

Essential Latin Grammar

——
Bennett's Grammar Revised



Anne Mahoney

Essential Latin Grammar



Bennett's Grammar Revised

Anne Mahoney

Focus Publishing
R. Pullins Company
PO Box 369
Newburyport, MA 01950
www.pullins.com

Copyright © 2007 Anne Mahoney

paperback

ISBN 10: 1-58510-244-x

ISBN 978-1-58510-244-0

hardcover

ISBN 10: 1-58510-274-1

ISBN 978-1-58510-274-7

This book is published by Focus Publishing/R Pullins Company, PO Box 369, Newburyport MA 01950. All rights are reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, produced on stage or otherwise performed, transmitted by any means, electronic, mechanical, by photocopying, recording, or by any other media or means without the prior written permission of the publisher.

Printed in the United States of America

1 0 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

0307TS

Preface to the Focus Edition

Bennett's *New Latin Grammar* has been a standard introductory grammar for many years. For this edition, I have updated the sections on the Indo-European language family and on Latin meter, and added a brief bibliography; I have also re-organized the index of sources to make it easier to find references to a particular text. Bennett's grammar is not as detailed as those of Allen and Greenough, Gildersleeve, Hale and Buck, or (for syntax) Woodcock, making it suitable for intermediate-level students.

Charles E. Bennett (1858-1921) spent most of his career as professor of Latin at Cornell University. In addition to the *New Latin Grammar*, he produced several commentaries on Latin authors, articles on Latin grammar, and textbooks.

He was a member of the Committee on Academic Freedom and Academic Tenure of the American Association of University Professors in 1915, and one of the original signatories of the AAUP's Declaration of Principles which helped shape the modern system of tenure in American universities.

The *New Latin Grammar* is one of a series of Latin grammars written by American scholars in the later 19th and early 20th centuries, incorporating the latest knowledge about Indo-European linguistics and the latest ways of thinking about syntax. Nearly one hundred years later, the main outlines of Bennett's approach are still sound; for this reason, the present edition has been only lightly revised.

Boston, September 2006

Preface

The present work is a revision of that published in 1908. No radical alterations have been introduced, although a number of minor changes will be noted. I have added an Introduction on the origin and development of the Latin language, which it is hoped will prove interesting and instructive to the more ambitious pupil. At the end of the book will be found an Index to the Sources of the Illustrative Examples cited in the Syntax.

C.E.B.
Ithaca, New York,
May 4, 1918

Preface to the Second Edition

The present book is a revision of my *Latin Grammar* originally published in 1895. Wherever greater accuracy or precision of statement seemed possible, I have endeavored to secure this. The rules for syllable division have been changed and made to conform to the prevailing practice of the Romans themselves. In the Perfect Subjunctive Active, the endings *-īs, -īmus, -ītis* are now marked long. The theory of vowel length before the suffixes **-gnus, -gna, -gnum**, and also before **j**, has been discarded. In the Syntax I have recognized a special category of Ablative of Association, and have abandoned the original doctrine as to the force of tenses in the Prohibitive.

Apart from the foregoing, only minor and unessential modifications have been introduced. In its main lines the work remains unchanged.

Ithaca, New York,
October 16, 1907.

From the Preface to the First Edition

The object of this book is to present *the essential facts* of Latin grammar in a direct and simple manner, and within the smallest compass consistent with scholarly standards. While intended primarily for the secondary school, it has not neglected the needs of the college student, and aims to furnish such grammatical information as is ordinarily required in undergraduate courses.

The experience of foreign educators in recent years has tended to restrict the size of school-grammars of Latin, and has demanded an incorporation of the main principles of the language in compact manuals of 250 pages. Within the past decade, several grammars of this scope have appeared abroad which have amply met the most exacting demands.

The publication in this country of a grammar of similar plan and scope seems fully justified at the present time, as all recent editions of classic texts summarize in introductions the special idioms of grammar and style peculiar to individual authors. This makes it feasible to dispense with the enumeration of many *minutiae* of usage which would otherwise demand consideration in a student's grammar.

In the chapter on Prosody, I have designedly omitted all special treatment of the lyric metres of Horace and Catullus, as well as of the measures of the comic poets. Our standard editions of these authors all give such thorough consideration to versification that repetition in a separate place seems superfluous.

Ithaca, New York,
December 15, 1894.

