

Chapter 22 Grammar Lesson

English-to-Latin review already!

Chapter 22 is the English-to-Latin review chapter for Chapter 21. In Chapter 21 you began to learn about the *ablative of means*. You translated Latin sentences containing an ablative of means into English. Now you'll go further by translating into Latin.

The ablative of means—and prepositional phrases

You know that an ablative of means is a Latin noun in the ablative case, *without* a preposition, which we usually translate using *by means of* or *with*. **Sagittā vulnerābat** means *he was wounding by means of an arrow* or *he was wounding with an arrow*. Notice the ablative of means, **sagittā**.

Notice also that the ablative of means in Latin *has no preposition*, but that the English translation *is an English prepositional phrase*. Look again at **sagittā**, the ablative of means in **sagittā vulnerābat**. **Sagittā** has no preposition. In **sagittā vulnerābat**, there is no prepositional phrase. But look at the English translations! *He was wounding by means of an arrow*. *He was wounding with an arrow*. Prepositional phrases! This will become quite important a little bit later, so let's look more closely at this in the next paragraph.

I just said that *with an arrow* and *by means of an arrow* are both prepositional phrases. It's easy for you to see that *with an arrow* is a prepositional phrase—you know that *with* is an English preposition. But what about *by means of an arrow*? Well, *by means of* is an English preposition, too. It's three words, yes, but it still counts as just one preposition. *By means of an arrow* is a prepositional phrase—one big prepositional phrase—with *arrow* as the object of the preposition *by means of*. You'll need to remember this later in the chapter, when you are labelling nouns with their noun jobs.

To reduce everything I just said to one idea, an ablative of means in Latin *has no preposition*, but when we translate an ablative of means into English, we use *an English prepositional phrase!* (Later I will tell you about an exception, but for now I want you to understand that this is what we *usually* do.)

One *with* is not like another

We've just reviewed that an ablative of means can be translated using *by means of* or *with* in English. If an ablative of means can be translated using *with*, is every *with* translated using an ablative of means? No! Some *withs* are translated using your old friend **cum**—just as you've done since Chapter 12. But other *withs* should be translated using an ablative of means. This is the first chapter where you've had to do *that*. How do you tell the difference, then? How do you know when to translate *with* as **cum**, and when to translate *with* using an ablative of means—without **cum**?

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You already know the answer. You have to notice whether your *with* is a *together with with* or a *by means of with*. For a *together with with*, you'll use **cum**. For a *by means of with*, you'll use an ablative of means—no **cum**.

Let's look at an example. If the dog is playing on the beach *with the girls*, the dog is playing *together with* the girls, not by means of the girls. For a *together with with*, you use **cum: cum puellis**. But if John makes his sick friend laugh *with funny stories*, he's making him laugh *by means of funny stories*. It's not that John together with the stories is making his sick friend laugh, but John *by means of* the funny stories is making his sick friend laugh. For a *by means of with* you use an ablative of means—no **cum**! In this sentence, *with funny stories* is just **fābulis rīdiculis**. Notice how there's no **cum**.

From now on, for every *with* in English, you'll have to ask yourself whether it's a *together with with* or a *by means of with* before you can choose the correct translation. Here is your rule: *for a together with with, use cum, but for a by means of with, use an ablative of means.*

You just saw that when your *with* is a *by means of with*, you translate it with an ablative of means—no **cum**. Look back at the *with funny stories* example and notice that a *by means of with* does not appear in the Latin translation! There is no word meaning *with* or *by means of* in the Latin translation. An English prepositional phrase became a Latin ablative of means—*no preposition*.

What about *by means of*?

What if you have a sentence that *starts out* having *by means of* in it? Suppose instead of *John is making his sick friend laugh with funny stories*, you read *John is making his sick friend laugh by means of funny stories*. The same thing happens. What same thing happens? *An English prepositional phrase becomes a Latin ablative of means—no preposition!* The *by means of* will not appear in the Latin translation. You would translate the whole prepositional phrase, *by means of funny stories*, as **fābulis rīdiculis**. Notice how *the English prepositional phrase became a Latin ablative of means—no preposition*.

Translation sentence labels

Now I'd like you to look at an English sentence laid out on the page just as if this were a translation worksheet. I'll begin with the instructions. I'll put this on the next page so that you can see everything together.

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*Above each English noun, write the noun job that noun is doing. Next look at every preposition. Cross out any preposition that should **not** appear in your translation. Then, **below** each noun (or noun-adjective pair), write the case, number and gender you must use in your translation. Use the word order given to you beneath the line.*

1. The poet with the pirates will wound the she-bear ~~with~~ many arrows.

s.
o.p.
d.o.
o.p.

nom. s. m.
abl. pl. m.
acc. s. f.
abl. pl. f.

Poëta	cum	pīrātīs	ursam	multīs	sagittīs	vulnerābit.
s.	prep. phrase		d.o.	adj.	abl. of mns.	v.

Now let's study this sentence together. First read the instructions. These are the same instructions you will be following for all your translation sentences in this chapter. Next, read the English sentence out loud. Then notice how above each noun I've written the noun job that noun is doing. That's the first thing the instructions told me to do, after all—so I did it. Notice that there are two o.p.'s, *pirates* and *arrows*. That's because the English sentence has two prepositional phrases: *with the pirates* and *with many arrows*. Two prepositions, two prepositional phrases, two o.p.'s. No surprises so far.

