Grammatica: Unit 3

Verbs: Perfect System

Perfect Tense System

You have already learned the Latin perfect active tense (**Unit 1**). The pluperfect and future perfect are the remaining two tenses of the **perfect system**.

In English, we express the three tenses of the perfect system as follows, Note carefully the auxiliary verbs, underlined below, used in each tense:

perfect active	**perfect passive**
I have loved, I loved	I have been loved, I was loved
pluperfect active	**pluperfect passive**
I had loved	I had been loved
future perfect active	**future perfect passive**
I will have loved	I will have been loved

You will learn how to form the Latin perfect system passive verbs in **Unit 4**.

As with the perfect active tense, the pluperfect active and future perfect active stem comes from the third principal part. Knocking off the final *-i* yields the **perfect active stem**:

amav-
habu-
dix-
cupiv-
audiv-

Pluperfect Tense: Active

The **pluperfect tense** expresses an action well back in the past, completed before some other past action. In English, the auxiliary verb “had” is used:

They had read [i.e. before some other action in the past]
I had sat in the house

She had travelled
You had worked

The term pluperfect comes from (*tempus praeteritum*) *plus* (*quam*) *perfectum*, i.e. "(past time) more (than) perfect (=completed)."

The Latin pluperfect tense is formed by adding *-era-* between the perfect active stem and the personal ending:

amav-era-m - I had loved
amav-era-s - you had loved
etc.

Verbs of all four conjugations follow this rule. Here are the forms for one verb as illustration:

	Singular	Plural
1st person	amav**eram**	amav**eramus**
2nd person	amav**eras**	amav**eratis**
3rd person	amav**erat**	amav**erant**

Future Perfect Tense: Active

The **future perfect tense** expresses an action in the future, completed ("perfect") before some other future action. In English, the auxiliary verb combination "will have" is used:

They will have read [*i.e.* before doing something else in the future]
I will have sat in the house [*e.g.* by the time I leave afterwards]
She will have travelled
You will have worked

The Latin future perfect tense is formed by inserting *-eri-* between the perfect active stem and the personal ending, except for the 1st person singular which drops the *-i-*:

amav-er-o - I will have loved
amav-eri-s - you will have loved
etc.

Verbs of all four conjugations follow this rule. The first person singular drops the *-i*. Note that the *-i-* before the third person plural personal ending *-n* does *not* change to *-u-* as it normally does most elsewhere.

	Singular	Plural
1st person	amav**ero**	amav**erimus**
2nd person	amav**eris**	amav**eritis**
3rd person	amav**erit**	amav**erint**

Verbs: Passive Voice

Voice: The Passive Voice

Latin verbs, as **English**, have two **voices**, active and passive.

With the active voice, the subject acts or is in a state of being, for example:

She reads books
He is a Roman citizen

With a passive voice the subject is acted upon, for example:

The book is being read by the girl.

Present System: Passive

In the **present system** **(present, imperfect, and future tenses)** of Latin verbs, the difference in the formation of active and passive verbs is a matter of personal endings. Once again, the tail tells the tale!

You have already learned the six *active* personal endings. Compare them with the six *passive* personal endings:

	ACTIVE		PASSIVE	
	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
1st person	-o or -m	-mus	-r	-mur
2nd person	-s	-tis	-ris*	-mini
3rd person	-t	-nt	-tur	-ntur

*The alternate ending is *-re*, which can be used in any of the tenses in the present system.

Present Passive Forms

Compare these two verbs:

He loves (present active)
He is being loved (present passive)

In Latin, the passive voice of the present tense is formed by adding the passive personal endings to the present stem. Note that the 1st person singular adds the ending (-r) to its active form. Study the forms below:

ama**t** - he loves
ama**tur** - he is being loved

First Conjugation

	ACTIVE		PASSIVE	
	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
1st person	am**o** I love	ama**mus** we love	amo**r** I am (being) loved	ama**mur** we are (being) loved
2nd person	ama**s** you love	ama**tis** you love	ama**ris** you are (being) loved	ama**mini** you are (being) loved
3rd person	ama**t** s/he loves	ama**nt** they love	ama**tur** s/he is (being) loved	ama**ntur** they are (being) loved

