

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-01123-5 - Grammar of the Latin Language: From Plautus to
Suetonius, Volume 2

Henry John Roby

Excerpt

[More information](#)

BOOK IV.

SYNTAX

OR

USE OF INFLEXIONAL FORMS.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-01123-5 - Grammar of the Latin Language: From Plautus to Suetonius, Volume 2

Henry John Roby

Excerpt

[More information](#)

BOOK . IV.

SYNTAX, OR USE OF INFLEXIONAL
FORMS.

SYNTAX is an account of the way in which the different parts ¹⁰⁰⁰ of speech (*i.e.* classes of words), and their different inflexional forms are employed in the formation of sentences.

CHAPTER I.

CLASSIFICATION OF WORDS.

WORDS in Latin may be divided into four classes, according as ¹⁰⁰¹ they denote, (i) a complete thought; (ii) a person, thing, or abstract notion; (iii) a relation or quality; (iv) a mere connexion of words or sentences. Words of the first two classes are, with some special exceptions, inflected; the last two are not inflected.

i. Words which express a complete thought (called in logic ¹⁰⁰² a judgment) are *finite verbs* (*i.e.* verbs in indicative, subjunctive and imperative moods); *e.g.* **dicō**, **dicis**, **dicet**, *I say, thou sayest, he says*; **dicat**, *he should say*; **dicito**, *thou shalt speak*.

ii. Words which denote persons and things and abstract notions are called nouns (*i.e.* names), and are divided into two classes, substantives and adjectives.

1. *Substantives* are such names of things, &c. as are repre- ¹⁰⁰³ sentative, not of their possessing one particular quality, but of the sum of all the qualities and relations which we conceive them to have.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-01123-5 - Grammar of the Latin Language: From Plautus to Suetonius, Volume 2

Henry John Roby

Excerpt

[More information](#)(a) *Pronoun Substantives.*

Personal Pronouns (in Latin) are names to denote the person speaking and the person spoken to; e.g. *ego, I; tu, thou.*

(b) *Noun Substantives.*

Proper nouns are names of individual persons or places; e.g. *Lucius, Lucius; Roma, Rome.*

Common nouns, or *appellatives*, are names of classes of persons or things; e.g. *victor, conqueror; aurum, gold; flos, a flower.*

Abstract nouns are names of qualities, actions, and states, considered apart from the persons or things possessing or performing them; e.g. *magnitudo, greatness; salus, health; discessus, departure.*

(c) *Infinitive mood of verbs and gerunds* are names of actions or states conceived in connexion with the persons or things performing or possessing them; e.g. *videre, to see; videndi, of seeing.*(d) Any word or phrase which is spoken of as a word or phrase only, is the name of itself; e.g. *vidit, the word vidit.* Such words are necessarily indeclinable.

2. *Adjectives* are such names of persons or things as are ¹⁰⁰⁴ expressive simply of their possessing this or that quality, or being placed in this or that relation. (See § 1060.)

(a) *Pronominal adjectives* describe by means of certain relations, chiefly those of local nearness to the person speaking, spoken to, or spoken of. They are often used instead of nouns; e.g. *meus, mine; hic, this; ille, that; qui, which.*(b) *Numeral adjectives* describe by means of number or rank; e.g. *septem, seven; septimus, seventh.* Some are indeclinable.(c) *Nominal (or noun) adjectives* describe by means of qualities; e.g. *magnus, great; salutaris, healthy.*(d) *Participles* (including *gerundive* in some uses) are verbal adjectives used to describe persons or things by means of actions done by or to them; e.g. *amans, loving; amatus, loved; amandus, that should be loved.*

iii. Words (besides oblique cases of nouns), which denote ¹⁰⁰⁵ relations or qualities of qualities or of actions, are called *adverbs*, and are indeclinable.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-01123-5 - Grammar of the Latin Language: From Plautus to Suetonius, Volume 2

Henry John Roby

Excerpt

[More information](#)

