

MINIMUS SECUNDUS

Moving on in Latin



Barbara Bell

CAMBRIDGE

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Joint Association of Classical Teachers

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Introduction

The family you will meet in this book has been living at Vindolanda, a Roman fort in the north of Britain. They are not originally from Rome, but from Batavia (the Netherlands). Flavius, the father, joined the Roman army and his whole family travelled across the sea to Vindolanda to join him. Here they are:



Flavius, aged 45, is in charge of the fort



His wife, Lepidina, aged 37



Flavia, their daughter, aged 21



Iulius, their elder son, aged 18



Rufus, their younger son, aged 8



Corinthus, their educated Greek slave, aged 47



Candidus, their skilled Celtic slave, aged 41



Pandora, Lepidina's slave girl, aged 31



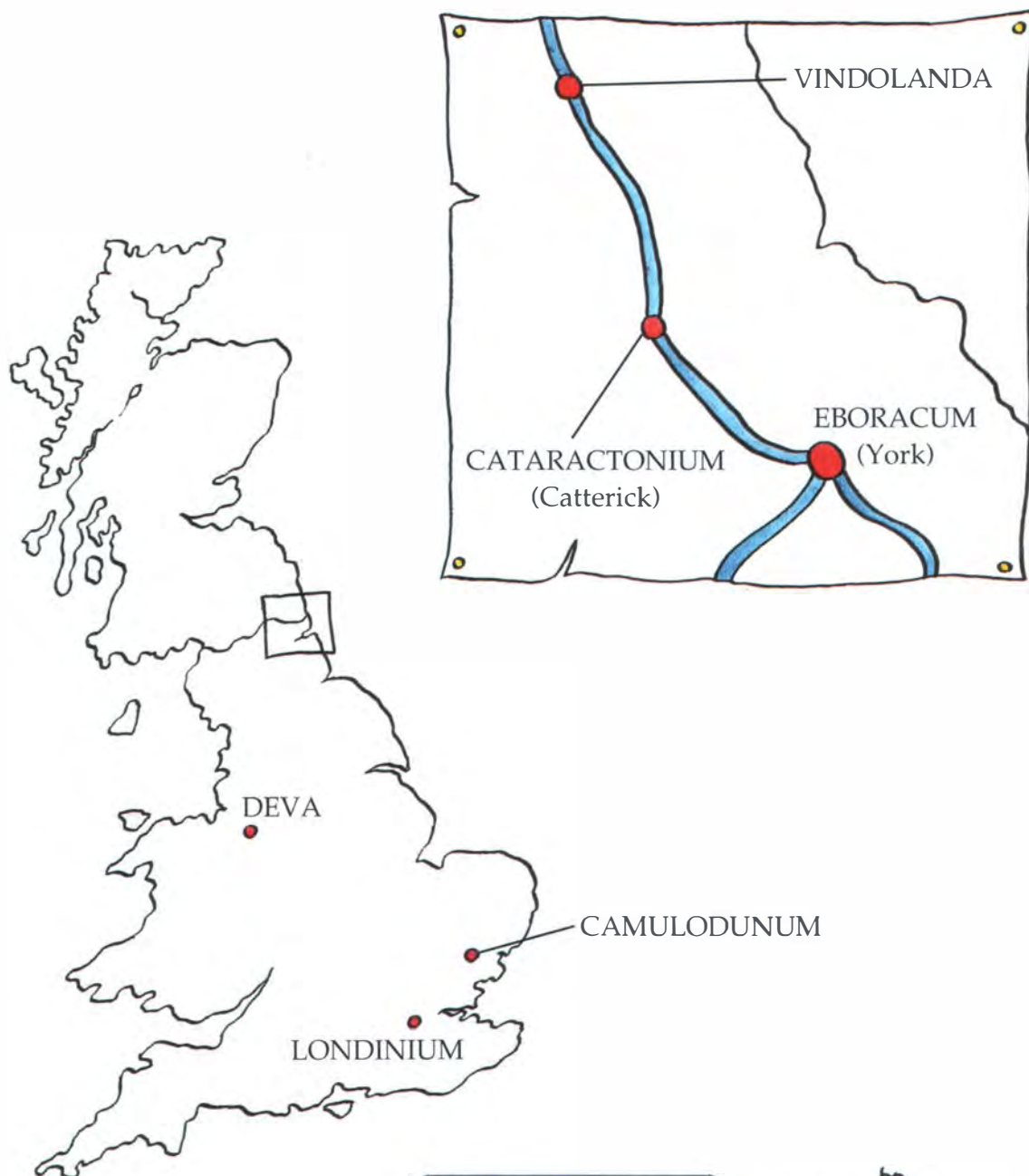
Their cat, Vibrissa, who is always chasing mice . . .

. . . and I'm their mouse, Minimus!





It is the year AD 105. We are leaving Vindolanda this summer because Flavius has a new job in Eboracum (York). It's a very long journey so we will need to stop on the way. I've never travelled before – I hope I won't get lost! I suppose Vibrissa will be coming too . . . ēheu!



This is where we will live!





1

Iūlius

Last days at Vindolanda

A special occasion

Now that Flavius is leaving Vindolanda, all the soldiers are taking part in a big parade: they are saying goodbye to him and to his family.





WORDS TO HELP

Nouns

clāmōrem noise
pompa parade
praefectus commander

Adjectives

agitātī excited
laetī happy
omnēs all, everyone
praecipuus special

Exclamations

ecce! look!
euge! hooray!
valē! goodbye!

Question word

cūr? why?

Verbs

appropinquat it approaches/is approaching
audiunt they hear/are hearing
equitat he rides/is riding
incēdunt they march/are marching

Adverbs

subitō suddenly
tum then

Idioms

aliī ... aliī ... some ... others ...
ita vērō yes
rem explicat explains the situation



GRASP THE GRAMMAR

The most important word in a sentence is the **verb**; it describes what **action** is happening. In Latin, the verb is normally found at the **end** of the sentence.

Look carefully at these two sentences. Can you remember what they mean?

- a **Minimus pompam spectat.**
 b **Lepidina et Iulius pompam spectant.**

In each sentence, the verb is in **bold**. Notice that **spectat** means “he watches/ he is watching” but **spectant** means “they watch/they are watching”.

Latin uses different verb endings to show *who* is doing the action.

Notice too that there is no word for “he” or “they”. The ending of the verb shows us who is doing the watching.

Here is the full set of six verb endings:

spectō	I watch/am watching	spectāmus	we watch/are watching
spectās	you watch/are watching*	spectātis	you watch/are watching**
spectat	he/she/it watches/is watching	spectant	they watch/are watching
* when “you” refers to one person (singular)			
** when “you” refers to more than one person (plural)			

We call this set of endings the **present tense**, because the action is happening **now**.

Here are some more **verbs**. Translate them into English, taking care to check the endings to see *who* is doing the action:

1 equitat	5 spectat	9 equitant
2 appropinquant	6 equitō	10 vocās
3 vocō	7 appropinquātis	11 spectāmus
4 equitāmus	8 spectātis	12 appropinquās



Try to remember those endings because then you can understand hundreds of Latin verbs!

But here’s one verb that is a bit different!



From the pictures on pages 6 and 7, try to work out the meaning of **est**, **sumus** and **sunt**.

These are all parts of the verb “to be”. This verb needs special care: it doesn’t follow the normal pattern for verbs in Latin – or in any other language in fact! It’s called an **irregular** verb.

sum	I am	sumus	we are
es	you are	estis	you are
est	he/she/it is	sunt	they are



LATIN ROOTS

Use your knowledge of Latin to explain the underlined word in each sentence.

- 1 The Queen likes to watch equestrian events.
- 2 If you are a singer, you must look after your vocal cords.
- 3 Most football clubs now provide seating for the spectators.
- 4 In some countries, young people still do a period of military service.
- 5 Vesuvius is a dormant volcano.
- 6 Teachers sometimes use audio-visual aids in lessons.



ROMAN REPORT

Uncovering the past

Flavius and his family lived at Vindolanda for about six years at the beginning of the second century AD. Trying to piece together all the evidence for their life there is rather like doing a large jigsaw puzzle.

- Archaeologists who have excavated at Vindolanda can tell us a lot about this family. They have found many interesting items that belonged to the family and to other people who lived inside and outside the Roman fort. For example, we can see Lepidina's sandals, her comb in its case and her sewing needles. These **artefacts** are displayed in the Chesterholm museum at Vindolanda.
- Every year, archaeologists dig at Vindolanda. They have found the remains of **buildings** used by the soldiers and by Flavius and his family. They have worked out the size of these buildings, including the actual house that the family lived in.
- When the family left the fort, Flavius decided to burn his personal **letters** along with the records of the fort. However, the wooden writing tablets were not completely destroyed. They were buried and when archaeologists excavated them they were able to read the messages.
- Archaeologists have also found altars and tombstones that have **inscriptions** on them. These give us valuable information about the people who lived in the fort and about their religious beliefs.



This is the type of decorative head-dress which was worn by Flavius's horse in the parade

An important job

After the parade, Flavius gives the soldiers some surprising orders.





WORDS TO HELP

Nouns

ancillae slave girls

lāridum lard

ligna logs

rogum bonfire

silicēs flints

silvam forest

tabulās writing tablets

Verbs

ardet it burns/is burning

colligite! collect

curreunt they run/are running

facimus we do/are doing

fundunt they pour/are pouring

iactant they throw/are throwing

nescio I don't know

terunt they rub/are rubbing

truncant they cut/are cutting

Pronoun

hoc this

Adjective

calidum hot



GRASP THE GRAMMAR

A **noun** is the name of a person, a place or a thing. Names of people and places are called **proper nouns**. They always have a capital letter, both in English and in Latin, for example Pandora, Rufus and Vindolanda.

All other words in Latin begin with a small letter.

Nouns can do different jobs in a sentence. The person or thing *doing the action* is called the **subject** of the sentence; the person or thing *having the action done to them* is called the **object**. In Latin, nouns that are the **object** of a sentence have different endings.

Look at these two sentences:

a rogus ardet. The bonfire is burning.

b milītēs rogu m cōstruunt. The soldiers build a bonfire.

In sentence **a**, the bonfire is the **subject**. In sentence **b**, it is the **object**, so it changes from **rogus** to **rogu m**.

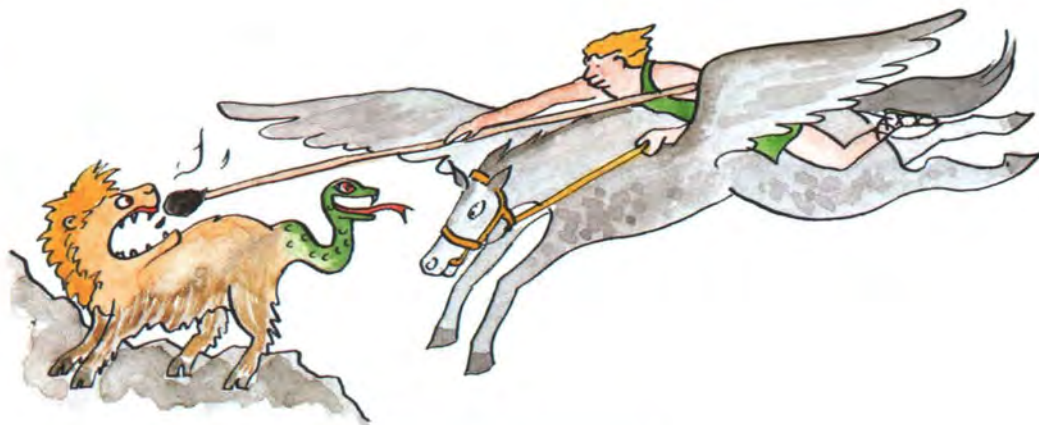
Copy out these sentences and translate them into English. Then underline the verb, both in English and in Latin. Finally, put an **s** over the **subject** and an **o** over the **object**. The first one is done for you.

- | | | | | |
|---|----------|----------|---------------|-------------------------------|
| | s | o | s | o |
| 1 | Pandōra | Rūfūm | <u>vocat.</u> | = Pandora <u>calls</u> Rufus. |
| 2 | Lepidīna | pompam | spectat. | |
| 3 | Minimus | clāmōrem | audit. | |
| 4 | Iūlius | rem | explicat. | |
| 5 | Vibrissa | Minimum | spectat. | |
| 6 | omnēs | flammās | spectant. | |
| 7 | militēs | tabulās | iactant. | |

Pandora decides to tell Rufus a story to cheer him up. He loved the parade with the wonderful horse so she tells him the story of another special horse.