Contents

Preface	i	Part III: Particles	107
Introduction	v	Adverbs	107
Part I:		Prepositions	107
Sounds, Accent, Quantity	1	Part IV: Word-Formation	111
The Alphabet	1	Derivatives	111
Classification of Sounds	1	Nouns	111
Sounds of the Letters	2	Adjectives	113
Syllables	4	Verbs	115
Quantity	4	Adverbs	116
Accent	6	Compounds	117
Vowel Changes	6	Part V: Syntax	119
Consonant Changes	7	Sentences	119
Peculiarities of Spelling	8	Classification of Sentences	119
Part II: Inflections	9	Form of Interrogative	
Declension	9	Sentences	119
Nouns	9	Subject and Predicate	121
Adjectives	32	Simple and Compound	
Pronouns	48	Sentences	121
Conjugation	54	Syntax of Nouns	122
Verb Stems	54	Subject	122
The Four Conjugations	55	Predicate Nouns	122
Conjugation of <i>Sum</i>	56	Appositives	123
First (or <i>ā-</i>) Conjugation	58	The Cases	124
Second (or <i>ē-</i>) Conjugation	62	Syntax of Adjectives	157
Third (or Consonant-)		Agreement of Adjectives	157
Conjugation	66	Adjectives Used	
Fourth (or <i>i-</i>) Conjugation	70	Substantively	159
Verbs in <i>-iō</i> of the Third		Adjectives with the	
Conjugation	74	Force of Adverbs	160
Deponent Verbs	77	Comparatives and	
Semi-Deponents	78	Superlatives	160
Periphrastic Tenses	79	Other Special Uses	161
Peculiarities of Conjugation	80	Syntax of Pronouns	161
Formation of the Verb Stems	81	Personal Pronouns	161
List of the Most Important		Possessive Pronouns	162
Verbs, with Principal Parts	84	Reflexive Pronouns	163
Irregular Verbs	94	Reciprocal Pronouns	164
Defective Verbs	103	Demonstrative Pronouns	164
Impersonal Verbs	105	Relative Pronouns	166

Indefinite Pronouns	168	Part VI: Prosody	251
Pronominal Adjectives	170	Quantity of Vowels and	
Syntax of Verbs	171	Syllables	251
Agreement	171	Verse Structure	254
Voices	172	General Principles	254
Tenses	173	Special Peculiarities	256
Tenses of the Subjunctive	177	The Dactylic Hexameter	257
Tenses of the Infinitive	181	The Elegiac Couplet	258
Moods	182	Iambic Verse Forms	258
Indirect Discourse		Part VII: Supplements	261
(<i>Ōrātiō Obliqua</i>)	215	Julian Calendar	261
Noun and Adjective		Proper Names	263
Particles	233	Figures of Syntax and	
Coördinate Conjunctions	233	Rhetoric	264
Adverbs	237	Abbreviations Used in the	
Word Order and Sentence		Illustrative Examples	267
Structure	238	Index of the Sources of the	
Sentence Structure	242	Illustrative Examples	
Hints on Latin Style	244	Cited in the Syntax	269
Nouns	244	Index to the Principal Parts	
Adjectives	246	of the Most Important Verbs	272
Pronouns	247	General Index	275
Verbs	247		
Special Uses of the			
Accusative	249		
Special Uses of the Dative	249		
Special Uses of the Genitive	250		

Introduction: The Latin Language

1. The Indo-European Family of Languages.—Latin belongs to one group of a large family of languages, known as *Indo-European*.¹ This Indo-European family of languages embraces the following groups:

Asiatic Members of the Indo-European Family

a. Anatolian, spoken in Asia Minor, modern Turkey. Hittite dates from the latter half of the second millennium B.C and may be as early as 2000 B.C. Luvian, which dates to the fourteenth century B.C. or earlier, may be the language spoken by the Trojans. Languages of this group were written in either cuneiform² or hieroglyphics (not the same, however, as Egyptian hieroglyphics).

b. Indic, spoken in ancient India. Of this there were several stages, the oldest of which is Vedic Sanskrit, the language of the Vedic Hymns. These Hymns are the oldest significant literary productions known to us among all the branches of the Indo-European family. A conservative estimate places them as far back as 1500 B.C. Some scholars have even set them more than a thousand years earlier than this, *i.e.* anterior to 2500 B.C. Classical Sanskrit is the language of the great epics of India as well as a large variety of other literature. Languages of this family have always continued to be spoken in India; the group is represented today by Hindi, Urdu, Bengali, and many other languages descended from the ancient Sanskrit, and spoken by millions of people.

c. Iranian, spoken in ancient Persia, and closely related to Sanskrit. There were two main branches of the Iranian group: the Old Persian and the Avestan. Old Persian was the official language of the court, and appears in a number of cuneiform inscriptions, the earliest of which date from the time of Darius I (sixth century B.C.). The other branch of the Iranian family, Avestan, sometimes called Zend, is the language of the Avesta or sacred books of the Parsees, the followers of Zoroaster,

1 In the past the family was sometimes also called *Aryan* or *Indo-Germanic*.

2 Cuneiform means “wedge-shaped.” The name applies to the form of the strokes the characters are made from, produced by the end of a reed pushed into wet clay.

founder of the religion of the fire-worshippers. Portions of these sacred books may have been composed as early as 1000 B.C.

