

Book I

58 BCE

CAESAR OPENS HIS COMMENTARIES with a brief description of the peoples and geography of Gaul. The first sentence informs the reader that Gaul is divided into three parts, a description that has become familiar to many generations of Latin students and has passed into popular culture.

We then learn that the Helvetii, a Gallic tribe who made their home in what is now Switzerland, had decided to migrate west in search of better land and wished to travel through the Roman Province (the portion of Gaul controlled by Rome, located along the Mediterranean coast). Word of the Helvetians' planned migration arrived very soon after Caesar began his term as governor of Gaul and Illyricum. In fact, he was still outside Rome, making preparations to take up his new post, when he heard what the Helvetians were planning. Upon receiving the news, Caesar hurried north. He had not anticipated trouble in this part of the territory he governed, and three of his four legions were at Aquileia, on the border between Cisalpine Gaul and Illyricum, with only one in Transalpine Gaul. (See the map on page 21.)

The Helvetians' request to move through the Province presented three concerns to Caesar. First, would the Helvetians keep their word not to cause any problems as they passed? Second, where would they settle; how would this affect Roman interests? Third, what would happen to the land the Helvetians had left—would it be occupied by hostile Germans? Uneasy on all these counts, Caesar decided to prevent the Helvetians from seeking a new home. You will read in the first half of Book I how he dealt with the Helvetian challenge; chapters 1–7 in Latin are included here, with the rest in English.

Caesar then relates that his success against the Helvetians had earned him respect from the other tribes of Gaul. Some of them asked his help in dealing with Ariovistus, a German king from across the Rhine who had settled with his followers in the territory of the Gallic Sequani. Caesar agreed to help them since he wanted to discourage any more Germans from moving into Gaul. Caesar's campaign against Ariovistus occupies the second half of Book I, which is presented here in English translation.



- 1 *Gallia, -ae, f., *Gaul*.
omnis: *as a whole*.
*incolō, incolere, incolūi, *to live in, inhabit*.
*Belgae, -ārum, m. pl., *the Belgae*, a large group of tribes in northeastern Gaul.
- 2 Aquitānī, -ōrum, m. pl., *the Aquitani*, a people in what is now southwestern France.
tertius, -a, -um [< trēs, three*], *third*.
tertiam: the ASYNDETON emphasizes that Celtic Gaul was the largest and most important of the areas included in *Gallia*. (Remember that you can check definitions of figures of speech whose names are printed IN SMALL CAPITALS using the list on page 19.)
quī: = eī quī, *those who*; see the first Reading Strategy on page 27.
lingua, -ae, f., *tongue; language*.
ipsōrum linguā: *in the language of (the people) themselves*, less lit., *in their own language*.
Celtae, -ārum, m. pl., *Celts* (see pages 4–5 for background about these people).
nostrā: linguā is understood with nostrā; see the Reading Strategy opposite.
*Gallī, -ōrum, m. pl., *Gauls*, the Roman name for the Celts.
- 3 *īnstitūtum, -ī, n., *custom*.
*lēx, lēgis, f., *law*.
inter sē: *between themselves*, less lit., *from each other*.
Garumna, -ae, f., *the Garonne River* in southwestern France.
- 4 *flūmen, flūminis, n., *river*.
Mātrōna, -ae, f., *the Marne River* in northern France.
Sēquana, -ae, f., *the Seine River* in northern France.

The geography and peoples of Gaul.

- 1 [1] Gallia est omnis divisa in partēs trēs, quārum ūnam incolunt Belgae, ali-
 2 am Aquitānī, tertiam quī ipsōrum linguā Celtae, nostrā Gallī appellantur. Hī
 3 omnēs linguā, institūtis, lēgibus inter sē differunt. Gallōs ab Aquitānīs Ga-
 4 rumna flūmen, ā Belgīs Mātrōna et Sēquana dīvidit. (continued)

Initial Explorations

1. What are the three main groups of tribes in Gaul? (1–2)
2. In what respects do these groups differ from one another? (3)
3. What geographical features form the boundaries between these groups?
(3–4)

Reading Strategy: Gapping

- ◆ Instead of repeating a word, an author may omit it and rely on the reader to supply it mentally. This happens with the words **linguā** and **appellantur** (2) above. Linguists use the term ‘gapping’ to describe this phenomenon. The key to identifying a gapped word is to notice PARALLEL STRUCTURE. In this passage, the phrase **ipsōrum linguā Celtae** consists of a possessive word, an ablative noun, and a nominative plural noun; it is followed by **nostrā Gallī**, a possessive and a nominative plural. This parallelism shows that **linguā** is gapped, i.e., is equivalent to **nostrā (linguā) Gallī**. The parallel structure of these two phrases then shows that the verb **appellantur** is to be supplied in the first instance also.
- ◆ We sometimes use gapping in English, but usually in the opposite direction from what happens in Latin: “Mary reported on water pollution and John on renewable energy” would be expressed in Latin as “Mary on water pollution and John on renewable energy reported.”
- ◆ Locate another instance of gapping in the Latin text on this page.

- 5 *proptereā, adv., *for this reason, therefore*; when used together with **quod** = an emphatic way of saying *because*.
 *cultus, -ūs, m., *care; culture, civilization*.
 hūmānitās, hūmānitātis, f., *human nature; kindness; refinement*.
- 6 *prōvinciae: *the (Roman) province*, Gallia Narbonensis, a strip of land on the Mediterranean controlled by the Romans before Caesar's arrival. See page 6 for more information and also the map on page 21.
 *longissimē: longē, the adverb from **longus**, -a, -um, means *by far or far off, far away*.
 minimē: connected with **saepe**, *least often*.
- 7 **commeō**, -āre, *to come and go, go back and forth, go to visit*.
effeminō, -āre, -āvī, -ātus [*< fēmina, woman*], *to make effeminate; to weaken*.
ad animās effēminandās: a gerundive phrase expressing purpose, *to weaken their spirits*. For this construction, see **H5b** in the Summary of Grammar, page 280.
 *animus, -ī, m., *soul, spirit*.
 *pertineō, pertinēre, pertinūī, [per + teneō], *to reach to, extend; to pertain, refer; to tend*.
ea quae . . . pertinent: among other things, Caesar is probably thinking of wine, which the Gauls greatly enjoyed and which was not yet produced in Gaul.
- 8 *Germānī, -ōrum, m. pl., *the Germans*.
 *Rhēnus, -ī, m., *the Rhine River*, the border between Gaul and Germany.
 continenter, adv., *continuously*.
- 9 *Helvētīī, -ōrum, m. pl., *the Helvetians*, a Gallic tribe living in what is now Switzerland. Caesar mentions them in particular because they unexpectedly became his first challenge as governor.
 reliquus, -a, -um [< relinquō, leave behind*], *the rest, the remaining, other*.
 virtūs, virtūtis [< vir, man*], f., *courage*.
- 10 **praecēdō**, **praecēdere**, **praecessī**, **praecessūrus**, *to go in front, surpass*.
 *ferē, adv., *almost, approximately*; note that this common adverb is not a form of the verb **ferō**, **ferre**.
 cotidiānus, -a, -um [< quot + diēs*], *daily*.
 *proelium, -ī, n., *battle*.
 *contendō, **contendere**, **contendī**, **contentus**, *to stretch, strain; to strive, struggle*.
- 11 *fīnis, fīnis, m., *end, boundary*; in plural, *territory*.
 *prohibeō, **prohibēre**, **prohibuī**, **prohibitus** [prō + habeō], *to keep someone (acc.) away from something (abl.)*.

Vocabulary

- ♦ Information about the etymology (origin or formation) of some words is given inside square brackets; the symbol < means that the word comes from or is related to the word that follows the <. Paying attention to such etymologies will help you remember the meanings and build up your Latin vocabulary efficiently.