PEGASUS THE WONDER-HORSE

Long ago in Greece there lived a handsome hero called Bellerophon. He quarrelled with Proteus, the King of Corinth, so the King gave him some terrible tasks to do. One of these was to kill a monster called the Chimaera, a strange beast which breathed fire. It had the head of a lion, the body of a goat and a snake for a tail. It was destroying the land. Bellerophon went to sleep, wondering how he could kill such a frightening creature. While he slept, the goddess Minerva appeared and left a golden bridle by his side. When he woke up, Bellerophon saw a wonderful horse with wings. This horse was called Pegasus. With the help of the golden bridle, he mounted the horse and soared into the sky in search of the Chimaera. Once he caught sight of it he swooped down low, choked its fiery breath with lead and cut its head off. Bellerophon was so proud of his achievements that he decided to fly Pegasus up to Mount Olympus, where the gods lived. Jupiter was angry with Bellerophon for his arrogance so he sent a gadfly to sting Pegasus. Bellerophon was thrown from his horse and plummeted to earth.



Remember, the **verb** is the action word in the sentence!



And a **noun** is the name of a person, a place or a thing.





Augustus

Iulius joins the army

A soldier at last!

Iulius has joined the Roman army and will soon be leaving Vindolanda. He discusses this plan with Flavius and Rufus.





WORDS TO HELP

Nouns

bellum war
dea goddess
imperātor emperor
iter journey
mare sea
pontem bridge

Question words

quid? what?
quis? who?
ubi? where?

Idiom

bellum gerit he is fighting a war

Verbs

aedificant they build
nōli timēre! don't be afraid!
superant they win
vādō I go

Adverbs

ibi there
scīlicet of course
semper always
tam so

Prepositions

prope near
trāns across

Adjectives

nōtissimae very famous
periculōsum dangerous
sollicitus worried

Conjunctions

quod because
quoque also
sed but



GRASP THE GRAMMAR

In chapter 1 you learnt that a noun is a naming word for a person, a place or a thing. Nouns can be *described* by words known as **adjectives**.

Latin nouns are said to be **masculine**, **feminine** or **neuter**. (“Neuter” means neither masculine nor feminine.) This is called the **gender** of the noun.

Whenever we use an adjective to describe a noun, it must be the same **gender** as the noun. For example, Rufus is **sollicitus** (masculine) but Lepidina would be **sollicita** (feminine).

Look at the four sentences below. In each sentence there is one **noun** and in each case it is described by one **adjective**.

Copy out each sentence in Latin and then write down what it means in English. In each sentence, underline the **noun** and the **adjective**. Then write the letter **n** above the noun and the letter **a** above the adjective.

- 1 legiōnēs nōtissimae sunt.
- 2 milītēs Rōmānī semper superant.
- 3 Lepidīna laeta nōn est.
- 4 bellum periculōsum est.

Remember, the only nouns that have a capital letter in Latin are the names of people or places – **proper nouns**.



How observant are you? In Latin, does the **adjective** normally come before or after the **noun**?



To help you understand the idea of the **gender** of a noun, we'll mark it in “Words to help” from now on. Look out for **m** (= masculine), **f** (= feminine) and **n** (= neuter). We'll give the masculine, feminine and neuter forms of adjectives too.



LATIN ROOTS

Use your knowledge of Latin to explain the underlined word in each sentence.

- 1 If a striker scores the winning goal in a cup final, he will achieve notable success.
- 2 I hope to play the principal boy in next year's pantomime.
- 3 The boats will be moored in the marina during the summer.
- 4 It is perilous to walk along the edge of a roof.
- 5 You may feel rather timid when you start a new school.
- 6 You need to take a transatlantic flight to go to the United States.



Did you get the last one right? Now have a competition: see how many words you can find in English which begin with “trans-”. All these words come from Latin. If you're stuck, use your dictionary!





ROMAN REPORT

Joining up

Iulius is eighteen and he is about to join the Roman army. Before being accepted, he has to pass a fitness test and promise that he will be loyal to the Roman emperor. Since his father Flavius is prefect of the camp, Iulius will join the army as an officer, called a **tribune**. He will join a legion called II Traiana. This is a new legion, assembled by the emperor Trajan specially for the wars in Dacia. (Today this country is called Romania.)

Check the evidence

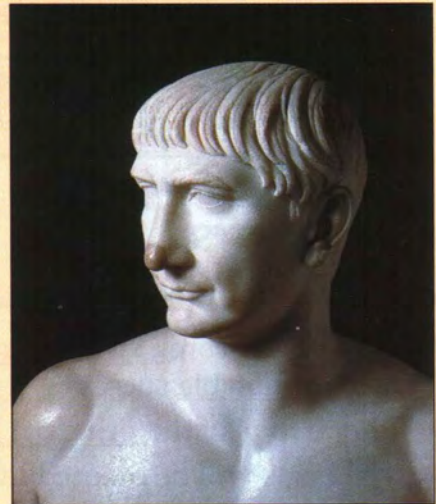
When we want to find out about a Roman emperor (what he did, what he looked like, what sort of person he was) we need to check the evidence carefully. Sometimes we have archaeological remains that show what the emperor built, for example Hadrian's Wall in the north of Britain. Sometimes we have accounts by ancient writers that tell us about his character, for example Suetonius wrote a work called *Lives of the Emperors*. Sometimes we have coins and statues that show what the emperor looked like. In the case of Trajan, we can see Trajan's forum in Rome and the column that was built in his honour to show his victories in Dacia. We also have several written accounts of his character and achievements.

“ He was loved by all
and dreaded by none
save the enemy.

Cassius Dio ”

“ When it comes to public
building, you [Trajan] do
it on a grand scale.

Pliny ”



Bust of Trajan in the
British Museum

The family says goodbye





WORDS TO HELP

Nouns

cēnam (f) dinner
dōnum (n) present
filiūm (m) son
librūm (m) book
vestīmenta (n plural)
 clothes

Pronoun

tibi for you

Idiom

grātiās tibi agō
 I thank you

Verbs

bibunt they drink
cape! take
colligit she collects
coquit he cooks
custōdī! take care of
habeō I have
mulcet he strokes
murmurat she purrs
pugnant they fight
rīdent they laugh
saltat she dances
strīdet he squeaks

Adjectives

frīgidus/a/um cold
meus/a/um my
parvus/a/um small

Adverbs

intentē closely
iocōsē playfully
lēniter gently
optimē very well
perītē skilfully
suāviter sweetly



Nouns can be either **singular** (like “book”) or **plural** (like “clothes”). We’ll mark plural nouns with a **pl** after the gender in “Words to help” from now on.

How do they feel?

Iulius is about to go on a long journey to Dacia and his family will not see him for a long time.

How do you think each of them feels about his journey? Imagine that Iulius was your older brother. How would you feel? Why will the journey be more dangerous for Iulius than it would be today?



GRASP THE GRAMMAR

In the picture story on pages 13 and 14 we saw that **adjectives** describe **nouns**, for example the emperor (**imperātor**) was described as “best” (**optimus**).

In this story, some of the **verbs** are made more interesting by adding an **adverb**. Adverbs tell us *how* the action is done, for example Pandora sings “sweetly”. In English, many adverbs end in **-ly**.

But be careful! Some adverbs don't follow this pattern. For example, in the sentence “Vibrissa catches mice well”, the word “well” is the adverb.



You can remember the word “adverb” because it **adds** to the **verb**.



Have another look at the picture story. See how many **adjectives** and **adverbs** you can find. Then make two columns, one for the adjectives and one for the adverbs. Write each word down in Latin first and then in English.

Corinthus tries to reassure Lepidina by telling the story of the famous Greek hero, Odysseus, who eventually arrived home safely after many exciting adventures.

ODYSSEUS AT SEA

After the Greeks defeated the Trojans and destroyed their city, they all set sail for Greece. The hero Odysseus took ten years to travel back to his home in Ithaca. This was because he had many adventures on the way. One day, he and his men had to sail past the Sirens. These were terrible creatures who had the heads and voices of women but the bodies of birds. They sang so sweetly that they lured passing sailors to their death on the rocks of their island. Odysseus had a cunning plan. He was curious to hear the singing himself but he did not want to endanger his ship. He made his crew fill their ears with beeswax so that they could not hear the singing. Odysseus did not put wax in his own ears but asked his men to tie him securely to the mast of the ship. As they approached the Sirens and Odysseus heard their beautiful song, he was very tempted to leap overboard, but the ropes held him tightly and his men rowed frantically until they had sailed safely past.





September

On the move

A difficult journey

The family have finished packing their belongings. They set off on their journey in a covered wagon. Flavius rides in front and he has armed soldiers with him to protect his family.





WORDS TO HELP

Nouns

- fossam (f) ditch
 marītus (m) husband
 plastrum (n) wagon

Pronouns

- mihi for me
 tibi for you (singular)
 nōbīs for us
 vōbīs for you (plural)

Adverbs

- iterum again
 lentē slowly
 tandem at last

Verbs

- accipiunt they welcome
 adiuvāte! help!
 adveniunt they arrive
 advesperāscit it is becoming dark
 cavēte! be careful!
 dēcidit it falls down
 difficile est it is difficult
 intrāte! come in!
 necesse est it is necessary
 pluit it is raining
 sedet it sits
 tonat it thunders
- Infinitives*
 cantāre to sing
 dēscendere to climb down
 prōpellerē to push

Adjectives

- expectātissimus/a/um
 very welcome
 limōsus/a/um muddy
 lūbricus/a/um slippery
 perterritus/a/um frightened
 tacitus/a/um silent

Preposition

- ē from



GRASP THE GRAMMAR



Remember that a **verb** is an action word!

In this story you have met some new **verb endings**.



Look at **cantāre**. It means "to sing". We call this form of the verb the **infinitive**. Have another look at pictures 5 and 6. Try to find two more infinitives. What does each one mean?



Remember, the infinitive usually ends in **-re** and the translation begins "to . . ." (to run, to eat, etc.).



We also met some verbs like **pluit** which means "it is raining". When the subject of a verb is "it" we call it an **impersonal verb**. Look at pictures 1, 5, 6, 8 and 9. Try to find six uses of impersonal verbs.

Now translate the following sentences.

When you have translated them, write

down in Latin all the **impersonal verbs** and all the **infinitives**

that you can find. Again, some have been used more than once.

Be careful! Some have been used more than once.



Here is a clue to help you: I can find 13 impersonal verbs . . .

. . . and I can find eight infinitives.



- 1 in Britannīā semper pluit.
- 2 Vibrissa dīcit, "iterum pluit. necesse est mihi currere."
- 3 Vibrissa dīcit, "difficile est mihi currere quod obēsa sum."
- 4 Lepidīna dīcit, "Rūfe, advesperāscit. necesse est tibi dormīre."
- 5 Rūfus dīcit, "sed difficile est mihi dormīre quod fessus nōn sum."
- 6 Lepidīna dīcit, "advesperāscit. necesse est nōbīs festīnāre."
- 7 Flāvius dīcit, "sed difficile est nōbīs festīnāre quod via lūbrica est."
- 8 Rūfus dīcit, "iterum tonat. perterritus sum."
- 9 Pandōra dīcit, "Rūfe, nōlī timēre! necesse est mihi cantāre."
- 10 Rūfus dīcit, "nunc nōn tonat. euge!"



If you pronounce **necesse** and **difficile** properly, you will always spell the words "necessary" and "difficult" correctly in English!

How do they feel?

The family set off on their journey. They sit in silence. Try to imagine what each of them feels as they move to their new home in Eboracum. Describe the feelings of each person (Flavius, Lepidina, Rufus, Vibrissa, Minimus, Corinthus, Candidus and Pandora).



LATIN ROOTS

Use your knowledge of Latin to explain the underlined word in each sentence.

- 1 There is something wrong with my car engine. I think it needs some lubricating oil.
- 2 The boat could not move because the propeller was stuck in the mud.
- 3 Pavarotti will be performing a famous cantata in Verona.
- 4 I need to change my sedentary job and get more exercise.

Do you play a musical instrument? Usually the instructions on how to play a piece are given in Italian, a language which has developed from Latin. So how would you play if the music said **lente**?



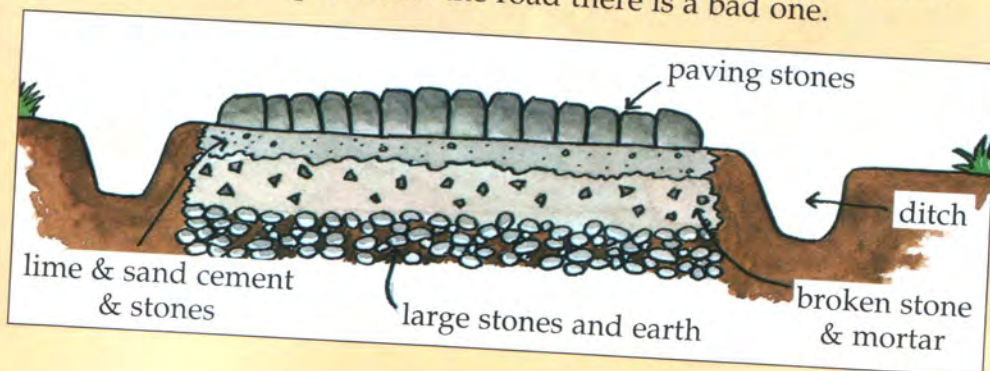
ROMAN REPORT

Roman roads

The Romans were famous for building straight roads wherever they went. They built their roads as straight as possible so that soldiers could march quickly and avoid the risk of ambush. The roads linked Rome with the various countries that they conquered. In Britain, the Romans built approximately 13,000 kilometres (8,000 miles) of roads. Parts of them survive today and in many places we can still walk or drive along the line of a Roman road.

