

LATIN GRAMMAR I

Wheelock 18: 1st & 2nd Conj Present-System Passive, Abl of Agent

1. Passive Voice: The “voice” of a verb has to do with how the S relates to the verbal activity. We have been learning active voice so far: the S performs the action (if the verb is dynamic/fientive). Passive voice verbs: the S is affected by or acted upon with respect to the verbal activity.

Active: Subject → Agent (the doer)

Cicero wrote the speeches.

Passive: Subject → Patient (acted upon)

The speeches were written by Cicero.

1.1. The “Present-System”: Reminder, what Wheelock calls the “present system” is the set of verb tenses that employ the “Present Stem” of the verb (the Present, Imperfect, and Future tenses). Note: the Present Stem is found by taking the Infinitive (2nd princ part), and dropping the –re from the end. If the stem vowel (the vowel at the end of the verb stem) is ā, then the verb is going to follow the 1st conjugation. If the stem vowel is ē, then the verb follows the 2nd conjugation.

1.2. In this chapter, we are focusing on these two conjugations (1st and 2nd), and how to form passive verbs in the Pres (I am/am being killed), Impf (I was being killed), and Fut (I will be killed) tenses.

PERSON	PASSIVE PERS END- INGS	PRESENT 1 ST CONJ laudō/ laudāre	PRESENT 2 RD CONJ moneō/ monēre	ENGLISH GLOSS
1S	–r	laud–or	monē–or	I am (being) praised, warned
2S	–ris	laudā–ris	monē–ris	you are (being) praised, warned
3S	–tur	laudā–tur	monē–tur	(s)he/it is (being) praised, warned
1P	–mur	laudā–mur	monē–mur	we are (being) praised, warned
2P	–minī	laudā–minī	monē–minī	you are (being) praised, warned
3P	–ntur	lauda–ntur	mone–ntur	they are (being) praised, warned

PERSON	IMPERFECT 1 ST CONJ laudō/ laudāre I was (being) praised	IMPERFECT 2 RD CONJ moneō/ monēre I was (being) warned	FUTURE 1 ST CONJ laudō/ laudāre I will be praised	FUTURE 2 RD CONJ moneō/ monēre I will be warned
1s	laudā–ba–r	monē–ba–r	laudā–b–or	monē–b–or
2s	laudā–bā–ris	monē–bā–ris	laudā–be–ris	monē–be–ris
3s	laudā–bā–tur	monē–bā–tur	laudā–bi–tur	monē–bi–tur
1p	laudā–bā–mur	monē–bā–mur	laudā–bi–mur	monē–bi–mur
2p	laudā–bā–minī	monē–bā–minī	laudā–bi–minī	monē–bi–minī
3p	laudā–ba–ntur	monē–ba–ntur	laudā–bu–ntur	monē–bu–ntur

PRES PASS INFIN 1ST CONJ OF laudāre	PRES PASS INFIN 2ND CONJ OF monēre	ENGLISH GLOSS to praise, to warn
laudārī	monērī	to be praised, to be warned

Exx.:

Caesarem admonet.	He warns Caesar.
Caesar admonētur.	Caesar is (being) warned.
Urbem delēbant.	They were destroying the city.
Urbs delēbātur.	The city was being destroyed.
Patriam cōservābit.	He will save the country.
Patria cōservābitur.	The country will be saved.

2. Ablative Of Personal Agent

- The personal agent by whom the action of a passive verb is performed is indicated by ā/ab and the ABLATIVE OF AGENT.
- The means by which the action is accomplished is indicated by the ABLATIVE OF MEANS, without a preposition.

Exx:

Dī Caesarem admonent.	The gods are warning Caesar.
Caesar ā dīs admonētur.	Caesar is warned by the gods. (Agent)
Caesar hīs prōdigiīs admonētur.	Caesar is warned by these omens (prōdigium). (Means)
Malī virī urbem delēbant.	Evil men were destroying the city.
Urbs ab malīs virīs delēbātur.	The city was being destroyed by evil men. (Agent)
Urbs flammīs delēbātur.	The city was being destroyed by flames (flamma). (Means)
Hī cīvēs patriam cōservābunt.	These citizens will save the country.
Patria ab hīs cīvibus cōservābitur.	The country will be saved by these citizens. (Agent)
Patria armīs et vērītate cōservābitur.	The country will be saved by arms and truth. (Means)