

## Velle (to want) in the past tense

In Latin, you can use 'velle' in the past continuous or simple past tense to show when someone wanted to do something in the past. The two tenses look like this:

<i>past continuous</i>	<i>simple past</i>	
<b>volebam</b>	<b>volui</b>	I wanted
<b>volebas</b>	<b>voluisti</b>	you wanted
<b>volebat</b>	<b>voluit</b>	he/she/it wanted
<b>volebamus</b>	<b>voluimus</b>	we wanted
<b>volebatis</b>	<b>voluistis</b>	y'all wanted
<b>volebant</b>	<b>voluerunt</b>	they wanted

In English, you can translate both past tenses of velle (+ infinitive verb) as 'wanted'.

### **Exercise 1 – What did I want (or not want) to do yesterday?**

The following sentences contain a mixture of past continuous and simple past versions of 'velle'. Translate the sentence into English using 'I wanted'. The first one is done for you.

1. heri dormire volebam.

*Yesterday I wanted to sleep.*

heri yesterday

2. heri ridere volebam.

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3. heri montem ascendere volui.

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4. heri scribere non volui.

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5. heri per campos currere volebam.

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6. heri fabulam narrare volui.

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7. heri in taberna laborare non volebam.

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## Velle (to want) in the past tense

<i>past continuous</i>	<i>simple past</i>	
vole <b>bam</b>	volui	I wanted
vole <b>bas</b>	volu <b>isti</b>	you wanted
vole <b>bat</b>	volu <b>it</b>	he/she/it wanted
vole <b>bamus</b>	volu <b>imus</b>	we wanted
vole <b>batis</b>	volu <b>istis</b>	y'all wanted
vole <b>bant</b>	volu <b>erunt</b>	they wanted

### Exercise 2 – Who wanted (or didn't want) to do what?

Translate the sentence into English working out who was doing the wanting and then what they wanted to do. The first one is done for you.

1. pastor silvam invenire voluit.

*The shepherd wanted to find the forest.*

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2. laete cantare volebamus.

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3. equi aquam consumere voluerunt.

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4. urbem magnam videre voluistis.

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5. dux respondere voluit.

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6. canem servare non volebas?

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7. rex insulas frigidas visitare volebat.

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8. "urbem delere non volumus!" clamaverunt magi.

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9. infantes lacrimare volebant.

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10. cur porcos numerare voluisti?

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