Most of the road building was done by legionary soldiers. They dug a ditch on either side of the road to drain away any rainwater. Then they used the earth and rubble that they had dug out to build up the ground between the ditches into a mound. On top of this, they put large stones and then a layer of small stones. Finally, they used large, shaped stones as a top layer, fitted together tightly. This is known as "metalling". The surface of the road was normally slightly curved, to allow rainwater to drain off. Roman roads were up to eight metres wide.

If the road was good, soldiers could march up to 30 miles a day. People also rode on mules or donkeys. In one of the Vindolanda writing tablets, a centurion complains that supplies to Catterick have been held up because the road there is a bad one.



Flavia is not well

Flavia's slave has prepared a special welcome dinner for the family.





WORDS TO HELP

Nouns

- avia (f) grandmother
 avus (m) grandfather
 cibus (m) food
 deae matrēs (f pl)
 mother goddesses
 obstetrīx (f) midwife
 pāvō (m) peacock
 triclinium (n) dining room

Idioms

- plūs vini more wine
 quid agis? what's the matter?
 vir optime! sir!

Verbs

- adest it is here
 cōsūmunt they eat
 erō I will be
 īnspicit s/he inspects
 revenit she returns
 sedē! sit down!

Infinitives

- propināre to propose a toast
 quiescere to rest

Exclamation

- grātulātiōnēs! (f pl) congratulations!

Adjectives

- gravidus/a/um pregnant;
 heavy
 modicus/a/um ordinary

Adverbs

- celeriter quickly
 cotīdiē every day
 minimē! no!

Lepidina is still feeling rather worried about her daughter. Corinthus tries to distract her by telling a Greek story. Soon Lepidina is smiling.

A VERY STRANGE BIRTH

Once upon a time Zeus, the king of the gods, fell in love with a sea goddess called Metis. Mother Earth warned Zeus that any child born of this friendship with Metis would overthrow him. Zeus was taking no chances. When he got near to Metis, he swallowed her whole. Almost immediately he began to have violent headaches: it felt as if his head would burst. He howled so loudly that he shook Mount Olympus. Hermes realised what was wrong and went to fetch Hephaestus, the blacksmith god. Hephaestus split open Zeus's skull with an axe. Out sprang Athene, the warrior goddess, fully armed and uttering battle cries. What an unusual birth! Of course, because he was king of the gods, Zeus soon recovered.





Octōber

A new way of life in Eboracum

After saying goodbye to Flavia and Gaius, the family eventually arrives in Eboracum. Their new home is near the soldiers' fortress. They set off to explore . . .

Discovering Eboracum

1 *quis est?*
ecce! Barātes adest! amicus meus est. Barātes vexillārius est.

2 Barates is from Syria but travelled to Britain to trade with the Roman army. He sells beautiful cloth and makes flags. He shows the family around Eboracum.

3 *quis es? tū quoque vexillārius es?*
minimē! ego figulus sum.

4 *quid est?*
figtina est. in figtinā sunt paterae et ollae.

5 *quis es? tū quoque figulus es?*
minimē! ego ferrārius sum.

6 *quid est?*
fornāx est. ecce! sunt clāvi et gladii.



WORDS TO HELP

Nouns

- amīcus (m) friend
 amphorīs (f pl) jars
 clāvī (m pl) nails
 ferrārius (m) blacksmith
 figlīnā (f) pottery workshop
 figulus (m) potter
 flūmen (n) river
 fornāx (f) forge
 frūmentum (n) grain
 horreum (n) granary
 nāvēs (f pl) ships
 ōllae (f pl) pots
 paterae (f pl) bowls
 vexillārius (m) flag-seller

Verb

- Infinitive*
 condere to store

Pronoun

- tū you (sing.)

Preposition

- cum with



GRASP THE GRAMMAR

When we're telling a story, we don't want to keep repeating the names of all the main characters. For example, "Barates comes from Syria. Barates is a flag-seller. Barates shows the family around Eboracum."



In place of the name Barates, it's much easier to use the word "he". Words that stand in the place of nouns are called **pronouns**.

In English we use pronouns much more often than in Latin. Remember that in chapter 1 you learnt that Latin verbs don't need a separate word to show *who* is doing the action. The **verb ending** tells us who is doing it. So if we want to say "he shows" in Latin, we can just say **dēmōnstrat**. If we want to say "I show", we just say **dēmōnstrō**.

The Romans only used pronouns for emphasis or to make a contrast, for example "I support Newcastle but *you* are a Liverpool fan."



Look back at pictures 3 and 5 on page 27. Find the two little Latin words that mean "I" and "you". These are called **personal pronouns**. Remember that they are only used for emphasis.

Redraft this paragraph, replacing the nouns with pronouns.

Flavius and Lepidina arrive in Eboracum. Eboracum is much bigger than Vindolanda. Flavius and Lepidina see Barates. Barates takes Flavius and Lepidina to the river. Barates shows the warehouse to Flavius and Lepidina. Flavius and Lepidina look at the warehouse. Flavius and Lepidina say, "The warehouse is very big and the warehouse is near to the river." Then Flavius and Lepidina look at the ships. The ships are carrying goods from many different countries. Flavius says, "Look at those jars on the ships." Lepidina says, "The jars are filled with wine from France and olive oil from Spain."



LATIN ROOTS

Use your knowledge of Latin to work out the meaning of the underlined word in each sentence.

- 1 We parked in the multi-storey car park.
- 2 If we go to the multiplex cinema we can choose which film we want to watch.
- 3 Now that I am studying Latin, French and Italian I am becoming multi-lingual.
- 4 Most of our big cities are multi-racial.
- 5 To make 100, we multiply 25 by 4.
- 6 Why did the film producer call the famous gladiator "Maximus"?



ROMAN REPORT

Eboracum (York)

About one hundred years after Flavius and his family came to live there, Eboracum became one of the most important Roman towns in Britain. It began as a wooden fortress for soldiers towards the end of the first century AD. Then a small settlement grew up outside the fortress; this provided accommodation for the merchants, traders and families who followed the troops. This is how many Roman towns began.

Flavius and the family are seeing Eboracum in the very early stages of its development. The buildings outside the fortress are made of wood, or wattle and daub. There are craftsmen selling their products and many more goods come up the River Ouse from various parts of the Roman Empire. On the far side of the river there is a series of warehouses. Each one stores different items, for example there is one for wool and one for grain (a granary).

Flavius and his family have a big house near the military fortress. There are plans to build a new fortress out of stone. Flavius's new job is to supervise the planning and design of this new military headquarters. When the local people realise that the old wooden fortress is going to be replaced by a stone one, they know that the Roman army is here to stay.

The granary is destroyed

The next day, Rufus notices that workmen are pulling down the granary.





WORDS TO HELP

Nouns

digitōs (m pl) fingers
fabrī (m pl) workmen
ligna (n pl) wooden planks
scarabaei (m pl) beetles

Adjectives

cārus/a/um expensive
foedus/a/um disgusting
iucundus/a/um lovely
malus/a/um bad
mīlia thousands

Verbs

dēlent they destroy
dētrahunt they remove
labōrant they work
nōlī tangere! don't touch!
sistite! stop!
venī! come!

Infinitives

lavāre to wash
tollere to remove

Impersonal verb

facile est nobis it is easy for us

Idiom

mēcum with me



ROMAN REPORT

Archaeologists working in Eboracum have found out a great deal about the granary. When they examined the remains of the grain carefully under a microscope, they could clearly see dead beetles in it. It seems that this grain was so badly infested that the soldiers in the fortress decided it would be best to pull down the granary and start again. They put down a layer of clay and then started to build the new granary. It too was made of wood and, unfortunately, it appears that it burnt down. Archaeologists have found the remains of a lot of burnt grain in Eboracum. Timber buildings were always at risk but stone granaries were not built until later.



This microscope slide shows a grain beetle and charred grain

Pulling down the warehouse to get rid of the beetles is a long and difficult task. It reminds Corinthus of a famous Greek hero, who also had to destroy a terrible scourge.

HERACLES AND THE HYDRA

In Greece, at a place called Lerna, there lived a fearsome water-snake. It was called the Hydra and it was a terrible watery monster with many snaky necks and fanged, poison-dripping heads. It lived in a dismal swamp, feeding off the crops and flocks, and its venomous breath spread death.

Heracles was set twelve very difficult tasks. One of these was to kill the Hydra.

He forced the creature out of its lair and started to beat it with his club. However, as soon as he knocked off one head, two more grew in its place. Heracles asked his friend Iolaus to help him. Each time Heracles knocked off a head, Iolaus would burn the stump, so that no new heads could grow. Little by little, Heracles overcame the monster. Then he dipped his arrows in the monster's blood, to make them deadly poisonous.





5

November

News from near and far

Sad news

Flavius has been visiting the soldiers in the fortress and has heard some sad news.





WORDS TO HELP

Nouns

- diēs (m pl) days
 iuvenis (m) young man
 phalerae (f pl) medals
 proelium (n) battle
 sacellum (n) chapel
 signifer (m) standard-bearer
 signum (n) military standard
 stipendium (n) pay (for soldiers)
 titulus (m) inscription

Verbs

- cūrat he looks after
 custōdit he guards
 erat he was
 volō I want
 vīs you want

Infinitives

- facere to make
 invenire to find
 sculperē to carve

Impersonal verbs

- mihi placet I want (it pleases me)
 tibi licet you are allowed/
 you may (it is permitted for you)

Adjectives

- cārissime dearest
 paucōs a few
 trīstis sad

Prepositions

- post after
 sub under

Adverb

- tam so



GRASP THE GRAMMAR

In the picture story, there are two new **impersonal verbs**: **(mihi) placet** and **(tibi) licet**.

The literal translation of these two verbs is “it is pleasing (to me)” and “it is permitted (for you)”.

But people don't talk like that! Our translation into English needs to sound natural as well as being accurate. So it's much better to translate these verbs as “I want” and “you can” or “you are allowed”.

Did you remember the question words? What's the difference between **cūr?**, **quis?** and **quid?**



Have another look at the picture story. Can you find the five **infinitives**? Remember that they all end in **-re**. One of them is used twice.



LATIN ROOTS

Use your knowledge of Latin to explain the underlined words.

- 1 At the trial, the judge ordered the defendant to be remanded in custody.
- 2 At our school, games are voluntary for sixth-formers.
- 3 James Bond – licensed to kill.
- 4 Most teachers cannot tolerate juvenile behaviour.
- 5 As the old lady died in suspicious circumstances, there will be a post-mortem in the mortuary.
- 6 Was the printing press a more significant invention than television?



ROMAN REPORT

The *signifer* (standard-bearer)

Each unit of the Roman army had its own military “standard” – a sign or emblem identifying its part of the legion. It was carried by the standard-bearer (**signifer**), one of the officers in the Roman army. He carried the standard with pride and it was a source of great shame and dishonour if the standard was lost to the enemy. The carvings on Trajan’s column show that the standard-bearer usually wore scale armour (made in overlapping sections) and a bearskin, and carried a small, round shield.

The standard-bearer was also in charge of the soldiers’ pay. This money was kept in a locked room beneath the **sacellum** or chapel of the military fortress.

Here is Lucius Duccius, the standard-bearer. In his right hand he is holding the military standard. Can you see the **phalerae** on the pole, with a hand at the top? In his left hand, Lucius is holding a set of writing tablets. What do you think is written on these tablets?

Notice that Lucius is not wearing a bearskin but an unusual Celtic woollen cloak, called a **paenula**. The inscription beneath the figure tells us more about Lucius.

You need to look at some of the abbreviations:

- 1 LEG. is short for **legiō**. The Roman numerals tell us his legion. Which legion did Lucius belong to?
- 2 AN. is short for **annōs**, which means “years”. Can you find out how old Lucius was when he died?
- 3 VIEN. is short for **Vienne**. This tells us that Lucius was from Vienne in Gaul (now France) rather than from Austria.

Why do you think Flavius had this tombstone made for Lucius Duccius?



