

The Latin Ablative

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REVIEW OF THE ABLATIVE

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LESSON LXXVIII

REVIEW OF THE ABLATIVE

453. The relations of the ablative are, in general, expressed in English by the prepositions *with* (or *by*), *from* (or *by*), and *in* (or *at*). The constructions growing out of these meanings are

I. Ablative rendered *with* (or *by*):

1. Cause (§ 102)
2. Means (§ 103)
3. Accompaniment (§ 104)
4. Manner (§ 105)
5. Measure of difference (§ 317)
6. With a participle (ablative absolute) (§ 381)
7. Description or quality (§§ 444, 445)
8. Specification (§ 398)

II. Ablative rendered *from* (or *by*):

1. Place from which (§§ 179, 264)
2. Ablative of separation (§ 180)
3. Personal agent with a passive verb (§ 181)
4. Comparison without **quam** (§ 309)

III. Ablative rendered *in* (or *at*):

1. Place at or in which (§§ 265, 266)
2. Time when or within which (§ 275)

I.1 Ablative of Cause - No preposition. Answers the question, "Because of what?"

D'Ooge §102

Marcus est infirmus inopia cibi.

*Marcus is weak **by the lack** of food.*

I.2 Ablative of Means or Instrument - No preposition. Answers the question, "By means of what? With what instrument?"

D'Ooge §103

Diāna sagittis ferās necat.

*Diana kills the wild beasts **by/with** arrows.*

Fera sagittis necatur.

*The wild beast is being killed **by/with** arrows.*

I.3 Ablative of Accompaniment – Preposition: **cum**. Answers the question, "In company with what or whom?"

D'Ooge §104

Iūlia cum fēminā ambulat.

*Julia is walking **with the** woman.*

I.4 Ablative of Manner – Preposition: **cum**. No preposition if adjective is used with the ablative. Answers the question, "How? In what manner?"

D'Ooge §105

b. Virī cum cōstantiā pugnant.

*The men fight **with** perseverance.*

a. Virī cōstantiā magnā pugnant.

*The men fight **with great** perseverance.*

II.1 Ablative of Place from Which - Prepositions: Use **ā/ab**, **ē/ex**, **dē** with an "ablative of separation." Answers, "Whence?"

D'Ooge §179 - N.B.: Omit preposition before names of towns, small islands, **domus**, and **rūs**.

Galba ab oppidō properat.

*Galba hastens **from the** town.*

Galba domō/rūre properat.

*Galba hastens **from home/the** country.*

II.2 Ablative of Separation - Prepositions: **ā/ab**, **ē/ex**, **dē** with actual or literal separation (a). No prepositions for figurative separation (b).

D'Ooge §180

a. Perseus terram ā mōnstrīs liberat.

*Perseus frees the land **from** monsters.*

b. Perseus terram tristīā liberat.

*Perseus frees the land **from** sorrow.*

II.3 Ablative of Personal Agent - Preposition: **ā/ab**. With passive verb. Expresses the person from whom an actions starts (when not the subject).

D'Ooge §181

Fera ā Diānā necatur.

*The wild beast is being killed by Diana (**from** Diana).*

Mōnstrum ā Perseō necatur.

*The monster is being slain by Perseus (**from** Perseus).*

III.1 Ablative of Place at or in Which - Preposition: **in**. Answers the question, "Where?"

D'Ooge §265 - N.B.: Omit preposition before names of towns, small islands, and **rūs**.

Galba in Germāniā habitat.

*Galba lives **in** Germany.*

Galba rūrī/rūre habitat.

*Galba lives **in the** country.*

Galba Athēnīs habitat.

*Galba lives **in/at** Athens.*

III.2 Ablative of Time When or Within Which - No preposition.

D'Ooge §275 - N.B.: Occasionally the preposition **in** is used.

Aestāte lūdēbant.

*They used to play **in the summer**.*

Eōdem diē vēnērunt.

*They came **in the same day**.*

Agricolae bonis annis valēbant.

*The farmers flourished **in the good years**.*

Paucis hōris id faciet.

*He will do it **in (within) a few hours**.*

II.4 Ablative of Comparison – No preposition. The comparative degree, if *quam* is omitted, is followed by the “separative ablative.”

D'Ooge §309 – N.B.: The noun being compared (underlined) is in the ablative.

Nihil est clārius sōle.

*Nothing is brighter than the sun (**away from the sun**).*

Vīdī paucōs fēliciōres patre tuō.

*I have seen few men happier than your father (**away from your father**).*

I.5 Ablative Measure/Degree of Difference – No preposition. With comparisons and words implying comparison and denotes *the measure of difference*.

D'Ooge §317 – N.B.: The degree of difference (underlined) is in the ablative; it may measure another noun (a), or it may measure a comparative (b).

a. Galba est altior capite quam Sextus.

*Galba is a head taller (**taller by a head**) than Sextus.*

b. Illud iter est multō brevius.

*That route is much shorter (**shorter by much**).*

I.6 Ablative Absolute – No preposition. Used for attendant circumstances. Use ablative noun or pronoun with a present or perfect participle in agreement.

D'Ooge §381 – N.B.: In classical Latin, *sum* has no present participle and is implied (c).

a. Rōmā vīsā, virī gaudēbat.

(With) Rome having been seen, the men rejoiced.

b. Hīs rēbus auditīs, coepit timēre.

(With) these things having been seen, he began to be afraid.

c. Caesare duce, nihil timēbimus.

(With) Caesar in command, we shall fear nothing.

I.8 Ablative of Specification or Respect – No preposition. Used to denote *in what respect* something is true.

D'Ooge §398

Est rex nomine.

*He is king in name (**by name**).*

Hi linguā et legibus similes sunt.

*These are similar in language and laws (**by language and laws**).*

Oppidum erat parvum magnitūdine.

*The town was small in size (**by size**).*

Homō erat validus animō.

*The man was strong in spirit (**by spirit**).*

I.7 Ablative of Physical Description or Quality – No preposition. Expressed by the ablative with a modifying adjective.

D'Ooge §444 – N.B.: Compare with *Genitive of Description*. Numerical descriptions of measure are in the genitive and descriptions of physical characteristics are in the ablative.

Vir magnā virtūte.

*A man **with great courage**.*

Silva altīs arboribus.

*A forest **with tall trees**.*