

PUGIO BRUTI

Adnotationes

Prologus, capitulum I-III

PROLOGUS

lucēbat: “was shining”. Verbs ending in *-bam, -bas, -bat*, etc. are in the imperfect tense, designating, among other things, a state, or the backdrop against which something else occurs, in this case painting the backdrop of Terentia closing the door.

post se: “behind her”. The preposition *post* is followed by the accusative case, e.g. *post ianuam* (“behind the door”). *Se* is a reflexive pronoun in the accusative case, referring back to the subject of the sentence, in this case to Terentia. *Post eam* would mean that there was another person present after whom Terentia closed the door. Terentia is the one who closes the door behind herself, not behind someone else. *Post* also has the temporal meaning of *after*.

Intuita est: You might be tempted to think this is a perfect passive construction like *spectata est* (“she was watched”). However, a few common Latin verbs—known as deponent verbs—have passive forms with active meanings. So *intuita est* does not mean “she was looked at” (passive) but “she looked at” (active). Other examples are: *umbram secuta erat* (“she had followed the shadow”) from *sequor*, *conatus est dormire* (“he tried to sleep”) from *conor*.

Notice that the ending changes according to whether it refers to a female (-a) or a male (-us) subject.

While most past participles of Latin verbs are passive—*Troja capta* means “Troy (having been) captured”—past participles of deponent verbs are active so we can use them exactly like English past participles. *Pater Terentiam intuitus*, means “her father having looked at Terentia” (though today we'd probably say, “her father looked at Terentia and...”).

Further examples of deponent verbs in the story are: *umbram secuta erat* (“she had followed the shadow”), *equos oculis secuta est* (“she followed the horses with her eyes”).

intuens: “looking at” This is present participle of the deponent verb *intueor*. Present participles describe an action that is contemporaneous to the action of the principal verb. *Intuens* is contemporaneous to *inquit*: *Terentius filiam intuēns*, “*Tempus est mē*,” *inquit*, “*abire*.” “Terence, looking at (his) daughter, said: “It is time for me to go”.

Tempus est me abire: “it is time for me to go”. After the words *tempus est* it is common use the so-called *accusative and infinitive* construction: place the subject in the accusative case and the verb in the infinitive, e.g. *tempus est Marcum dormire* (“it is time for Marcus to sleep.”). Compare with this sentence from the Roman historian Cornelius Nepos:

Sed nos tempus est huius libri facere finem.

But it is time for us to end this book. (lit. make and end of this book")

(Nep. *Vitae Han.* 13.4)

Ante: Like *post*, the preposition *ante* takes the accusative case: *ante mensam* "in front of the table". Like *post*, *ante* can also have a temporal meaning "before".

Memini: "I remember" This verb is a so-called defective verb in that it does not have a present tense. The first person singular present tense of the indicative ends in -o, e.g., *amo*, *lego*. *Memini*, on the other hand, is the perfect indicative, with an ending similar to *amavi* and *legi*. Nevertheless, *memini* has the meaning of a present tense verb "I remember". It may help to think of it as meaning "I have put it into my memory" i.e. "I remember".

tibi dormiendum est: "You have to sleep" (lit. "It should be slept by you"). This form, the so-called gerundive, a future passive participle, combined with the forms of *sum* denotes obligation, necessity, or propriety. This type of construction where a verb phrase consists of a participle and *sum* is called periphrastic ("roundabout way of speaking"). This particular one with the gerundive is called the *second periphrastic conjugation*.

In this example *tibi dormiendum est* is an impersonal construction ("it should be slept by you"). Another example of this construction is e.g., *amandum est* lit. "it should be loved" or "loving should be done". The person on whom the obligation rests is put in the dative case e.g. *tibi amandum est*, ("loving must be done by you/you must love"), *mihi legendum est* ("I must read").

inquit: "says, said s/he". This verb which has the same form in the present as in the perfect tense is always used parenthetically, after one or more words central to the sentence: "*Mea filia,*" *inquit*. One could say *inquit* functions as quotation marks indicating that is the character in the text speaking and not their words summarized by the author. It is as such distinct from the word *dixit* ("s/he said") which corresponds to the English "s/he said that..." where someone else renders the speaker's words indirectly. In Latin this is done with the so-called accusative and infinitive, which we shall return to later. Compare the character's actual words rendered by *inquit* (1) with the same words summarized by the author (2).

(1) "Liber est," *inquit*, "optimus!" ("The book is great," he said)

(2) *Dixit librum esse optimum.* ("S/he said that the book was great.")

moriar: "I will die". The verb *moriar* ("I die") is a deponent verb, passive in form but active in meaning. Another example we shall see later is *loquor* ("I speak"). *Moriar* belongs to the third conjugation of verbs, and the future tense of these end in *-ar, -eris, -etur, etc.*

est quod tibi narrem: "I have (lit. "there is") something to tell you".