The tombstone of Lucius Duccius Rufinus, now in the Yorkshire Museum

A letter from Dacia

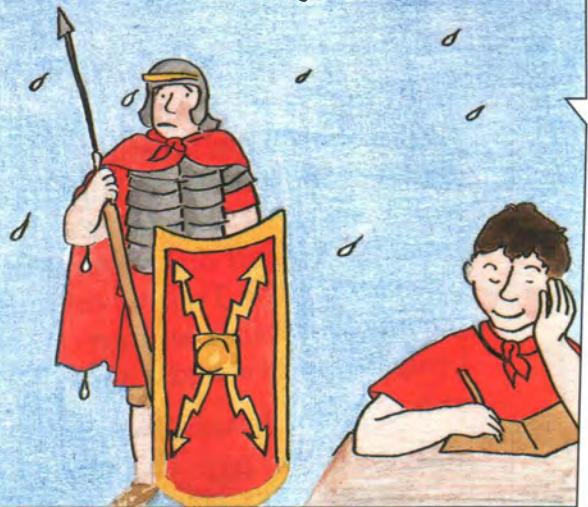
1



Lepidīna laeta est.
Lepidīna epistulam tenet.
Lepidīna epistulam legit.

2

Dācia frīgida est. saepe pluit.



3

nunc ningit!



4



aliī militēs pontem aedificant.

5

pōns trāns Dānuvium trānsit.
pōns mīrus est. sunt multa saxa.



6

nesse est militibus diligenter
labōrāre et saxa portāre.





WORDS TO HELP

Nouns

- Dānuvius (m) the River
Danube
dux (m) leader
epistula (f) letter
pōns (m) bridge
saxum (n) stone
scriba (m) secretary

Verbs

- legit she reads
pugnō I fight
pugnant they fight
tenet she holds
trānsit it crosses

Infinitives

- labōrāre to work
portāre to carry

Impersonal verb

- ningit it is snowing

Adverb

- tamen however

Adjective

- tūtus/a/um safe

Rufus is curious about the weather in Dacia. Corinthus tells him the story of the seasons.

DEMETER AND PERSEPHONE

Demeter, the goddess of crops and of all growing things, bore Zeus a beautiful daughter called Persephone. One day Persephone was out gathering poppies when she was spied by Hades, the god of the Underworld. Hades decided to carry her off to the Underworld to live with him. As he abducted her, she shrieked so loudly that her cries reached her mother. Demeter mourned the loss of her daughter and so did the whole of nature. Flowers wilted, the fields lay bare and fruit rotted on the branches.

Zeus was alarmed so he sent Hermes to Hades, asking him to release Persephone. Hades agreed to let her go but only on condition that she had not eaten anything. As Persephone had already eaten six pomegranate seeds, she could only return to earth for six months of the year.

She returned to her mother and immediately all the flowers began to bloom and the crops to grow. This was the beginning of spring and summer. But when Persephone returned to the Underworld, all the crops stopped growing and the leaves fluttered down from the trees. It grew cold and dark – autumn and winter had begun. From then on, Persephone spent six lovely months on earth and six dark months in the Underworld and that is why we have the changing seasons.





6

December

Time for celebration!

It's the Saturnalia!



1 Sāturnālia adsunt.
Flāvia et Gāius vīsitant.



2 Lepidīna
cēnam
coquit.

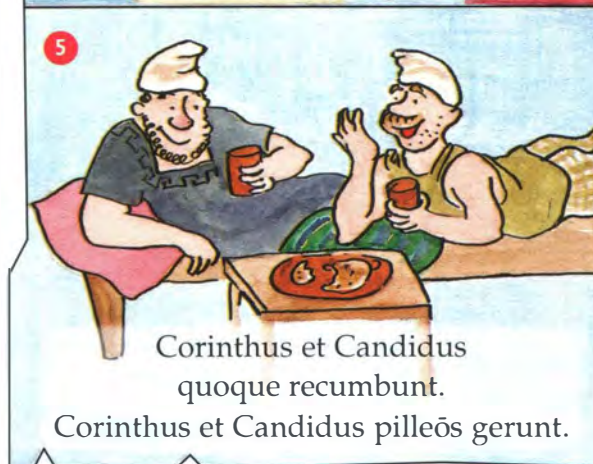


3 cibus optimus est!

Candidus cibum gustat.



4 Pandōra in lectō recumbit.
Pandōra pilleum gerit.



5 Corinthus et Candidus
quoque recumbunt.
Corinthus et Candidus pilleōs gerunt.



6 hodiē servi sumus!

Flāuius et Rūfus cibum portant.



WORDS TO HELP

Nouns

cibus (m) food

lectus (m) couch

pilleus (m) cap of freedom

Sāturnālia (n pl) Saturnalia
(festival in December)

Preposition

in in/on

Verbs

adsunt (they) are here

dētergit he cleans up

fundit he pours

gerit she wears

gustat he tastes

lacrimat he cries

profundit he spills

recumbit she reclines

Adjectives

benignus/a/um kind

pulcher/pulchra/pulchrum
beautiful

Adverb

hodiē today



GRASP THE GRAMMAR



It's time to practise some verbs.

Remember to look at the **ending** of a verb to see who is doing the action.

What do the following verbs mean in English? Remember to say if it is "he" or "they" doing the action.

Look back at the picture story if you are stuck with any of the meanings.



- | | | |
|------------|-------------|-----------|
| 1 lacrimat | 4 recumbunt | 7 visitat |
| 2 visitant | 5 portant | 8 fundit |
| 3 recumbit | 6 lacrimant | 9 portat |

Nouns change their endings too, to show what job they are doing in the sentence.



Compare these two sentences:

a **Pandōra** pilleum gerit. Pandora is wearing a cap.

b Candidus **Pandōram** spectat. Candidus looks at Pandora.

In sentence **a**, Pandora is the person doing the action. We say that she is the **subject** of the sentence.

In sentence **b**, she has the action done to her. Pandora is the **object** of this sentence and so the ending of the noun **Pandōra** now becomes **Pandōram**.



ROMAN REPORT

The Saturnalia

The Saturnalia was the most important holiday in the Roman year. The Latin poet Catullus describes it as "**optimus diērum**", the best of days. It began on 17 December and lasted for up to seven days. The festival was named after the god Saturnus, whom the Romans thought of as a god of liberation. Saturnalia was therefore a time of freedom, when a slave and his master exchanged their roles; the slave wore a **pilleus**, a cap of freedom. This was the cap that slaves wore if they were granted their freedom in a formal ceremony. It was also a time for wearing the **synthesis**, a long, loose, unbelted tunic.

The Saturnalia involved feasting, music and dancing, sacrifices and shows. People also told jokes and gave each other presents. These might be toys, books, jewellery or cosmetics. Candles and small statuettes made from terracotta, called **sigillāria**, were also popular presents.

Which of these Roman customs do we still follow when we celebrate Christmas?

Time for presents!

1



post cēnam Lepidīna peritē saltat.

2

omnēs servī hilariter cantant.



3

tōta familia iocōs facit.



4

necesse est mihi dōna inventīre.



Lepidīna exit.

5

Lepidīna in triclinium revenit.

Rūfe! hoc dōnum
tuum est!



Rūfus pilam accipit.

6

Corinthe! hoc dōnum tuum est!



Corinthus librum accipit.



WORDS TO HELP

Nouns

- ānulus (m) ring
 dōna (n pl) presents
 iocōs (m pl) jokes
 pila (f) ball

Verbs

- accipit he receives
Infinitive
 invenīre to find

Adjectives

- noster/nostra/nostrum our
 tuus/tua/tuum your

Adverb

- hilariter cheerfully



GRASP THE GRAMMAR

In picture 4, Lepidina says that she has to find the presents. In Latin, this is expressed by an **impersonal verb** plus an **infinitive**:

necesse est mihi dōna invenīre. It is necessary for me to find the presents.

Using two other **impersonal verbs**, write down in Latin:

- a It is difficult for me to find the presents.
- b It is easy for me to find the presents.



LATIN ROOTS

From the picture stories in this chapter, find the meaning of the underlined word in each sentence.

- 1 The surgeon was pleased to see that the growth was benign; the man's life was not in danger.
- 2 I'm collecting for charity and am hoping for plenty of donations.
- 3 The stain is so bad that it will need a strong detergent to remove it.
- 4 Now that my sister has had her baby, she must take him to the post-natal clinic.

MUDDLED PRESENTS

The family have some other Saturnalia presents for one another but they are in a muddle. Can you sort them out and find a suitable present for each person?



Flāvius
ampulla
perfume bottle



Gāius
pila
ball



Flāvia
ūdōnēs
socks



Rūfus
capillāmentum
wig



Pandōra
scōpae
broom



Candidus
scrīnium
bookcase



Corinthus
sāpō
hair dye



Lepidīna
vēnābula
hunting spears

What Saturnalia presents do you think Minimus and Vibrissa might give each other? Try to find out the Latin word for the presents that you choose.

These are like the rings which Flavius and Lepidina exchanged. Flavius's ring has an intaglio of Mars; Lepidina's has an intaglio of Fortuna. Why do you think these are particularly suitable presents?



Intaglios from Roman rings found in a sewer in York

The whole family is tired and happy after the Saturnalia. Rufus asks Corinthus how the festival came to be called the Saturnalia. Corinthus explains . . .

SATURN AND THE GOLDEN AGE

Jupiter banished his father, Saturn, from Mount Olympus and became king of the gods in his place. Saturn wandered the earth until eventually he came to Italy, where he became king of Latium. He taught his subjects the skills of agriculture and the blessings of civilisation. People thought of his rule as a Golden Age. Everyone lived peacefully together and life was prosperous. Since those happy times, people have celebrated Saturn's festival, the Saturnalia, with feasting, freedom and happiness – they try to re-create his Golden Age for a few days.





7

Iānuārius

New beginnings

Lepidina decides to return to Cataractonium to help Flavia when the baby arrives. She is closely followed by the rest of the family.

The great day arrives

<p>1</p> <p>necesse est mihi Flāviam adiuvāre.</p> <p>Lepidīna ad Cataractōnium revenit.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>nunc infāns advenit! adiuvā! mātēr, adiuvā!</p> <p>Flāvīa maximē dolet.</p>
<p>3</p> <p>nōti timēre! necesse est mihi obstetrīcem arcessere.</p> <p>ita verō. celeriter!</p> <p>obstetrīx advenit.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>nōtite timēre! Flāvīa, validā es. Lepidīna, aquam portā!</p> <p>obstetrīx advenit.</p>
<p>5</p> <p>Lepidīna aquam et sūdāria portat. tum obstetrīx et Lepidīna digitōs lavant.</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Flāvīa! nōti anxīa esse! relaxā!</p> <p>obstetrīx Flāviam adiuvat.</p>



WORDS TO HELP

Nouns

- aqua** (f) water
filia (f) daughter
geminī (m pl) twins
infāns (m or f) baby
sūdārium (n) towel

Verbs

- adiuvā!** help!
advenit he/she arrives
dolet she is in pain
lavant they wash
manē! wait!

Infinitives

- adiuvāre** to help
arcessere to call for
timēre to be afraid

Adjectives

- alter/altera/alterum** another
validus/a/um strong

Adverbs

- hūc illūc** here
 and there/up and down
intereā meanwhile



GRASP THE GRAMMAR



That midwife was giving a lot of orders!

Latin uses a particular form of the verb for giving orders: it is called an **imperative**. Look back at pictures 2, 4, 6 and 9. What do these orders mean?

adiuvā! portā! relaxā! manē!

Now look at pictures 1 and 2 again. There are two very similar words here – **adiuvāre** and **adiuvā!**

The first form (**adiuvāre**) is the **infinitive** and it means “to help”.

The second form is like the infinitive, but without the final **-re**. **adiuvā!** is the **imperative** or **command** form and it means “help!”



Sometimes we want to tell someone **not** to do something.

In Latin we use the words **nōlī** or **nōlīte**, which mean “don’t”. These words are followed by the **infinitive**.



Look at pictures 3 and 4. Find the two Latin phrases that mean “Don’t be afraid!”

Why do you think the first one uses **nōlī** but the second uses **nōlīte**?



Here are some more **imperatives** for you to practise. Be careful – some are **negative** and some are **positive**, and some are **singular** and some are **plural**. Translate the phrases and say whether each one is **singular** or **plural**.

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1 digitōs lavāte! | 6 festīnāte! |
| 2 nōlīte dormīre! | 7 cantāte! |
| 3 nōlī lacrimāre! | 8 nōlīte pugnāre! |
| 4 aquam portāte! | 9 aedificā! |
| 5 nōlī currere! | 10 intrāte! |



LATIN ROOTS

Use your knowledge of Latin to work out the meaning of the underlined words.

- Roman engineers built lots of famous aqueducts.
- If you learn your vocabulary thoroughly you should gain maximum points in the test.
- The dog ate your homework? That is not a valid excuse.
- In Roman times, many invalids came to Bath to take the waters, hoping for a cure.
- When I study medicine, part of my course will be obstetrics.