5 Hōrum omnium fortissimī sunt Belgae, proptereā quod ā cultū atque hū-
 6 mānitāte prōvinciae longissimē absunt, minimēque ad eōs mercātōrēs sae-
 7 pe commeant atque ea quae ad effēminandōs animōs pertinent important,
 8 proximīque sunt Germānīs, quī trāns Rhēnum incolunt, quibuscum conti-
 9 nenter bellum gerunt. Quā dē causā Helvētiī quoque reliquōs Gallōs virtūte
 10 praecēdunt, quod ferē cotidiānīs proeliīs cum Germānīs contendunt, cum
 11 aut suis fīnibus eōs prohibent aut ipsī in eōrum fīnibus bellum gerunt.

(continued)

4. What does Caesar say about the Belgae? (5)
5. What three reasons does Caesar give to explain this fact? What grammatical form does he use to explain each reason? (5–9)
6. Locate all the places and peoples mentioned so far on the map on page 21.
7. What tribe among the Celtic Gauls is the bravest? Why? (9–10)
8. For what two reasons do the Helvetians fight with the Germans? (11)

Reading Strategies

- ♦ It is very common in Latin to find a form of the pronoun **is**, **ea**, **id** followed by the relative pronoun **quī**, **quae**, **quod**. Such combinations may be translated *the one who*, *the person who* or, if neuter, *the thing which*, *that which*. You met **ea quae**, *the things which*, in line 7 above. Sometimes the form of **is** is omitted and must be supplied, as with (eī) **quī**, *those who*, in line 2 on page 25.
- ♦ When you meet the conjunction **cum**, always note whether it is completed by a verb in the indicative or subjunctive. If the verb is indicative (**cum . . . prohibent aut . . . gerunt**, above: 11), then the **cum** clause expresses time and must be translated *when*. If the verb is subjunctive, then **cum** can express cause (*since, because*), circumstances (*when, after*), or concession (*although*).

Cultural Context

- ♦ The word **virtūs** is an important one in Caesar. Literally *manliness* or *manhood*, it can mean *strength, vigor, courage, ability, worth, excellence*, or *virtue*. In Caesar's battle narratives *courage* is usually the appropriate translation, but be alert for other senses of the word. As you read think about some larger questions that lurk in the background: who has **virtūs**? how does one get it? how does one display it? what happens when it is missing?

- 12 **eōrum**: this refers back to the territory (**finēs**, m. pl.) of the Gauls as a whole, not just the Helvetians.
Gallōs: here Caesar means specifically the Celts, as opposed to the Belgae or the Aquitani.
obtinēre: this word = *to control* (lit., ob + teneō, *to hold against*), not *obtain*.
dictum est: this verb governs an indirect statement whose subject is **Gallōs obtinēre** and whose object is **quam**. A non-literal translation might be *which, as has been mentioned, the Celts control*. (What is the literal translation?)
***initium**, -ī, n., *beginning*.
initium capit: throughout the remainder of this passage, Caesar is writing from the perspective of someone located in the Roman Province, looking north. If you locate the Rhône river on the map on page 21 and move clockwise, you will be able to follow Caesar's description easily.
- 13 ***Rhodanus**, -ī, m., *the Rhône River*; it begins in the Swiss Alps, flows west through Lake Geneva, then joins with the Saône and flows south to the Mediterranean.
***contineō, continēre, continuī, contentus** [con + teneō], *to hold together, contain, enclose, border*.
***Ōceanus**, -ī, m., *the Ocean*. The Greeks and Romans believed that the land mass with which they were familiar (including Europe, Africa, Asia Minor, and India) was surrounded on all sides by the Ocean. In this sentence, **Ōceanus** includes both the Atlantic and the English Channel.
atingō, attingere, attingī, attactus [ad + tangō], *to touch, reach, extend up to*.
- 14 ***Sēquanī, -ōrum**, m. pl., *the Sequani*, a tribe on the eastern edge of Celtic Gaul.
ab Sēquanīs et Helvetiīs: *from the (territory of) the Sequani and the Helvetii*.
 Caesar often uses the names of Gallic tribes as a shorthand way of referring to the lands in which they lived; the lands may have had no other names.
vergō, vergere, *to turn, incline; to lie, be situated, face*.
septentriōnēs, septentriōnum, m., *the seven oxen; the north*. This is the Roman name for the group of stars called the Big Dipper. The two outer stars of the dipper's bowl point to the north star, Polaris, so it also means *north*.
- 15 ***extrēmus, -a, -um**, *outermost, farthest*.
Galliae: here referring specifically to Celtic Gaul.
***orior, orīrī, ortus sum**, *to rise, arise, begin*.
***inferior, inferiōris**, *lower*. Caesar refers to the area near the coast, where the Rhine flows into the North Sea. (Cf. the English phrases 'downstream' and 'upstream'.)
- 16 **spectant**: in this context = *are oriented toward, face*.
in septentriōnēs et orientem sōlem: *toward the north and the rising sun, i.e., to the northeast*.
Aquitānia, -ae, f., *Aquitania*, the southwestern part of Gaul.
- 17 **Pyrēnaei, -ōrum**, m. pl., *the Pyrenees Mountains*, between France and Spain.
eam partem Ōceanī quae est ad Hispāniam: the Bay of Biscay, north of Spain and west of France.
- 18 **inter occāsum sōlis et septentriōnēs**: *between the setting of the sun and the north, i.e., to the northwest*.

12 Eōrum ūna pars, quam Gallōs obtinēre dictum est, initium capit ā flūmine
 13 Rhodanō; continētur Garumnā flūmine, Ōceanō, fīnibus Belgārum; attin-
 14 git etiam ab Sēquanīs et Helvētiīs flūmen Rhēnum; vergit ad septentriōnēs.
 15 Belgae ab extrēmīs Galliae fīnibus oriuntur; pertinent ad inferiōrem partem
 16 flūminis Rhēnī; spectant in septentriōnēs et orientem sōlem. Aquitānia ā
 17 Garumnā flūmine ad Pŷrēnaeōs montēs et eam partem Ōceanī quae est ad
 18 Hispāniam pertinet; spectat inter occāsum sōlis et septentriōnēs.

9. What are the boundaries of Celtic Gaul? (12–14)
10. What three things does Caesar say about the territory of the Belgae? (15–16)
11. What are the boundaries of Aquitania? (16–18)



The Gauls were skilled metalworkers and created beautiful jewelry, such as this gold torque from the first century BCE. Torques were ornaments designed to be worn around the neck and were a sign of nobility or prestige among the Gauls; Greek and Roman statues and coins show Gauls wearing them. The word 'torque' derives from the Latin verb *torquere*, *to twist*, since torques were often made by combining and twisting a number of small rods, as is clearly shown in this example. The ends were covered with decorative caps.

The Roman consul Titus Manlius in 361 BCE challenged a Gaul to single combat, killed him, and thereafter wore the torque he took from the slain enemy. In honor of this exploit he received the *cognōmen* Torquatus, and the Romans adopted the torque as a military decoration.