Iuxta: "beside, next to". Like *ante* and *post*, the preposition *iuxta* takes the accusative case: *iuxta mensam* "beside the table".

prope omnia: "almost everything" This preposition is always followed by the accusative case, here *omnia*, the accusative neuter plural of the adjective *omnis*. Adjectives in the neuter plural, such as

omnia, not modifying a noun, have the meaning of “things with the quality of the adjective” thus *omnia* means “all (things)” and *pulchra* means “beautiful (things)”. Similarly, *alia multa* means “many other (things)”

nobis abstulit: “took from us”. The person from whom something is taken is here put in the dative case. Another example is *Cicero librum mihi abstulit* (“Cicero took the book from me”).

Hic pugio Bruti fuisse dicitur: “This dagger is said to have been Brutus”. The verb *dicere* in the sense “is said” or “people say that...” is often constructed with the nominative and the infinitive, e.g. *Liber* (nominative) *bonus esse* (infinitive) *dicitur* (“the book is said to be good”). Another example is *Discipuli* (nominative) *legere* (infinitive) *dicuntur* (“the students are said to be reading, people say that the students are reading”). Note that the verb in both instances agrees in number with the noun, *liber* and *dicitur* are both in the singular, and *discipuli* and *dicuntur* are both in the plural.

te volo hunc pugionem habere: “I want you to have this dagger.” The verb *volo* (“I want”) is constructed with the accusative and the infinitive when we exercise the will upon someone else, e.g. “I want him to go” *Eum abire volo*. If our will is just centered on ourselves, we only put an infinitive after e.g. *Abire volo* “I want to go”.

per hunc: “by this” The preposition *per* literally means “through” but when someone swears by something, *per* takes the meaning of “by” e.g. *Terentia per oculos iurat* (“Terentia swears by the eyes”).

prae: This preposition meaning “in front of” is often used to describe holding something in front of the body, e.g. *Gladium prae se tenet* (“she holds a sword in front of her”).

Nostra: “our things.” This is the neuter plural of *noster* (our). There is no noun, so in English, we must supply a noun, here, “things”. Similarly, we say *Multa dicit* (“He/she says many things”) and *Prope alia omnia* (“almost all other things”). This use is not limited to the neuter, cf. e.g., *boni hoc faciunt* (“good men do this”).

CAPITULUM PRIMUM

Romae: “In Rome” This is the so-called locative case, which designates the place where someone or something is. It mostly occurs with names of cities and a handful of other words such as *domi* (“at home”) and *humi* (“on the ground”).

Terentia conversa: “(Having) turned around Terentia...” i.e. “Terentia turned around and...”

eadem via: “(by) the same way” This is the ablative case which is used to indicate the instrument with which something is done. Here the street is the instrument for going back, hence it is in the ablative case. Another example is *Caesarem pugione percussit* (“He stabbed Caesar with the dagger”) where *pugione* is in the ablative indicating the instrument with which Caesar is stabbed.

paulo ante: “a little earlier” With comparatives and words implying comparison the ablative is used to denote the degree of difference, here “by little”.

CAPITULUM SECUNDUM

Locuta est: deponent verb, see *Prologus*, "*intuita est.*"

Fuit, fugit: Terentia tells the server in the tavern that a young man had just been there. He responds by repeating the same word *fuit*, *fugit*. This does not annoy Terentia at first because in Latin, one common way of saying *yes* is by repeating the verb used by the prior speaker, as here: *fuit* ("yes", lit. "there was"), and *fugit* ("yes," lit. "he fled"). Another example is: *Visne vinum? — Volo.* ("Do you want wine? —I want, (i.e. yes.)") She thus takes this as an affirmative response but gets irritated when the server only says "yes" but doesn't elaborate: *scisne quis ille sit? — Scio.* ("Do you know who he is? —I know, (i.e. yes)") There are also other ways of saying *yes* in Latin such as *ita est*, *ita vero* and many more.

Scisne quis ille sit? In Latin, it is important to distinguish two types of questions: direct questions, and indirect questions. The first is a principal clause formulated as a question, e.g. "Do you know him?" "What is that?". The second, an indirect question, is any sentence or clause which is introduced by an interrogative word (pronoun, adverb, etc.), and which is itself the subject or object of a verb, e.g. "He asks me if I know him." "She wonders what that is?". In English indirect questions are marked variously, in the two examples given, "if" and word order respectively indicate that the question is indirect.

