



1

Iūlius

Last days at Vindolanda

## A special occasion

Now that Flavius is leaving Vindolanda, all the soldiers are taking part in a big parade: they are saying goodbye to him and to his family.







WORDS TO HELP

Nouns

- clāmōrem noise  
pompa parade  
praefectus commander

Adjectives

- agitātī excited  
laetī happy  
omnēs all, everyone  
praecipuus special

Exclamations

- ecce! look!  
euge! hooray!  
valē! goodbye!

Question word

- cūr? why?

Verbs

- appropinquat it approaches/is approaching  
audiunt they hear/are hearing  
equitat he rides/is riding  
incēdunt they march/are marching

Adverbs

- subitō suddenly  
tum then

Idioms

- aliī . . . aliī . . . some . . . others . . .  
ita vērō yes  
rem explicat explains the situation



GRASP THE GRAMMAR

The most important word in a sentence is the **verb**; it describes what **action** is happening. In Latin, the verb is normally found at the **end** of the sentence.

Look carefully at these two sentences. Can you remember what they mean?

- a Minimus pompam **spectat**.
- b Lepidīna et Iūlius pompam **spectant**.

In each sentence, the verb is in **bold**. Notice that **spectat** means “he watches/ he is watching” but **spectant** means “they watch/they are watching”.

**Latin uses different verb endings to show *who* is doing the action.**

Notice too that there is no word for “he” or “they”. The ending of the verb shows us who is doing the watching.

Here is the full set of six verb endings:

spectō	I watch/am watching	spectāmus	we watch/are watching
spectās	you watch/are watching*	spectātis	you watch/are watching**
spectat	he/she/it watches/is watching	spectant	they watch/are watching
* when “you” refers to one person ( <b>singular</b> )			
** when “you” refers to more than one person ( <b>plural</b> )			

We call this set of endings the **present** tense, because the action is happening **now**.

Here are some more **verbs**. Translate them into English, taking care to check the endings to see *who* is doing the action:

- |                 |                  |                 |
|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 1 equitat       | 5 spectat        | 9 equitant      |
| 2 appropinquant | 6 equitō         | 10 vocās        |
| 3 vocō          | 7 appropinquātis | 11 spectāmus    |
| 4 equitāmus     | 8 spectātis      | 12 appropinquās |



Try to remember those endings because then you can understand hundreds of Latin verbs!

But here’s one verb that is a bit different!



From the pictures on pages 6 and 7, try to work out the meaning of **est**, **sumus** and **sunt**.

These are all parts of the verb “to be”. This verb needs special care: it doesn’t follow the normal pattern for verbs in Latin – or in any other language in fact! It’s called an **irregular** verb.

sum	I am	sumus	we are
es	you are	estis	you are
est	he/she/it is	sunt	they are



## LATIN ROOTS

Use your knowledge of Latin to explain the underlined word in each sentence.

- 1 The Queen likes to watch equestrian events.
- 2 If you are a singer, you must look after your vocal cords.
- 3 Most football clubs now provide seating for the spectators.
- 4 In some countries, young people still do a period of military service.
- 5 Vesuvius is a dormant volcano.
- 6 Teachers sometimes use audio-visual aids in lessons.



### ROMAN REPORT

#### Uncovering the past

Flavius and his family lived at Vindolanda for about six years at the beginning of the second century AD. Trying to piece together all the evidence for their life there is rather like doing a large jigsaw puzzle.

- Archaeologists who have excavated at Vindolanda can tell us a lot about this family. They have found many interesting items that belonged to the family and to other people who lived inside and outside the Roman fort. For example, we can see Lepidina's sandals, her comb in its case and her sewing needles. These **artefacts** are displayed in the Chesterholm museum at Vindolanda.
- Every year, archaeologists dig at Vindolanda. They have found the remains of **buildings** used by the soldiers and by Flavius and his family. They have worked out the size of these buildings, including the actual house that the family lived in.
- When the family left the fort, Flavius decided to burn his personal **letters** along with the records of the fort. However, the wooden writing tablets were not completely destroyed. They were buried and when archaeologists excavated them they were able to read the messages.
- Archaeologists have also found altars and tombstones that have **inscriptions** on them. These give us valuable information about the people who lived in the fort and about their religious beliefs.



This is the type of decorative head-dress which was worn by Flavius's horse in the parade



## An important job

After the parade, Flavius gives the soldiers some surprising orders.