Everyone welcomes the twins

<p>1</p>  <p>Gāius cubiculum intrat. Gāius geminōs in terram pōnit.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>geminī validī sunt. Larēs geminōs accipiunt.</p>  <p>subitō geminī vāgiunt. omnēs laetī sunt.</p>
<p>3</p>  <p>obstetrīx geminōs lavat et involvit.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>quam pulchrī sunt!</p>  <p>Gāius geminōs tenet.</p>
<p>5</p> <p>tū avus es! et ego avunculus sum!</p> <p>et tū avia es!</p>  <p>Flāvius et Rūfus intrant.</p>	<p>6</p> <p>necesse est nobīs astrologum arcessere.</p>  <p>Gāius exit.</p>



WORDS TO HELP

Nouns

avunculus (m) uncle
capra (f) she-goat
cubiculum (n) bedroom
Larēs (m pl) the
household gods
stēllās (f pl) stars
terra (f) ground

Verbs

erit he/she will be
involvit she wraps up
pōnit he puts
tenet he holds
vāgiunt they wail

Adjectives

fortis/fortis/forte brave
honestus/a/um
honourable/virtuous

Pronouns

hic/haec this



ROMAN REPORT

Having a baby

We can find evidence about Roman childbirth customs in the works of the ancient writer Soranus. The Romans were uncertain about the normal length of pregnancy, so Flavia would not have been sure when her baby was due. Without the benefit of an ultrasound scanner, no one could have known that she was expecting twins.

The normal practice was for Roman babies to be born at home, with the help of a midwife. A doctor was only called if there were complications. In Germany, as soon as a baby was born, it would be put onto the ground; this was to introduce it to the household gods. If the baby cried loudly, this was a sign of its acceptance by the gods. If the baby's father then picked up the child, this was a sign that it was worth rearing. Only then would the baby be washed and wrapped up warmly.

The Romans were eager to know the future, especially when a baby was born. They would consult an astrologer, who would read the baby's horoscope. The baby would then be named at a special ceremony.



Wet nurses or foster parents, and symbol of local god of Petrovio, relief, 2nd–3rd century AD Roman

THE SOUND OF LATIN

In the picture story we met the word **vāgiunt** (they wail). This is an appropriate word, as the sound of the word resembles its meaning. Words like this are called **onomatopoeic** words. English examples include “crash”, “bang” and “cuckoo”. You have already met two other Latin examples of onomatopoeia – **euge!** and **ēheu!** Other examples include **susurrāre** (to whisper), **ululāre** (to howl) and **pīpiāre** (to chirp). Look out for more examples in your reading of both Latin and English.

Rufus is very interested in the twins. Flavius tells him the story of the most famous twins in Roman history.

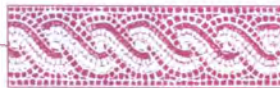
ROMULUS AND REMUS

Long, long ago in Italy, King Numitor of Alba Longa was forced into exile by his jealous brother, Amulius. Amulius seized the throne. He realised he had to prevent Numitor's heirs from threatening his position. He murdered Numitor's sons and tried to prevent Rhea Silvia, Numitor's lovely daughter, from having children of her own. His evil scheme was foiled when the god Mars fell in love with Rhea Silvia and she gave birth to twin sons. Furious, Amulius imprisoned her and ordered the babies to be thrown into the River Tiber. But the twins survived: they were in a basket that floated ashore. A she-wolf suckled the baby boys and a woodpecker fed them scraps. Eventually a shepherd, called Faustinus, heard their cries. He took the boys home and he and his wife brought them up.

One day, the brothers were captured and handed over to Numitor. He suspected that these boys were his grandsons. Together they attacked and killed Amulius, and Numitor became king once more. Eventually, the twins set off to found a city of their own but they quarrelled and Remus was killed. So Romulus was left to found a new city alone; he called it Rome.



Romulus, Remus and the she-wolf from a mosaic found in Aldborough in Yorkshire





8

Februārius

Time for some Greek

Rufus's first Greek lesson

Flavius has decided that it is time for Rufus to learn Greek. Corinthus has found an expert teacher who lives in Eboracum.





WORDS TO HELP

Nouns

Calēdonia (f) Scotland
deīs (m pl) to the gods
grammaticus (m) teacher
litterae (f pl) letters
nautae (m pl) sailors
nāvis (f) ship
portus (m) harbour
tabulae (f pl) tablets
tempestās (f) storm

Verbs

efflābat it was blowing
erat it was
habitās you live
iactābat it was tossing
nāvigābam I was sailing
ōrābam I was praying
pluēbat it was raining
timēbās you were frightened
volēbam I was wanting/I wanted

Infinitives

dōnāre to give/to donate
grātiās agere to thank
legere to read

Adjectives

novus/a/um new
turbulentus/a/um stormy
ventōsus/a/um windy

Adverbs

nūper recently
tandem at last



GRASP THE GRAMMAR

In the picture story, Demetrius is telling the story of his voyage around the Western Isles of Scotland. His journey has now finished, so he describes it to Rufus using a **past tense**.

Verbs describe actions that happen in the past, the present or the future.



The new tense in the story is a past tense called the **imperfect tense**.

This is what it looks like in full:

nāvigābam	I was sailing
nāvigābās	you (<i>sing</i>) were sailing
nāvigābat	he/she/it was sailing
nāvigābāmus	we were sailing
nāvigābātis	you (<i>pl</i>) were sailing
nāvigābant	they were sailing

Have another look at pictures 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 9. Try to find ten examples of the **imperfect tense**. Write them down and translate them. Make sure you check the **ending** of the verb to see who is doing the action.



Again, the verb “to be” is an exception. In picture 5, the imperfect tense of “to be” is used twice. The word is **erat** which means “he/she/it was”.



LATIN ROOTS

Use your knowledge of Latin to explain the underlined word in each sentence.

- 1 Navigation was extremely dangerous in the ancient world.
- 2 *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* is a long poem by Coleridge.
- 3 My friend had a successful career as a naval captain.
- 4 Some people disapprove of zoos; they believe that animals should live in their natural habitat.
- 5 The pilot advised us to fasten our seat belts as we were experiencing some turbulence.
- 6 Shakespeare named one of his plays *The Tempest* because of the events in the first scene.

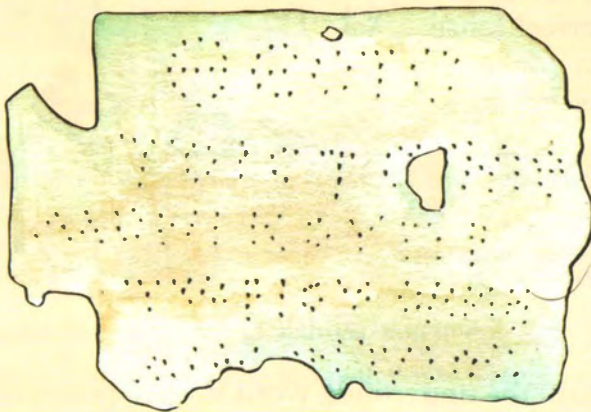


ROMAN REPORT

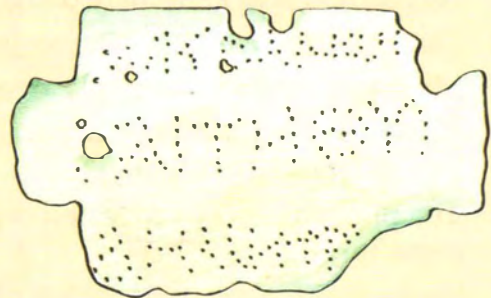
Roman seafaring

For the Romans, sailing was extremely hazardous. Maps of the world were rare and inaccurate and, with no compasses or modern navigational equipment, sailors had to find their way by the stars. Roman sailors preferred not to venture into the open sea. Instead they sailed short distances from port to port, following the coastline and using familiar landmarks. During the winter months they did not sail at all. At the beginning of spring, sailors celebrated the fact that they could now set out to sea again. It was quite normal to pray to the gods for safety or even make a sacrifice at the beginning of a voyage.

The teacher in the story, Scribonius Demetrius, was so thankful for his safe voyage around Scotland that he dedicated two bronze tablets to the sea gods, Oceanus and Tethys. These tablets are written in Greek and they are now in the Yorkshire Museum.



To the gods of
the governor's
residence.
Scrib(oni)
Demetrius.



To Ocean
and Tethys.
Demetrius.

The Greek is written in dots punched into the metal and the writing is all in capitals. It is not easy to read!

Rufus learns his letters





WORDS TO HELP

Nouns

annōs (m pl) years

frondēs (f pl) leaves, herbs

orāculum (n) oracle

Pythia (f) the Pythia (name of priestess at Delphi)

respōsa Apollonis Apollo's answers

sacerdōs (f) priestess

tripode (m) tripod

Verbs

cōsulēbam I was consulting

discit he learns

mandēbat she was chewing

prōferēbat she was uttering

sedēbat she was sitting

Infinitive

scrībere to write

Impersonal verb

neesse erit tibi you will have to

Pronoun

hās these

Adverbs

diū for a long time

praecipuē especially

Preposition

ante before/ago

Adjective

clārus/a/um famous



GRASP THE GRAMMAR

Remember that the most important word in a sentence is the **verb** or action word.



You've now met verbs in several different forms.

Let's have a look at the verb **scribere** which means "to write".



Here are the different endings that you have met:

- **scribere** (to write) This is called the **infinitive**.
- **scribō** (I write/I am writing) This is the **present tense**. The rest of the present tense looks like this:
scribis, scribit, scribimus, scribitis, scribunt.
- **scribēbam** (I was writing) This is the **imperfect tense**, the new tense that you have met in this chapter. The rest of the imperfect tense looks like this:
scribēbās, scribēbat, scribēbāmus, scribēbātis, scribēbant.
- **scribe! scribite! (write!)** This is called the **imperative**, or **command** or **order**.
- Then there are **impersonal verbs**, such as **nesesse est**, which have "it" as the subject (it is necessary).

Now let's see if you can recognise all these different verb forms.

Look back at the picture story. In each picture, pick out the Latin **verbs**. Say whether each one is an **infinitive**, or the **present** or **imperfect tense**, or whether it is an **impersonal verb**.



Watch out! There are no commands in this story but some sentences have more than one verb.



ROMAN REPORT

Delphi

Delphi was an important place for the ancient Greeks and Romans. According to legend, Zeus sent out two eagles to locate the centre of the earth. Their paths crossed at Delphi and a great stone called the **omphalos** (or 'navel stone') was erected to mark the spot. The whole sanctuary of Delphi was dedicated to Apollo, the god of prophecy. For over 1,000 years, people came here to consult the oracle when they needed to solve a dilemma. After sacrificing an animal, they would go to consult the Pythian priestess. After the priestess had purified herself, she sat on the sacred tripod, went into a trance and gave a response from the god himself. Her replies were often ambiguous. For example, King Croesus of Lydia asked if he should go to war against the Persians. The priestess replied, "If you do, you will destroy a great empire." Croesus went to war and he did indeed destroy a mighty empire – his own.



The ancient site of Delphi

Rufus has had a busy day, learning the Greek alphabet and finding out all about the world of the Greeks. Corinthus comes in and, together, he and Demetrius tell Rufus about the gods of the ocean.

OCEANUS AND TETHYS

Oceanus was the eldest of the Titans; he was both a god and a river. He surrounded the whole of the earth. Every day, the sun and the stars rose and set in the ocean. Oceanus married his sister, Tethys, who was goddess of the sea-creatures. Fishes were known as Tethys's cattle. Oceanus and Tethys had three thousand sons and three thousand daughters and one foster-daughter, Hera, the queen of the gods. Hera's husband, Zeus, often hurt and angered her with his infidelities. When he fell in love with a nymph called Callisto and proposed to set her image among the stars as a constellation, Hera fled to her foster-parents for support. Tethys refused to let Callisto's constellation, the Great Bear, touch the waters of the ocean at the end of the night. This is why the Great Bear is the only constellation that never sets below the horizon.





9

Martius

Wonderful days!

The twins are named

Back at home in Eboracum, Lepidina and Rufus are describing to Pandora the two special days when the twins were named.





WORDS TO HELP

Nouns

amīcī (m pl) friends

bullās (f pl) lockets

cognātī (m pl) relations

crepundia (n pl) rattles/toys

diēs (m) day

dōna (n pl) presents

gladius (m) sword

nōmen (n) name

vīlla (f) house

Verbs

amō I love

dabant they were giving

erās you (*sing*) were

erō I will be

gerēbant they were wearing

reveniēbant they were returning

spargēbat he was sprinkling

tenēbat he was holding

veniēbant they were coming

Infinitive

dare to give

Adjectives

aeneus/a/um made of bronze

duo/duae/duo two

ligneus/a/um made of wood

lūstricus/a/um of purification

meus/a/um my

octāvus/a/um eighth

Adverbs

fortasse perhaps

olim at some time

postrīdiē on the next day



GRASP THE GRAMMAR

The twins were born two months ago and they were named on the eighth and ninth days after their birth.