In Classical Latin, indirect questions are marked by placing the verb in the subjunctive mood. This is the case in this example: *Scisne quis ille sit?* We have an indirect question *quis ille sit* which is introduced by *scisne*. In the sentence *scisne quis ille sit*, the second verb *sit* is the present subjunctive of *esse* ("to be"). The direct question would be: *Quis ille est?* ("Who is he?"). As we shall see in subsequent chapters, the tense of the subjunctive in indirect questions changes according to the tense of the verb in the main clause. If the verb in the main clause is in the present tense or has the meaning of a present tense such as *memini* ("I remember")—these tenses are often referred to as *primary tenses*— the verb in the indirect question will be in the present subjunctive, if the action is contemporaneous to the action of the verb in the main clause (here *scisne*). If, however, the action in the indirect question precedes the action of the verb in the main clause the perfect subjunctive will be used.

This is shown in the table below:

- Direct question in the present tense: *Ubi est?*
- Indirect question with main clause verb in primary tense: *Scisne ubi sit* (present subjunctive)? ("Do you know where he is?")
- Direct question in the perfect tense: *Ubi fuit?*
- Indirect question with the main clause in the primary tense: *Scisne ubi fuerit* (perfect subjunctive). ("Do you know where he was/has been?")

When the verb of the main clause is perfect, imperfect, pluperfect—these tenses are referred to as secondary tenses—the indirect question will have the verb in the imperfect subjunctive, if the action is contemporaneous to the verb of the main clause, and in the pluperfect subjunctive if the action in the indirect question precedes the action of the verb in the main clause the pluperfect subjunctive is used:

- Direct question in the present tense *Ubi est?*
- Indirect question with main clause verb in the secondary tense: *Sciebasne ubi esset?* (imperfect subjunctive) ("Did you know where he was?")
- Direct question in the perfect tense: *Ubi fuit?*
- Indirect question with the main clause in the secondary tense: *Sciebasne ubi fuisset?* (pluperfect subjunctive) ("Did you know where he had been?")

Further examples:

- *Dīcō* (primary tense) *tibi quid faciam.* ("I tell you what I am doing.")
- *Dīcō* (primary tense) *tibi quid fēcerim.* ("I tell you what I did, have done, was doing")
- *Dīxī* (secondary tense) *tibi quid facerem.* ("I told you what I was doing.")
- *Dīxī* (secondary tense) *tibi quid fēcissem.* ("I told you what I had done, had been doing.")

Cum anulis aureis: "with golden rings". *Cum* with the ablative is used to describe a person wearing clothing, ornaments, or carrying other objects, e.g. *Clodius cum tunica in conclave venit* ("Clodius came into the room (dressed) in a tunic.") Another example is from Cicero: *Cum tunica pulla et pallio sedebat* (Cic. *Verr.* II. 4.54) "He was sitting (dressed) in a dark brown tunic and a cape.

Intellego cur ita responderit: subjunctive in indirect question, see above.

Intuita est: deponent verb, see *Prologus*.

Fugientem: ("fleeing") the accusative singular of the present participle. The present participle indicates not necessarily that the action takes place in the present but that the action of the participle is contemporaneous to the action of the finite verb in the clause. *Fugientem secuta sum*, thus means that she followed him as he was fleeing (his flight was, of course, contemporaneous to her pursuit). Cf. *Prologus, intuens*.

Sed quid tum?: ("So what?" "What does it matter?") Literally meaning "but what then?" this phrase is in literature often used to indicate irritated disinterest.

Si veneris...dabo: In Latin, there are different types of conditional clauses. This is an example of a future conditional sentence. The action will take place in the future, if the condition is met before that action. Thus, here the condition clause (called *protasis*) in future perfect is *si veneris* ("if you (will have) come"), and the main clause (called *apodosis*), which is the result should the condition be fulfilled, is *dabo* ("I will give"), in the future tense. Another example is "if you (will have) read the book, you will be happy." *Si librum legeris, laetus eris*. Here, the reading (*legeris*) in the condition has to take place before the happiness (*laetus*) can occur.

Qui sciam? ("How am I supposed to know?") *Qui* is an old ablative form found in a handful of expressions equivalent to *quomodo* ("how?") e.g. *qui fit?* ("How come?") *Sciam* is a present subjunctive, a so-called *deliberative subjunctive*, which is used in questions implying *doubt*, *indignation*, or an *impossibility* of the thing being done. e.g. *Quid faciamus?* ("What should we do?").

Qua est facie? ("What does he look like?" lit. "Of what appearance is he?") Note that *facies* does not only refer to the face but to the entire appearance of a person or a thing. *Qua* and *facie* are in the

ablative case. The quality of a thing is denoted by the ablative with an adjective. This is called the descriptive ablative or ablative of quality. The ablative of quality modifies a substantive by describing it. It is, therefore, in a sense, equivalent to an adjective. In this, it differs from other ablatives, which are equivalent to adverbs. Other examples from *Pugio Bruti* are *capillo nigro est* (p. xix), and *parvis est manibus* (p. xix). An example from Caesar is: *capillō sunt prōmissō* (B. G. 5.14), “they have long hair.”

