

Stage 35
Objectives

Epistulae



Important Terms:

negōtium _____
epistulae _____
commendāticae _____
āmanuēnsēs _____
servus ab epistūlīs _____
valē _____
studia _____
charta _____
notārius _____
SAL, SD, SPD _____
cūra ut valeās _____
cerae _____
volūmen _____
librārius _____
SVBE _____
dignitās _____

Nova Grammatica: _____

Supines

The Supine is a verbal noun of the fourth declension, appearing only in the accusative singular (-um) and ablative singular (-ū) and limited to two usages.

I. The Supine in -um:

A. **Accusative Supine** in “-um” may be used **after verbs of motion to express purpose:**

Legātōs ad Caesarem mittunt rogātum auxilium. **They send envoys to Caesar to ask for help.**

Stultitia est venātum ducere invītās canēs. **It is folly to take unwilling dogs to hunt.**

The construction is found most commonly with the verbs īre and venīre, followed by many phrases:

cubitum, dormitum, sessum, salūtātum, etc.

The Supine in -um may take a direct object, though the construction was not very common:

Hannibal patriam dēfēnsūm revocātus est. **Hannibal was recalled to defend his country.**

II. Ablative Supine in “-ū” is used **with a few adjective** (and the nouns fās, nefās, and opus) to **express an ablative of respect or specification:**

mirabile dictū: **marvelous to relate** sī hoc fās est dictū: **if this is right to say**

facilis factū: **easy to do** nihil dignum dictū: **nothing worthy of mention**

The ablative supine will never take a direct object.

Indirect Statement

1. An **indirect statement** is a statement which is not quoted directly with quotation marks but is stated indirectly with a clause introduced with the conjunction “that”.

ex. Not “The sky is blue”. but I know that the sky is blue.

↑
direct statement

↑
indirect statement

2. An indirect statement occurs after verbs of **thinking, feeling, saying, knowing, perceiving, etc.** and has a **subject in the accusative** and a **verb in the infinitive**.

3. The subject accusative must be stated unless the infinitive verb is impersonal.

Ad vīllam perventum esse dīxit. He said that it was arrived at the farmhouse.

Sē ad vīllam pervēnisse dīxit. He said that he himself had arrived at the farmhouse.

4. **Reflexive pronouns** in an indirect statement refer back to the subject of the main sentence, not to the accusative subject of the indirect statement.

Senex eōs sē solum relinquisse dīxit. The old man said that they had left him alone.



Tenses of the Infinitive

Infinitives don't have an absolute tense. Their **tense is relative** to the tense of the main verb of the sentence.

present infinitive = same time as the main verb

perfect infinitive = time before the main verb

future infinitive = time after the main verb

Puer sē militem vīdisse dīxit. The boy said that he had seen the soldier.

The main verb is perfect. The infinitive is perfect. A perfect infinitive expresses time before the main verb. Time before the perfect is the pluperfect.

Paradigm Review

****** Know and be able to list all declension endings! ******

epistola . . . nōn ērubescit.

A letter does not blush.

___ Marcus Tullius Cicero, Epistulae ad Familiares, 5,12,1