

Teaching notes on 15.03 More posse

Slide 1

Learning objective: To look at the verb 'posse' ('to be able') in the past continuous and simple past tenses

After saying 'salve' to Lucundus, mouse-clicks on this slide will make Lucundus show a flag and then ask, 'estne hoc vexillum Romaniae aut Hispaniae?' ('Is this the flag of Romania or Spain?'). Students can reply, 'hoc vexillum Romaniae est!' ('This is the flag of Romania!').

Slide 2



A game of Word Roots Challenge recapping some of the Latin vocabulary new to this unit along with some ambitious English derivative 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 past tense variations of 'posse' ('to be able'), which we'll explore in greater depth in this lesson.

Slide 3: insulam secretam visitavimus itaque per undas navigavimus [We visited the hidden island so we sailed through the waves.]

Slide 4: feminae quae montem ascenserunt fortes sunt [The women who climbed the mountain are brave.]

Slide 5: "quis panem meum cepit?" rogavit soror. "panem tuum cepi," responsit frater ["Who took my bread?" asked the sister. "I took your bread," replied the brother.]

Slide 6: ad urbem ambulare et amicos visitare poteramus [We were able to (/could) walk to the city and visit friends.]

Slide 7: equus fessus currere non potuit [The tired horse was not able to (/could not) run.]

Slide 8

This slide explains how the verb 'posse' (to be able) can be used in the past continuous and simple past tenses (as seen in the last two Quick Fire Sentences. In English, we translate both past tenses in much the similar way, i.e. 'was able to' or 'could'.

On mouse-click, all six of the endings of 'posse' are shown for both the past continuous and the simple past version, along with their translations. Again, you can see the usual patterns on the verb endings.

Slide 9

...gives some examples of how to translate past versions of 'posse' paired with an infinitive verb.

Slide 10

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

- ridere poteramus – we were able to laugh / we could sing
- audire potuistis – y'all were are able to hear / y'all could hear
- rex videre poterat – the king was able to see / the king could see
- magi navigare potuerunt – the wizards were able to sail / the wizards could sail
- hortum curare potui – I was able to look after the garden / I could look after the garden
- dormire potes? – Were you able to sleep? / could you sleep?



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

Slide 10

The plenary slide:

Question 1 What English word or words can you think of that come from the Latin 'umbra' meaning 'shadow? [umbrella, penumbra, umbrage]

Question 2 bene cantare potes? [Can you sing well? Answers could be 'ita' (yes) or 'minime' (no)]

Question 3 quid Latine est  ? [construere]