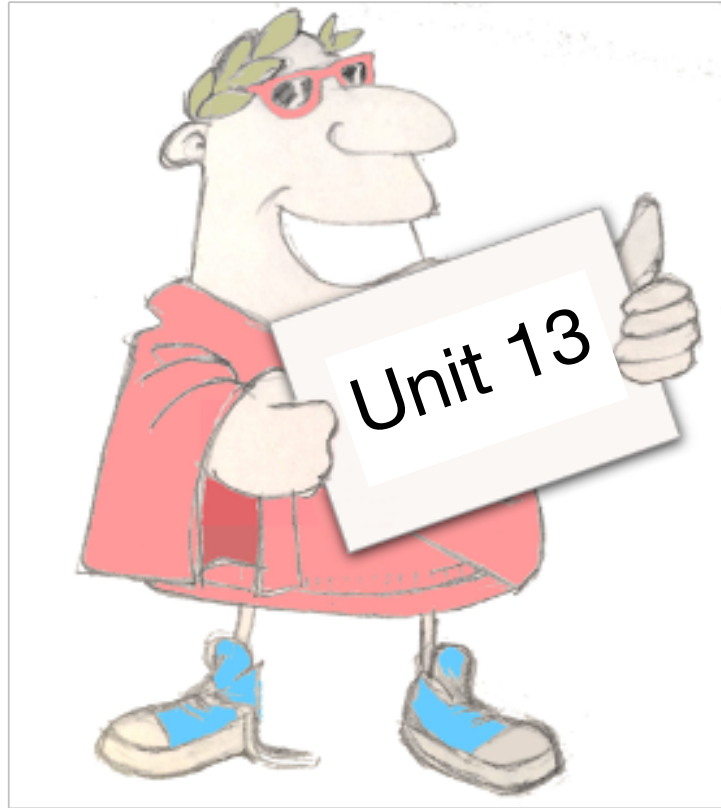


MAXIMUM CLASSICS



Key topics

- 1) Differences between the simple past and past continuous tenses
- 2) How to recognise and translate the simple past in Latin

Spot the difference

The sentence pairs below are different in one, two or three ways. Circle where you see the difference or differences in the second sentence and then translate both sentences. The first one has been done to show you how.

1. **rex novus urbem delet.**

reges novi urbem delent.

The new king is destroying the city. *The new kings are destroying the city.*

2. **canes amo.**

canes non amo.

3. **“noli pugnare!” dicit mater.**

“nolite pugnare!” dicit mater.

4. **regina quieta est.**

regina inquieta est.

5. **femina in horto stat.**

feminae in horto stant.

6. **medicus familiam curat.**

medicus familiam curabat.

7. **canis equum vexabat.**

equus canem vexabat.

8. **villam regis quaero.**

villas regis quaero.

9. **laboras quod probus es.**

laboras itaque probus es.

10. **montem dei videmus**

montem deorum videmus.

Simple past v. past continuous (English)

Exercise 1

Can you sort these verbs into the correct tense box? The first two have been done to show you how.

~~she was fighting~~ ~~you lived~~ he was running
I saw they began
you were trying he ran I bought
you cooked we fought he was seeing
we were living it was beginning they were buying I gave up
you cried she was growing

simple past

you lived

past continuous

she was fighting

Exercise 2

Can you turn the past continuous verbs in the sentences below into the simple past? The first one has been done for you.

1. Were you doing your homework yesterday?

Did you do your homework yesterday?

2. With a spring in his step, Jay was walking through the leafy park.

3. Mo was huffing and puffing over the tricky maths question.

4. My sister was hiding in the old wooden wardrobe at the top of the house.

5. Tell me why you were making such a beautiful cake.

6. Carly was selling her bike because she had outgrown it.

Simple past tense Latin verbs

Just like in English, Latin uses the simple past tense to show actions that happened in the past and which are finished. In Latin simple past verbs, you'll quite often see a 'v' in the middle, followed by these endings to show who is doing the action of the verb:

i	isti	it	imus	istis	erunt
I	you	he she it	we	y'all	they

Exercise 1

Can you sort these Latin verbs into the correct tense box? The first two have been done for you.

~~cantavi~~ ~~amo~~ habitavisti
pugnamus visitatis amat rogamus
numeravit
habitas laboraverunt finit
servo ambulavistis servavi
pugnavi vexant salutavimus

simple past

cantavi

present

amo

Simple past tense Latin verbs

i	isti	it	imus	istis	erunt
I	you	he she it	we	y'all	they

Exercise 2

Can you match up the correct English translation to the Latin simple past tense verb? The first one has been done to show you how

vexavimus	they cried
celavi	they watched
pugnavistis	we annoyed
ambulavistis	you carried
delevit	y'all saved
lacrimaverunt	we sang
salutavi	I hid
spectaverunt	he/she/it destroyed
portavisti	y'all fought
numeravit	I greeted
servavistis	he/she/it counted
cantavimus	y'all walked

Exercise 3

Translate these Latin sentences containing a simple past tense verb into English. The first one has been done for you.