So Rufus and Lepidina had to use verbs in the **past** tense to describe the celebrations to Pandora.

They use the **imperfect** tense, which we met in the last chapter. Can you find the imperfect verbs in the first eight pictures? What does each one mean?



Verbs in the imperfect tense are easy to spot because they all include the letters **-ba-**. Remember that the ending of a Latin verb tells you *who* is doing the action.



But you won't be surprised to learn that the imperfect of the verb "to be" doesn't follow the pattern: it is **irregular**.

"To be" is a really important verb. Compare and learn the two tenses, **present** and **imperfect**.



Present tense

sum I am
es you are (sing.)
est he/she/it is
sumus we are
estis you are (pl.)
sunt they are

Imperfect tense

eram I was
erās you were (sing.)
erat he/she/it was
erāmus we were
erātis you were (pl.)
erant they were

Now look back at pictures 2, 4, 5, 9 and 10. Find the examples of the verb "to be" in the **imperfect** tense in each picture. What does each one mean?



LATIN ROOTS

Use your knowledge of Latin to explain the underlined word in each sentence.

- 1 Fran is an excellent musician and enjoys playing in her octet.
- 2 The teenagers were punished for their infantile behaviour.
- 3 The crocodile seized the man's leg in a tenacious grip.



ROMAN REPORT

Welcoming a baby

Shortly after the birth of a baby an important event took place, the **diēs lūstricus**: this was a day of purification for both mother and baby. It was also the occasion when the baby was named. It took place on the eighth day after birth for a girl and on the ninth for a boy. Friends and family would come to the baby's home to enjoy a celebratory meal. They would bring presents, such as toys and flowers. Especially popular were **crepundia**; these were small metal toys that would usually be tied around the baby's neck. The baby would enjoy the clinking noise that they made, just like a modern rattle.

On this special day, the baby was also given a **bullā**. This gold locket (or leather for a poorer family) contained charms to drive away evil spirits. A boy would not remove his **bullā** until he "put on the toga" when he became a man, at about the age of sixteen; a girl would not remove her **bullā** until her wedding day.



A child's **bullā**

Time to go home

After the naming ceremonies, Lepidina and the family returned to their home in Eboracum. Flavius decided to follow on later, after a day's hunting with a friend. Candidus is describing the hunt to Pandora.





WORDS TO HELP

Nouns

- aper (m) boar
canēs (m pl) dogs
cervus (m) deer
domus (f) home
leporēs (m pl) hares
perdīcēs (m pl) partridges
rētia (n pl) nets
segōsī (m pl) segosi (a
breed of hunting dog)
silva (f) wood
Silvānus (m) god of hunting
vēnābula (n pl) hunting spears
vēnātiō (f) hunt
vertragī (m pl) vertragi (another
breed of hunting dog)

Verbs

- aderam I was there
discēdēbant they were leaving
faciēbās you were doing
olfaciēbant they were
sniffing/smelling
petēbant they were searching for
portābam I was carrying
ululābant they were howling

Imperative

- cūrā! take care of!

Adverbs

- celerrimē very quickly
frūstrā in vain

Pronoun

- hī these

Idiom

- nōbīscum with us (nōbīs
[pronoun] + cum [preposition])



GRASP THE GRAMMAR

Once again, the picture story was all in the past, so Candidus used the **imperfect** tense to tell it. Have another look at the picture story: there are 16 verbs in the **imperfect** tense.



Can you find them all? Remember to look for the **-ba-** in the verb!



And remember that the verb "to be" is irregular: it has a different set of endings for its imperfect tense.

A few other verbs follow the pattern of the verb "to be" and you have met one of them here: **adsum** (I am here or I am present). Find it in pictures 2, 4 and 10. Can you work out what it means each time?

When we take a simple verb like **sum** (I am) and add a **prefix** (a little word that goes in front of the verb), we make a brand-new verb. This kind of verb is called a **compound verb**.

The verb "to be" has several **compounds**. Here are some of them:

absum I am away

praesum I am in charge

adsum I am here

subsum I am under

insum I am in

supersum I survive

possum I am able

Here is some practice with compounds of the verb "to be". They're all in the imperfect tense. What does each one mean?

1 **aderat**

6 **ineram**

2 **suberāmus**

7 **aderātis**

3 **poterant**

8 **praeerat**

4 **supererāmus**

9 **aberāmus**

5 **aberās**

10 **poterat**



LATIN ROOTS

Use your knowledge of Latin to work out the meaning of the underlined words.

- 1 We took Blackie for training at the canine club.
- 2 The children behaved amicably towards the new pupil.
- 3 In geography we are finding out about our country's imports and exports.
- 4 A museum curator must make sure that no one steals precious objects.
- 5 I get so frustrated when I can't learn Latin vocabulary!



ROMAN REPORT

Hunting

We can read about Flavius's friend Brocchus in several of the letters from Vindolanda. Brocchus was the prefect of the nearby fort at Briga. In their spare time, Flavius and Brocchus loved to go hunting. In one letter Flavius asked Brocchus to send him some hunting nets "and you should repair the pieces very strongly".

Although York (Eboracum) is a big city today, when Flavius lived there it was a much smaller town surrounded by woods. Hunting was one of the main forms of relaxation for both soldiers and civilians. People hunted on horseback or on foot. They hunted all kinds of animals and they also liked to hunt birds, including geese and swans. Fishing was popular too. In Roman times, Britain was famous for producing excellent hunting dogs.

Corinthus was not interested in joining the hunt, but Candidus's description has reminded him of a famous Greek story about a boar. He tells the story to Candidus and Pandora.



THE HUNT FOR THE CALYDONIAN BOAR

Oeneus, King of Calydon, forgot to sacrifice to the goddess Artemis. Enraged, she sent a monstrous boar to ravage the countryside. Oeneus's son, Meleager, gathered together several Greek heroes and the beautiful huntress Atalanta, and they set off on a great boarhunt. Meleager fell in love with Atalanta, so he was delighted when she aimed her spear at the boar and was the first to draw blood. The boar went mad with pain and several of the heroes were killed, along with their hunting dogs. Finally Meleager struck the fatal blow. He presented Atalanta with the head and the hide of the boar, believing that she deserved the triumph. This caused great jealousy among the heroes and a fight broke out, which resulted in Meleager's tragic death.





Aprīlis

Comings and goings

Barates comes to buy

1 *solus sum. miser sum.
volō ancillam novam ēmere.*

Barātes Flāvium quaerit.

2 *salvē, amice!
quid vis?*

Flāvius, ad ātrium vocātus,
quam celerrimē festīnat.

3 *salvē! volō Pandōram
ēmere. quanti est?*

4 *ehem! Candide!
quaere Pandōram.*

Candidus, ā dominō missus,
ex ātriō festīnat.

5 *Pandōra, in ātrium ducta,
Barātem spectat. Pandōra rīdet.*

6 *Pandōra dīligēns est.
Pandōra omātrix optima est
et svāviter cantat.
Pandōra igitur cāra est.*



WORDS TO HELP

Nouns

ātrium (n) hall

condiōnēs (f pl)

terms/agreement

ōrnātrīx (f) hairdresser

Adjectives

cārus/a/um expensive/dear

ducentōs two hundred

miser/a/um unhappy

sōlus/a/um alone/lonely

Verbs

festīnat he hurries

quaerit he looks for

Imperatives

parā! prepare!

quaere! look for!

Impersonal verb

placetne tibi? does it please

you?/is it OK with you?

Infinitives

ēmere to buy

Participles

ducta led

ēempta bought

iussus ordered

missus sent

vocātus called

Conjunction

igitur therefore

Idioms

ā dominō by his master

quam celerrimē as quickly

as possible

quantī est? how much is she?

Exclamation

ehem! aha!



GRASP THE GRAMMAR

You have already learnt four different forms of verbs – **tenses**, **commands** (or imperatives), **infinitives** and **impersonal** verbs. Now for one more!



This new **part** of the verb is called a **participle**. A participle comes from a verb, so it is an action word, but it behaves like an **adjective**.

For example, in picture 4, Candidus is “**sent** by his master”. The Latin word for “sent” is **missus**, the participle from the verb **mittere** (to send).

Compare this with picture 5: “Pandora, **led** into the hall . . .” The Latin word for “led” is **ducta**, the participle from the verb **dūcere** (to lead). Because Pandora is feminine, the word **ductus** has to have the feminine ending, **ducta**. We say that the participle must **agree** with the noun.

Find the participles in pictures 2, 8 and 9. Can you remember what each one means? Is each one masculine or feminine?



LATIN ROOTS

Use your knowledge of Latin to explain the underlined word in each sentence.

- 1 The secret agent was sent on a dangerous mission.
- 2 A teacher with a tidy desk? Now there's a novelty!
- 3 The Colosseum in Rome was the setting for many extraordinary spectacles.
- 4 Captured slaves were paraded through the streets of Rome; crowds lined the streets to taunt and deride them.
- 5 Pupils are often given an induction day when they start at a new school.



ROMAN REPORT

Barates

We originally met Barates in the first *Minimus* book. He is a real historical figure and we can find out many details of his life from his tombstone, which is in Corbridge; his wife Regina's tombstone is in South Shields. Barates was a **vexillārius**, or flag-maker. He bought Regina as a slave, then freed her and married her. Sadly, Regina died aged 30 but Barates lived until he was 68.

Barates came from Palmyra, in Syria at the far eastern edge of the Roman Empire; Regina was a Celtic girl. What language do you think they used to communicate with each other?

Slave girl wanted!

Lepidina is cross when she discovers that Flavius has sold Pandora.





WORDS TO HELP

Nouns

catēnīs (f pl) chains
 ēdicta (n pl) placards
 mercātus (m) market
 pretium (n) price
 tribūnal (n) platform
 vĕnālicius (m) slave-dealer
 vīta (f) life

Verbs

cōstituunt they agree
 dēbēmus we must
 gerunt they wear
 redeunt they return
 scit she knows

Participles

positās positioned/placed
 trādita handed over
 vīctōs tied up

Adverbs

satis! enough
 timidē nervously/timidly

Adjectives

Hispānicus/a/um Spanish
 melior better
 novus/a/um new

N.B. The name **Trifōsa** means "delicious"!



GRASP THE GRAMMAR

Can you find the **participle** in picture 2?



Now look at the noun it is describing and look closely at the endings of both the **noun** and the **participle**.

The slaves are described by the **participle**: **vīnctōs** (tied up). The participle has to be masculine and plural, because the slaves are masculine and plural.

Remember, a participle must be the same number, gender and case as the noun it is describing.



Now look at pictures 3, 5 and 9. In each case, find the **participle** and then the **noun that it is describing**.

Candidus says that choosing between slave girls must be rather like the beauty contest in which Paris had to judge between three goddesses. He tells Trifosa the story.

THE BEAUTY CONTEST

The goddess of strife, Eris, came uninvited to a wedding feast and caused trouble by bringing with her a golden apple. On this apple were engraved, in Greek, the words "To the fairest". Three goddesses, Hera, Athene and Aphrodite, each hoped to be awarded this prize. Zeus, the king of the gods, was reluctant to make the decision himself and asked the Trojan prince, Paris, to be the judge of the competition. The messenger god, Hermes, took the three goddesses to Mount Ida near Troy and told Paris to choose the most beautiful. Each of the three goddesses tried to bribe him. Hera offered Paris power and wealth, Athene offered wisdom and military victories while Aphrodite offered him the most beautiful woman in the world, Helen of Sparta. Paris gave the apple to Aphrodite and went to Sparta to claim his prize. He abducted Helen (who was already married to a Greek king) and they sailed off to Troy. This sparked off the Trojan wars, and it explains why Helen's face is known as "the face that launched a thousand ships".





11

Māius

Timber into stone

The new headquarters

Rufus and Flavius are walking around Eboracum. Everyone seems to be involved with the new building projects.





WORDS TO HELP

Nouns

- aedificium** (n) building
agrimēnsōrēs (m pl)
 surveyors
cervesia (f) beer
dēsīgnātiō (f) plan
grōma (f) groma (surveying
 instrument)
lapidīnae (f pl) quarry
operārii (m pl) labourers
prīncipia (n pl) headquarters
saccārii (m pl) dockers
terra (f) ground

Verbs

- cessant** they stop
complānant they level
cōfirmant they check
dēsīgnāmus we design
incipiunt they begin
īnspiciunt they inspect
sculpunt they carve
tollunt they lift

Participles

- iussī** ordered
secta cut
tracta dragged

Adjectives

- īgnavus/a/um** lazy
invītus/a/um unwilling



GRASP THE GRAMMAR

Once again, look carefully at all the verbs. What **parts** of the verb can you recognise? There are three more **participles**, in pictures 1, 2 and 10.