- 1 ***apud**, prep. + acc., *at the house of, near, with, among*.
ditissimus: superlative of **dīves**, **dīvītis**, *rich*.
Orgetorīx, **Orgetorīgīs**, m., *Orgetorix*, a Helvetian noble.
M. Messalā et M. Pūpiō Pīsōne cōsulibus: since consuls were elected annually for a one-year term, the Romans very often identified the year with an ablative absolute consisting of the two consuls' names plus **cōsulibus**: *when Marcus Messala and Marcus Pupius Piso were consuls*, less lit., *during the consulship of . . .* Messala and Piso were consuls in 61 BCE. When you read the Latin text aloud, always say the **praenōmina** using the correct case endings.
- 2 ***rēgnum**, -ī, n., *royal power, rule; kingdom*; in this context = *supreme power*.
cupiditās, **cupiditātis**, f., *desire*.
indūcō, **indūcere**, **indūxī**, **inductus**, *to lead on, influence*.
rēgnī cupiditāte inductus: the tribes of Gaul had traditionally been ruled by kings. By Caesar's time, only the northern tribes were still governed this way; the central and southern ones had developed into oligarchies, where the noble families ran the affairs of the tribe, with magistrates elected every year. However, ambitious nobles still sometimes attempted to seize power for themselves, as in the case of Orgetorix.
- ***coniūrātiō**, **coniūrātiōnis**, f., *conspiracy*.
- 3 **nōbilitās**, **nōbilitātis**, f., *nobility*.
 ***cīvitās**, **cīvitātis**, f., *citizenship; state, tribe*. Caesar regularly uses this word to refer to the tribes of Gaul.
- 4 ***cōpia**, -ae, f., *supply, abundance*; pl., *resources, forces*. This indicates that the entire tribe would migrate, as opposed to a raid conducted by warriors only.
exīrent: deduce from **ex** + **eō**, **īre**.
 ***perfacilis**, -is, -e, *very easy*. The prefix **per-** in adjs. often means *very*.
perfacile esse: (*and he said*) *that it was . . .*; see the Reading Strategy opposite.
 This is completed by the infinitive phrase **tōtius Galliae imperiō potiri**.
cum: when **cum** is followed by an ablative noun, it is usually the preposition; but here **cum** is the conjunction. How can you tell that this is the case?
 ***praestō**, **praestāre**, **praestitī**, **praestitus** [**prae**, in front, + **stō**, to stand] + **dat.**, *to stand out, surpass*.
- 5 ***imperium**, -ī, n., *power, rule*.
 ***potior**, **potiri**, **potitus sum** + **abl.** or **gen.**, *to get possession of, get control of*.
Id: the idea of migrating.
hōc: ablative (note the long 'ō'), *because of this*, introducing the following clause (**quod . . .**). In Latin a subordinate clause is often anticipated by a pronoun such as **hoc** or **illud**.
persuāsīt: the root meaning of **persuādēre**, *to make something (acc.) agreeable to someone (dat.)*, is more appropriate here than the secondary meaning *persuade*.
- ***undique**, adv., *from all sides, in all directions*.
locī: *the place*, less lit., *the geography, the terrain*.
- 6 **continentur**: this word is gapped (see the Reading Strategy on page 25) and must be supplied three times in the remainder of this sentence, which appears on page 33.

Orgetorix persuades the Helvetians to migrate.

- 1 [2] Apud Helvētiōs longē nōbilissimus fuit et dītissimus Orgetorīx. Is, M.
 2 Messalā et M. Pūpiō Pīsōne cōsulibus, rēgnī cupiditāte inductus coniūrā-
 3 tiōnem nōbilitātis fēcit et civitātī persuāsit ut dē finibus suis cum omnibus
 4 cōpiīs exirent: perfacile esse, cum virtūte omnibus praestārent, tōtīus Gal-
 5 liae imperiō potiri. Id hōc facilius eīs persuāsit, quod undique locī nātūrā
 6 Helvētīi continentur: (continued)

Initial Explorations

1. How is Orgetorix described? (1)
2. What did he do in the year 61 BCE? Why? (1–3)
3. What did he persuade the Helvetians to do? (3–4)
4. What did he say would be easy, and why? (4–5)
5. What fact made it easier for Orgetorix to win the Helvetians to his point of view? (5–6)

Forms

- ◆ You probably already know **cuius, eius, huius**, and **illius**, genitive singulars of **quī, is, hic**, and **ille** respectively. There are several other adjectives and pronouns that have a genitive ending in **-īus**; **tōtus** (**tōtīus**, above: 4) is one such. These adjectives have first and second declension endings, like **magnus, -a, -um**, except that they use **-īus** in the genitive singular and **-ī** in the dative singular (like **illī** and **eī**, datives of **ille** and **is**). **Alter, another, ūllus, any, nūllus, no, ūnus, one, uter, which (of two), and uterque, both**, also belong to this group and are found in the selections in this book.

Reading Strategies

- ◆ Indirect statement is one of the most common constructions in Caesar's Latin; you will meet it constantly in the selections in this book. If you are not comfortable with this type of sentence, see **Q4**, page 290, or seek help from your teacher.
- ◆ It is very common in Caesar to find indirect statements where the context shows that someone is speaking, even if a verb such as **dixit** is not expressed. You met **persuāsit** (above: 3) which shows that Orgetorix was addressing the nobles; this context and the fact that **esse** is an infinitive show that Caesar has moved into indirect statement beginning with **perfacile esse**. You may put an expression in parentheses to clarify the structure of the sentence, as suggested in the note for line 4 opposite.
- ◆ The word order adjective – preposition – noun is very common with prepositional phrases that contain an adjective: e.g., **quā dē causā, for this reason**, or **hīs dē rēbus, concerning these things**. Recognizing this pattern helps you see that the words **ūnā ex parte** (2:7, page 33) make a phrase and are not connected with the noun **flūmine** and the following adjectives, even though they are also in the ablative.

- 7 *lātus, -a, -um, *broad, wide*.
 *altus, -a, -um, *tall, high; deep*.
- 8 *Iūra, -ae, m., *the Jura mountains*.
- 9 *tertiā*: this cannot agree with *lacū*, which is masc. (like all fourth decl. nouns except *manus*). What fem. noun, used previously in the sentence, is gapped?
lacus Lemannus, lacūs Lemannī, m., *Lake Geneva*.
- 10 *His rēbus*: *Because of these factors*.
fiēbat: the verb *fieri* = *to happen* when completed by an *ut* clause (see the Summary of Grammar, O3c).
vagor, vagārī, vagātus sum, *to wander*.
- 11 *fīnitimus, -a, -um [*< finis, boundary*], *neighboring*; as substantive, *neighbor*.
 *īferō, īferre, intulī, illātus, irreg., *to bring, carry on, inflict on*.
 *bellum īferre, *to make war upon someone* (dat.)
parte: in this context = *reason*, not the geographical sense (*direction, side*) seen earlier in this chapter.
bellō, -āre, -āvī, -ātus, *to make war*.
- 12 *cupidus, -a, -um [*< cupiō, to desire*], *desirous of (+ gen.)*, *eager to*.
 dolor, dolōris [< doleō, to feel pain, grieve*], m., *pain, distress; anger, resentment*.
 *adfiō, adficere, adfēcī, adfectus [*ad + faciō*], *to do, treat, affect*.
prō: *in proportion to, relative to*.
 *multitūdō, multitūdinis, f., *large number, large amount*.
- 13 *fortitūdō, fortitūdinis*, f., *bravery*.
 *angustus, -a, -um, *compressed, narrow*.
angustōs: modifies *finēs*, even though the pronoun *sē* is nested in between.
 *arbitror, -ārī, -ātus sum, *to think*.
- 14 *longitūdō, longitūdinis, f., *length*.
 *mille passūs, plural, *mīlia passuum*, n., *mile* (literally, *a thousand paces*). *Mille* is indeclinable in the singular, but in the plural it is a neuter noun followed by a partitive genitive. The Roman mile was slightly shorter than the English mile, about 4800 feet.
 CCXL: = *ducenta quadrāgintā*. Numbers higher than ten will be given in the facing vocabulary so that you can say them when you read out loud. For one to ten, see chart v, page 253.
lātitudō, lātitudinis, f., *width*.
 CLXXX: = *centum octōgintā*.
 *pateō, patēre, patuī, *to lie open, be accessible; to stretch out, extend*.

Forms

- ♦ All third declension nouns that end in the suffix *-tūdō*, gen. *-tūdinis*, are feminine: e.g., on the opposite page you met *multitūdō* (12), *fortitūdō* (13), and *longitūdō* (14). Learning such patterns can help you read more easily without constantly checking gender in the back of the book.
- ♦ Keep in mind that *-ō* can be a nominative singular ending in the third declension, in addition to its use in the very common dative and ablative singular forms in the second declension.