Nescis qua facie sit: “you don’t know what he looks like?” *Qua facie sit* is an indirect question in the subjunctive. See Cap. 2.

Sed qua facie esset...videre non potui: “But what he looked like I was not able to see.” *Qua facie esset...* is an indirect question in the subjunctive. See Cap. 2.

Nostin’: (“do you know?”) This is a contracted form of *novistine*. The *-ne* at the end functions as a question mark, indicating that it is a question. In Roman comedy, when one character asked another whether he or she knew a certain person, they would often first give the name, and perhaps a brief description followed by *nostin’?*, e.g. *Marcum, filium amici mei, nostin’?* (“Do you know Marc, my friend’s son?”).

This verb, not unlike *memini* from the prologue, has a perfect tense with a meaning equivalent to the present tense, thus *novi* and *novisti* mean “I know” and “You know”. It literally means “I have gotten to now,” i. e. “I know.” Unlike *memini*, however, this verb is not defective, since it has proper present tense forms e.g. *nosco, noscis* (“I, you get to know”).

Quae scio, dicam: “I will tell you the things I know.” The neuter plural antecedent *ea* is omitted. It is common in Latin for pronouns to be omitted in the nominative or accusative cases before relative clauses.

Quod sciam: “as far as I know.” *Quod + subjunctive* gives the meaning of *as far as I ___*, e.g. *quod meminerim* (“as far as I remember”), or *quod viderim* (“as far as I have seen”).

CAPITULUM TERTIUM

Cum domum rediisset: “When she had returned home”. This is a temporal clause introduced by *cum*. A temporal clause with *cum* and the pluperfect subjunctive (*rediisset*) describes the circumstances that preceded the action of the main verb when it is in secondary tense (perfect, imperfect, pluperfect) as here with *cogitavit* which is in the perfect. Another example is *cum omnes advenissent, Romulus haec dixit* (“When everyone had arrived, Romulus said these things.”)

Quomodo pugionem recuperem? “How should I/ am I supposed to recover the dagger?” Deliberative subjunctive, see cap. 2, *qui sciam?*

Tantum est: “That’s all.”

Dum tunicam exuit: “while she was taking off the tunic...” *Dum* (while) with the present indicative often denotes continued action in past time, corresponding in meaning to the English imperfect. Another example is: *Hoc dum narrat, forte audivi*. (Ter. Haut. 272) “I happened to hear this while

she was telling it.”

Ubi ...egressa es: ”when you stepped out...” *Ubi* means not only ”where” but also ”when” and can introduce this type of temporal clauses.

Cum nusquam te viderem: ”since I didn’t see you anywhere...” This is a causal clause introduced by *cum*. The imperfect is used when the action is contemporaneous to a past tense verb (secondary tense) in the main clause, here (*redii*). If the cause precedes the action of the main clause, the pluperfect is used e.g. *cum nusquam te vidissem, domum redii* (”since I hadn’t seen you anywhere, I returned home.”)

Immo: ”on the contrary” The particle *immo* (in older English ”nay”) is used to contradict some part of a preceding statement or question, e.g. *male feci? —Immo, recte fecisti*. Another example is Cicero: *Causa igitur non bona est? Immo optima*. (Att. 9.7.4)
”Is the cause then not a good one? On the contrary, the best.”

Dormitum iit: (”she went to sleep” lit. ”She went in order to sleep”) Of the principle parts of a verb (e.g. *amo, amavi, amare, amatum*) the last, ending in -um, is called the supine. The supine is used to express purpose only with verbs of *motion* and in a few idiomatic expressions. Another example is Liv. 3.25: *Venerunt questum iniurias*. ”They came to complain of wrongs.”

Nihil non faciam ut patris donum recuperem: ”I will do anything to recover my father’s gift” (lit. ”Nothing will I not do in order that...”) This type of *ut*-clause, expressing *purpose*, is called a final clause. Affirmative final clauses take the subjunctive introduced by *ut*, whereas the negative are introduced by *ne*. If the main clause has its verb in a primary tense (present, future, or of equivalent meaning), the *ut*-clause will, as in this example, have its verb in the present subjunctive. If, on the other hand, the verb of the main clause is in a secondary tense (perfect, imperfect, pluperfect or of equivalent meaning) the final clause will have its verb in the imperfect subjunctive.

Libros legunt (present tense) *ut Latine discant* (present subjunctive)
”They are reading books in order to learn Latin.”

Libros legebant (imperfect tense) *ut Latine discerent* (imperfect subjunctive)
”They were reading / would read (i.e. habitually) books in order to learn Latin.”