

Infinitives; Indirect Statement

INFINITIVES

Having surveyed the forms and uses of the verbal adjectives known as participles in the last two chapters, we turn now to the common verbal noun known as the infinitive (e.g., **amāre**, *to love*—two other verbal nouns, the supine and the gerund, are introduced in Chs. 38–39). Most transitive verbs have six infinitives, the present, future, and perfect, active and passive, though the future passive is rare¹; intransitive verbs usually lack the passive. You are already familiar with the present active and passive infinitives, whose forms vary with each of the four conjugations; the perfect and future infinitives are all formed according to the following patterns, regardless of conjugation:

| | Active | Passive |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <i>Pres.</i> | -āre, -ēre, -ere, -īre ² | -ārī, -ērī, -ī, -īrī |
| <i>Perf.</i> | perfect stem + -isse | perf. pass. participle + esse |
| <i>Fut.</i> | fut. act. participle + esse | [supine in -um + īrī] ³ |

¹ In other words, there are active and passive infinitives for each of the three basic time frames, past, present, and future; contrast participles, which lack present passive and perfect active forms.

² Actually, the ending of the present active infinitive is **-re**, which is added to the present stem; but for purposes of distinction it is convenient to include here the stem vowel as well.

³ The future passive infinitive is given in brackets here because it is not a common form and does not occur in this book. The Romans preferred a substitute expression like **fore ut** + subjunctive (result clause). The supine in **-um** has the same spelling as that of the perf. pass. part. in the nom. neut. sg.

INFINITIVES OF *agō, agere, ēgī, āctum, to lead*

| | Active | Passive |
|-------|--|--|
| Pres. | <i>āgere, to lead</i> | <i>āgī, to be led</i> |
| Perf. | <i>ēgisse, to have led</i> | <i>āctus, -a, -um⁴ esse, to have been led</i> |
| Fut. | <i>āctūrus, -a, -um⁴ esse, to be about to lead, to be going to lead</i> | <i>āctum īrī, to be about to be led, to be going to be led</i> |

The literal translations of the six infinitives given above are conventional; in actual use (especially in indirect statement, as explained below) the perfect and particularly the future infinitives are rarely translated literally.

The infinitives of the other model verbs are as follows:

Active

| | | | | |
|-------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Pres. | laudāre | monēre | audīre | cāpere |
| Perf. | laudāvīsse | monuīsse | audīvīsse | cēpīsse |
| Fut. | laudātūrus, -a, -um, esse | monitūrus, -a, -um, esse | audītūrus, -a, -um, esse | captūrus, -a, -um, esse |

Passive

| | | | | |
|-------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Pres. | laudārī | monērī | audīrī | cāpī |
| Perf. | laudātus, -a, -um, esse | mónitus, -a, -um, esse | audītus, -a, -um, esse | cáptus, -a, -um, esse |
| Fut. | laudátum írī | mónitum írī | audítum írī | cáptum írī |

USAGE

As a verbal noun, an infinitive can function in a variety of ways. We have seen its use as a subject (*errāre est humānum, to err is human*) and as a complement with such verbs as *possum* and *dēbeō* (*discēdere nunc possunt, they can leave now*—Ch. 6), and the infinitive, with its own accusative subject, can also serve as a direct object (*iussit eōs venīre, he ordered them to come*: see S.S., p. 445). One of the commonest uses of the infinitive, however, is in a construction known as “indirect statement.”

⁴The participles are regarded as predicate adjectives and so are made to agree with the subject of *esse*.

INFINITIVE IN INDIRECT STATEMENT WITH ACCUSATIVE SUBJECT

An indirect statement simply reports indirectly (i.e., not in direct quotation) what someone has said, thought, felt, etc. The following is a *direct* statement, made by a teacher:

Julia is a good student.

Here the teacher's comment is *directly* reported or quoted:

"Julia is a good student," says the teacher.
The teacher said, "Julia is a good student."

Latin also uses direct quotations with certain verbs of speaking, etc., including **inquit** (Ch. 22 Vocab.):

"Iūlia," magister inquit, "est discipula bona."

Often, however, both Latin and English will report someone's remarks (or thoughts or feelings) indirectly. In English we regularly put such indirect statements into a subordinate clause introduced by *that*:

The teacher says that Julia is a good student.
The teacher said that Julia was a good student.

Latin, on the other hand, uses no introductory word for *that* and employs an infinitive phrase with an accusative subject, instead of a clause:

Magister dicit Iūliam esse discipulam bonam.
Magister dixit Iūliam esse discipulam bonam.