- (a) *Connective* adverbs; *i.e.* those which besides qualifying a word in their own sentence, also connect that sentence with another sentence. These are all pronominal; *e.g.* *quum*, *when*; *dum*, *whilst*; *ubi*, *where*; *ut*, *how*, *as*; *si*, *in whatever case*, *if*; *quia*, *whereas*, *because*, &c.
- (b) Other *pronominal* adverbs; *e.g.* *hic*, *here*; *tum*, *then*
- (c) *Numeral* adverbs; *e.g.* *septies*, *seven times*.
- (d) *Nominal* adverbs (of *quality*, *manner*, &c.); *e.g.* *bēne*, *well*; *clāre*, *brighly*.
- (e) *Prepositions* either express modes of actions or qualities, and in this usage are generally compounded with the verb or adjective, or give precision to the relations denoted by the case-suffixes of nouns; *e.g.* *in*, *in*; *ex*, *out*; *per*, *through*.

iv. Words which denote a mere connection (not of things, but) ¹⁰⁰⁶ of names with names, sentences with sentences, or parts of sentences with like parts, are called *conjunctions*; *e.g.* *et*, *nec*, *sed*, in the following sentences, *Cæsar et Cicero eunt et colloquuntur*, *Cæsar and Cicero go and talk together*; *Non eros nec dominos appellat eos, sed patriæ custodes, sed patres, sed deos* (C. R. P. I. 41), *He calls them not masters nor lords but guardians of their country, fathers, aye gods*.

To these four classes may be added

¹⁰⁰⁷

Interjections; which are either natural vocal sounds, expressive of sudden emotions, or abbreviated sentences; *e.g.* *O!* *heu!* *ehem!* *st!* *medius fidius*, *upon my word*.

CHAPTER II.

PARTS OF A SIMPLE SENTENCE, AND USE OF THE PARTS OF SPEECH.

i. ELEMENTS OF A SENTENCE.

WHEN we speak we either *name* a person or thing, or we *declare* ¹⁰⁰⁸ something of a person or thing.

The name of a person or thing is expressed by a *substantive*.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-01123-5 - Grammar of the Latin Language: From Plautus to Suetonius, Volume 2

Henry John Roby

Excerpt

[More information](#)

A complete thought always contains more than the name, for it declares something of the person or thing named. Every complete thought (called in Grammar a *sentence*) contains at least two ideas, viz.

1. The person or thing of which we speak, called the *Subject*.
2. Our declaration respecting it, called the *Predicate*.

A complete thought may be expressed most simply in Latin ¹⁰⁰⁹ either (a) by a finite verb, or (b) by two nouns.

(a) A finite verb contains in its personal suffixes the subject, in its stem the predicate; e.g. *curr-it, he (she, it) runs*; *plu-it, it rains*; *ama-mus, we love*; etc.

(b) When the thought is expressed by two nouns only, the sentence will contain a substantive (or substantively used adjective), in the nominative case, for the subject, and either a substantive or an adjective for the predicate. Of two substantives it is, apart from the context, indifferent which is considered as the subject, but usually the least general name will be the subject: e.g. *Julius fortis, Julius is brave*; *Julius consul, Julius is the Consul, or, the Consul is Julius*.

The junction of the two ideas, i.e. the predication itself (called ¹⁰¹⁰ in logic the *copula*), is not expressed by any separate word, but (a) is implied in the indissoluble junction of the stem and personal suffixes in the finite verb; or (b) is inferred from the close sequence of the two names.

Both these simple forms of sentences are liable to be ambiguous: viz:

(a) The personal suffixes of a finite verb are often insufficient ¹⁰¹¹ to define the subject, especially when the subject is of the third person. For the purpose of further definition, a substantive in the nominative case is often expressed with it, and the verb may then be regarded as containing only the predicate; e.g. *Equus currit, the horse runs* (properly *horse run-he*¹).

(b) The relation of two nouns to each other is also ambiguous. ¹⁰¹² The adjective or second substantive may be used, not to assert a connexion (i.e. as a *predicate*), but to denote an already known or assumed connexion (i.e. as an *attribute*), of the person or thing named by the first substantive with the quality named by the second substantive or the adjective. To remedy this ambiguity, some part of the verb stem is generally used (except in animated

¹ More strictly perhaps (if we may regard the *o* stems as properly masculine, and notice the nominative suffix) *horse-he run-he*.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-01123-5 - Grammar of the Latin Language: From Plautus to Suetonius, Volume 2

Henry John Roby

Excerpt

[More information](#)

language) to mark the fact of a predication, and then (usually but not necessarily) means little more than the logical copula, e.g. **Julius est consul**, *Julius (he) is consul*.

