



Ablative Special Uses

Ablative as the Object of Certain Prepositions

- Certain prepositions take an object in the ablative case.
- "Vir in terra habitat." = "The man lives in the land."

Ablative of Accompaniment

- Indicates "with whom" the action is accomplished.
- The preposition "cum" is always used.
- The ablative is a person who is present at the time of the action. The ablative is not performing the action.
- Translated "with the ablative".
- "Vir cum amico librum scribit." = "The man writes the book with his friend."

Ablative of Means

- Indicates the "means by which" the action is accomplished.
- No preposition is used.
- Can be either concrete (something that can be touched).or abstract (something that can't be touched).
- Translated "by (means of) the ablative" or "with the ablative".
- "Vir manu librum scribit." = "The man writes the book by hand."

Ablative of Manner

- Indicates the "manner in which" the action is accomplished.
- The preposition "cum" may or may not be used. If the ablative is NOT modified by an adjective, then the preposition "cum" MUST be used. If the

ablative is modified by an adjective, then the preposition "cum" may or may not be used. If the preposition "cum" IS used, then there are two ways of arranging the phrase.

"cum laude"

"magna laude"

"cum magna laude"

"magna cum laude"

- Is an abstract noun (something that can't be touched).
- Translated "with the ablative".
- "Vir magno gaudio librum scribit." = "The man writes the book with great joy."

Ablative with Cardinal Numerals

- With cardinal numerals (1, 2, 3, 4, etc.) and with the word "quidam" the idea of the whole is regularly expressed by "ex" or "de" and the ablative.
- Translated "of the ablative".
- "tres ex amicis meis" = "three of my friends" ("three from my friends")
- "quinque ex eis" = "five of those men" ("five from those men")
- "centum ex viris" = "one hundred of the men" ("one hundred from the men")
- "quidam ex eis" = "a certain man of those men" ("a certain man from those men")
- "Duo ex viris librum scribunt." = "Two of the men write the book."

Ablative of Time When or Time Within Which

- Indicates the "time when" or "time within which" an action is accomplished.
- No preposition.
- The ablative is always a word indicating an increment of time.
- Translated "at, on, in, or within the ablative".
- "Eo tempore librum scripsit." = "At that time he wrote the book."
- "Vir bonis annis bene scripsit." = "In good years the man wrote well."
- "Eodem die libros scripserunt." = "They wrote books on the same day."

- "Aestate scribebant." = "They were writing in the summer."
- "Paucis horis librum perficiet." = "In (within) a few hours he will finish the book."

Ablative of Agent

- Indicates the agent "by whom" the action of a passive verb is performed.
- The preposition "a/ab" is always used.
- The ablative is always a person.
- Translated "by the ablative".
- "Liber ab viro scribebatur." = "The book was being written by the man."

Ablative of Place from Which

- Indicates the place from which someone or something is going.
- With a verb indicating active motion from one place to another.
- Nearly always uses the preposition "a/ab", "de", or "e/ex".
- Translated "from the ablative".
- "Vir ab insula navigat." = "The man sails from the island."

Ablative of Separation

- Implies only that one person or thing is being separated from another.
There is no active movement from one place to another.
- Uses the preposition "a/ab", "e/ex", or "de", except with verbs meaning "freeing", "lacking", or "depriving", and then there is no preposition at all.
- Translated "from the ablative".
- "Urbem a Gallis defendimus." = "We defend the city from the Gauls."
- "Viros timore liberat." = "He frees the men from fear."

Ablative of Place Where

- Indicates the place where something is or where an action is being done.
- Uses the preposition "in" or "sub".
- Translated "in, on, or below the ablative".

- "Vir in urbe librum scribit." = "The man writes the book in the city."

Ablative Absolute

- A participial phrase that doesn't directly modify anything in the sentence but relates to the sentence as a whole.
- Constructed with an ablative noun and a present active or perfect passive participle in the ablative case.
- No preposition.
- If with a present active participle, translated "the ablative verbing".
- If with a perfect passive participle, translated "the ablative having been verbed" or "the ablative verbed".
- "Libro scripto, vir cum amicis celebrat." = "The book having been written, the man celebrates with friends."
- "Leone adveniente, vir discessit." = "The lion approaching, the man left."

Ablative of Comparison

- Often used when the first element in a comparison is in the nominative or accusative case. The second element in the comparison is in the ablative case.
- No preposition.
- Translated "than the ablative".
- "Vir altior muliere est." = "The man is taller than the woman."

Ablative of Respect

- Limits or specifies the meaning of an adjective or adverb.
- No preposition.
- Translated "in (respect to) the ablative" or "with respect to the ablative".
- "Scriptor erat magnus consilio." = "The writer was great with respect to judgment."

Ablative of Cause

- Expresses the cause or reason for a quality or verbal action.
- No preposition.
- Translated "because of the ablative" or "from the ablative".
- “Viri ira pugnābant.” = “The men were fighting from/because of anger.”

Ablative of Origin

- Expresses the parentage or ancestry of a person.
- The prepositions "ē/ex" or "dē" or no preposition may be used.
- Translated "from the ablative".
- “Scriptor (ē) nobili patre natus est.” = “The writer was born from a noble father.”

Ablative of Description

- Used to describe another noun.
- Must be modified by an adjective.
- No preposition.
- Translated "of the adjective ablative" or "with the adjective ablative".
- “Scriptor est magnā virtūte.” = “He is a writer of (with) great courage.”

Ablative of Degree of Difference

- Expresses the degree or amount by which things being compared differ.
- No preposition.
- Translated "by the ablative" or "the ablative".
- “Vir multō altior est quam mulier.” = “The man is much taller than the woman. / "The man is taller than the woman by much."

Ablative of Price

- Used with verbs of buying, selling, valuing, and exchanging.
- A specialized use of the Ablative of Means.
- No preposition.
- Translated "for the ablative" or "at the ablative".

- “Librum aurō vendidistī?” = “Did you sell the book for gold?”

Ablative of Route

- Indicates the route used in a journey.
- No preposition.
- Translated "by way of the ablative".
- "Via Romana vir it." = "The man goes by way of the Roman road."