This indirect statement construction is regularly employed in Latin after verbs of "speech," "mental activity," or "sense perception" (i.e., saying, thinking, knowing, perceiving, feeling, seeing, hearing, etc.: see the list of Latin verbs following the Vocab.). English uses a similar objective case + infinitive construction after a few verbs of this type (e.g., "the teacher considers *her to be* a good student"), but in classical Latin this pattern is always followed and the accusative subject is always expressed, even when it is the same as the subject of the verb of *saying*, etc. (in which case the subject is ordinarily a reflexive pronoun):

Iūlia putat sē esse bonam discipulam, *Julia thinks that she (herself) is a good student.*

Recognizing indirect statements is easy: look for the main verb of speech, mental activity, or sense perception with an accusative + infinitive

phrase following. The greater challenge is in translation, since you must nearly always supply *that* and convert the infinitive phrase into a regular clause, as in the above examples, where literal translations (e.g., *the teacher says Julia to be a good student* or *Julia thinks herself to be a good student*) would not produce idiomatic English. After supplying *that* and translating the accusative subject as if it were a nominative, you must then transform the infinitive into a regular finite verb *in the correct tense*, noting that tenses of the infinitive, like those of the participle, are relative not absolute.

INFINITIVE TENSES IN INDIRECT STATEMENT

Study carefully the *tenses* in the following groups of sentences.

1. *Dīcunt*—
They say

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| A. eum <i>iuvāre</i> eam. | <i>that he is helping her.</i> |
| B. eum <i>iūvisse</i> eam. | <i>that he helped her.</i> |
| C. eum <i>iūtūrum esse</i> eam. | <i>that he will help her.</i> |

2. *Dīxērunt*—
They said

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| A. eum <i>iuvāre</i> eam. | <i>that he was helping her.</i> |
| B. eum <i>iūvisse</i> eam. | <i>that he had helped her.</i> |
| C. eum <i>iūtūrum esse</i> eam. | <i>that he would help her.</i> |

3. *Dīcent*—
They will say

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| A. eum <i>iuvāre</i> eam. | <i>that he is helping her.</i> |
| B. eum <i>iūvisse</i> eam. | <i>that he helped her.</i> |
| C. eum <i>iūtūrum esse</i> eam. | <i>that he will help her.</i> |

You probably noticed that after any tense of the main verb (*dīcunt*, *dīxērunt*, *dīcent*) the present, the perfect, or the future tense of the infinitive may be used. This fact shows that the tenses of the infinitive are not absolute but are relative.

To put it another way, *regardless of the tense of the main verb*:

1. the *present infinitive* indicates the *same time as* that of the main verb (= contemporaneous infinitive).
2. the *perfect infinitive* indicates *time before* that of the main verb (= prior infinitive).
3. the *future infinitive* indicates *time after* that of the main verb (= subsequent infinitive).

Here are some further examples; note carefully the translation of tenses, the use of reflexives, the agreement of participial endings with the accusative subjects, and the use in one instance of the passive periphrastic infinitive (gerundive + *esse*, to indicate obligatory action).

Gāius dīcit sē iūvisse eam,

Gaius says that he (Gaius) helped her.

Gāius dīxit eum iūvisse eam,

Gaius said that he (e.g., Marcus) had helped her.

Gāius dīcit litterās ā sē scrīptās esse,

G. says that the letter was written by him (Gaius).

Gāius dīcit litterās tibi scrībendās esse,

G. says that the letter ought to be written by you (or that you ought to write the letter).

Discipulī putant sē linguam Latīnam amātūrōs esse,

the (male) students think that they will love the Latin language.

Magistra scīvit discipulās Latīnam amātūrās esse,

the (female) teacher knew that the (female) students would love Latin.

VOCABULARY

língua, -ae, f., tongue; language (linguist, linguistics, bilingual, lingo, linguine: see **Latīna Est Gaudium**, Ch. 14)

fērōx, gen. ferōcis, fierce, savage (ferocious, ferocity; cp. **ferus, -ī, beast**)

fidēlis, fidēle, faithful, loyal (fidelity, infidelity, infidel; cp. **fidēs**)

gémīnus, -a, -um, twin (geminate, gemination, Gemini)

sápīēns, gen. sapiēntis, as adj., wise, judicious; as noun, a wise man, philosopher (homo sapiens, sapience, insipience, sapid, insipid, verbum sapienti, savant, sage; cp. **sapientia, sapiō, Ch. 35**)