A finite verb, when its subject is expressed by a separate word, ¹⁰¹³ is put in the same person, and, as a rule, in the same number, as its subject. (See § 1433 sqq.)

(The distinctions of mood tense and voice do not concern the analysis of the simple sentence.)

Any substantive (§ 1003) may be used as a subject. The subject ¹⁰¹⁴ of a sentence is, if declinable, in the nominative case; but the relation of subject and predicate may exist also between words in oblique cases.

A noun, whether used as an attribute or predicate, is put in the same case, if it denote the same person or thing, as the substantive to which it is attributed, or the subject of which it is predicated.

(Pronouns and participles follow the same rule as nouns, and will therefore, unless separately mentioned, be included here under the term *noun*. Adjectives used otherwise than as attributes or predicates of a substantive will be included under the term *substantive*.)

ii. Of Attributes.

If a substantive by itself does not express the full name or defini- ¹⁰¹⁵ tion which we wish to give of a person or thing, a word or expression is added, called an *attribute*¹ of the substantive. The simplest forms of attributes are nouns, denoting the same person or thing, as the substantive of which they are attributes. An attribute may be

(a) A substantive (often said to be in *apposition*); e.g. **Caïus Julius Cæsar**; **Julio consuli credidi**, *I believed the consul Julius*.

(b) An adjective; e.g. **hæc res** 'this thing'; **fortem consulem vidi**, *I saw the brave consul*. This is the normal use of the adjective, the adjectival suffixes, like the personal suffixes of the finite verb, acquiring further definition by the accompaniment of a substantive.

(c) For the use of other words or expressions as attributes, see below (§ 1017 e).

¹ Whether in any given sentence a word or expression is an attribute and intended merely to aid in identifying the subject, or is a predicate and intended to give fresh information about it, may be sometimes doubtful. Latin has no mark to distinguish these uses. In Greek an attribute has the article prefixed, a secondary predicate has not.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-01123-5 - Grammar of the Latin Language: From Plautus to Suetonius, Volume 2

Henry John Roby

Excerpt

[More information](#)

iii. Of Predicates.

A predicate¹ is either *primary* or *secondary*, and each of these is either *direct* or *oblique*. A predicate is *direct*, if its subject is in the nominative case; *oblique*, if its subject is in an oblique case. It is *primary*, if predicated immediately of the subject; *secondary*, if predicated only through, or in connexion with, a primary predicate.

A finite verb always contains a primary direct predication; and is never used otherwise (except 1003 *d*).

A noun or infinitive mood may be a primary or secondary, direct or oblique, predicate.

(*a*) As *primary* predicate some form of the verb is usual, and chiefly the finite verb; but a past participle or gerundive is not uncommon: a noun or pronoun is comparatively rare. (For the infinitive see § 1359). *e.g.*

Invadunt hostes: Romani fugere: occisus Marcellus. Hæc nuntianda.

The distinction of the use of a noun as a primary predicate from its use as a secondary predicate with the verb of *being* (see next paragraph) is practically so unimportant, that the term *secondary predicate* will often be used to cover both.

(*b*) A *secondary* predicate is often added to a verb of indeterminate meaning (*e.g.* a verb of *being, becoming, naming, &c.*) to complete, as it were, the predication: *e.g.*

Dux fuit Julius. Occisus est Marcellus. Hæc sunt nuntianda.

Liberati videbamus. Galus dicitur advenire. Cæsar imperator appellatur (or appellatus, or appellari).

(*c*) A secondary predicate is often employed to denote the character in which, or circumstances under which, a person or thing acts, or is acted on. (Such a secondary predicate might, if it needed distinction from the preceding class, be called a *subpredicate*. It is often called an *apposition*, or *adverbial apposition*.)

Hannibal peto pacem, It is Hannibal who now asks for peace.

Primus Marcum vidisti, You are the first that has seen Marcus.

Senex scribere institui, I was an old man when I began to write.

Neque loquens es, neque tacens, umquam bonus. (Pl. Rud. 1116.)

Cæsar legatus mittitur (or missus or mitti).