Second Conjugation

	ACTIVE		PASSIVE	
	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
1st person	habe**o** I hold	habe**mus** we hold	habeo**r** I am held	habe**mur** we are held
2nd person	habe**s** you hold	habe**tis** you hold	habe**ris** you are held	habe**mini** you are held
3rd person	habe**t** s/he holds	habe**nt** they hold	habe**tur** s/he is held	habe**ntur** they are held

Third Conjugation -o

	ACTIVE		PASSIVE	
	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
1st person	duc**o** I lead	duci**mus** we lead	duco**r** I am led	duci**mur** we are led
2nd person	duci**s** you lead	duci**tis** you lead	duce**ris*** you are led	duci**mini** you are led
3rd person	duci**t** s/he leads	ducu**nt** they lead	duci**tur** s/he is led	ducu**ntur** they are led

*note that the expected *-i-* changes to *-e-* before the second person singular active ending *-ris.*

Third Conjugation -io

	ACTIVE		PASSIVE	
	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
1st person	cupi**o** I desire	cupi**mus** we desire	cupio**r** I am desired	cupi**mur** we are desired
2nd person	cupi**s** you desire	cupi**tis** you desire	cupe**ris*** you are desired	cupi**mini** you are desired
3rd person	cupi**t** s/he desires	cupiu**nt** they desire	cupi**tur** s/he is desired	cupiu**ntur** they are desired

*note that the expected *-i-* changes to *-e-* before the second person singular active ending *-ris.*

Fourth Conjugation

	ACTIVE		PASSIVE	
	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
1st person	audi**o** I hear	audi**mus** we hear	audio**r** I am heard	audi**mur** we are heard
2nd person	audi**s** you hear	audi**tis** you hear	audi**ris** you are heard	audi**mini** you are heard
3rd person	audi**t** s/he hears	audiu**nt** they hear	audi**tur** s/he is heard	audiu**ntur** they are heard

Imperfect Passive Forms

As the imperfect tense is within the present system, the difference between active and passive is a matter of personal endings.

As a reminder, the **imperfect tense** indicates an incomplete action or state of being in the past, a continual action or state of being in the past, or a habitual action or state of being. To express the imperfect tense in the passive voice, English uses the auxiliary verbs “was being” and “were being”:

> The book was being read by them
> They were being seen

First Conjugation

	ACTIVE		PASSIVE	
	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
1st person	ama**bam** I was loving	ama**bamus** we were loving	ama**bar** I was being loved	ama**bamur** we were being loved
2nd person	ama**bas** you were loving	ama**batis** you were loving	ama**baris** you were being loved	ama**bamini** you were being loved
3rd person	ama**bat** s/he was loving	ama**bant** they were loving	ama**batur** s/he was being loved	ama**bantur** they were being loved

Second Conjugation

	ACTIVE		PASSIVE	
	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
1st person	habe**bam** I was holding	habe**bamus** we were holding	habe**bar** I was being held	habe**bamur** we were being held
2nd person	habe**bas** you were holding	habe**batis** you were holding	habe**baris** you were being held	habe**bamini** you were being held
3rd person	habe**bat** s/he was holding	habe**bant** they were holding	habe**batur** s/he was being held	habe**bantur** they were being held

Third Conjugation -o

	ACTIVE		PASSIVE	
	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
1st person	duce**bam** I was leading	duce**bamus** we were leading	duce**bar** I was being led	duce**bamur** we were being led
2nd person	duce**bas** you were leading	duce**batis** you were leading	duce**baris** you were being led	duce**bamini** you were being led
3rd person	duce**bat** s/he was leading	duce**bant** they were leading	duce**batur** s/he was being led	duce**bantur** they were being led

Third Conjugation -io

	ACTIVE		PASSIVE	
	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
1st person	cupie**bam** I was desiring	cupie**bamus** we were desiring	cupie**bar** I was being desired	cupie**bamur** we were being desired
2nd person	cupie**bas** you were desiring	cupie**batis** you were desiring	cupie**baris** you were being desired	cupie**bamini** you were being desired
3rd person	cupie**bat** s/he was desiring	cupie**bant** they were desiring	cupie**batur** s/he was being desired	cupie**bantur** they were being desired

Fourth Conjugation

	ACTIVE		PASSIVE	
	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
1st person	audie**bam** I was hearing	audie**bamus** we were hearing	audie**bar** I was being heard	audie**bamur** we were being heard
2nd person	audie**bas** you were hearing	audie**batis** you were hearing	audie**baris** you were being heard	audie**bamini** you were being heard
3rd person	audie**bat** s/he was hearing	audie**bant** they were hearing	audie**batur** s/he was being heard	audie**bantur** they were being heard

Future Passive Forms

As the future tense is within the present system, the difference between active and passive is a matter of personal endings.