Find them and remind yourself of what each one means. Can you see which noun they agree with?



If you look carefully you will also find one example of an infinitive and one imperative. Find them and translate them.



LATIN ROOTS

Use your knowledge of Latin to explain the underlined word in each sentence.

- 1 We spent our biology lesson dissecting frogs.
- 2 If you work diligently you can expect to do well in the examinations.
- 3 Talking to yourself is said to be a sign of incipient madness.
- 4 Why did the ancient world give the name Mediterranean to that sea? (Clue: **medius** means "middle" in Latin.)



ROMAN REPORT

Construction work at Eboracum

The first fortress at Eboracum was constructed of timber. It was built by the legionary soldiers who arrived in AD 72. In the early years of the second century AD, the decision was made to replace it with a stone building. Building in stone was still quite unusual and the local Celtic people would have viewed the construction work with amazement and possibly with some alarm. As well as making a more permanent and comfortable base for themselves, the Roman soldiers were giving a clear message that they were here to stay.

This major period of building activity would have required tons of stone. The stone was brought to Eboracum from the Pennines and was transported along the River Ouse by barge and then by cart to the building sites.

The most important building was the military headquarters, or **prīncipia**. It was built on the site of the present York Minster and was probably just as imposing. You can still see the foundations of the building in the undercroft of the Minster. It was massive and would have required a huge number of builders, surveyors, sculptors and general labourers. The building work would have caused great interest and excitement in Eboracum.



Model from the undercroft, York Minster

Some builders are better than others . . .

Flavius is supervising another group of soldiers who are constructing a stone gateway. Rufus enjoys watching them.

1  castellum ligneum dēlētum est. nunc alii mīlitēs castellum lapideum aedificant.

2  castellum solidum est.
omnēs Brigantēs attonitī stant.

3  alii mīlitēs portam maximam aedificant.

4  mīlitēs dēscripiōnem habent, in tabulā pictam.

5  sculptor optimus, ā Flāviō iussus, inscripiōnem sculperē incipit.

6  mīlitēs saxa maxima tollunt. Brigantēs polyspaston mīrābile spectant.



WORDS TO HELP

Nouns

- Brigantēs** (m pl) members of a British tribe
castellum (n) fortress
dēscriptiō (f) drawing
fragor (m) crash
locō (m) place
polyspaston (n) crane
porta (f) gate

Verbs

- habent** they have
omittunt they drop
servat he saves
stant they stand
tollunt they lift
- Participles*
dēlētum destroyed
percussus struck
pictam drawn

Imperative

- cavēte!** watch out!

Adjectives

- attonitus/a/um** astonished
ingēns huge
lapideus/a/um made of stone
ligneus/a/um made of wood
mīrābile amazing
propriō correct
vīvus/a/um alive

Adverb

- paene** almost



GRASP THE GRAMMAR

There are four more **participles** for you to find in the picture story. Remember that participles behave like **adjectives**, so they must have the same **gender** as the noun they are describing. Two of the participles in the picture story are masculine, one is feminine and one is neuter. Can you work out which is which?



LATIN ROOTS

- 1 Why are the percussion instruments in an orchestra given that name?
- 2 What do you think a lapidary works with?
- 3 "Westminster Abbey is a magnificent edifice." Explain this sentence using a simpler word.
- 4 The Picts were a tribe from northern Britain who were heavily tattooed. How did they get their name?



ROMAN REPORT

An inscription

Above the gate that the soldiers are constructing in this story was an inscription, honouring the emperor Trajan. It records the construction of the gate in AD 107 by the Ninth Legion. Enough of the inscription remains for us to complete the missing letters.



In the bottom line you can see that the gate was built by the Ninth Legion, from Spain (HISP.). LEG is short for **legiō** (legion) and it is followed by VIII, another form of the Roman numerals for the number nine (IX).

Rufus returns home with the frightened mouse. She soon makes friends with Minimus, and Rufus names her "Minima". Rufus explains to Corinthus how Minima was almost crushed by the falling stone. Corinthus tells Rufus that the famous Greek hero Odysseus was nearly killed by a huge boulder too . . .

NEVER SHOW OFF TO A GIANT

Once upon a time the great Greek hero Odysseus found himself trapped, with twelve of his men, inside the cave of Polyphemus, the Cyclops. Trying to persuade the one-eyed giant to stop eating his men, Odysseus introduced himself as Nobody and offered the giant some wine. Once the giant was drunk, Odysseus blinded him and he and his surviving men escaped to the safety of their ship. Polyphemus cried out to the other Cyclops that Nobody had hurt him. So they would not come to help him, and he had to stumble and grope his way to the seashore in pursuit of the Greeks.

As he sailed away, Odysseus boasted to the Cyclops, revealing his true identity:

"If anyone asks you how you came by your blindness, tell him your eye was put out by Odysseus, sacker of cities, son of Laertes, who lives in Ithaca."

Polyphemus was so enraged that he prayed to his father Poseidon to give Odysseus a troublesome journey home across the ocean. Then he hurled a massive boulder at Odysseus's ship, and almost caused it to sink.





Iūnius

All change for Pandora

Freedom!





7 ēheu! est ubique squālor!

subitō Trifōsa cibum omittit.

8

Trifōsa lacrimat. Corinthus et Candidus
Trifōsam adiuvant.

9

nōti lacrimāre!
ego quoque timida eram.
tū ancilla optima eris.

10

intereā, Vibrissa et Minimus et
Minima cibum edunt.



WORDS TO HELP

Nouns

līberta (f) freedwoman

squālor (m) mess

testēs (m pl) witnesses

Adverb

ubique everywhere

Verbs

adiuvant they help

edunt they eat

eris you (*sing*) will be

importat she carries in

Infinitives

esse to be

liberāre to set free

Participle

facta made



REVISE THE GRAMMAR

Look at the picture story again. Try to spot the following points of grammar – you've met them all in this book!



- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 3 personal pronouns | 4 infinitives |
| 1 singular imperative | 1 participle |
| 1 plural imperative | 1 compound verb |
| 1 negative imperative | 1 imperfect tense |
| 2 impersonal verbs | |

Write them all down in Latin and label them; then translate them.



LATIN ROOTS

Use your knowledge of Latin to work out the meaning of the underlined word in each sentence.

- 1 I bought that fruit last week so I'm not sure if it's still edible.
- 2 I saw the car accident so I may need to testify in court.
- 3 Your bedroom is utterly squalid! Please tidy it up at once.
- 4 Many soldiers lost their lives in the war, fighting for liberty.



ROMAN REPORT

Freeing slaves

In the Roman world, not all masters were cruel. Many decided to free their slaves and this act was called **manumission**. The word literally means "sending from the hand", from **mittere** (to send) and **manus** (hand). Slaves could be given their freedom in a number of ways: a master might summon witnesses to a special ceremony, where the slave wore the **pilleus** (cap of freedom) and was touched on the shoulder with a rod. The slave then became a **libertus** (freedman) or **liberta** (freedwoman). Alternatively a master might give freedom to his slaves in his will, or he might do it more informally by simply inviting a slave to join him at dinner, as Barates does in our story. The presence of the family as witnesses is important: it makes the event legal.

The party continues





WORDS TO HELP

Nouns

flābellum (n) fan
spōnsa (f) fiancée
spōnsus (m) fiancé
uxor (f) wife

Adjectives

alius/a/um other,
 another
fēlix lucky
tertius/a/um third

Verbs

celebrēmus let us celebrate!/let's party!
ērubēscit she blushes
pōnit she puts
trādit he hands over

Adverb

statim immediately



LATIN ROOTS

- 1 Latin is a great help with learning modern languages.

The phrase **grātiās agō** means “I thank” and leads to the English words “grateful” and “gratitude”.

Can you find out how to say “thank you” in Italian and Spanish?

- 2 The Latin for “ring” is **ānulus**. The Romans used the same finger for wedding and engagement rings as people usually do today. Try to find out what French people call this finger; it is linked to the Latin word.



ROMAN REPORT

Betrothal

Slaves could not marry so Barates had to free Pandora in order to make her his wife. In this story they celebrate the **spōnsālia**, or betrothal ceremony.

These ceremonies were very common and sometimes took place when the engaged couple were still young children. There was no legal minimum age.

Friends and relatives would gather for a celebratory dinner and some of them would act as witnesses. Presents would be exchanged and the woman would wear a betrothal ring. In most parts of Europe these rings were made of bronze though iron rings were used in Germany.

When Barates announces that he wants to marry Pandora, she says, “How lucky I am!” Do you agree with her?



A betrothal ring



This is the sort of fan that Barates gives to Pandora

After the betrothal party, everyone is tired but very happy. They are looking forward to the wedding. As usual, Corinthus has a story to fit the occasion.

THE MARRIAGE OF PELEUS AND THETIS

Peleus was a brave Greek and a great favourite of the centaur Cheiron, who taught many heroes at his home on Mount Pelion. Peleus had fallen in love with the elusive sea-goddess Thetis, and Cheiron advised him how he could win her as a bride.

Peleus made his way to a lonely sea-shore and crouched by the water's edge, hidden near the mouth of a dark cave. Thetis came skimming over the waves on the back of a dolphin, and entered the cave to sleep through the heat of the day. Peleus seized her in his arms and clung tightly as the infuriated goddess changed from shape to shape, trying to throw off her captor. She turned herself into fire, burning Peleus's hands, and then into water that nearly slipped through his clutching fingers. She became a fierce lion, a hissing serpent and a deadly, throttling cuttlefish, but Peleus refused to let go.

Finally, impressed by his determination, Thetis consented to marry him. They were married on Mount Pelion, and the wedding was attended by all the gods and goddesses.



Glossary

Verbs: the alternative ending is for the infinitive (e.g. **accipere** to welcome)

Adjectives: the alternative endings are for the masculine, feminine and neuter forms

A

ā/ab by, from
absum, -esse I am absent, away
accipiō, -ere I welcome, receive
ad to, towards
adiuvō, -āre I help
adsum, -esse I am present, here
adveniō, -īre I arrive
advesperāscit it is becoming dark
aedificium (n) building
aedificō, -āre I build
aeneus, -a, -um bronze
agitātus, -a, -um excited
agrimēnsor (m) surveyor
aliī . . . aliī some . . . others
alius another
alter, -era, -erum the other (of two)
ambulō, -āre I walk
amīcus (m) friend
amō, -āre I love
amphora (f) jar
ancilla (f) slave girl
animal (n) animal
annus (m) year
ante before
ānulus (m) ring
anxius, -a, -um anxious
aper (m) boar
appropinquō, -āre I approach
aqua (f) water
arcessō, -ere I summon
architectus (m) architect
ardeō, -ēre I burn
arma (n pl) weapons
ascendō, -ere I climb up
astrologus (m) astrologer
ātrium (n) hall
attonitus, -a, -um astonished

audiō, -īre I hear, listen
avia (f) grandmother
avunculus (m) uncle
avus (m) grandfather

B

bellum (n) war
benignus, -a, -um kind
bibō, -ere I drink
bonus, -a, -um good
Brigantēs (m pl) a British tribe
bullā (f) locket

C

Calēdonia (f) Scotland
calidus, -a, -um hot
candēla (f) candle
canis (m or f) dog
cantō, -āre I sing
capiō, -ere I take
capra (f) she-goat
cārissimus, -a, -um dearest
cārus, -a, -um dear, expensive
castellum (n) fortress
Cataractōnium (n) Catterick
catēna (f) chain
cavē/cavēte! be careful! watch out!
celebrō, -āre I celebrate, party
celeriter quickly
celerrimē very quickly
cēna (f) dinner
cēnō, -āre I dine
cervesia (f) beer
cervus (m) deer
cessō, -āre I stop, cease
cibus (m) food
circum round

clāmor (m) noise/shouting
clārus, -a, -um famous
clāvus (m) nail
cognātī (m pl) relations
colligō, -ere I collect
columna (f) column
complānō, -āre I level, flatten
condiciōnēs (f pl) terms, agreement
condō, -ere I store
cōnfirmō, -āre I check
cōnstituō, -ere I agree
cōnstruō, -ere I build
cōnsulō, -ere I consult
cōnsūmō, -ere I eat
coquō, -ere I cook
cotīdiē every day
crepundia (n pl) toys, rattles
cubiculum (n) bedroom
cum with
cūr? why?
cūrō, -āre I look after
currō, -ere I run
currus (m) chariot
custōdiō, -īre I guard