7 ūnā ex parte flūmine Rhēnō lātissimō atque altissimō, quī agrum Helvētium
 8 ā Germānīs dīvidit; alterā ex parte monte Iūrā altissimō, quī est inter Sēquanōs
 9 et Helvētiōs; tertiā lacū Lemannō et flūmine Rhodānō, quī prōvinciam nos-
 10 tram ab Helvētiīs dīvidit. His rēbus fiēbat ut et minus lātē vagārentur et mi-
 11 nus facile finitimīs bellum īferre possent: quā ex parte hominēs bellandī
 12 cupidī magnō dolōre adficiēbantur. Prō multitūdine autem hominum et prō
 13 glōriā bellī atque fortitūdinis angustōs sē finēs habēre arbitrābantur, quī in
 14 longitūdinem milia passuum CCXL, in lātitudinem CLXXX patēbant.

6. List the three boundaries of the Helvetian territory. From what people did each boundary separate the Helvetians? (7–10)
7. What was the result of the situation described in the previous sentence? (10–11)
8. How did this make the Helvetians feel? Why? (11–12)
9. What did the Helvetians believe and why? (12–13)
10. How big was the land of the Helvetians? (13–14)

You may wish to use the Vocabulary Review for Book I (pages 48–49) to make sure you remember the asterisked words introduced in §§1–2.

Reading Strategies

- ◆ In indirect statement, the verb of saying or thinking may be placed either before or after the accusative and infinitive. In line 13 above, **arbitrābantur** comes after **sē . . . habēre**. In such situations the structure will not be clear until you reach the end of the clause or sentence, so remember to read and notice structure before translating.
- ◆ It is not difficult to understand a noun or phrase in the ablative when it is introduced by a preposition. You know, however, that the ablative is often used without a preposition, and it may not be immediately clear what the meaning is in such situations. The ablative case most often makes a noun act like an adverb; therefore, you may be able to understand the meaning of ablative nouns or phrases—including the ablative absolute, so common in Caesar—if you ask yourself the following questions:
 - how? by what means?
 - when?
 - why?
- ◆ See the Summary of Grammar **A5** (page 269) for more about the ablative. From now on, references to the Summary of Grammar at the back of the book will be given simply as boldfaced, sans-serif letter and number combinations such as **G4b**.

- 1 *addūcō, addūcere, addūxī, adductus, to lead forward, lead on, influence.
 *auctōritās, auctōritātis, f., prestige.
 *permovēō, permovēre, permōvī, permōtus, to move thoroughly; to influence, prevail upon, persuade.
- 2 iumentum, -ī, n., draft animal.
 *carrus, -ī, m., wagon, cart.
- 3 *quam maximum: remember the special meaning of **quam** plus a superlative, as . . . as possible.
 coēmō, coēmere [con- + emō], to buy; the dieresis over the 'e' shows that the two vowels are pronounced separately.
 sēmentis, sēmentis, f., planting, sowing (in this context, of grain).
- 4 *frūmentum, -ī, n., grain.
 suppetō, suppetere, suppetivī, suppetitūrus, to be at hand, be available.
 *pāx, pācis, f., peace.
 *amicitia, -ae [< amicus, friend], f., friendship.
- 5 *cōfirmō, -āre, -āvī, -ātus, to strengthen, establish.
 Ad eās rēs cōficiendās: a gerundive expressing purpose; see H5b.
 biennium, -ī [< bis + annus], n., (period of) two years.
 *dūxērunt: the verb dūcere can have a mental sense, to think about, consider, and this meaning is common in Caesar. When dūcere has this meaning, it can introduce an indirect statement, as it does here (biennium . . . esse).
- 6 *profectiō, profectiōnis [< proficiscor, to set out], f., departure.
 cōfirmant: this and the following main verbs are in the HISTORIC PRESENT.
- 7 dēligō, dēligere, dēlēxī, dēlēctus, to choose.
 lēgātiō, lēgātiōnis [< lēgātus, ambassador], f., diplomatic mission, embassy.
 suscipiō, suscipere, suscēpī, susceptus, to undertake, take on.
 sibi lēgātiōnem suscēpit: Orgetorix apparently believed that by becoming the leader of this migration and making arrangements with the neighboring tribes that worked to his advantage, he would have enough power to fulfill his ambition of becoming sole ruler.
- 8 Casticus, -ī, m., Casticus, a Sequanian noble.
 Catamantaloedis, -is, m., Catamantaloedis, former king of the Sequani.
- 9 populī Rōmānī amicus: an honorary title given to foreign leaders who supported Roman interests.
- 10 *occupō, -āre, -āvī, -ātus, to seize.

Reading Strategy

- ♦ The first sentence in §3 (opposite: 1–5) shows the importance of reading the whole sentence and observing its structure before translating. If you do this, you will spot four infinitives and know that the Helvetians decided to do four things, even though all the details may not be immediately clear.

Preparations for the migration.

1 [3] Hīs rēbus adductī et auctōritāte Orgetorīgis permōtī cōstituērunt ea
 2 quae ad proficiscendum pertinērent comparāre, iumentōrum et carrōrum
 3 quam maximum numerum coemere, sēmentēs quam maximās facere, ut in
 4 itinere cōpia frūmentī suppeteret, cum proximīs cīvitātibus pācem et amīci-
 5 tiam cōfirmāre. Ad eās rēs cōficiendās biennium sibi satis esse dūxērunt;
 6 in tertium annum profectiōnem lēge cōfirmant. Ad eās rēs cōficiendās
 7 Orgetorix dēligitur. Is sibi lēgatiōnem ad cīvitātēs suscēpit. In eō itinere per-
 8 suādet Casticō, Catamantaloedis filiō, Sēquanō, cuius pater rēgnum in Sē-
 9 quanīs multōs annōs obtinuerat et ā senātū populī Rōmānī amīcus appel-
 10 lātus erat, ut rēgnum in cīvitāte suā occupāret, quod pater ante habuerat;

(continued)

Initial Explorations

1. Why did the Helvetians agree to make preparations for departure? (1)
2. What three things did they do to prepare? (2–5)
3. When did the Helvetians plan to depart and why? (5–6)
4. What was Orgetorix chosen to do? What additional job did he take on himself? (6–7)
5. Who was Casticus? What does Caesar tell us about his father? (8–10)
6. What did Orgetorix persuade Casticus to do? (10)

Text

- ♦ Prose texts of ancient Greek and Roman authors are divided into chapters (also called sections) in modern printed editions. In this book these divisions are marked by square brackets. Such divisions do not come from the ancient authors, but are added by modern editors. Usually the numbering system follows that used in one of the early printed editions. Because the development of printing in Europe coincided with the Renaissance, when scholars were eager to read books from antiquity, most classical texts were first printed during the 15th and 16th centuries. The *editio princeps* (first printed edition) of *De bello Gallico* was published in Rome in 1469.
- ♦ Be aware that all punctuation, capitalization, etc., is added by modern editors and varies from one edition to another, depending on how the editor interprets the text.
- ♦ Ancient writers knew that their books would be copied and sold on rolls of papyrus, which were prepared in standardized lengths—a roll (**volūmen**, from **volvere**, *to roll*) could hold about 1000 lines of poetry. Authors therefore created their works with such divisions in mind; each of the twelve books of Vergil's *Aeneid*, for instance, forms an artistic whole on its own, in addition to being part of the larger epic poem. Caesar organized *De bello Gallico* by the simple method of making one book for each year of his governorship.