As a reminder, the **future tense** is used to indicate an action or state of being in the future. To express the future tense in the passive voice, English uses the auxiliary verb “will be”:

The book will be read by them
They will be seen
The children will be led

First and second conjugations: the Latin future tense is formed by inserting the tense indicator *-bi-* between the present stem and the personal ending. This applies to both the active and passive voices:

ama-bo - I will love ama-bo-r - I will be loved
ama-bi-s - you will love ama-be-ris - you will be loved
etc.

As in the first conjugation present, the first person singular uses the vowel *-o* instead of the expected vowel *-i*. Also, the second person singular uses the vowel -e instead of the -i. Finally, instead of having *amabint/amabintur* in the third person singular, an *-u-* is added for euphony (sounding pleasant) to give *amabunt/amabuntur*.

First conjugation

	ACTIVE		PASSIVE	
	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
1st person	ama**bo** I will love	ama**bimus** we will love	ama**bor** I will be loved	ama**bimur** we will be loved
2nd person	ama**bis** you will love	ama**bitis** you will love	ama**beris*** you will be loved	ama**bimini** you will be loved
3rd person	ama**bit** s/he will love	ama**bunt** they will love	ama**bitur** s/he will be loved	ama**buntur** they will be loved

*note that the expected *-i-* changes to *-e-* before the second person singular passive ending *-ris*

Second Conjugation

	ACTIVE		PASSIVE	
	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
1st person	habe**bo** I will hold	habe**bimus** we will hold	habe**bor** I will be held	habe**bimur** we will be held
2nd person	habe**bis** you will hold	habe**bitis** you will hold	habe**beris*** you will be held	habe**bimini** you will be held
3rd person	habe**bit** s/he will hold	habe**bunt** they will hold	habe**bitur** s/he will be held	habe**buntur** they will be held

*note that the expected *-i-* changes to *-e-* before the second person singular passive ending *-ris*

Third and fourth conjugations: the Latin future tense for the third conjugation is formed by retaining -*e*- on the end of the present stem (-*a*- in the first person singular) and adding the personal ending. For third -io and fourth conjugations an -*ie*- (-*ia* in the first person singular) replaces the vowel at the end of the stem (stem = *cupe* > *cupie*). This is one of the many reasons you must be able to identify to which conjugation a verb belongs:

duc-**a**-m duc-**a**-r
duc-**e**-s duc-**e**-ris
etc.

aud-**ia**-m aud-**ia**-r
aud-**ie**-s audi-**ie**-ris
etc.

Third Conjugation -o

	ACTIVE		PASSIVE	
	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
1st person	duca**m** I will lead	duce**mus** we will lead	duca**r** I will be led	duce**mur** we will be led
2nd person	duce**s** you will lead	duce**tis** you will lead	duce**ris** you will be led	duce**mini** you will be led
3rd person	duce**t** s/he will lead	duce**nt** they will lead	duce**tur** s/he will be led	duce**ntur** they will be led

Third Conjugation -io

	ACTIVE		PASSIVE	
	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
1st person	cupia**m** I will desire	cupie**mus** we will desire	cupia**r** I will be desired	cupie**mur** we will be desired
2nd person	cupie**s** you will desire	cupie**tis** you will desire	cupie**ris** you will be desired	cupie**mini** you will be desired
3rd person	cupie**t** s/he will desire	cupie**nt** they will desire	cupie**tur** s/he will be desired	cupie**ntur** they will be desired

