

LATIN FOR RESEARCH IN THE HUMANITIES

SEMINAR 1

REVISION: USES OF CASES

(1) The Nominative

The nominative is used to indicate the *subject* of a verb.

Anni fugiunt
Years flee.

It is also used to indicate the *complement* of a verb.

Valerius est senex.
Valerius is an old man.

(2) The Vocative

The vocative – which stands apart from the sentence – indicates the person or the thing being addressed.

O sol pulcher, o laudande! HORACE
O beautiful sun, worthy of praise!

(3) The Accusative

The accusative case is used in four main ways (although we will cover other uses later in the course): as a direct object; in descriptions of motion, time and space; as an expression of the idea contained in the verb; and in expressing adverbial relations.

(a) Direct object

The direct object of a transitive verb (i.e. the person or thing to whom the verb is done) is in the accusative case.

Haec studia adulescentiam alunt, senectutem oblectant. CICERO
These studies nurture youth, and delight old age.

Note that some verbs (of making, saying, thinking etc.) have a second accusative in agreement with the object:

Socrates totius se mundi civem arbitrabatur. CICERO
Socrates used to consider himself a citizen of the whole world.

Similarly, some verbs of teaching, asking, concealing etc. take two accusatives: one of the person and another of the thing:

Antigonus iter omnes celat. NEPOS
Antigonus conceals his route from everyone.

(b) Motion, time and space

The accusative is used to indicate the place to which motion is directed, the time *during* which something happens, the time when something occurred in the past ('how long ago'), the space traversed, the space which lies between, and measurement.

Eo Romam
I go to Rome.

Romulus <u>septem et triginta</u> regnavit <u>annos</u> . <i>Romulus reigned thirty-seven years.</i>	LIVY
Hoc factum est ferme abhinc <u>biennium</u> . <i>This was done about two years ago.</i>	PLAUTUS
<u>Milia</u> tum pransi <u>tria</u> repimus. <i>Then, having had lunch, we crawl three miles.</i>	HORACE
Reliquae legiones <u>magnum spatium</u> aberrant. <i>The rest of the legions were a long way away.</i>	CAESAR
Murus <u>ducentos pedes</u> altus <i>A wall 200 feet high.</i>	

(c) Cognate Accusative

Many verbs, which are otherwise intransitive, take an accusative containing the same idea as the verb and often etymologically connected with it:

Fortuna <u>ludum</u> insolentem ludit. <i>Fortune plays an insolent game</i>	HORACE
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(d) Adverbial Accusative

The accusative of respect is used with verbs and adjectives:

<u>Omnia</u> Mercurio similis <u>vocemque coloremque</u> . <i>Like Mercury in all ways, both in voice and complexion.</i>	VIRGIL
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(4) Genitive

(a) Possessive Genitive

Like 'of' in English, a genitive can indicate possession:

gladii sociorum meorum <i>the swords of my companions</i>
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(b) Genitives of Definition

There are four main types of genitives of definition: (i) the *appositional* genitive qualifies another noun upon which it depends; (ii) the *descriptive* genitive defines the noun on which it depends by mentioning its content or material; (iii) the *genitive of author*; (iv) the *genitive of characteristic* is used in impersonal constructions with a verb and an infinitive, where in English a word such as *nature, part, characteristic, or mark* must be supplied to complete the meaning.

Nomen regis.
The name of king.

Acervus frumenti.
A pile of corn.

Legendi sunt vobis Platonis libri.
You should read Plato's works.

<u>Cuiusvis hominis</u> est errare. <i>It is the nature of any man to err.</i>	CICERO
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(c) Genitives of Quality

The genitive of *quality* has an adjective in agreement.

<u>Ingenui vultus</u> puer <u>ingenuique pudoris</u> . <i>A boy of noble countenance and noble modesty.</i>	JUVENAL
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Number, age, and size are expressed by such a genitive.

Classis septuaginta navium.
A fleet of seventy ships.

Genitives of *value* – magni, parvi, plurimi, minimi, nihili – are used with verbs of valuing; the genitives tanti, quanti, pluris, minoris, are also used with verbs of buying and selling, but not to express a definite price.

Voluptatem sapiens minimi facit.
The wise man accounts pleasure of very little value.

(d) Partitive Genitive

The partitive genitive is used to indicate the whole of something, of which a part or quantity has been mentioned:

Sic partem maiorem copiarum Antonius amisit. CICERO
Thus Anthony lost the greater part of his forces.

Sulla centum viginti suorum amisit. EUTROPIUS
Sulla lost 120 of his men.

Totius Graeciae Plato doctissimus erat. CICERO
Plato was the most learned man in all Greece.

