one person or thing, e.g.:
  > *bis <u>bīna</u>* (2×2) *sunt quattuor*
  > *bis <u>terna</u>* (2×3) *sunt sex*
  > *In vocābulīs "mea" et "tua" sunt <u>ternae</u> litterae et <u>bīnae</u> syllabae.*

Future Perfect Indicative

To indicate that an action will not be completed until some point in the future, the **future perfect** is used (Latin *futūrum perfectum*), e.g.:

Cēnābimus cum prīmum cocus cēnam parāverit et servī triclīnium
ōrnāverint. (ll.83–84)

Although all three acts will happen in the future, the future perfect shows that the cooking and dining room preparation will be finished *before* the guests will eat.

Cum prīmum meum vīnum pōtāveritis, Falernun pōtābitis!
(ll.145–146)

The guests will drink the Falernum wine as soon as they will have drunk the wine from Julius's vineyard. Both will happen in the future, but the action in the future perfect tense will be completed before the action in the future tense takes place.

To form the future perfect:

- Active: to the perfect stem add the following endings:

1st	~er|ō	~eri|mus
2nd	~eri|s	~eri|tis
3rd	~eri|t	~eri|nt

- Passive: the perfect participle and the future of *esse* (*erō, eris, erit,* etc.), e.g.:

  Brevī cēna parāta et triclīnium ōrnātum erit. (ll.84–85; cf. l.14)

This tense is especially common in conditional clauses (beginning with *sī*) in cases where some future action must be completed before something else can take place, e.g.:

Discipulus laudābitur, sī magistrō pāruerit.

Further examples of this use will be found in the section GRAMMATICA LATINA.

Lēctiō Tertia (Section III)

Independent Subjunctive: Hortatory

When at last the servant announces that dinner is ready, Julius says:

Triclīnium intrēmus!	Let us enter the dining room!
	(ll.86–87)

At table he raises his glass with the words:

Ergō bibāmus!	Therefore, let us drink! (l.120)

The forms *intrēmus* and *bibāmus* are the present subjunctive (1st pers. pl.) of *intrāre* and *bibere*; accordingly, they denote an action that is intended or encouraged, in this case an exhortation ("let's…"). In the next chapter, you will find further examples of this **hortatory** subjunctive (Latin *hortārī*, "exhort").

Sitis/vās

Sitis, -is f. is a pure *i*-stem (see Cap. XVI):

 acc.   *-im* (*sitim patī*, 1.55)
 abl.   *-ī* (*sitī perīre*, 1.57)

Vās, vās|is n. follows the 3rd declension in the singular but the 2nd declension in the plural: *vās|a, -ōrum* (1.93: *ex vāsīs aureīs*).

Miscēre/aspergere

Wine was not often drunk undiluted (*merum*); it was customary to mix (*miscēre*) one's wine with water. The verb *miscēre* (to mix) can be completed by an accusative and ablative or dative and accusative. The Latin expression is either:

 accusative and ablative
  vīnum aquā (*cum aquā*) *miscēre* mix wine with water (1.115)

 dative and accusative
  mel vīnō miscēre   mix honey (in)to wine (1.132)

 Aspergere (to sprinkle) follows the same pattern:
  cibum sāle aspergere   sprinkle food with salt (1.111)
  sālem carnī aspergere   sprinkle salt (on)to meat
              (1.109–110)

Recēnsiō: Cum

Cum referring to the future: Indicative

 Cēnābimus cum prīmum cocus cēnam parāverit et servī triclīnium
  ōrnāverint. (ll.82–84)
 Tum dēmum hoc vīnum cum illō comparāre poterimus, cum utrumque
  gustāverimus. (ll.143–144)

Cum iterative: Indicative

 Nec vērō omnēs mercātōrēs domī remanent, cum mercēs eōrum nāvibus
  vehuntur. (Cap. XXIX, ll.8–9)
 Cum igitur paucissimī sunt convīvae, nōn pauciōrēs sunt quam trēs,
  cum plūrimī, nōn plūrēs quam novem—nam ter ternī sunt novem.
  (ll.75–78)

Cum strict temporal: Indicative

 "Per deōs immortālēs!" inquit gubernātor, cum prīmum nāvem
  appropinquantem prōspexit. (Cap. XXIX, ll.187–188)
 Octō diēs iam sunt cum Rōmae nōn fuī. (Cap. XXXI, l.3)

Sex hōrae iam sunt cum cibum nōn sūmpsī. Venter mihi contrahitur
  propter famem. (ll.40–42)
"Haec carō valdē mihi placet," inquit Fabia cum prīmum carnem
  gustāvit. (ll.106–107)
Cum prīmum meum vīnum pōtāveritis, Falernum pōtābitis! (ll.145–
  146)