D

Dācia (f) Dacia
Dānuvius (m) River Danube
dea (f) goddess
deae mātērēs (f pl) mother goddesses
dēbeō, -ēre I must
dēcidō, -ere I fall
dēfendō, -ere I defend
dēleō, -ēre I destroy
dēlētus, -a, -um destroyed
Delphī (m pl) Delphi
Delphicus, -a, -um Delphic
dēmōnstrō, -āre I show
dēnārius (m) (Roman silver) coin
dēscendō, -ere I climb down
dēscriptiō (f) drawing
dēsīgnātiō (f) plan
dēsīgnō, -āre I design, plan
dētergeō, -ēre I clean up
dētrahō, -ere I remove
deus (m) god
dīcō, -ere I say
diēs (m or f) day
difficile (est) (it is) difficult
digitus (m) finger
diligēns hard-working
diligenter carefully
discēdō, -ere I leave

discō, -ere I learn
diū for a long time
dō, -are I give
doleō, -ēre I am in pain
dominus (m) master
domus (f) home, house
dōnō, -āre I present, donate
dōnum (n) present, gift
dormiō, -īre I sleep
ducentī two hundred
ductus, -a, -um led
duo two
dux (m) leader

E

ē/ex from, out of
Eborācum (n) York
ecce! look!
ēdicta (n pl) placards
edō, -ere I eat
efflō, -āre I blow
ego I
ehem! aha!, hm!, well!
ēheu! alas!, oh no!
ēmō, -ere I buy
ēemptus, -a, -um bought
epistula (f) letter
equitō, -āre I ride
equus (m) horse
eram I was
erat he/she was
erit he/she will be
erō I will be
ērubescō, -ere I blush
esse to be
et and
euge! hooray!
ex/ē from, out of
exeō, -īre I go out
explicō, -āre I explain
exspectātissimus, -a, -um very welcome

F

faber (m) workman
fābula (f) story
facile (est) (it is) easy
faciō, -ere I make, do
factus, -a, -um made, done
familia (f) family, household
fēlix lucky
ferrārius (m) blacksmith
fessus, -a, -um tired
festīnō, -āre I hurry

figlīna (f) pottery workshop
figulus (m) potter
filia (f) daughter
filius (m) son
flābellum (n) fan
flamma (f) flame
flūmen (n) river
foedus, -a, -um disgusting
fornāx (f) forge
fortasse perhaps
fortis, -is, -e brave
fortiter bravely
Fortūna (f) Fortune
fossa (f) ditch
fragor (m) crash
frīgidus, -a, -um cold
frondēs (f pl) leaves, herbs
frūmentum (n) grain
frūstrā in vain
fundō, -ere I pour

G

Gallia (f) Gaul
geminī (m pl) twins
Germānia (f) Germany
Germānicus, -a, -um German
gerō, -ere I wage; wear
gladius (m) sword
Graecia (f) Greece
Graecus, -a, -um Greek
grammaticus (m) teacher
grātiās agō, -ere I thank
grātulātiōnēs (f pl) congratulations
gravidus, -a, -um heavy; pregnant
grōma (f) surveying instrument
gustō, -āre I taste

H

habeō, -ēre I have
habitō, -āre I live (in)
hās these
hī these
hic, haec, hoc this
hilariter cheerfully
Hispānicus, -a, -um Spanish
hodiē today
honestus, -a, -um honourable, virtuous
horoscopus (m) horoscope
horreum (n) granary
hūc to here
hūc . . . illūc here and there, up and down

I
iactō, -āre I throw, toss
ibi there
igitur therefore
īgnavus, -a, -um lazy
imperātor (m) emperor
importō, -āre I carry in
in in, on, into
incēdō, -ere I march
incipiō, -ere I begin, start
īnfāns (m or f) baby
ingēns huge
īnscrīptiō (f) inscription
īnspiciō, -ere I inspect
īnsum, -esse I am in
intentē closely
intereā meanwhile
intrō, -āre I come in, enter
inveniō, -ire I find
invītō, -āre I invite
invītus, -a, -um unwilling
involvō, -ere I wrap up
iocōsē playfully
iocus (m) joke
īta vērō! yes!
Italia (f) Italy
iter (n) journey
iterum again
iūcundus, -a, -um lovely
iussus, -a, -um ordered, told
iuvenis (m) young man

L

labōrō, -āre I work
lacrimō, -āre I cry, weep
laetissimus, -a, -um very happy
laetus, -a, -um happy
lāpicidīnae (f pl) quarry
lapideus, -a, -um made of stone
Larēs (m pl) household gods
lāridum (n) lard
Latīnus, -a, -um Latin
lavō, -āre I wash
lectīca (f) litter (sedan-chair)
lectus (m) couch
legiōnēs (f pl) legions
legō, -ere I read
lēniter gently
lentē slowly
lepus (m) hare
liber (m) book
liberō, -āre I set free
liberta (f) freedwoman

(tibi) licet (you) may
 ligneus, -a, -um made of wood
 lignum (n) log, beam, plank
 līmōsus, -a, -um muddy
 lingua (f) tongue; language
 litterae (f pl) letters
 locus (m) place
 longus, -a, -um long
 lūbricus, -a, -um slippery
 lūstricus, -a, -um of purification

M

māchina (f) machine
 magnificus, -a, -um magnificent
 malus, -a, -um bad
 mandō, -ere I chew
 maneō, -ēre I wait, stay
 mare (n) sea
 marītus (m) husband
 māter (f) mother
 maximē very strongly
 maximus, -a, -um very big
 mēcum with me
 melior better
 mercātus (m) market
 meus, -a, -um my
 mihi for me
 miles (m) soldier
 mīlia thousands
 mīlitēs (m pl) soldiers
 minimē! no! not at all!
 mīrābilis marvellous, amazing
 mīrāculum (n) marvel, miracle
 mīrus, -a, -um wonderful
 miser, -a, -um unhappy
 missus, -a, -um sent
 modicus, -a, -um ordinary
 mortuus, -a, -um dead
 mulceō, -ēre I stroke
 multī, -ae, -a many
 murmurō, -āre purr
 mūs (m or f) mouse

N

nam for
 nātus, -a, -um born
 nauta (m) sailor
 nāvīgō, -āre I sail
 nāvis (f) ship
 necessārius, -a, -um necessary
 necesse (est/erit) (it is/ will be) necessary
 nescio, -īre I do not know
 nihil nothing

ningit it is snowing
 nōbīs for/to us
 nōbīscum with us
 nōlī, nōlīte! don't!
 nōmen (n) name
 nōmine by name
 nōn not
 nōnne? surely?
 noster, -ra, -um our
 nōtissimus, -a, -um very famous
 nōtus, -a, -um famous
 novus, -a, -um new
 nunc now
 nūper recently

O

obēsus, -a, -um fat
 obstetrīx (f) midwife
 octāvus, -a, -um eighth
 offerō, -rre I bring out
 officīna (f) workshop
 olfaciō, -ere I sniff, smell
 ōlim at some time, once upon a time
 ōlla (f) pot
 omittō, -ere I drop
 omnēs everyone
 operārius (m) labourer
 optimē very well
 optimus, -a, -um the best, excellent
 ōrāculum (n) oracle
 ōrnātrīx (f) hairdresser
 ōrō, -āre I pray

P

paene almost
 parō, -āre I prepare
 parvus, -a, -um small
 pater (m) father
 patera (f) bowl
 paucī, -ae, -a few
 pāvō (m) peacock
 percussus, -a, -um struck
 perdīx (m or f) partridge
 periculōsus, -a, -um dangerous
 perītē skilfully
 perterritus, -a, -um terrified
 petō, -ere I search for, seek
 phalerae (f pl) decorations, medals
 pictus, -a, -um drawn, depicted
 pila (f) ball
 pilleus (m) cap of freedom
 pīpiō, -āre I chirp
 (mihi) placet it pleases (me), I would like

placetne (tibi)? does it please (you)?
plaustrum (n) wagon
pluit/pluēbat it is/was raining
plūs more
polyspaston (n) crane
pompa (f) parade, procession
pōnō, -ere I place, put
pōns (m) bridge
porta (f) gate
portō, -āre I carry
portus (m) harbour
positus, -a, -um positioned, placed
possum, posse I am able, I can
post after
postrīdiē on the next day
praecipuē especially
praecipuus, -a, -um special
praefectus (m) commander
praesum, praesse I am in charge
pretium (n) price
prīncipia (n pl) headquarters
prōcēdō, -ere I proceed
proelium (n) battle
prōferō, -rre I utter
profundō, -ere I spill
prope near
prōpellō, -ere I push
propīnō, -āre I drink a toast
proprius, -a, -um correct
puella (f) girl
puer (m) boy
pugnō, -āre I fight
pulcher, -ra, -rum beautiful

Q

quaerō, -ere I look for, seek
quam! how!
quam celerrimē as quickly as possible
quantī (est)? how much (is it)?
quid? what?
quid agis? what's the matter?
quid vīs? what do you want?
quiēscō, -ere I rest
quīnque five
quis? who?
quod because
quoque also

R

recumbō, -ere I recline
redeō, -īre I return
relaxō, -āre I relax
rēs (f) thing

respōnsum (n) reply, response
rētia (n pl) nets
reveniō, -īre I return
rīdeo, -ēre I laugh, smile
rogus (m) bonfire
Rōmānus, -a, -um Roman

S

saccārius (m) docker
sacellum (n) chapel
sacerdōs (m or f) priest(ess)
saepe often
saltō, -āre I dance
salvē/salvēte! hello!
satis enough
Sātūrnālia (n pl) Saturnalia festival
saxum (n) stone
scarabaeus (m) beetle
scīlicet of course
scio, -īre I know
scrība (m) secretary
scrībō, -ere I write
scrīptus, -a, -um written
sculpō, -ere I carve
sculptor (m) sculptor
sectus, -a, -um cut
secundus, -a, -um second
sed but
sedeō, -ēre I sit
segōsus (m) (breed of) dog
semper always
septem seven
servō, -āre I save
servus (m) slave
signifer (m) standard-bearer
signum (n) military standard
silicēs (m pl) flints
silva (f) wood, forest
Silvānus (m) god of hunting
sistō, -ere I stop
solidus, -a, -um solid, firm
sollicitus, -a, -um worried
sōlus, -a, -um alone, lonely
spargō, -ere I sprinkle
spectō, -āre I watch, look at
splendidus, -a, -um splendid
spōnsa (f) fiancée
spōnsus (m) fiancé
squālor (m) mess
statim immediately, at once
stēlla (f) star
stīpendium (n) pay (for soldiers)
stō, -āre I stand

strīdeō, -ēre I squeak
 suāviter sweetly
 sub under
 subitō suddenly
 subsum, subesse I am under
 sūdārium (n) towel
 sum, esse I am, (to be)
 superō, -āre I win
 supersum, superesse I survive
 susurrō, -āre I whisper

T

tabula (f) writing tablet
 tacitus, -a, -um silent
 tam so
 tamen however
 tandem at last
 tangō, -ere I touch
 tē you (*sing*)
 tempestās (f) storm
 teneō, -ēre I hold
 terō, -ere I rub
 terra (f) ground
 tertius, -a, -um third
 testis (m or f) witness
 tibi for you (*sing*)
 timeō, -ēre I am afraid
 timidē nervously, timidly
 timidus, -a, -um nervous, timid
 titulus (m) inscription
 tollō, -ere I remove, lift
 tonat it is thundering
 tōtus, -a, -um whole
 tractus, -a, -um dragged
 trādītus, -a, -um handed over
 trādō, -ere I hand over
 Trāiānus (m) Trajan
 trāns across
 trānseō, -īre I cross
 tribūnal (n) platform
 triclinium (n) dining room
 tripūs (m) tripod
 trīstis sad, unhappy
 trīstissimus, -a, -um very sad, very unhappy
 truncō, -āre I cut, chop
 tū you (*sing*)
 tum then
 turbulentus, -a, -um stormy
 tūtus, -a, -um safe
 tuus, -a, -um your

U

ubi? where?
 ubique everywhere
 ululō, -āre I howl
 ūnus, -a, -um one
 uxor (f) wife

V

vādō, -ere I go
 vāgiō, -īre I wail
 valē, valēte! goodbye!
 validus, -a, -um strong
 vēnābulum (n) hunting spear
 vēnālīcius (m) slave-dealer
 vēnātīō (f) hunt
 veniō, -īre I come
 ventōsus, -a, -um windy
 verbum (n) word
 vertragus (m) (breed of) dog
 vestīmenta (n pl) clothes
 vexillārius (m) flag-seller
 via (f) road
 videō, -ēre I see
 villa (f) house
 vīctus, -a, -um bound, tied up
 vīnum (n) wine
 vir optime! (m) sir!
 vīsītō, -āre I visit
 vīta (f) life
 vīvus, -a, -um alive
 vōbīs for you (*pl*)
 vocātus, -a, -um called
 vocō, -āre I call, summon
 volō, velle I wish, want
 vomō, -ere I am sick
 vōs you (*pl*)

Barbara Bell
Joint Association of Classical Teachers

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