

Agents and Instruments of Passive Verbs

When a verb is passive in English, you often see the word *by* appear somewhere near it. If the word *by* goes with a person, then this is called an *agent*. If the word *by* goes with a thing, then this is called an *instrument*.

Agents' rule

In Latin, agents are expressed by *a*^{*} or *ab*^{**} (+ ablative).

Hadrianus **a Scauro** invitatur.

Hadrian is invited **by Scaurus**.

asinus **ab Anna** curatur.

The donkey is looked after **by Anna**.

discipuli **a magistro** docentur.

The students are taught **by the teacher**.

a^{*} is followed by a consonant, *ab*^{**} is followed by a vowel.

Instruments' rule

In Latin, instruments are expressed by the simple Ablative case, without *a* or *ab*.

Hadrianus **silentio** terretur.

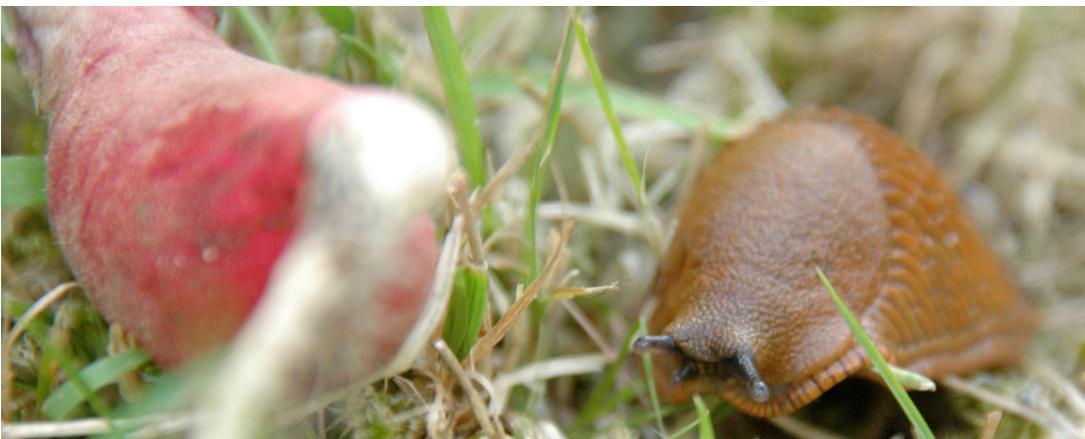
Hadrian is terrified **by the silence**.

puer **gladio** vulneratus est.

The boy is wounded **by a sword**.

radix **limace** devoratur.

The radish is eaten **by the slug**.



Alphabet and Pronunciation

The Latin alphabet is more or less the same as ours, though ours has acquired some new characters along the way. In fact, not all modern languages even use the same alphabet, so we shouldn't be surprised to find that there are differences in the letters used across a gap of two thousand years or so. Study the following chart.

English	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m	n	o	p	q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z
Latin	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i		l	m	n	o	p	q	r	s	t	u	v		x		z	

This is made more confusing by the fact that different people write Latin in different ways and different printers in different countries make whole texts unrecognisable to people from other countries. Some notes follow, which may or may not help you see through the mist.

- The letter *i* can appear as *j* in some Latin texts and as *i* in others. The main point is that in Latin, *i* can be a vowel, as in the word *audio*, or a consonant, as in the word *Ianus*. This second word gives us the name of the two-headed god of the doorway, Janus. In English, it may be easier to think of the consonantal *i* letter as a sort of *y*. Or indeed, this may make things no easier at all.
- The letter *k* doesn't exist in Latin. Or at least, it does exist, but occurs very rarely. If you want the sound of a *k*, you just use a *c*, which is always a hard-sounding consonant in Latin. For example, in the word *provincia*, *c* is always pronounced like a *k* in English. In the same way, the letter *g* in Latin is always pronounced hard, never soft. So age is pronounced a -ge.
- The letter *u* in Latin can be printed the same as *v*! Make sense of this if you will. As far as Imperium Latin is concerned, an *i* will be used for a *j*, and a *v* will be used to distinguish a consonantal sounding *u* from a genuine vowel *u*. But in original Latin, *u* and *v* were the same letter. An example? The word *iuvo* means *I help*. The first *u* to appear is clearly a vowel but the *v* (pronounced *w* - are you keeping up?) is the same letter, expressed as a consonant. So some people might print this word as *IVVO*, or even *JVVO*. Hmm.
- The English letter *w* doesn't exist in Latin but the letter *v* is pronounced like a *w* when you read Latin aloud.
- The English letter *y* also doesn't exist in Latin.