- 11 *item, adv., *likewise*.
 Dumnorix, Dumnorigis, m., *Dumnorix*, an Aeduan nobleman.
 Aedus, -a, -um, *of the Aedui, Aeduan*.
 Diviciacus, -i, m., *Diviciacus*, a chieftain of the Aedui who supported Roman interests, elder brother of Dumnorix.
 quī: the antecedent is Dumnorix, not Diviciacus.
 principatus, -ūs [< princeps, leader*], m., *leadership*.
- 12 acceptus: *accepted = acceptable to, pleasing to, popular with*. The Aeduan leadership generally supported the Romans, but a faction headed by Dumnorix opposed them. See the Cultural Context note opposite.
 idem: neuter, *the same thing*, i.e., to seize power.
- 13 Perfacile factū: *(a) very easy (thing) to do*. Factū is a supine; see **S1** if you are not familiar with this form.
 *probō, -āre, -āvī, -ātus, *to approve; to prove, demonstrate, show*.
 probat: governs an indirect statement whose subject is the infinitive phrase cōnata perficere; *he shows that to complete their undertakings . . .*
- 14 *perficiō, perficere, perfēcī, perfectus, *to complete*.
 esset: a subordinate clause with its verb in the indicative becomes subjunctive when it appears inside indirect statement; see **Q4e**.
- 15 nōn esse: the indirect statement introduced by probat (13) continues.
 *quīn, conj. + subj., *but that, that*; see **O3f**.
 plūrimum posse, idiom, *to be the most powerful*.
- 16 rēgna: plural because Orgetorix was going to help two men become rulers.
 conciliō, -āre, -āvī, -ātus, *to win over, reconcile; to gain, secure*.
 conciliātūrum: esse is understood, making a future infin. whose subject is sē.
 cōnfirmat: *to declare, assert*, a different meaning of this verb than the one found previously in this passage. This verb governs the last section of indirect statement, sē . . . conciliātūrum.
 *ōrātiō, ōrātiōnis, f., *oration, speech*.
- 17 *fidēs, fidei, f., *faith, good faith; pledge*.
 *iūs, iūris, n., *rightness, justice; legal power, authority*.
 *iūs iūrandum, iūris iūrandī, n., *oath*.
 *potēns, potentis, *powerful*.
 trēs . . . populōs: i.e., the Helvetii, the Sequani, and the Aedui.
- 18 tōtius Galliae . . . spērant: a simpler word order would be spērant sēsē posse potiri tōtius Galliae.
 sēsē: *they*; see the Forms note below and the second Reading Strategy opposite.
 spērō, -āre, -āvī, -ātus [< spēs, hope*], *to hope*.

Forms

- ♦ sēsē (18) is an alternative form of sē, the accusative and ablative of the reflexive pronoun (*himself, herself, itself, themselves*). There is no difference in meaning; either form can be singular or plural, and Caesar makes frequent use of both forms.
- ♦ conciliātūrum: Caesar almost always omits esse in future infinitives (ELLIPSIS).

11 itemque Dumnorīgī Aeduō, frātrī Diviciācī, quī eō tempore prīncipātum in
 12 cīvitāte obtinēbat ac maximē plebī acceptus erat, ut idem cōnārētur persuā-
 13 det, eīque filiam suam in mātirimōnium dat. Perfacile factū esse illis pro-
 14 bat cōnāta perficere, proptereā quod ipse suae cīvitātis imperium obtentū-
 15 rus esset: nōn esse dubium quīn tōtīus Galliae plūrimum Helvētīi possent; sē
 16 suīs cōpiīs suōque exercitū illīs rēgna conciliātūrum cōfirmat. Hāc ōrātiōne
 17 adductī inter sē fidem et iūs iūrandum dant et rēgnō occupātō pēr trēs
 18 potentissimōs ac firmissimōs populōs tōtīus Galliae sēsē potirī posse spērant.

7. Who was Dumnorix? Who was Diviciacus and how was he related to Dumnorix? (11–12)
8. What did Orgetorix persuade Dumnorix to do? (12)
9. How did Orgetorix strengthen the ties between himself and Dumnorix? (13)
10. For what three reasons did Orgetorix say it would be very easy to do what they had undertaken? (13–16)
11. What did Casticus and Dumnorix do after being persuaded by Orgetorix? (16–17)
12. What did they hope they could do? How? (17–18)

Reading Strategies

- ♦ **Dumnorīgī Aeduō** (above: 11) is clearly dative case, but its function in the sentence is not immediately apparent. As you continue reading, you see the description of Dumnorix, then the clause **ut idem cōnārētur**, and finally the verb **persuādet**. At this point you understand the reason for the dative **Dumnorīgī Aeduō** (object of the intransitive verb **persuādet**) and also that **ut idem cōnārētur** is an indirect command. Once again you see the importance of reading and observing sentence structure before translating.
- ♦ In indirect statement, the pronoun **sē** (or its alternate form **sēsē**) always refers back to the subject of the verb of saying, thinking, etc., that governs the indirect statement. So in line 15 **sē** = *he* (the subject of **cōfirmat**), while in line 18 **sēsē** = *they* (subject of **spērant**).

Cultural Context

- ♦ The Aedui led a pro-Roman faction among the Gallic tribes, while the Arverni and Sequani headed an anti-Roman coalition. But even within most tribes there were pro- and anti-Roman elements, as is shown by the split between Diviciacus and his brother Dumnorix. Caesar skillfully exploited these factional divisions. Watch for more instances of such factionalism as you read further in *De bello Gallico*.

- 1 **indiciūm**, -ī, n., *information, disclosure*, i.e., through an informant.
ēnūntiō, -āre, -āvī, -ātus, *to announce, report*.
est . . . ēnūntiāta: perfect passive. The helping verb usually comes after the perfect participle (**ēnūntiāta est**), but Caesar frequently reverses the usual order and sometimes splits up the two parts of the verb form, as here.
 ***mōs**, **mōris**, m., *habit, custom*.
mōribus suīs: *in accordance with their customs*.
- 2 ***vinculūm** or **vinclūm**, -ī, n., *chain*.
ex vinclīs: Latin says *from chains* but English says *in chains*.
causam dicere, *to plead a case* (legal term).
 ***cōgō**, **cōgere**, **coēgī**, **coāctus**, *to gather, collect; to force, compel*. The second meaning applies in line 2, but the first in line 4 below.
Damnātum: the participle here has a conditional sense, *If he were condemned*.
poenam sequī, *that the punishment follow (him)*, less lit., *be applied (to him), be imposed (on him)*; **eum** is omitted since the participle **Damnātum** (a substantive) clearly shows that the dir. obj. is masc. sing.
 ***oportet**, **oportēre**, **oportuit**, *it is fitting, ought*.
ut ignī cremārētur: many of the Gallic tribes had only recently ceased being ruled by kings (see the note for **rēgnī** in line 2 on page 30). Perhaps the Helvetians had established such a severe penalty for those who tried to seize royal power in order to dissuade ambitious nobles—a deterrent that obviously did not stop Orgetorix.
- 3 **ignī**: Caesar uses this abl. form in preference to **igne**.
diē cōstitūtā: **diēs**, usually masc., may be fem. when it refers to a specific day.
dictiō, **dictiōnis**, f., *pleading* (a case).
 ***iūdicium**, -ī, n., *judgment; trial, court*.
- 4 **familiam**: remember that this normally means *household*, including servants and retainers as well as blood relatives, not “family” in the American sense; in this context = *retinue* or *followers*.
 ***ad**: with numbers = *about, approximately*. Recall that in §2 Caesar described Orgetorix as **apud Helvētiōs longē nōbilissimus et ditissimus**, so it is not surprising that he was able to bring so many supporters to his trial.
- 5 ***cliēns**, **clientis**, m., *client, dependent*. In Roman society poor people often received assistance and protection from a wealthy man and were called **clientēs** (not the same as the modern English “client”). Caesar describes in Book VI how ordinary people in Gaul often entered into a kind of servitude to a powerful man in return for protection. Such people are probably what Caesar means by **clientēs** here.
obaerātus, -ī [*< aes, aeris, bronze, money*], m., *debtor*.
 ***eōdem** [*< idem, the same*], adv., *to the same place*.
- 6 ***condūcō**, **condūcere**, **condūxī**, **conductus**, *to lead together, gather*.

(Vocabulary and notes continued on opposite page.)

Orgetorix's plan is discovered and he is put on trial.