últīmus, -a, -um, farthest, extreme; last, final (ultimate, ultimatum, penultimate, antepenult)

déhinc, adv., then

hīc, adv., here

áit, áiunt, he says, they say, assert, commonly used in connection with proverbs and anecdotes (adage)

crédō, crédere, crédidī, créditum + acc. or (Ch. 35) dat., to believe, trust (credence, credentials, credible, incredible, credulity, credulous, creed, credibility, credo, credit, creditable, accreditation, miscreant, grant)

iáceō, iacére, iácuī, to lie, lie prostrate, lie dead (adjacent, adjacency, interjacent, subjacent, gist, joist; do not confuse with **iaciō, iacere**)

négō (1), to deny, say that . . . not (negate, negative, abnegate, renegade, renege, denial, runagate)

nesciō, nescire, nescivī, nescitum, not to know, be ignorant (nice; cp. **sciō**)

nūntiō (1), to announce, report, relate (denounce, enunciate, pronounce, renounce, nuncio; cp. **prōnūntiō, nūntius, -ī, messenger**)

patefáciō, -fácere, -fécī, -fáctum, to make open, open; disclose, expose

- pútō** (1), to clean, trim; reckon, suppose, judge, think, imagine (compute, count, account, depute, dispute, impute, putative, repute, amputate)
spérō (1), to hope for, hope, regularly + fut. inf. in ind. state. (despair, desperado, desperate, desperation, prosper; cp. **spēs**.)
suscipiō, -cipere, -cépī, -céptum (sub-capiō), to undertake (susceptible, susceptibility)

LIST OF VERBS CAPABLE OF INTRODUCING INDIRECT STATEMENT⁵

1. *saying*: **dícō, négō, áit, nún̄tiō, prōnún̄tiō, nárrō, scrībō, dóceō, osténdō, dēmónstrō, móneō, pétō**
2. *knowing*: **sciō, nésciō, intéllegō, memóriā téneō, discō**
3. *thinking*: **cérnō, cógitō, crédō, hábeō, pútō, spérō**
4. *perceiving and feeling*: **aúdiō, vídeō, séntiō, gaúdeō**

PRACTICE AND REVIEW

1. "Quisque," inquit, "semper putat suās rēs esse magnās."
2. Postea audivimus servōs dōnōrum causā labōrāvisse, ut militēs fidēlēs herī narrāverant.
3. Vicinī nostrī vim ignis magnā virtūte dēhinc āvertērunt, quod laudem atque dōna cupivērunt.
4. Hoc signum periculī tōtam gentem nostram tanget, nisi hostem ex urbe excipere ac ab Italiā pellere poterimus.
5. Duce ferōcī Carthāginis expulsō, spēs fidēsque virōrum magnanimōrum rem públicam continēbunt.
6. Cūr iūcundus Horātius culpās hūmānās in saturīs semper ostendēbat atque rīdēbat?
7. Crēdimus fidem antīquam omnibus gentibus iterum alendam esse.
8. Dux, ad senātum missus, imperium accēpit et imperātor factus est.
9. Rēs pública, ut áit, libellīs huius modī tollī potest.
10. Aliquī negant hostēs victōs servitūte umquam opprimendōs esse.
11. Crēdunt magistrā sapientem vērītātem patefactūram esse.
12. Quisquis vērītātem recipiet bene ēducābitur.
13. We thought that your sisters were writing the letter.
14. They will show that the letter was written by the brave slavegirl.
15. He said that the letter had never been written.
16. We hope that the judge's wife will write those two letters tomorrow.

SENTENTIAE ANTĪQUAE

1. Id factum esse tum nōn negāvit. (Terence.)
2. His rēbus prōnún̄tiātīs, igitur, eum esse hostem scīvistī. (Cicero.)

⁵ Others to be introduced later are **respondeō**, answer; **cognōscō**, learn, know; **arbitror**, think; **opīnor**, think, suppose; **prōmittō**, promise; **dēcernō**, decide; **doleō**, grieve.

3. Eum ab hostibus expectārī nunc sentīs. (Cicero.)
4. Vidī eōs in urbe remānsisse et nōbīscum esse. (Cicero.)
5. Itaque aeternum bellum cum malīs cīvibus ā mē susceptum esse cernō. (Cicero.)
6. Idem crēdō tibi faciendum esse. (Cicero.)
7. Tē enim esse fidēlem mihi sciēbam. (Terence.)
8. Hostibus sē in cīvitatē vertentibus, senātus Cincinnātō nūtiāvit eum factum esse dictātōrem. (Cicero.—**Cincinnātus, -ī.—dictātōr, -tōris.**)
9. Dīcō tē, Pyrrhe, Rōmānōs posse vincere. (Ennius.—**Pyrrhus, -ī.**)
10. Dīc, hospes, Spartaē tē nōs hīc iacentēs vīdisse, patriae fidēlēs. (Cicero; epigram on the Spartans who died at Thermopylae.—**hospes, -pitīs, m., stranger.—Spartae, to Sparta.**)
11. Sōcratēs putābat sē esse cīvem tōtius mundi. (Cicero.)
12. Illī magistrī negant quemquam virum esse bonum nisi sapientem. (Cicero.—**quisquam, quidquam, anyone, anything; any.**)
13. Negāvī, autem, mortem timendam esse. (Cicero.)
14. Crēdō deōs immortālēs sparsisse spīritūs in corpora hūmāna. (Cicero.—**spargō, -ere, sparsī, sparsum, to scatter, sow.**)
15. Adulēscēns spērat sē diū victūrum esse; senex potest dīcere sē diū vīxisse. (Cicero.—Do not confuse **victūrum**, from **vīvō**, with **victūrum**, from **vincō**).
16. Āiunt enim multum legendum esse, nōn multa. (*Pliny.)