Modern Persian, also called Farsi, is a living representative of the old Iranian speech. It has naturally been much modified by time, particularly through the introduction of many words from the Arabic.

d. Armenian. spoken in Armenia, the district near the Black Sea and Caucasus Mountains. This is closely related to Iranian, and was formerly classified under that group. It is now recognized as entitled to independent rank. The earliest literary productions of the Armenian language date from the fourth and fifth centuries of the Christian era. To this period belong the translation of the Scriptures and the old Armenian Chronicle. Armenian is still a living language, though spoken in widely separated districts, owing to the scattered locations in which the Armenians are found today.

e. Tokharian. This language, discovered in the early twentieth century and quickly recognized as Indo-European, was spoken in the districts east of the Caspian Sea (modern Turkestan). While in some respects closely related to the three Asiatic branches of the Indo-European family already considered, in others it shows close relationship to the European members of the family. The literature of the Tokharian, so far as it has been brought to light, consists mainly of translations from the Sanskrit sacred writings, and dates from the sixth to eighth centuries of our era.

European Members of the Indo-European Family

f. Greek. The Greeks had apparently long been settled in Greece and Asia Minor as far back as 1500 B.C. Probably they arrived in these districts much earlier. The earliest literary productions are the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*, traditionally attributed to Homer, which very likely go back to the ninth century B.C. From the sixth century B.C. on, Greek literature is continuous. Modern Greek, when we consider its distance in time from antiquity, is remarkably similar to the classical Greek of the fourth and fifth centuries B.C.

g. Italic. The Italic Group embraces Umbrian, spoken in the northern part of the Italian peninsula (in ancient Umbria); Latin, spoken in the central part (in Latium); Oscan, spoken in the southern part (in Samnium, Campania, Lucania, etc.). Besides these, there were a number of minor dialects, such as Marsian, Volscian, etc. Of all these (barring Latin), there are no remains except a few scanty inscriptions. Latin literature begins shortly after 250 B.C. in the works of Livius Andronicus, Naevius, and Plautus, although a few brief inscriptions are found belonging to a much earlier period. Note that Italic and Greek are sister branches of the family: Latin is not in any sense descended from

Dative of Reference

1888

1. The Dative of Reference denotes the person *to whom a statement refers, of whom it is true, or to whom it is of interest*; as,—

mihi ante oculōs versāris, *you hover before my eyes* (lit. *hover before the eyes to me*) (Verr. v.123);

illī sevērītās amōrem nōn dēminuit, *in his case severity did not diminish love* (lit. *to him severity did not diminish*) (Tac. Ag. 9);

interclūdere inimicīs commeātum, *to cut of the supplies of the enemy* (Pl. M.G. 223).

- a) Note the phrase **alicui interdīcere aquā et ignī**, *to interdict one from fire and water*.

NOTE—The Dative of Reference, unlike the Dative of Indirect Object, does not modify the verb, but rather the sentence as a whole. It is often used where, according to the English idiom, we should expect a Genitive; so in the first and third of the above examples.

2. Special varieties of the Dative of Reference are—

- a) **Dative of the Local Standpoint**. This is regularly a participle; as,—

oppidum primum Thessaliae venientibus ab Ēpirō, *the first town of Thessaly as you come from Epirus* (lit. *to those coming from Epirus*) (B.C. iii.80)

- b) **Ethical Dative**. This name is given to those Dative constructions of the personal pronouns in which the connection of the Dative with the rest of the sentence is of the very slightest sort; as,—

tū mihi istius audāciam dēfendis? *tell me, do you defend that man's audacity?* (Verr. iii.213)

quid mihi Celsus agit? *what is my Celsus doing?* (Hor. Epp. i.3.15)

- c) **Dative of Person Judging**; as,—

erit ille mihi semper deus, *he will always be a god to me* (i.e. in my opinion) (Ecl. i.7)

quae ista servitūs tam clāro hominī, *how can that be slavery to so illustrious a man* (i.e. to his mind!) (Par. 41)

- d) **Dative of Separation.** Some verbs of *taking away*, especially compounds of **ab**, **dē**, **ex**, **ad**, govern a Dative of the person, less often of the thing; as,—

honōrem dētrāxērunt hominī, *they took away the honor from the man* (Verr. iv.25)

Caesar rēgī tetrarchiam ēripuit, *Caesar took the tetrarchy away from the king* (Div. ii.79)

silicī scintillam excūdit, *he struck a spark from the flint* (Aen. i.174)

Dative of Agency

189 The Dative is used to denote *agency*—

1. Regularly with the Gerundive; as,—

haec nōbīs agenda sunt, *these things must be done by us*
mihi eundum est, *I must go* (lit. *it must be gone by me*)

- a) To avoid ambiguity, **ā** with the Ablative is sometimes used with the Gerundive; as,—

hostibus ā nōbīs parcendum est, *the enemy must be spared by us.*

2. Much less frequently with the compound tenses of the passive voice and the perfect passive participle; as,—

disputātiō quae mihi nūper habita est, *the discussion which was recently conducted by me* (Tusc. Disp. ii.2).