(e) Subjective and Objective Genitives

A *subjective* genitive represents what would be the subject of a verb corresponding to the noun on which the genitive depends. An *objective* genitive, by contrast, represents the object of such a verb. Sometimes a sentence involving a genitive can be subject to more than one reading, and care must be taken. For example, *amor patris* can mean ‘the love felt by a father’ (i.e. where *patris* is a subjective genitive, cf. *pater amat*) OR ‘the love felt for a father’ (i.e. where *patris* is an objective genitive, cf. *amo patrem*).

(f) Genitives with Verbs

The genitive often accompanies a range of verbs. Most verbs of remembering and forgetting (e.g. *memini*, *reminiscor*, *obliviscor*) take a genitive, and two verbs of pitying (*miserior*, *miseresco*) also take a genitive.

Animus meminit praeteritorum. CICERO
The mind remembers past things.

Arcadii, quaeso, miserescite regis. VIRGIL
Take pity, I entreat, on the Arcadian king.

(5) Dative

The dative is used primarily like ‘to’ in English, to indicate the *indirect object* of a verb (i.e. a person or thing involved in the action, other than the subject or direct object).

Saepe tibi meum somnium narraui. CICERO
I have often told you my dream.

There are, however, a number of other uses of the dative:

(a) Dative of Advantage or Reference.

The person (or thing) for whose advantage or disadvantage something is done, or in reference to whom something happens, is indicated by a dative.

Non solum nobis divites esse volumus. CICERO
We do not wish to be rich for ourselves alone.

(b) *Dative of the Agent.*

This will be discussed in more detail in a later seminar, but for the moment, it is sufficient to note that the dative indicates an agent in conjunction with a gerundive, and sometimes with the passive participle or adjectives in –bilis, instead of the ablative of the agent.

Ut tibi ambulandum, sic mihi dormiendum est. CICERO
As you have to walk, so I have to sleep.

(c) *Dative of the Possessor.*

A dative is used with a form of *esse* when emphasis is laid on the thing which is possessed, not on the possessor.

Est mihi plenus Albani cadus. HORACE
I have a jar full of Alban wine.

(d) *Predicative dative.*

The *predicative dative* – accompanied by a dative of reference – is used after (1) *sum*, I am, I serve as; (2) verbs like *habeo*, *duco*, meaning ‘I consider as, reckon as’:

Dignitas tua mihi curae est.
Your dignity is a matter of concern to me.
Note that ‘*mihi*’ is the dative of reference.

Cassius quaerere solebat ‘cui bono fuisset’. CICERO
Cassius used to ask ‘to whom has it been an advantage’.
Note that ‘*cui*’ is the dative of reference.

(e) *Dative of purpose.*

The dative of purpose expresses the end in view.

Vercingetorix locum castris deligit. CAESAR
Vercingetorix chooses a place for the camp.

(6) Ablative

The ablative expresses relations which in English are generally indicated by the prepositions *from*, *with*, *by*, and *in*. It has four main uses.

(a) ‘Pure’ Ablatives: *Separation, Origin and Comparison.*

The ablative of *separation* is used (i) with verbs meaning ‘to keep away from’ (e.g. *abstineo*, *pello*), ‘free from’ (e.g. *libero*, *solvo*, *levo*), ‘deprive’ (e.g. *spolio*, *privo*), ‘lack’ (e.g. *egeo*, *careo*, *vaco*); (ii) with adjectives of similar meaning (e.g. *liber*, *vacuus*, *nudus*); (iii) with the adverb *procul* (‘far from’).

Procul negotiiis, solutus omni faenore. HORACE
Far from business, freed from all usury.

The ablative of *origin* is used with verbs, chiefly participles, implying descent or origin.

Atreus, Tantalo prognatus, Pelope natus. CICERO
Atreus, descended from Tantalus, and son of Pelops.

The ablative of *comparison* is used with comparative adjectives and adverbs instead of *quam* (than) with a nominative and accusative.

Nihil est amabilius virtute. CICERO
Nothing is more worthy of love than virtue.

(b) *Ablatives of Association: Association, Quality, Respect, Manner, Ablative Absolute*

The ablative of *association* is used with verbs and adjectives denoting plenty, fullness, and possession.

Villa abundant gallina, lacte, caseo, melle. CICERO
The farm abounds in poultry, milk, cheese, and honey.

The ablative of *quality* is used with an adjective in agreement.

Senex promissa barba, horrenti capillo. PLINY
An old man with a long beard and rough hair.

The ablative of *respect* or *specification*:

Ennius, ingenio maximus, arte rudis. OVID
Ennius, mighty in genius, in art is rude.

The ablative of the *manner* in which something happens or is done has an adjective in agreement with it, or follows the preposition *cum* (with).