Fourth Conjugation

	ACTIVE		PASSIVE	
	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
1st person	audia**m** I will hear	audie**mus** we will hear	audia**r** I will be heard	audie**mur** we will be heard
2nd person	audie**s** you will hear	audi**tis** you will hear	audie**ris** you will be heard	audie**mini** you will be heard
3rd person	audie**t** s/he will hear	audie**nt** they will hear	audie**tur** s/he will be heard	audie**ntur** they will be heard

Present Passive Infinitives

You have already learned the present active infinitive: *amare* - to love

To form the present passive infinitive, replace the final -*e* of the present active infinitive with -*i*, EXCEPT for third conjugation infinitives, where -*i* replaces the entire -*ere*.

pres. active infinitive	present passive infinitive
amare - to love	amari - to be loved
habēre - to hold	habēri - to be held
dicere - to tell	dici - to be told
cupere - to desire	cupi - to be desired
audire - to hear	audiri - to be heard

Deponent Verbs

A **deponent verb** has put aside, or "deposed," active forms and uses only passive forms. The **meaning** of the verb is, however, always **active** (except for gerundives, introduced in **Unit 10**). For example, the first conjugation verb "*hortor*" is translated as "I urge," although it has the 1st person singular passive personal ending -*r*.

Deponents can be recognized in vocabulary lists because their principal parts have only passive forms. Deponents lack the usual "third" principal part of "regular" verbs, as that principal part is used to form perfect system *active* forms only. Deponent verbs will thus only have three principal parts.

So, for *hortor* and other verbs:

hortor, hortari, hortatum (first conjugation)
videor, videri, visum (second conjugation)
sequor, sequi, secutum (third conjugation -o)
egredior, egredi, egressum (third conjugation -io)
orior, oriri, ortum (fourth conjugation)

As with all verbs, you extract the present stem for deponents from the 2nd principal part. For 3rd -o and -io verbs, the stem is found by dropping the *-ī* from the infinitives and adding short *-e*:

stem = hortā- (first conjugation)
stem = vidē- (second conjugation)
stem = seque- (third conjugation)
stem = egrede- (third conjugation -io)
stem - ori- (fourth conjugation)

Semi-Deponent Verbs

Semi-deponent verbs are deponent only in the perfect system of tenses (perfect, pluperfect, future perfect). They have active forms in the present system of tenses (present, imperfect, future). They are recognizable in vocabulary lists because the first two principal parts, (used for the present system of tenses), show active forms. Deponents lack the usual "third" principal part of "regular" verbs. Compare:

amo, amare, amavi, amatum (regular verb)
gaudeo, gaudēre, gavisum (semi-deponent)

There are only 4 semi-deponent verbs: *audeo, fido, gaudeo,* and *soleo*. You will learn how to form and use the perfect system of deponent and semi-deponent verbs in **Unit 4**.

Present Passive and Deponent Imperative Forms

In **Unit 1**, you learned the present active imperative. To form the present imperative passive , add *-re* to the present stem for the singular, *-mini* for the plural. These forms are used primarily to make imperatives of deponent verbs.

Singular	Plural
amā-**re** - be loved	ama-**mini** - be loved
hortā-**re** - urge	horta-**mini** - urge

habē-**re** be held
fatē-**r**e - admit

duce-**re** - be led
seque-**re** - follow

cape-**re** - be captured
egrede-**re** - go out

audi-**re** be heard
ori-**re** - rise

habe-**mini** - be held
fatē-**mini** - admit

duci-**mini** - be led
sequi-**mini** - follow

capi-**mini** - be captured
egredi-**mini** - go out

audi-**mini** - be heard
ori-**mini** - rise

Uses of the Ablative

Ablative of Personal Agent

The person/people performing the action expressed by a passive verb is rendered in Latin by *a* or *ab* with the person/people in the ablative case. This is called the **ablative of personal agent**. The ablative of personal agent can exist only with a passive verb. In the sentence "The book is being read by the girl," "by the girl" would be expressed in Latin *a puellā*.

*Liber legitur **a puellā**.*
The book is being read **by the girl**.

Ablative of Means or Instrument

Similar to how the ablative of agent expresses *who* performs the action of a passive verb, the **ablative of means or instrument** is used to express *what* is performs the action. If the performer is an inanimate object, Latin uses the ablative of means or instrument with no preposition.

Compare the following two sentences:

*Puer terretur **fabulā**.*
The boy is terrified **by the story** (means/instrument).