1. rex urbem delevit.

The king destroyed the city.

2. infantes fabulam audiverunt.

3. gladium portavi.

4. pater matrem salutavit.

5. villam reginae visitavimus.

Three Latin tenses

We have now met three sets of endings for Latin verbs, each of which tell us something about when the verb happened, as well as who did it.

<i>present</i>			
I	o	we	mus
you	s	y'all	tis
he/she/it	t	they	nt

<i>past continuous</i>			
I	bam	we	mus
you	bas	y'all	tis
he/she/it	bat	they	nt

<i>simple past (v+)</i>			
I	i	we	imus
you	isti	y'all	istis
he/she/it	it	they	erunt

Exercise 1

Can you sort these Latin verbs into the correct tense box? The first three have been done for you.

rogabamus ~~amabam~~ ~~vexavisti~~ sentimus
 visitas pugnatis habitavi numeravimus finivisti
 habitant amabat audiebas vexabant
 servavit ambulabatis servo salutavisti laborat
 pugnaverunt

present

sentimus

past continuous

amabam

simple past

vexavisti

Three Latin tenses

Exercise 2

Can you match up the correct English translation to the Latin verb? Make sure you match the tense correctly. The first one has been done to show you how.

pugno	→	we were destroying
celaverunt	→	I am fighting
audivit		they cried
delemus		I was fighting
delevimus		you were hearing
lacrimaverunt		I fought
pugnabam		he/she/it heard
audiebas		they hid
portavisti		you hear
delebamus		we destroy
audis		we destroyed
pugnavi		you carried

Exercise 3

Identify the tense of the verb by ticking the correct box then translate the sentence into English. The first one has been done for you.

	<i>present</i>	<i>past continuous</i>	<i>simple past</i>
1. pastor canem servavit.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<i>The shepherd saved the dog.</i>			
2. maga per silvam ambulabat.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. mater et pater in villa laborant.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. gladium celavi.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. milites ducem portaverunt.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Three Latin verbs that don't use 'v' in the simple past tense

Can you write the correct present tense Latin verb by its simple past tense equivalent (you'll find these in the box on the right) and then translate both of them? The first one has been done to show you how. Use your mini dictionaries to help if you need to.

simple past

1. dixi

translation: *I said*

2. risi

.....

3. consumpsi

.....

4. cucurri

.....

5. duxi

.....

6. feci

.....

7. scripsi

.....

8. steti

.....

9. dedi

.....

10. sensi

.....

11. ascensi

.....

12. posui

.....

13. tacui

.....

present

Latin: *dico*

translation: *I say*

Latin:

translation:.....

Latin:

translation:.....

Latin:

translation:.....

Latin:

translation:.....

Latin:

translation:.....

Latin:

translation:.....

Latin:

translation:.....

Latin:

translation:.....

Latin:

translation:.....

Latin:

translation:.....

Latin:

translation:.....

Latin:

translation:.....

sentio

sto

duco

taceo

consumo

ascendo

pono

dico

do

scribo

curro

rideo

facio

Past continuous tense – the next level

Part 1: The verb 'esse' ('to be') looks like this in the present tense...

...and like this in the past continuous.

<i>present</i>			
I am	sum	we are	sumus
you are	es	y'all are	estis
he/she/it is	est	they are	sunt

<i>past continuous</i>			
I was	eram	we were	eramus
you were	eras	y'all were	eratis
he/she/it was	erat	they were	erant

Exercise 1

For the Latin sentences below, find the part of the verb 'esse' and circle it. Next, tick the box to show whether it is past continuous or present tense. Finally, translate the sentence. The first two have been done for you.

1. paratus eram.

I was ready.

2. medici regis estis?

Y'all are the king's doctors?

3. fratres sumus.

4. mater in horto erat.

5. duces cauti sunt.

6. quieta eras.

7. sub aqua eramus.

8. fabula sororis non vera est!

9. validus sum.

10. canis et equus in campo erant.

present *past continuous*

Past continuous tense – the next level

Part 2: Sometimes, the past continuous verbs sound best translated into English as “used to” rather than ‘was ...ing.’

<i>past continuous endings</i>			
I	bam	we	bamus
you	bas	y'all	batis
he/she/it	bat	they	bant

Exercise 2

For the Latin sentences below, find the past continuous verb and circle it. Then translate the sentence using ‘used to’ rather than ‘was ...ing.’ New words are underlined and their English meanings can be found on the right hand side of the page. The first one has been done to show you how.

1. in villa matris habitabam.

I used to live in mum's house.

2. frater meus me semper vexabat.

3. in taberna nova laborabas.

4. milites cotidie pugnabant.

5. ad scholam ambulabamus.

6. tacebam sed nunc multas fabulas narro.

7. frequenter montes ascendebatis.

8. femina suaviter cantabat.

9. reges iuste non regebant.

words to help

meus my
me me
semper always

cotidie every
day

schola school

nunc now
multi many

frequenter often

suaviter sweetly,
pleasantly

iuste fairly,
justly