Apposition

When you have an expression such as, 'in the province of Spain', Latin doesn't put the word *Spain* into the Genitive case, because Spain is the province and the province is Spain. This is called Apposition.

Articles

A Latin word can mean different things at different times. In the sentence *Afer est pater*, *pater* can mean "father", "a father", or "the father". The words *a* and *the* are called articles - and basically not used in Latin, though if you want to specify something as *indefinite*, e.g., "a", you can add *quidam* to achieve this aim.

vir quidam a bloke

Causal clauses

A causal clause is a subordinate clause after the word *because* (in Latin, *quod* or *quia*). See entry under **Subordinate clauses**.

Complements

When you say that someone *is* or *becomes* something, the something is called a complement, which really just means a completing word. The case of the complement should stay the same as that of the original noun.

Hadrianus est **puer**. Hadrian is **a boy**.
milites **irati** fiunt. The soldiers become **angry**.

Concessive clauses

See entry under **Uses of cum and dum**.

Concord

Concord is when the number of the verb matches its subject's number. Basically, a verb can be either singular or plural and this property must match with that of its subject. Consider these two sentences, for clarification:

asinus in agro **est**. The **donkey is** in the field.
asini in agro **sunt**. The **donkeys are** in the field.

Conditional Clauses

A conditional clause is part of a sentence where *if* is used. In English, we can make conditionals negative by saying *if... not*, or *unless*. In Latin, the word *si* means *if*, whereas *nisi* is used for the other, negative conditions.

Conditional sentences usually exist in two parts:

- The *if* part is sometimes called the **protasis**. It is important to realise that this is the subordinate clause in the sentence, not the main clause. It usually comes first, though sometimes it can appear after the *then* part, just to confuse you.

If I eat too much...
Unless you were there...
If you did not see this film...

- The second part is the *then* part, which is sometimes called the **apodosis**. This is the main clause. Note that the word *then* is usually not needed but that you can insert it without any damaging effect to the meaning of the sentence.

... (then) I feel bloated.
... (then) you could not know what happened.
... (then) you should go as soon as possible.

Probably the best way to learn conditional rules is to learn the table on the next page. Note the difference between **real** and **unreal** events: in English, *would* or *might* are often used to express things which would happen, if other things were the case. In this kind of sentence, the condition either could be true, or it definitely isn't.

	Real event	Unreal event
Future Tense	<p><u>Rule:</u> if - si/nisi + future perfect indicative then - future indicative</p> <p>si nimium biberis, ebrius eris. If you drink too much, you will be drunk.</p>	<p><u>Rule:</u> if - si/nisi + present subjunctive then - present subjunctive</p> <p>si te cras videam, laetus sim. If I could see you tomorrow, I would be happy.</p>
Present Tense	<p><u>Rule:</u> if - si/nisi + present indicative then - present indicative</p> <p>si pecuniam habemus, gaudemus. If we have money, we rejoice.</p>	<p><u>Rule:</u> if - si/nisi + imperfect subjunctive then - imperfect subjunctive</p> <p>si dives essem, diligenter non laborarem. If I was a rich man, I wouldn't have to work hard.</p>
Past Tense	<p><u>Rule:</u> if - si/nisi + any past tense indicative then - any past tense indicative</p> <p>si te spectabam, semper ridebam. If I saw you, I was always laughing.</p>	<p><u>Rule:</u> if - si/nisi + pluperfect subjunctive then - pluperfect subjunctive</p> <p>haec fecissem, nisi tuam matrem vidissem. I would have done these things if I hadn't seen your mother.</p>

Conjugation

A conjugation refers to a group of verbs. See **Grammar Section** for details.