3. Rarely with the uncompounded tenses of the passive; as,—

honestā bonīs virīs quaeruntur, *noble ends are sought by good men* (Off. iii.38).

Dative of Possession

190 The Dative of Possession occurs with the verb **esse** in such expressions as:—

mihi est liber, *I have a book*

mihi nōmen est Mārcus, *I have the name Marcus.*

1. But with **nōmen est** the name is more commonly attracted into the Dative; as, **mihi Mārcō nōmen est.**

Dative of Purpose or Tendency

191 The Dative of Purpose or Tendency designates *the end toward which an action is directed or the direction in which it tends.* It is used—

1. Unaccompanied by another Dative; as,—

castrīs locum dēligere, *to choose a place for a camp*
(B.G. vii.16)

legiōnēs praesidiō relinquere, *to leave the legions as a guard* (lit. *for a guard*) (B.C. ii.22)

receptū canere, *to sound the signal for a retreat* (B.G. vii.47).
2. Much more frequently in connection with another Dative of the person:—
 - a) Especially with some form of esse; as,—

fortūnae tuae mihi cūrae sunt, *your fortunes are a care to me* (lit. *for a care*) (Fam. vi.5.1)

quibus sunt odiō, *to whom they are an object of hatred* (Flac. 19)

cui bonō? *to whom is it of advantage?*
 - b) With other verbs; as,—

hōs tibi mūnerī mīsīt, *he has sent these to you for a present* (Nep. Paus. 2)

Pausaniās Atticīs vēnit auxiliō, *Pausanias came to the aid of the Athenians* (lit. *to the Athenians for aid*).
3. In connection with the Gerundive; as,—

decemvirī lēgibus scribundīs, *decemvirs for codifying the laws*

mē gerendō bellō ducem creāvēre, *me they have made leader for carrying on the war* (Liv. i.23)

NOTE—This construction with the gerundive is not common till Livy.

Dative with Adjectives

192 The use of the Dative with Adjectives corresponds very closely to its use with verbs. Thus:—

1. Corresponding to the Dative of Indirect Object it occurs with adjectives signifying: *friendly, unfriendly, similar, dissimilar, equal, near, related to, etc.*; as,—

mihi inimicus, *hostile to me*

sunt proximī Germānis, *they are next to the Germans*

noxiae poena pār estō, *let the penalty be equal to the damage* (Leg. iii.11)

- a) For **propior** and **proximus** with the Accusative, see § 141, 3.
2. Corresponding to the Dative of Purpose, the Dative occurs with adjectives signifying: *suitable, adapted, fit*; as,—
castrīs idōneus locus, *a place fit for a camp*
apta diēs sacrificiō, *a day suitable for a sacrifice*

NOTE—Adjectives of this last class often take the Accusative with **ad**.

Dative of Direction

193 In the poets the Dative is occasionally used to denote the *direction of motion*; as,—

it clāmor caelō, *the shout goes heavenward* (*Aen.* v.451)
cinerēs rīvō fluentī jace, *cast the ashes toward a flowing stream*

1. By an extension of this construction the poets sometimes use the Dative to denote the *limit of motion*; as,—

dum Latiō deōs inferret, *till he should bring his gods to Latium* (*Aen.* i.6)

The Genitive

194 The Genitive is used with Nouns, Adjectives, and Verbs.

Genitive with Nouns

195 With Nouns the Genitive is *the case which defines the meaning of the limited noun more closely*. This relation is generally indicated in English by the preposition **of**. There are the following varieties of the Genitive with Nouns:—

Genitive of Origin	Objective Genitive
Genitive of Material	Genitive of the Whole
Genitive of Possession	Appositional Genitive
Subjective Genitive	Genitive of Quality

196 **Genitive of Origin**; as,—

Mārcī filius, *the son of Marcus*

197 **Genitive of Material**; as,—

talentum aurī, *a talent of gold*
acervus frūmentī, *a pile of grain*



Anne Mahoney is Lecturer in Classics at Tufts University. She is the author of a commentary on Plautus' *Amphitryo*, published by Focus, and of articles and reviews on Latin and Greek poetry. Her PhD is from Boston University.

For the complete list of titles available from Focus Publishing, additional student materials, and online ordering, visit www.pullins.com.

Focus Publishing
R. Pullins Company
PO Box 369
Newburyport, MA 01950
www.pullins.com

ISBN 978-1-58510-244-0



9 781585 102440