

LATIN GRAMMAR

Wheelock 25: Infinitives, Indirect Statement

1. Intro to Infinitives

1.1. Infinitives are *verbal nouns*!! They have verbal characteristics (can be marked in Latin for tense-stem and voice; can take objects and modifiers) and noun characteristics (can function as other nouns do—for ex., as subjects, objects, etc.).

1.2. Theoretically, infinitives have 6 forms: 3 active and 3 passive (in the present, future, and perfect). Since only transitive verbs can be made passive, intransitive verbs will only have active infinitives.

1.3. Here are the patterns for the 6 infinitive forms in the 4 conjugations:

	ACTIVE	PASSIVE
PRES.	-āre, -ēre, -ere, -īre	-ārī, -ērī, -ī, -īrī
PERF.	Perfect stem + isse	Perfect Pass Ptc + esse
FUT.	Future Act Ptc + esse	[supine in -um + īrī] ¹

1.4. The following is a sample chart of a 3rd conj verb (**agō, agere, ēgi, āctum to do, drive, lead, act**) in all the forms of the infinitive, along with literal glosses for each form (we will consider other ways to translate shortly).

3 rd CONJ	ACTIVE	PASSIVE
PRES.	agere, <i>to lead</i>	agī, <i>to be led</i>
PERF.	ēgisse, <i>to have led</i>	āctus, -a, -um esse, <i>to have been led</i>
FUT.	āctūrus, -a, -um esse, <i>to be about to lead, to be going to lead</i>	āctum īrī, <i>to be about to be led, to be going to be led</i>

Note: when the INF form consists of a form of esse and a ptc, the ptc will match the case/gen/num of the subject.

1.5. Model forms for all 4 conjugations:

Below we can see how all the conjugations will look in the 6 infinitive forms.

¹ The supine is the neuter form of the perfect passive ptc; īrī is the present passive inf of 'to go'. Wheelock notes that they put this form in brackets because it is rare and is not used in the book.

	1 st CONJ	2 nd CONJ	4 th CONJ	3 rd CONJ – IO
ACTIVE				
PRES.	laudāre	monēre	audīre	capere
PERF.	laudāvisse	monuisse	audīvisse	cēpisse
FUT.	laudātūrus, -a, -um esse	monitūrus, -a, - um esse	audītūrus, -a, -um esse	captūrus, -a, -um esse
PASSIVE				
PRES.	laudārī	monērī	audīrī	capī
PERF.	laudātus, -a, -um esse	monitus, -a, -um esse	audītus, -a, -um esse	captus, -a, -um esse
FUT.	laudātum īrī	monitum īrī	audītum īrī	captum īrī

1.6. Functions of INF from earlier in grammar

- Can be S of a clause
- Can be complement of a verb like possum (to be able to x), dēbeō (to have to x).
- Can be DO of a verb
- NOTE: The subject of the inf will be in the acc case: Iussit eōs venīre. *He ordered them to come.*

2. Infinitive of INDIRECT STATEMENT: One of the commonest uses of the INF.

2.1. Explanation:

2.1.1. Statement: Julia is a good student.
 2.1.2. Direct Statement: The teacher says, “Julia is a good student.”
 2.1.3. Indirect Statement: The teacher says that Julia is a good student.

2.2. Latin can record someone’s speech directly, using quoted speech. But frequently, someone’s speech or thoughts is reported *indirectly* (and so would not use quotation marks in English).

Direct:

“Iūlia,” magister inquit, “est discipula bona.”

Indirect: Latin uses no introductory word for “that” and employs an infinitive phrase with an accusative subject, instead of a clause:

Magister dīcit Iūliam esse discipulam bonam. The teacher says that Julia is a good student.
 Magister dīxit Iūliam esse discipulam bonam. The teacher said that Julia was a good student.

Note: indirect speech/statement occurs with verbs of saying, thinking, knowing, perceiving, feeling, etc. ('head verbs'); the S of the inf is in acc case (and the reflexive acc pronoun is used if the S of the main verb is S of the inf, too):

Iūlia putat sē esse bonam discipulam. Julia thinks that she (herself) is a good student.

2.3. Remember, as with participles, the TENSE of the INF will be relative to the tense of the main verb in the following ways:

INF TYPE	RELATIVE TENSE RELATION TO MAIN VERB	MEANING
PRESENT INF	contemporaneous	inf action same time as main verb
PERFECT INF	prior	inf action before main verb
FUTURE INF	subsequent	inf action after main verb

2.4. Translating Infinitive Tenses in Indirect Statement: With this mind, let's work through the examples in Wheelock on 203–4.

1. Dīcunt—They say

- A. eum iuvāre eam. that he is helping her.
- B. eum iūvisse eam. that he helped/was helping her.
- C. eum iūtūrum esse eam. that he will help her.

2. Dīxērunt—They said

- A. eum iuvāre eam. that he was helping her.
- B. eum iūvisse eam. that he had helped her.
- C. eum iūtūrum esse eam. that he would help her.

3. Dīcent—They will say

- A. eum iuvāre eam. that he is helping her.
- B. eum iūvisse eam. that he helped/was helping her.
- C. eum iūtūrum esse eam. that he will help her.