1 [4] Ea rēs est Helvētiīs per indicium ēnūntiāta. Mōribus suīs Orgetorigem
 2 ex vinclīs causam dīcere coēgērunt. Damnātum poenam sequī oportēbat ut
 3 ignī cremārētur. Diē cōstitutā causae dictiōnis Orgetorīx ad iūdicium om-
 4 nem suam familiam, ad hominum mīlia decem, undique coēgit, et omnēs
 5 clientēs obaerātōsque suōs, quōrum magnum numerum habēbat, eōdem
 6 condūxit; per eōs nē causam dīceret sē ēripuit. Cum cīvītās ob eam rem in-
 7 citāta armīs iūs suum exsequī cōnārētur, multitudinemque hominum ex
 8 agrīs magistrātūs cōgerent, Orgetorīx mortuus est; neque abest suspiciō, ut
 9 Helvētīi arbitrantur, quīn ipse sibi mortem cōscīverit.

Initial Explorations

1. How did the Helvetians learn about Oregetorix's plans? (1)
2. How would Orgetorix have to respond to the charges? (1-2)
3. What would happen if he were found guilty? (2-3)
4. Whom did Oregetorix bring to court with him? (3-6)
5. What happened with the help of these people? (6)
6. How did the Helvetians respond to this development? (6-8)
7. What happened in the meantime? (8)
8. What do the Helvetians think really happened? (8-9)

nē causam dīceret: so that he would not (have to) plead his case, less lit., from pleading his case. This is a purpose clause depending upon ēripuit, which comes after it.

ēripīō, ēripere, ēripuī, ēreptus [ē + rapiō], to snatch out; to rescue, save.

**ob, prep. + acc., because of.*

**incitō, -āre, -āvī, -ātus, to spur on, stir up.*

7 **arma, -ōrum, n. pl., weapons, arms; force of arms.*

exsequor, exsequī, exsecūtus sum, to follow through, carry out.

8 **magistrātus, -ūs, m., official, magistrate.*

multitudinem . . . cōgerent: the Helvetians had no standing army or police force to arrest Orgetorix and compel him to stand trial, and many of his retainers would have fought to protect him. So the Helvetian leaders had to collect an army from the population before they could go after him.

neque abest suspiciō: LITOTES.

9 *cōscīscō, cōscīscere, cōscīvī, cōscītus, to approve, decide upon.*

sibi mortem cōscīverit: decided upon death for himself, i.e., committed suicide.

- 1 nihilō minus, adv., often written as one word, *nevertheless*.
id quod: another example of the *is quī* construction (see the first Reading Strategy on page 27).
- 3 *oppidum, -ī, n., *town*. This word indicates a fortified town or stronghold, in contrast to unfortified villages (*vīcī*).
numerō: *in number*.
duodecim: deduce from *duo* + *decem*.
vīcus, -ī, m., *village*.
*quadringentī, -ae, -a, *four hundred*.
- 4 *incendō, incendere, incendi, incēsus, *to burn, set fire to*.
praeterquam, adv., *beyond, besides, except*.
- 5 combūrō, combūrere, combussī, combustus, *to burn up*.
reditiō, reditiōnis [*< redeō, redīre, to return*], f., *return*.
*spēs, speī, f., *hope*.
*tollō, tollere, sustulī, sublātus, *to lift, raise; to pick up, take away*.
- 6 subeō, subīre, subīi or subīvī, subitūrus [*sub + eō, -īre*], irreg., *to undergo*.
trium: genitive of *trēs*.
*mēnsis, mēnsis, m., *month*.
trium mēsum: *of three months, less lit., (enough) for three months*.
molita cibāria: *ground grain*.
*quisque, quidque, indef. pron., *each person, each one, every one*.
- 7 efferre: deduce from *ex* + *ferō*.
Rauricī, -ōrum, m. pl., *the Raurici*.
Tulingī, -ōrum, m. pl., *the Tulingi*.
Latovicī, Latovicōrum, m. pl., *the Latovici*. These were three tribes living near the Rhine.
fīnitimus, -a, -um [< fīnēs, territory*], *neighboring; as substantive, neighbor*.
*utī: an older form of the conjunction *ut*, very common in Caesar.
- 8 *ūtor, ūtī, ūsus sum + abl., *to use, make use of*. See **A5o** for the other deponent verbs that take the ablative.
ūsī: *having made use of, less lit., having adopted, after adopting*.
exūrō, exūrere, exussī, exustus, *to burn up, burn out*.
*ūnā, adv., *together*.
- 9 Boiī, -ōrum, m. pl., *the Boii*, a small Celtic tribe with no permanent home that had been living on the eastern side of the Rhine. Under pressure from other tribes, they moved westward and allied themselves with the Helvetians.
Nōricus, -a, -um, *of Noricum*, a territory between the Danube and the Alps.
trānsierant: deduce from *trāns* + *eō*.
- 10 Nōreia, -ae, f., *Noreia*, a city in Noricum.
*oppugnō, -āre, -āvī, -ātus [*ob + pugnō*], *to attack*.
oppugnārant: = *oppugnāverant*; see **F2h** for such contracted forms.
*socius, -ī, m., *ally*.
asciscō, asciscere, ascīvī, ascītus, *to take, receive, join (as allies)*.
Boiōs . . . asciscunt: lit., *they join to themselves (sibi) as allies the Boii who had been received among them (ad sē)*, less lit., *they received among their own people and joined to themselves as allies the Boii*.

The Helvetians continue preparations for departure.

1 [5] Post eius mortem nihilō minus Helvētīī id quod cōstituerant facere
 2 cōnantur, ut ē finibus suīs exeant. Ubi iam sē ad eam rem parātōs esse arbitrātī
 3 sunt, oppida sua omnia, numerō ad duodecim, vicōs ad quadrīngentōs, reli-
 4 qua prīvāta aedificia incendunt; frūmentum omne, praeterquam quod sēcum
 5 portātūrī erant, comburunt, ut, domum reditiōnis spē sublātā, parātiōrēs ad
 6 omnia perīcula subeunda essent; trium mēnsū molita cibāria sibi quemque
 7 domō efferre iubent. Persuādent Rauricīs et Tulingīs et Latovicīs finitimīs utī
 8 eōdem ūsī cōsiliō, oppidīs suīs vicisque exustīs, ūnā cum eīs prōficiscantur,
 9 Boiōsque, quī trāns Rhēnum incoluerant et in agrum Nōricum trānsierant
 10 Nōreiamque oppugnārant, receptōs ad sē sociōs sibi asciscunt.

Initial Explorations

1. What happened after Orgetorix' death? (1–2)
2. What happened to the Helvetians' towns and villages? How many were involved? (3–4)
3. What grain did they burn? Why? (4–6)
4. What did the officials order each person to bring with him? (6–7)
5. Who were the Raurici, the Tulingi, and the Latovici? How did they figure in the Helvetians' plans? (7–8)
6. Where had the Boii lived previously? (9–10)
7. What had been the relationship between the Boii and the Helvetians? How did this now change? (10)

Reading Strategies

- ♦ The sentence that begins in line 2 (**Ubi . . .**) is long, but is split into three segments with semicolons in this edition. Each segment describes one thing that the Helvetians did as they prepared for departure.
- ♦ The second segment is **frūmentum omne comburunt** (4–5), with the **praeterquam** clause nested inside it. See page 14 if you are not familiar with the concept of nested clauses.
- ♦ This segment is followed by **ut** (5). You anticipate a conjugated verb to complete **ut**, and this verb, **essent**, appears in line 6. Nested inside the **ut** clause is an ablative absolute, **domum . . . sublātā** (5).
- ♦ The ablative absolute is one of the most common constructions in Caesar's Latin. See **A5i** to review it. Ablative absolutes often come at the beginning of a sentence; they may, however, be nested inside clauses, as in lines 5 and 8 above.
- ♦ Note the phrase **eōdem ūsī cōsiliō** (8). It is common in Caesar to find a noun-adjective phrase split up by an intervening word (**ūsī**); cf. **angustōs sē fines** (2.13).

