Teaching notes on 15.02 Posse

Slide 1

Learning objective: To look at the verb 'posse' ('to be able') and see how it pairs with the infinitive in Latin. This is the first of two verbs we'll look at in this unit that pair with an infinitive (the other being 'velle', 'to want' later on). Both 'posse' and 'velle' are slightly irregular, but, just as we saw with 'esse' in Unit 6, the verb endings follow a similar pattern to regular verbs.

After saying 'salve' to Iucundus, mouse-clicks on this slide will make Iucundus show a flag and then ask, 'estne hoc vexillum Germaniae aut Galliae?' ('Is this the flag of Germany or France?'). Students can reply, 'hoc vexillum Galliae est!' ('This is the flag of France!').

The Roman name for France, 'Gallia', is why Asterix and his friends are known as Gauls.

Slide 2

🤓💬 A game of Word Roots Challenge introducing some new Latin vocabulary that we'll be using in this unit and some ambitious English derivative words. Displayed around the screen are some new Latin words.

On mouse-click, an English derivative (and its definition) of one of these Latin words will appear on the screen. Pupils have to work out from which one the English word is derived. On second mouse-click, the English word will make its way to its root word. As an extension, pupils can explain the connection between the root word and its English derivative, or even think of more English words deriving from the Latin ones. Pupils can also identify to which word class these new words belong.

Slides 3-7

🤓💬 Quick Fire Sentences including vocabulary new to this unit and also previously unencountered. A reminder of all the tense endings we've met so far will stay at the bottom of the screen. On mouse-click on each slide, a new word or words will appear in the New Words box. The final two sentences will feature variations of 'posse' ('to be able'), which we'll explore in greater depth in this lesson.

Slide 3: maga reginam mutavit itaque <u>nunc</u> <u>regina</u> rana est! [The witch changed the queen so now the queen is a frog!]

Slide 4: pastor qui <u>pecuniam</u> invenit bonam fortunam habet [The shepherd who finds* money has good fortune.] *n.b. 'invenit' can also mean 'found' (past perfect).

Slide 5: "quid in via consumebas?" rogavit mater. "panem consumebam," responsit pater ["What were you eating in the street?" asked the mother. "I was eating bread," replied the father.]

Slide 6: navem videre possumus! salvi <u>tandem</u> sumus! [We are able to (/can) see a boat! At least we are saved!]

Slide 7: decem milites <u>audaces</u> urbem capere possunt [Ten daring soldiers are able to (/can) capture the city.]

Slide 8

This slide explains how various forms of the verb 'posse' (to be able) can be paired with the verb infinitive to show when someone is able to do something. Condensed versions of the last two Quick Fire Sentences illustrate this. Note that in English, we can translate sentences containing 'posse' with 'able to' or 'can'. Either works well.

On mouse-click, all six of the present tense endings of 'posse' are shown, along with their translations. As Iucundus then points out, the endings are the same as we've seen previously, it's just that the beginning of the verb that can change (between 'pot-' and 'poss-'). This is similar to 'esse' (to be), the irregular verb encountered first in Unit 6.

Slide 9

The students can then have a go at translating some posse-infinitive verb pairs:

- cantare possumus – we are able to sing / we can sing
- dormire potestis – y'all are are able to sleep / y'all can sleep
- femina scribere potest – the woman is able to write / the woman can write
- infantes lacrimare possunt – babies are able to cry / babies can cry
- canem audire possum – I am able to hear a dog / I can hear a dog
- ambulare potes? – are you able to walk? / can you walk?

The class is then cued onto the worksheet, where they will find two exercises based on 'posse'.

Slide 10

The plenary slide:

Question 1 What English word or words can you think of that come from the Latin 'mutare' meaning 'to change'? [mutate, mutation, mutant, immutable, commute] n.b. 'mute' (silent) comes from the Latin adjective 'mutus/muta' meaning 'mute' or 'silent'.

Question 2 celeriter currere potes? [Can you run quickly? Answers could be 'ita' (yes) or 'minime' (no)]

Question 3 quid Latine est 🍀 ? [fortuna]