

Capitulum XVI - Tempestās

Deponent Verbs

Latin contains many verbs which have the forms of the Passive Voice but have active meanings. They are called deponents because they have laid aside (*dēponere*) their active forms while retaining their active meanings. In other words, they look passive, but translate active. Here are the deponent verbs introduced in this chapter:

1st Conj.

laetor, -ārī, *to be glad, rejoice*
cōnsōlor, -ārī, *to console, comfort*
cōnor, -arī, *to try, attempt*

2nd Conj.

intueor, -ērī, *to look at, gaze at*
vereor, -ērī, *to fear*

3rd Conj.

ēgredior, -ī, *to go out, depart*
proficīscor, -ī, *to set forth, depart*
sequor, -ī, *to follow*
complector, -ī, *to embrace*
labor, -ī, *to fall, slip*
loquor, -ī, *to say, speak*

4th Conj.

operior, -īrī, *to await*
orior, -īrī, *to arise, rise*

Ablative Absolute

The Ablative Absolute is used to express the *circumstances* surrounding the main action of the sentence. In early grammars it was often referred to as the Ablative of Attendant Circumstance. It is commonly formed with a noun or pronoun modified by a participle; but two nouns in the ablative case are also often used. Although the Ablative Absolute is semantically related to the sentence (*i.e.*, it adds meaning) it is not grammatically dependent on any word in the sentence. Hence its name *absolute* (from *absolūtus*, free or unconnected). Note the following:

Sōle oriente nāvis eōrum ē portū ēgreditur multīs hominibus spectantibus.
With the sun rising, their ship leaves from port with many men watching.

Sōle duce nāvem gubernō.
With the sun as my guide, I steer the ship.

Bene nāvīgāmus ventō secundō atque caelō serēnō.
We sail well with a favorable wind and a calm sky.

Cēterīs perterritīs, Lydia caelum intuētur . . .
With the others terrified, Lydia gazes at the sky . . .

Ablative of Degree of Difference

With comparatives and words implying comparison, the ablative is used to express the Degree of Difference

Nāvis paulō levior fit, simul verō tempestās multō turbidior et flūctus multō altiōrēs fiunt.

The ship becomes a little lighter (lighter by a little bit), but at the same time the tempest becomes much more stormy and the waves much higher.

The Irregular Verb *fiō, fierī, factus sum*

The verb *fiō, fierī, factus sum* (to be made, become) is irregular. Note its infinitive form, which is commonly used. Here are its present tense forms:

fiō fīmus
fīs fītis
fit fiunt

Third Declension Nouns

Here are the Third Declension Nouns introduced in Chapter 16:

nāvis, -is *f* ship
merx, mercis *f* goods, merchandise
tempestās, -ātis *f* storm
puppis, -is *f* stern
gubernātor, -ōris *m* helmsman, pilot
oriēns, -entis, east (rising sun)
occidens, -entis, west (setting sun)
fulgur, -uris *n* lightning

Vocabulary

merx, mercis *f* merchandise
nauta, ae *m* sailor
tempestās, -ātis *f* storm
ater, atra, atrae, black, dark
sīve, whether

iactō, -āre, to toss back and forth
vix *adv* scarcely
praetereā *adv* moreover
iterum *adv* again
propter + *acc* on account of