- 1 ***omnīnō** [< *omnis*, all], adv., *altogether, in all*.
quibus itineribus: Caesar sometimes repeats the antecedent of a relative pronoun inside the relative clause. In such cases the repeated noun can be put in parentheses or omitted. This is true also of **quā diē** in line 11 below.
- 3 ***vix**, adv., *with difficulty, scarcely*.
 ***quā**, adv., *where, by what route, along which*.
singulī, -ae, -a, *one at a time*.
impendeō, impendēre, impendī, impēnsus, *to hang over*.
- 4 **perpaucī**, -ae, -a, *very few*; **perpaucī** is a substantive, *very few (men)*.
prohibēre: an object such as **eōs** (= **Helvētiōs**) is understood. This refers to the Pas de l'Écluse, a spot where the mountains come very close to both sides of the Rhône River.
- 5 ***expeditus**, -a, -um, *unimpeded, without baggage; available, convenient*.
 ***Allobrogēs, Allobrogum**, m. pl., *the Allobroges, a tribe in the Roman Province*.
- 6 **nūper**, adv., *recently*.
pācō, -āre, -āvī, -ātus [< *pāx, pācis*, peace], *to pacify*.
nūper pācātī erant: the Allobroges had revolted and been brought back under Roman rule in 61 BCE; **pācātī erant** is a euphemism.
fluō, fluere, flūxī, flūctus, *to flow*.
 ***nōn nullus**, -a, -um, often written as one word **nōnnullus**, *some, several*.
nōn nullis locis: = *in nōn nullis locis*, abl. of place where with the prep. omitted (B4b).
- 7 ***vādum**, -ī, n., *shallow place, ford* (a place where a river is shallow enough to be crossed by wading).
trānsitur: deduce from **trāns + eō, ire**. The Rhône at this point formed the boundary of the Roman province. The Helvetii could stay on the north bank and take the narrow road, which would require the permission of the Sequani, or cross to the south bank and go about 50 miles through the Province.
- 8 ***Genāva**, -ae, f., *Genava*, on the site of the modern city of Geneva, Switzerland.
 ***pōns, pontis**, m., *bridge*.
- 9 **persuāsūrōs**: supply *esse* to make a future infinitive, used with **sēsē** in indirect statement depending on **exīstimābant** at the end of the clause; again, reading the entire sentence through and noticing such structural elements is essential prior to translating.
 ***nōndum**, adv., *not yet*.
bonō animō: abl. of description, *of good mind, less lit., favorable, well disposed*.
in: *toward*.
- 10 ***exīstimō, -āre, -āvī, -ātus** [*ex + aestimō, to think*], *to evaluate, judge, consider, think*.
 ***vīs**, acc., **vim**, abl., **vī**, pl., **vīrēs**, f., *violence, force*.
coāctūrōs: parallel to **persuāsūrōs**; so what two words must be supplied here?
- 11 ***diem dicere**, idiom, *to fix a day, name a day*.
- 12 **rīpa**, -ae, f., *bank (of a river)*.
a.d. V Kal. April.: = *ante diem quīntum Kalendās Aprilēs*, March 28.
L. Pisōne: Lucius Calpurnius Piso, Caesar's father in law, was consul with Aulus Gabinius in 58 BCE. For this type of abl. abs., see the note for line 1, page 30.

The Helvetians have two routes available to them.

1 [6] Erant omnīnō itinera duo, quibus itineribus domō exīre possent: ūnum
 2 per Sēquanōs, angustum et difficile, inter montem Iūram et flūmen Rhoda-
 3 num, vix quā singulī carrī dūcerentur; mōns autem altissimus impendēbat,
 4 ut facile perpaucī prohibēre possent; alterum per prōvinciam nostram, mul-
 5 tō facilius atque expeditius, proptereā quod inter fīnēs Helvētiōrum et Al-
 6 lobrogum, quī nūper pācātī erant, Rhodanus fluit, isque nōn nullis locīs
 7 vādō trānsitur. Extrēmum oppidum Allobrogum est proximumque Helvē-
 8 tiōrum fīnibus Genāva. Ex eō oppidō pōns ad Helvētiōs pertinet. Allobrogi-
 9 bus sēsē vel persuāsūrōs, quod nōndum bonō animō in populum Rōmānum
 10 vidērentur, exīstimābant vel vī coāctūrōs ut per suōs fīnēs eōs īre pateren-
 11 tur. Omnibus rēbus ad profectiōnem comparātis, diem dīcunt, quā diē ad
 12 rīpam Rhodanī omnēs conveniant. Is diēs erat a. d. v Kal. April., L. Pīsōne,
 13 A. Gabīniō cōsulibus.

Initial Explorations

1. Give three facts about the first route that was available for the Helvetians to leave their home. (1–3)
2. What additional fact made this route less desirable? (3–4)
3. Where was the second route? How does Caesar describe it? (4–5)
4. What body of water lies along this route? How would the Helvetians cross it? (5–7)
5. Give three facts about the town of Geneva. (7–8)
6. Why did the Helvetians think they could persuade the Allobroges to let them pass through their territory? (8–10)
7. What would they do if persuasion failed? (10–11)
8. At what point did the Helvetians announce a date for their migration? (11)
9. What date was this? (12–13)
10. Locate the places mentioned in this reading on the map on page 45.

Cultural Context

- ◆ The Helvetii lost their identity as a tribe during the Roman empire. Beginning in the 17th century, however, the name was revived and used to refer to the Swiss people.
- ◆ Confoederatio Helvetica, the Latin form of the official name Swiss Confederation, appears on postage stamps, coins, and in the state seal of Switzerland. From this Latin form comes the abbreviation CH used on international automobile license plates and in Internet domain names.
- ◆ The typeface Helvetica, now often used on computers, was created in the 1950s by two Swiss designers.

- 1 **Caesari**: here and throughout *De bello Gallico*, Caesar consistently writes about his own activities in the third person. Note the emphatic position of **Caesari**, placed first in the sentence and to the left of the clause marker **cum**, at the point when the general himself appears in the narrative for the first time.
id: the indirect statement **eōs . . . cōnārī** explains what the pronoun means.
- 2 **mātūrō, -āre, -āvī, -ātus**, to hurry.
mātūrat: HISTORIC PRESENT.
urbe: here, as normally, when a Roman author says “the city” without any other identification, he means Rome. Caesar was outside Rome, because someone holding a high-level military command (**imperium**) was not allowed inside the city, and was preparing to go north when he heard what the Helvetians were planning.
quam . . . itineribus: since **quam** with a superlative regularly means *as . . . as possible*, Caesar’s inclusion of **potest** here and in line 4 below seems unnecessary. Perhaps he wanted to stress that he travelled as fast as humanly possible in order to get to Gaul to deal with the developing situation there; **iter** refers to the amount travelled in one day. Two of Caesar’s notable traits as a leader were his **celeritās**, his ability to move swiftly, and his willingness to push himself and his men as hard as necessary in emergencies.
- 3 **ulterior, ulterior, ulterius**, further, farther.
in Galliam ulteriōrem: **Gallia ulterior** was another name for the Roman territory north of the Alps, also called **Gallia Trānsalpīna**, in contrast to **Gallia Cisalpīna**, *Gaul on this side of the Alps*.
ad Genāvam: **ad** = *in the vicinity of, near*.
***perveniō, pervenire, pervēnī, perventūrus** [per + veniō], to arrive.
Prōvinciae tōtī . . . imperat: when **imperō** is found with a direct object (acc. case) and a dative, it means *give orders for, requisition, demand something (acc.) from someone (dat.)*.
- 5 **legiō ūna**: the 10th legion, which Caesar frequently mentions in *De bello Gallico*; he often personally commanded this legion and it became his favorite.
rescindō, rescindere, rescīdī, rescissus, to cut down.