*Liber legitur **a puellā**.*
The book is being read **by the girl** *(personal agent)*.

Note that this construction can also exist with active when you want to express the tool or instrument with which something is done:

*Aeneas deum **suis oculis** vidit.*
Aeneas saw the god **with his own eyes**.

Ablative of Manner

The ablative of manner indicates the manner in which an action takes place, usually with the preposition "*cum*", but if the noun is modified by an adjective the preposition may be omitted. Note that a modifying adjective may precede the preposition.

*Liber legitur **cum voluptate**.*
The book is being read **with pleasure**.

*Liber legitur **magnā cum voluptate**.*
The book is being read **with great pleasure**.

Constructions of Time and Place

Time Constructions

Latin uses the accusative and ablative cases to express constructions of time (**click here for more details**). These uses of the accusative and ablative can be easily recognized, because they will use "time" words (ex. *annus, hora,* and *tempus*):

accusative of extent or duration of time. The accusative case is used to express how long an event or action occurs. When translating, you may add the preposition "for":

> Multos annos in urbe studebant.
> For many years they were studying in the city.
>
> Multas horas sorores et fratres de philosophia dicebant.
> For many hours sisters and brothers talked about philosophy.

ablative of time when or within which. This is used to express a specific time for an event or action or the time within which the action or event occurs. In English, you may add the prepositions "in," "on," "at," or "within" according to context:

> Primā horā ad urbem venerunt.
> At the first hour, they came to the city.

Primā horā mater ad urbem veniet.
Within the first hour the mother will come to the city.

Place Constructions

Latin uses the accusative, ablative, and locative cases to express constructions of place (**click here for more details**):

accusative of place to or toward which. The accusative case is used with a verb of motion to express the place to or toward which one is moving. Normally the phrase is introduced by a preposition (*ad* or *in* +acc).

Ad urbem venient.
They will come to the city.

In urbem eunt.
They are going into the city.

accusative of extent of space. To express how far, Latin uses the accusative case, normally with no preposition:

Multa milia passuum (multa milia passuum = many thousands of paces, or many Roman miles) urbs abest.
The city is many miles away.

ablative of place where and ablative of place from which. The ablative is used to indicate place where, and with a verb of motion place from which. Normally the phrase is introduced by a preposition (e.g., place where = *in*; place from which = *ab, ex,* or *de*).

In urbe student.
They are studying in the city.

Ab urbe eunt.
They are going from the city.

Place Constructions with Cities, Towns, and Certain Nouns and the Locative

In Latin NO prepositions are used for place constructions for city and town names, and the nouns ***domus,-i* f.** (“home”), *humus,-i* f. (“ground”), and *rus, ruris* n. (“country”), although the English translation supplies one. For these nouns, *place where* is handled by the **locative** case.

Place to or toward which: accusative
Romam to Rome

Place from which: ablative
Romā from Rome

Place where: locative
Romae in Rome

Formation of the locative: the locative ending is identical to the ablative, *except* when the noun is 1st or 2nd declension **singular**, in which case it will be identical to the genitive e.g.:

Athenis (Athenae, - arum f.) - in/at Athens
Carthagine (Carthago, -inis f.) - at/in Carthage
Romae (Roma, -ae f.) - at/in Rome
Corinthi (Corinthus, -i f.) - at/in Corinth
domi (domus, -i f.) - at home
rure (rus, ruris n.) - in the country
humi (humus, -i f.) - on the ground

Examine these example sentences closely:

Romam venient.
They will come to Rome.

Athenis student.
They are studying in Athens.

Romā eunt.
They are going from Rome.

Aelia domi est.
Aelia is at home.

Cum Temporal Clauses

You have already learned the word *cum* as a preposition meaning “with.” *Cum* can also be used as a conjunction to introduce a subordinate clause. When the verb of the clause is indicative, the clause indicates a verbal action at a definite time. In these temporal clauses, *cum* is to be translated as “when”:

> *Cum nos domum a servo ducebamur, de sermonibus loquebamur.*
> When we were being home led by the enslaved person, we were talking about the speeches.
>
> *Cum Laelia loquitur, magnam voluptatem dat*.
> When Laelia speaks, she gives great pleasure.