Cum circumstantial: Subjunctive

Cum Ariōn, nōbilissimus suī temporis fidicen, ex Italiā in Graeciam
  nāvigāret magnāsque dīvitiās sēcum habēret, nautae pauperēs, quī
  hominī dīvitī invidēbant, eum necāre cōnstituērunt. (Cap. XXIX,
  ll.78–81)
Respondērunt "hominem, cum inde abīrent, in terrā Italiā fuisse
  eumque illīc bene vīvere, aurēs animōsque hominum cantū suō
  dēlectāre atque magnum lucrum facere." (Cap. XXIX, ll.106–109)

Cum causal: Subjunctive

Gubernātor, cum omnēs attentōs videat, hanc fābulam nārrat.
  (Cap. XXIX, ll.76–77)
Ibi homō territus, cum iam vītam dēspērāret, id ūnum ōrāvit ut sibi
  licēret vestem ōrnātam induere et fidēs capere et ante mortem carmen
  canere. (Cap. XXIX, ll.187–188)
Ānulum abiēcit, cum sēsē nimis fēlīcem esse cēnsēret. (Cap. XXIX,
  ll.156–157)
Polycratēs, cum ānulum suum recognōsceret, māximā laetitiā affectus
  est. (Cap. XXIX, ll.171–172)
Midās enim, quamquam terram, lignum, ferrum manū tangendō
  in aurum mūtāre poterat, fame et sitī moriēbātur, cum cibus quoque
  et pōtiō, simul atque ā rēge tācta erat, aurum fieret. (Cap. XXXI,
  ll.38–42)
Opus nōn est vetus exemplum Graecum afferre, cum complūrēs fābulae
  nārrentur puerīs quī ita servātī sunt. (Cap. XXXI, ll.154–156)

Studia Rōmāna

Julius joins his guests after bathing: Tum Iūlius lautus et novā veste indūtus
intrat (l.15). Lautus, -a, -um is a perfect passive participle from lavāre, to wash,
bathe (the verb has three variations of the participle; in Cap. XXII, you met
lavātum, the participle you would expect from lavāre[1]). Lautus is rarely used to

---

1. The third variation on the participle's form is lōtum.

mean simply "having been washed, i.e., clean." Rather, it suggests the impression one gives who has the leisure and resources to bathe: "elegant, refined."

Introduced from Greece via Greek Southern Italy, baths were an important feature of Roman life. Private baths in the home are called *balneum*,[2] (in the republican period, they were also called *lavātrīna*, shortened to *lātrīna*). There were also public baths (mostly privately owned) called *balneae* and, in the imperial period, enormous public baths called *thermae*. The Augustan period architect Vitruvius tells us the various rooms for a bath, although archaeological remains show a great deal of variation: the hot room (*caldārium*, also spelled *calidārium*), the warm room (*tepidārium*), the sweating room (*sūdātōrium*, *lacōnicum*), a room with a cold bath (*frīgidārium*), as well as a changing room (*apodȳtērium*). The natural starting place is the *apodȳtērium*; from there, one visited rooms of increasing warmth and finished in the *frīgidārium*. While baths were ideally placed in a part of the house that would receive the most warmth, they were also kept warm by the use of hypocausts (*hypocaustum*): flooring raised on short brick pillars through which the heat of an external furnace could flow.

Julius entertains his friend Cornelius (familiar to you from Cap. VI) and his wife Fabia, along with Orontes and his wife Paula. Orontes, a freedman (*lībertīnus*), is reminiscent of the freedmen at Trimalchio's dinner party in the first century AD novel written by Petronius, *Satyricon*, and of various Greek freedmen in the satires of Juvenal (first–second century AD). Orontes exhibits the stereotypes of literature and illustrates Roman ambivalence toward the Greeks.

The *triclinium* consists of three couches that can hold three diners each. The diners would recline facing a central communal table. Wealthy houses might have more than one *triclinium*. Generally, the way the mosaic floors and (often elaborate) wall paintings are arranged identifies a room as a *triclinium* and shows where the couches and table were set up. Of the three couches shown in the photo at the beginning of the chapter, the slave is kneeling on what is called the *lectus īmus*, or lowest couch (the order of the couches is shown in the illustration in the margin). This is usually the couch where the host sits, although in our chapter, Julius and Aemilia are sitting on the middle couch, the *lectus medius*, usually reserved for the guest of honor. The host would sit in the highest position (always on the right side of the couch as you face it) on the *lectus īmus* (called *summus in īmō*), and the guest of honor would sit on the lowest position (to the far left of the couch) on the *lectus medius* (called *īmus in mediō*)—that is, next to the host.