WORDS TO HELP

Nouns

- ancillae slave girls
- lāridum lard
- ligna logs
- rogum bonfire
- silicēs flints
- silvam forest
- tabulās writing tablets

Verbs

- ardet it burns/is burning
- colligite! collect
- currunt they run/are running
- facimus we do/are doing
- fundunt they pour/are pouring
- iactant they throw/are throwing
- nescio I don't know
- terunt they rub/are rubbing
- truncant they cut/are cutting

Pronoun

- hoc this

Adjective

- calidum hot



GRASP THE GRAMMAR

A **noun** is the name of a person, a place or a thing. Names of people and places are called **proper nouns**. They always have a capital letter, both in English and in Latin, for example Pandora, Rufus and Vindolanda. All other words in Latin begin with a small letter.

Nouns can do different jobs in a sentence. The person or thing *doing the action* is called the **subject** of the sentence; the person or thing *having the action done to them* is called the **object**. In Latin, nouns that are the **object** of a sentence have different endings.

Look at these two sentences:

- a rogus ardet. The bonfire is burning.
- b milītēs rogum cōstruunt. The soldiers build a bonfire.

In sentence **a**, the bonfire is the **subject**. In sentence **b**, it is the **object**, so it changes from **rogus** to **rogum**.

Copy out these sentences and translate them into English. Then underline the verb, both in English and in Latin. Finally, put an **s** over the **subject** and an **o** over the object. The first one is done for you.

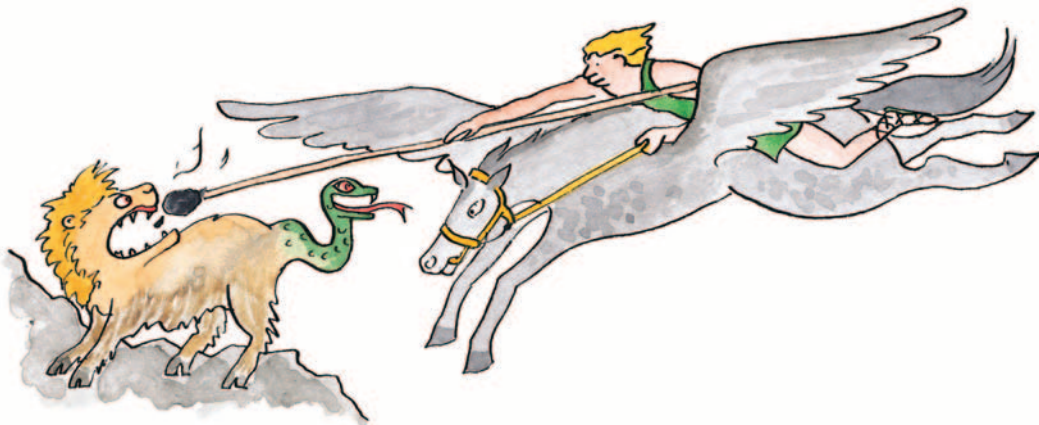
- 1 Pandōra Rūfum vocat. = Pandora calls Rufus.
- 2 Lepidīna pompam spectat.
- 3 Minimus clāmōrem audit.
- 4 Iūlius rem explicat.
- 5 Vibrissa Minimum spectat.
- 6 omnēs flammās spectant.
- 7 milītēs tabulās iactant.



Pandora decides to tell Rufus a story to cheer him up. He loved the parade with the wonderful horse so she tells him the story of another special horse.

### PEGASUS THE WONDER-HORSE

Long ago in Greece there lived a handsome hero called Bellerophon. He quarrelled with Proteus, the King of Corinth, so the King gave him some terrible tasks to do. One of these was to kill a monster called the Chimaera, a strange beast which breathed fire. It had the head of a lion, the body of a goat and a snake for a tail. It was destroying the land. Bellerophon went to sleep, wondering how he could kill such a frightening creature. While he slept, the goddess Minerva appeared and left a golden bridle by his side. When he woke up, Bellerophon saw a wonderful horse with wings. This horse was called Pegasus. With the help of the golden bridle, he mounted the horse and soared into the sky in search of the Chimaera. Once he caught sight of it he swooped down low, choked its fiery breath with lead and cut its head off. Bellerophon was so proud of his achievements that he decided to fly Pegasus up to Mount Olympus, where the gods lived. Jupiter was angry with Bellerophon for his arrogance so he sent a gadfly to sting Pegasus. Bellerophon was thrown from his horse and plummeted to earth.



Remember, the **verb** is the action word in the sentence!



And a **noun** is the name of a person, a place or a thing.