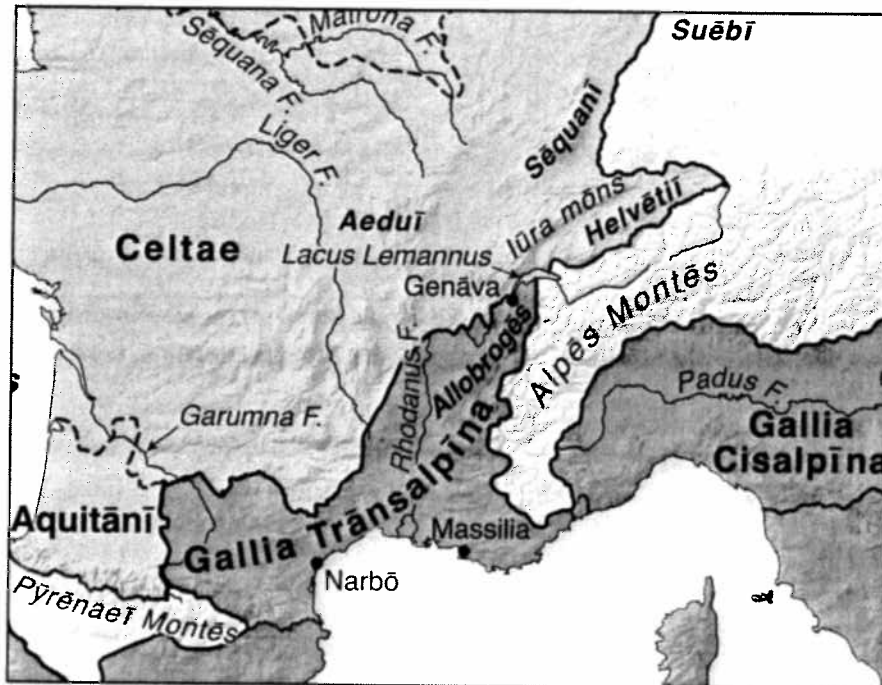
Caesar reacts to the Helvetians' plan.

- 1 [7] Caesarī cum id nūntiātum esset, eōs per prōvinciam nostram iter fa-
 2 cere cōnārī, mātūrat ab urbe proficīscī et quam maximīs potest itineribus
 3 in Galliam ulteriōrem contendit et ad Genāvam pervenit. Prōvinciae tōtī
 4 quam maximum potest militum numerum imperat (erat omnīnō in Galliā
 5 ulteriōre legiō ūna); pontem quī erat ad Genāvam iubet rescindī.

(continued)

Initial Explorations

1. What news was delivered to Caesar? (1-2)
2. How did he react to this? (2-3)
3. What two steps did he take after arriving in the vicinity of Geneva? (3-5)



This is an enlarged portion of the map on page 21. The Rhône River (Rhodanus F.) flows to the west out of Lake Geneva (Lacus Lemmanus) then turns south after merging with the Saône. For most of the distance between Geneva and the junction with the Saône, the Rhône formed the boundary between the Province and independent Gaul; this boundary is marked by a dark line. You can see how the Jura Mts. blocked the Helvetii from moving north and how the mountains come down very close to the Rhône, making the route through territory controlled by the Sequani less attractive.

- 6 *adventus, -ūs [*< adveniō, to arrive*], m., *arrival*.
 *certior fierī, idiom, *to be made more certain, to be informed*.
 *lēgātus, -ī, m., *legate, deputy, assistant; envoy, ambassador*; see page 9.
- 7 lēgātiō, lēgātiōnis, f., *diplomatic mission, embassy*.
 Nammeius, Verucloetius: Helvetian representatives.
 *prīnceps, prīncipis, *leading, chief*; as substantive, *important man, leader*. You may have learned this word as *emperor*, but that meaning derives from Augustus' use of this title to describe his position after he became sole ruler of Rome. In all Latin written before the time of Augustus, and sometimes thereafter, it simply identifies an important person.
- 8 quī dicerent: a rel. cl. with its verb in the subjunct. may express purpose, *to say*.
 sibi: to whom does this refer? See the second Reading Strategy on page 37.
 sibi in animō esse: *that they had in mind*, a dative of possession (see A3f).
 *ūllus, -a, -um, *any*.
 maleficiō: deduce from *male + faciō*.
- 9 rogāre: the indirect statement begun with dicerent (8) continues; supply sē as the subject, based on sibi in line 8.
- 10 *voluntās, voluntātis [*< volō, to wish*], f., *wish, will; good wishes, goodwill*.
 eius voluntāte: i.e., with his permission.
 L. Cassium: Lucius Cassius Longinus had been defeated and slain in 107 BCE by the Tigurini, one of the Helvetian clans.
- 11 occisum: sc. esse; also with pulsum (11), missum (12), and temperātūrōs (13).
 *iugum, -ī, n., *yoke* (device for hitching two oxen together). The Romans sometimes forced an enemy army, as a sign of defeat, to march beneath an opening made up of two upright spears and a third positioned horizontally, called a iugum. The Helvetians had turned the tables and done this to the Romans.
- 12 *concēdō, concēdere, concessī, concessūrus, *to yield, submit; to allow, grant*.
 concēdendum: an impersonal passive periphrastic (H2), concēdendum est, has been put into indirect statement with ELLIPSIS of esse: *that it should be granted*.
 inimicō animō: in §6 you met bonō animō (9); so how would you interpret this?
 datā facultāte: this ablative absolute has the force of an *if*-clause.
- 13 *facultās, facultātis, f, *opportunity*.
 temperō, -āre, -āvī, -ātus, *to refrain*.
- 14 *spatium, -ī, n., *space, distance; interval, period of time*.
 intercēdō, intercēdere, intercessī, intercessūrus, *to come in between; of time, to occur, pass*.
 dum: when completed by a verb in the subjunctive, dum = *until* (see O4f).
- 15 diem: *time*.
- 16 sūmō, sūmere, sūmsī, sūmptus, *to take*.
 *quid: see the Reading Strategy on the opposite page.
 sī quid vellent: i.e., to continue the conversation, to find out Caesar's decision.
 ad: *about*.
 reverterentur: Caesar would have used the imperative (revertiminī) when speaking directly to the Helvetian ambassadors. When a command such as this is put into indirect statement, the imperative becomes subjunctive.

6 Ubi dē eius adventū Helvētīi certiōrēs factī sunt, lēgātōs ad eum mittunt
 7 nōbilissimōs cīvitātis, cuius lēgatiōnis Nammeius et Verucloetius principem
 8 locum obtinēbant, quī dicerent sibi esse in animō sine ūllō maleficiō iter
 9 per prōvinciam facere, proptereā quod aliud iter habērent nūllum: rogāre
 10 ut eius voluntāte id sibi facere liceat. Caesar, quod memoriā tenēbat L. Cas-
 11 sium cōsulem occisum exercitumque eius ab Helvētīis pulsum et sub iu-
 12 gum missum, concēdendum nōn putābat; neque hominēs inimicō animō,
 13 datā facultāte per prōvinciam itineris faciendī, temperātūrōs ab iniuriā et
 14 maleficiō exīstimābat. Tamen, ut spatium intercēdere posset dum militēs
 15 quōs imperāverat convenīrent, lēgātīs respondit diem sē ad dēliberandum
 16 sūmptūrum: sī quid vellent, ad Īd. Aprīl. reverterentur.

4. How did the Helvetians react when they heard about Caesar's arrival? (6–8)
5. What message did the Helvetians give to Caesar? (8–10)
6. What was Caesar's reaction to the message? (10–12)
7. For what two reasons did Caesar react this way? (10–14)
8. Why did he not give the Helvetians an immediate decision? (14–15)
9. What was Caesar's reponse to the Helvetians? (15–16)

Discussion

1. Why do you think Caesar writes about himself in the third person?
2. Summarize the reasons that Caesar gives for refusing to let the Helvetians cross the Province. Do these seem reasonable? Could anything else be going on that Caesar does not say?
3. Caesar could have omitted the story of Orgetorix and begun Book I simply by stating that the Helvetians had decided to migrate. Why did he include this story?

Reading Strategy

- ♦ After the words *sī, nisi, num, and nē*, *quis* = *someone, anyone* and *quid* = *something, anything*; i.e., they are equivalent to *aliquis* and *aliquid*. There may be words intervening between the conjunction and the form of *quis*, or there may be two forms of *quis* involved: e.g., *sī hīc quis quid discat*, *if someone were to learn anything here*.

* * * * *

The rest of Book I is presented in English, beginning
 on page 50, after the vocabulary review.