¹ It is convenient sometimes to regard the whole of the sentence as divisible into two parts only: in this view the grammatical subject with all its attributes, &c. is the (logical) subject; the rest of the sentence is the (logical) predicate.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-01123-5 - Grammar of the Latin Language: From Plautus to Suetonius, Volume 2

Henry John Roby

Excerpt

[More information](#)

(d) Oblique predicates are usually in sentences containing a finite verb. The following contain *primary oblique* predicates.

Dicit Romanos fugere. *He says the Romans are fleeing (speaks of the Romans as fleeing).* **Fama est Romanos fugere.**

Minabar me abiturum. Minantur puellæ se abituras.

Te heredem fecit. Quem te appellem? Marcum primum vidisti.

Advenienti sorori librum dedit. *He gave the book to his sister as she was coming up.*

Ante Ciceronem consulem interit. *He died before Cicero was consul.*

Capta urbe rediit. Pudor vos non latī auxilii cepit (§ 1409).

Testes egregios! (§ 1128). **At te ægrotare!** (§ 1358).

(e) An infinitive, when used either as (1) predicate or (2) object, &c. is often accompanied by a noun or other predicate; e.g.

(1) **Cæsarem dico appellari** (or **appellatum esse**) **imperatorem.**

Cæsar dicitur appellari (or **appellatus esse**) **imperator.**

Fertur ille consules reliquisse, invitus invitos.

Spero vos in urbem triumphantes ingressuros esse.

(2) **Cæsar bonus esse** (or **haberi**) **cupit.**

Cogito iter facere armatus. Licuit esse otioso Themistocli.

Movit me vir, cujus fugientis comes, rempublicam recuperantis socius, videor esse debere. (C. Att. 8. 14.)

(f) Participles are (sometimes attributes, but) usually predicates to some substantive in the sentence, and are thus the means of combining into one sentence several subordinate predications: e.g.

Venit iste cum sago, gladio succinctus, tenens jaculum; illi, nescio quid incipienti dicere, gladium in latere defixit. (Corn. 4. 52.)

Hæc taliaque vociferantes, adversarium haud imparē nacti sunt App. Claudium, relictum a collegis ad tribunicias seditiones comprimendas. (L. 5. 2.)

Consul nuntio circumventi fratris conversus ad pugnam, vulnere accepto, ægre ab circumstantibus ereptus, et suorum animos turbavit et ferociores hostes fecit. (L. 3. 5.)

In these sentences all the participles (except *circumstantibus*), as well as *adversarium*, *haud imparē*, and *ferociores*, are predicates.

iv. Of the use of oblique cases and adverbs.

1. If a verb by itself, or with a secondary predicate, does not¹⁰¹³ express all that we wish to declare of a person or thing by that sentence, additions may be made of various kinds; viz.

(a) If the verb express an action conceived as in immediate connexion with some person or thing upon which it is exercised, or

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-01123-5 - Grammar of the Latin Language: From Plautus to Suetonius, Volume 2

Henry John Roby

Excerpt

[More information](#)10 *Use of oblique cases and adverbs.* [Book IV.]

to which it gives rise, a substantive in the accusative case may be added to denote such person or thing. This is called the *object* (or *direct* or *immediate object*); e.g. *amicos fugiunt*; *Cæsar librum teneat*; *carmina fingo*. If the object be itself an action, it is usually expressed by an infinitive mood; e.g. *cupio discere*.

(b) If the verb express an action or fact indirectly affecting a person (or, less frequently, a thing), who is not the subject or direct object, a substantive, in the dative case, may be added to express such an *indirect* (or *remoter*) *object*. Some (*i.e.* intransitive) verbs admit this indirect object only: many verbs admit of both a direct and indirect object: e.g. *Placet oratio tibi*, *The speech is pleasing to you*; *hoc fratri facite*, *Do this for your brother*; *liber Cæsari datur*.

(c) Some verbs have what may be called a *secondary* object in the genitive case: if transitive, they have also usually a direct (frequently personal) object: e.g. *Accuso te furti*, *I accuse thee of theft*; *cadum vini implet*, *He fills the cask with (makes it full of) wine*; *miserescite patris*, *Have pity on your father*.

(d) A verb may be further qualified by adding oblique cases of substantives (with or without prepositions), or adverbs, to denote the *place*, *time*, *value*, *means*, *manner*, *cause*, &c. at, in, by, from, &c. which the action is done or state exists: e.g. *Fui annum Capuæ*, *I was a year at Capua*; *litteras abs te Balbus ad me attulit vesperi*; *magni hoc æstimo*, *I value this at a large sum*; *ardet dolore*.