The *cēna* (lines 100–103) consists of the three courses described in Cap. XXIV, beginning with eggs for the appetizer (*gustātiō*), moving on to fish

---

and pork for the *cēna* proper, and ending with nuts and fruit for the *secundae mēnsae*. The poet Horace describes a full dinner as *ab ōvō ad māla* (*Sat.* 1.3.6)—so Julius's dinner is typical (as you will see in the next chapter, ll.185–186: *Nōnne tē pudet ita ab ōvō ūsque ad māla fābulārī?*). Wine was an important component of the *cēna* and indeed of Roman culture. There were inexpensive everyday wines and aged, expensive wines that Pliny in his *Historia Nātūrālis* calls *vīnum nōbile*. Pliny would agree with Julius that *Falernum... vīnum Italiae optimum habētur* (1.123). Pliny writes, *Nec ūllī nunc vīnō māior auctōritās; sōlō vīnōrum flamma accenditur* (14.8.62) "no wine today has a greater reputation; a flame can be kindled from it alone." That is, Falernian wine was the only one with a high enough alcohol content to be flammable. The next best wines, according to Pliny, come from the area around Julius's farm, the Alban region close to Rome. Cornelius (ll.126–127) is clearly being polite in preferring Julius's Alban wine to Falernum.

Vocābula Disposita/Ōrdināta

Nōmina
1st

cēna, -ae	dinner
convīva, -ae (*m./f.*)	dinner guest
culīna, -ae	kitchen

2nd

argentum, -ī	silver
balneum, -ī	bath
bonum, -ī	blessing, a good
cocus, -ī	cook
convīvium, -ī	dinner party
merum, -ī	unmixed wine
minister, -rī	attendant (cf. **magister**)
triclīnium, -ī	dining room

3rd

carō, carnis (*f.*)	meat
famēs, famis (*f.*)	hunger
genus, generis (*n.*)	kind, sort
holus, holeris (*n.*)	vegetable
hospes, hospitis (*m./f.*)	guest, stranger
iter, itineris (*n.*)	journey, trip
mel, mellis (*n.*)	honey
nux, nucis (*f.*)	nut
sāl, salis (*n.*)	salt
sitis, sitis (*f.*; *acc.* **sitim**)	thirst
vās, vāsis (*n.*) (*pl.* **vāsa, -ōrum**)	container

Verba

-āre (1)

(accubō) accubāre	recline at the table
(apportō) apportāre, -āvisse, -ātum	carry to
(cēnō) cēnāre, -āvisse, -ātum	dine
(exōrnō) exōrnāre, -āvisse, -ātum	decorate
(gustō) gustāre, -āvisse, -ātum	taste
(līberō) līberāre, -āvisse, -ātum	set free
(nūntiō) nūntiāre, -āvisse, -ātum	announce
(parō) parāre, -āvisse, -ātum	get, prepare
(pōtō) pōtāre, -āvisse, -ātum (or pōtum)	drink

-ēre (2)

(compleō) complēre, -plēvisse, -plētum	fill up
(misceō) miscēre, miscuisse, mixtum	mix
(placeō) placēre, placuisse, placitum (*intr.* + *dat.*)	please
(salvēre iubeō)	greet

-ere (3)

(accumbō) accumbere, accubuisse	recline at the table
(aspergō) aspergere, aspersisse, aspersum	sprinkle/strew on
(contrahō) contrahere, -trāxisse, -tractum	contract
(coquō) coquere, coxisse, coctum	cook
(ēligō) ēligere, ēlēgisse, ēlectum	pick out, choose
(fruor) fruī, fructum (+ *abl.*)	enjoy
(fundō) fundere, fūdisse, fūsum	pour
(recipiō) recipere, recēpisse, receptum	receive
(requiēscō) requiēscere	rest
(sternō) sternere, strāvisse, strātum	spread, strew
(vīsō) vīsere	go to see, visit

-īre (4)

(exhauriō) exhaurīre, exhausisse, exhaustum	drain, drink up

Irregular

(praesum) praeesse, praefuisse (*intr.* + *dat.*)	be in charge over
(perferō) perferre, pertulisse, perlātum	carry through
(prōferō) prōferre, prōtulisse, prōlātum	bring forward

Adiectīva
    1st/2nd (-us/er, -a, -um)
        acerbus, -a, -um   bitter
        acūtus, -a, -um   sharp
        argenteus, -a, -um   made of silver
        bīnī, -ae, -a   two at a time
        calidus, -a, -um   hot
        glōriōsus, -a, -um   full of glory
        īmus, -a, -um   bottom of
        inexspectātus, -a, -um   unexpected
        iūcundus, -a, -um   pleasant, agreeable
        lībertīnus, -a, -um   freed
        medius, -a, -um   middle of
        merus, -a, -um   unmixed, pure
        molestus, -a, -um   annoying
        singulī, -ae, -a   one at a time
        tardus, -a, -um   late, tardy
        ternī, -ae, -a   three at a time
    3rd
        dīligēns (*gen.* dīligentis)   careful, accurate
        dulcis, -e   sweet

Adverbia
    dēmum   finally
    diū   for a long time
    equidem   indeed
    paulisper   for a short time
    prīdem   some time ago, previously
    sānē   certainly, truly

Praepositiōnēs
    circiter (*prp.* + *acc.*)   around, near (*adv.* approximately)