THE DEATH OF LAOCOON . . . AND TROY

Hīc alius magnus timor (Ō fābula misera!) animōs caecōs nostrōs terret. Lāocoōn, sacerdos Neptūnī fortunā factus, ācrem taurum ad āram in lītore mactābat. Tum geminī serpentēs potentēs, mare prementēs, ab īnsulā ad lītora currunt. Iamque agrōs tenēbant et, oculīs igne ardentibus, ōra linguīs sībīlīs lambēbant.

Nōs omnēs fugimus; illī viā certā Lāocoonta filiōsque eius petunt. Prīmum parva corpora duōrum puerōrum capiunt et lacerant necantque dēvōrantque. Tum patrem fortem, ad filiōs miserōs currentem, rapiunt et magnīs spīrīs tenent et superant. Nec sē ā vulneribus dēfendere nec fugere potest, et ipse, ut taurus saucius ad āram, clāmōrēs horrendōs ad caelum tollit. Eōdem tempore serpentēs fugiunt, petuntque perfugium in arce Minervae ācris.

Quod Lāocoōn in equum Minervae hastam iēcerat, nōs putāvimus eum errāvīsse et poenās dedisse; vēritātem acerbam nescīvimus. Portās patefacimus et admittimus istum equum in urbem; atque puerī puellaeque—Ō patria, Ō dī magnī, Ō Trōia!—eum tangere gaudent. Et quoque gaudēmus nōs miserī, quibus ille diēs fuit ultimus ac quibus numquam erit ūllum sōlācium.

(Virgil, *Aeneid* 2.199-249; prose adaptation.—*Lāocoōn*, -ontis, m.—*Neptūnus*, god of the sea, took the side of the Greeks in the Trojan war.—*taurus*, -ī, bull.—*āra*, -ae, altar.—*mactāre*, to sacrifice, sacrificially slaughter.—*serpēns*, -pentis, m.—*ardēre*, to blaze.—*sībilus*, -a, -um, hissing.—*lambō*, -ere, to lick.—*Lāocoonta*, Gk. acc.—*prīmus*, adv. of *prīmus*.—*lacerāre*, to tear to pieces, mangle.—*dēvōrāre*, to devour.—*spīra*, -ae, coil.—*saucius*, -a, -um, wounded.—*clāmor*, -mōris, shout, scream.—*horrendus*, -a, -um.)



The Laocöon group
 Roman copy, perhaps after Agesander, Athenodorus, and Polydorus of Rhodes
 1st century B.C., Vatican Museums, Vatican State

ETYMOLOGY

In the readings

8. propinquity.—“Cincinnati,” both the organization composed originally of the officers who served under George Washington and also the city named after the organization. 9. Pyrrhus, the Greek general, defeated the Romans twice, but the victories cost him almost as many men as they cost the Romans; hence the term “Pyrrhic victory.” 14. aspersion, disperse, intersperse, sparse. “Laocoon”: toreador.—serpent, serpentine; “herpes” is cognate.—lambent.—lacerate, laceration.—voracious.—spire, spiral.—clamor, clamorous; cp. **clāmāre, dēclāmāre, exclāmāre.**—horrendous.

LATĪNA EST GAUDIUM—ET ÚTILIS!

Quid agitis hodiē, amīcī et amīcae? Also from **iacēre** in the new Vocab. is the phrase **hīc iacet**, *here lies . . .*, often inscribed on tombstones (sometimes spelled **hic jacet** and mistaken to mean *a country boy's sportcoat!*). And here are some other well-known mottoes and phrases: **dum spīrō, spērō**, *while I breathe, I hope* (South Carolina's state motto—the verb **spīrāre** is related to **spīritus**, Ch. 20, and gives us “conspire,” “expire,” “inspire,” “perspire,” “respiratory,” “transpire,” etc.); **crēde Deō**, *trust in God* (for **crēdere** + dat., see Ch. 35); and It. **lingua franca**, lit. *Frankish language*, used of any hybrid language that is employed for communication among different cultures. **Spīrāte, spērāte, rīdēte, atque valēte!**



*Trojan horse fresco from the House of Menander
Pompeii, mid- to late 1st century A.D.
Museo Archeologico Nazionale, Naples, Italy*