Iam venit tacito curva senecta pede. OVID
Presently bent old age will come with silent foot.

The *ablative absolute* will be discussed in more detail at a later stage, but for the moment, it is sufficient to note that a phrase consisting of an ablative noun and a participle in agreement can give an indication of time or state.

Regibus exactis, consules creati sunt. LIVY
Kings having been abolished, consuls were elected.

(c) *Instrumental Ablatives: Agent, Instrument, Cause, Measure, Price*

The ablative of the *agent* indicates the person by whom something is done, and is accompanied by the preposition *a*, *ab*.

Malo a cive spoliari quam ab hoste venire. QUINTILIAN
I would rather be despoiled by a citizen than be sold by an enemy.

The ablative of *instrument* indicates the instrument by which something is done and is not accompanied by a preposition. An ablative of instrument is used with *fretus* (*sum*) / *nitor* (I support myself, lean on), *opus*, *usus* (*est*) (there is need), *consisto* (consists of), and with the deponent verbs *fungor* (perform), *fruor* (enjoy), *vescor* (feed on), *utor* (use), and *potior* (possess oneself of).

Dente lupus, cornu taurus petit. HORACE
The wolf attacks with his teeth, the bull with his horns.

The ablative of *cause* is used with adjectives, passive participles, and verbs (especially those denoting a mental state):

Oderunt peccare mali formidine poenae. HORACE
The bad hate to sin through fear of punishment.

The ablative of the *measure* of difference is used with comparatives and superlatives, and also – although more rarely – with some verbs.

Sol multis partibus maior est quam luna. CICERO
The sun is much bigger than the moon.

The ablative of *price* is used with verbs and adjectives of buying and selling.

Equum vili pretio emi.
I bought the horse at a cheap price.

(d) *The Ablative of Time and Place: the Locative Case*

An ablative of place or time includes the uses of the old locative case, which expressed the place where, or the time at which an action happened.

Celsa sedet Aeolus arce. VIRGIL
Aeolus is seated on his high citadel.

Quicquid est, biduo sciemus. CICERO
Whatever it is, we shall know in two days.

The true locative case is used (i) in the singular names of towns and small islands of the first and second (and occasionally the third) declensions (e.g. *Romae, Corcyrae, Corinthi, Carthagini*); (ii) In some special forms (e.g. *domi, belli, militiae, ruri, humi, vesperi*).

NOTE: Prepositions

<i>with the ablative</i>	<i>with the accusative</i>	<i>with either acc. or abl.</i>
a, ab <i>from/by</i>	ad <i>to/towards</i>	in <i>into (acc); in (abl)</i>
cum <i>with</i>	ante <i>before</i>	super <i>over</i>
de <i>down from/about</i>	apud <i>at the house of/among</i>	sub <i>under</i>
e, ex <i>out of</i>	circum <i>around</i>	
pro <i>in front/on behalf of</i>	contra <i>against</i>	'in', 'super', and 'sub'
sine <i>without</i>	extra <i>outside</i>	are used with an <i>accusative</i>
	inter <i>among/between</i>	if movement is involved;
	intra <i>inside</i>	otherwise with the <i>ablative</i> .
	per <i>through</i>	
	post <i>after/behind</i>	
	praeter <i>past/except</i>	
	prope <i>near</i>	
	propter <i>on account of/because of</i>	
	trans <i>across</i>	
	ultra <i>beyond</i>	

Exercises

- (1) Faber magno auxilio erit. *The workman will be a great help* (pred. dat.)
- (2) Tertio mense revenit. *He returned in the third month.* (abl. of time)
- (3) Boudicca regina, Britannii rebellionem contra Romanos fecerunt.
- (4) Quid accidit, Publi? *What's happened, Publius?* (voc.)
- (5) Ille centurio militibus odio est. *Everybody hates that centurion.* (pred. dat.+dat.of ref.)
- (6) Hodie domi laboro; cras tamen iter Athenas faciam. (loc. + acc. of movement)
- (7) Mercatores, ex Italia profecti, in Sicilia duos menses manserunt. (*ex + abl; in + abl*)
- (8) Racillus primum me sententiam rogavit. (Cicero) (double acc.)
- (9) Multorum sanguine victoria stetit. (Livy) (abl. of price)
- (10) Te veteris amicitiae commonefecit. (Cicero) (acc of person + gen. of thing; with v. of reminding)
- (11) Illi severitas amorem non deminuit. (Tacitus) *In his case, severity did not diminish love.* (dat. of ref.)
- (12) Nemo in foro erat; nam omnes cives ad amphitheatrum festinabant. (*in + abl; ad + acc*)