The infinitive mood and the participles admit the same qualifications as finite verbs.

2. Oblique cases of substantives (with or without prepositions), and adverbs, when they qualify (a) the verb of *being* and other verbs of similarly colourless meaning, have often the same effect as a secondary predicate. They are rarely used predicatively without a verb. But they are also used to qualify (b) substantives attributively, and (c) adjectives, and sometimes (d) adverbs.

(Such words do not (like those in § 1015) denote the same person or thing as the word of which they are predicates or attributes; and the maintenance of their own special case is necessary to give them the requisite meaning.) e.g.

- (a) *Cæsaris est* (or *vocatur*) *gladius*, *The sword is (is called) Cæsar's*.¹⁰¹⁹
Scio hoc laudi esse mihi. *Præstanti prudentia est*. *In me odium est tuum*. *Sic est vita hominum*. *Frustra es*.
- (b) *Cæsaris gladius*. *Cupiditate triumphis ardebam*. *Aliquid læti*.
 (This use as attribute is the most common use of the genitive.)
Decemviri legibus scribendis. *Vir præstanti prudentia*. *In me odium*. *Omnes circa civitates*.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-01123-5 - Grammar of the Latin Language: From Plautus to Suetonius, Volume 2

Henry John Roby

Excerpt

[More information](#)*Chap. II.] Of coordination in a simple sentence. 11*

- (c) **Maximus regum : cupidus triumphi. Arti cullibet idoneus. Tanto major, (by) so much greater; splendidior vitro, brighter than glass. Ex composito hilaris. Valde utilis. Aliquando lætus.**
- (d) **Maximè omnium. Convenienter naturæ. Tanto magis. In dies magis. Pæne pedetemptim.**

v. Of coordination by conjunctions and otherwise.

(a) Conjunctions and connective adverbs of manner (*e.g.* ¹⁰²¹ *quam, ut*), when used to unite words or phrases, unite those only which are *coordinate* to one another, *i.e.* which fulfil the same function in the sentence; *e.g.* two objects, two attributes, two adverbial qualifications; &c. *e.g.*

Romani ac socii veniunt. Nec regem nec reginam vidi.

Illine credam an tibi? Bella fortius quam felicius geris.

Tibi cum meam salutem, tum omnium horum debeo.

Cum omnibus potius quam soli perire voluerunt. (C. Cat. 4. 7.)

Tu mihi videris Epicharmi, acuti nec insulsi hominis, ut Siculi, sententiam sequi. (C. T. D. 1. 18.)

(b) Coordinate words are often put simply side by side, without any conjunction: sometimes another word is repeated with each: (cf. § 1439—1441); *e.g.*

Veios, Fidenas, Collatiam, Ariciam, Tusculum cum Calibus, Teano, Neapoli, Puteolis, Nuceria comparabunt. (C. Agr. 2. 35.)

Nihil vos civibus, nihil sociis, nihil regibus respondistis; nihil iudices sententia, nihil populus suffragiis, nihil hic ordo auctoritate declaravit; mutum forum, elinguem curiam, tacitam et fractam civitatem videbatis. (C. Or. p. red. in Sen. 3.)

(c) An answer, when not framed as an independent sentence, is often made in words coordinate to the pertinent part of the question: *e.g.* **Quis librum dedit? Cicero. Cui? Bruto. Quem? Tusculanas Disputationes. Ubi? In Tusculano.**

vi. Of fragmentary or interjectional expressions.

A noun or infinitive mood is sometimes used (*a*) as subject without a predicate expressed, or (*b*) as predicate without a subject expressed; or (*c*) as a mere address. Similarly (*d*) adverbs and interjections.

(a) **Quid, si adeo? Agendum; eundum. (§ 1399.) Malum (§ 1081). Tantum laborem capere ob talem filium! (Ter. Andr. 870.)**

(b) **Mirum ni hic miles est. (§ 1757.) Factum (in answers § 2254).**

(c) **Audi, Cæsar. Tibi, Marce, loquor. (§ 1082.)**

(d) **Bene mihi, bene amicæ meæ. (Pl. Pers. 775.) Hei mihi.**