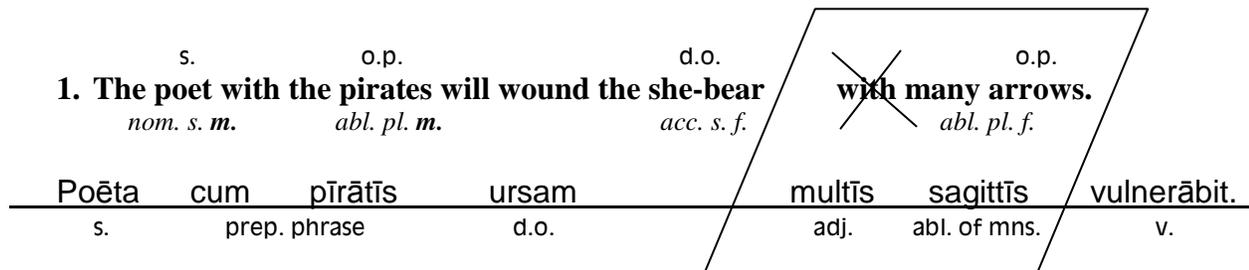
What did I do next? The instructions told me to look at every preposition. So I did. And then I was supposed to *cross out any preposition that should not appear in the Latin translation*. Did I cross out any prepositions? Look at the sentence. Yes, I crossed out the second *with*. I hope you are curious now. Why did I cross out the second *with*, and not the first *with*? Because the second *with* should not appear in the translation. *Why shouldn't the second **with** appear in the translation? Because it's a **by means of with**. You translate a **by means of with** using an ablative of means—no preposition!*

After I studied each preposition, I was ready to write in the case, number and gender I should use for each noun and adjective. So I did. Why is the case under *arrows* the ablative case? After all, I crossed out the *with*. So why do I need to use the ablative? Because I'm going to translate the phrase using an *ablative of means*. *That means I need to use the ablative case for the noun, even though I crossed out the preposition.*

Now you're ready to notice something else interesting. In the English sentence, there are two prepositional phrases. Now look beneath the translation blank, at the word order helps. Does it show you where to put *two prepositional phrases*? *No!* Why not? After all, there are two prepositional phrases in the English sentence, *with the pirates* and *with many arrows*. Why don't the word order helps show two prepositional phrases? *Because the Latin translation does not have two prepositional phrases. The Latin translation only has one prepositional phrase!*

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Why does the Latin translation only have one prepositional phrase? *With the pirates* is translated with a prepositional phrase: **cum pīrātīs**. But in this sentence, *with many arrows* is *not* translated with a prepositional phrase. It's translated with an ablative of means, **multīs sagittīs**, because it means *by means of many arrows*, not *together with many arrows*. And the word order helps under the blank line show this by telling you where to put the ablative of means. I will copy the sentence for you on this page so you do not have to turn back. I've put a box around the section I want you to look at right now.



Do you see how the English prepositional phrase, *with many arrows*, became the Latin ablative of means—no preposition? But how did that happen? *It happened because I thought about every preposition. And when I thought about **with many arrows**, I saw that it had a **by means of with**. Then I remembered that a **by means of with** should not appear in the Latin translation. Why? Because a **by means of with** is translated using an ablative of means—no preposition!*

Does this mean, though, that the English prepositional phrase was never really a prepositional phrase? Not at all. The English prepositional phrase was a real prepositional phrase. But the Latin *translation* is not a prepositional phrase. That is because languages are different. And that is why there's more to translation than just replacing each word with a different word that means the same thing. *Sometimes the way the words are **put together** is different.* That's what makes translation fun.

By the way, notice that I've put the ablative of means just before the verb. That's because an ablative of means acts much like an adverb, by answering the question *how* about the verb, and modifiers of the verb often come before the verb.

Final fine points

You know that an ablative of means is usually translated using *by means of* or *with*. Occasionally, though, an ablative of means is translated with *in*. And that means that occasionally *in* is translated with an ablative of means, rather than an **in + abl.** prepositional phrase. When might this happen? Consider this sentence: *Albert always speaks in riddles*. Obviously Albert is not inside some riddles. He is speaking by means of riddles. In this sentence, then, *in* means *by means of*, and so *in riddles* would be translated with an ablative of means. You will have one sentence in this chapter that illustrates this type of *in*.

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And now for the last point. I said earlier that an ablative of means has no preposition, but is translated using a prepositional phrase in English. Well, that is often, or maybe even usually, true. But not always! Let's take the sentence **pīrāta ursam sagittā vulnerat**. *The pirate wounds the she-bear **with an arrow**, or **by means of an arrow**.* Both of these translations are prepositional phrases. But there's another way to translate **sagittā** here. It could be translated *using an arrow*. *The pirate wounds the she-bear using an arrow.* *Using an arrow* is not a prepositional phrase. *Using* is not a preposition! It's a fancy thing that you'll learn about someday, called a *participle*. You see, then, that an ablative of means is not *always* translated using a prepositional phrase. But it very often is—and that is how *you* will translate an ablative of means for now.