

LUDUS DOMESTICUS 1

As is fitting and customary every year, the first voice to teach us Latin is that of Rome's greatest orator-writer-politician the "father of Latinity", MARCVS TVLLIVS CICERO (106-43 ante Chr.), who here sends private, personal letters to his family: wife Terentia, daughter Tullia, son Marcus:

A) **"De Quinto fratre nihil ego te accusavi; sed vos, cum praesertim tam paucis sitis, volui esse quam coniunctissimos. Quibus me voluisti agere gratias, egi et me a te certiore factum esse scripsi"** (Ad Familiares xiv,1,4-5).

1. What fundamental *difference* do we want to stress between the functioning of the Latin language and most other languages we hear and use?
2. When you see a Latin verb with the simple ending "i" like in "accusavi" and "egi", "volu" and "scripsi", you immediately assign what *subject* to that verb? From your first Latin day what will be the reversed [reversed = singular goes to plural, plural to singular in our classes] of those four verb forms? Give complete Latin words!!! (For reasons I'll explain later, in these three cases you have to keep that final -I when you reverse these forms). Also from your first Latin encounter, what will the "he-she-it" form of those verbs look like?
3. If someone tells you that "sitis" as a *noun* in your dictionary means _____ but in the quote above it is a *verb* - what Latin principle stressed in class is your only help-salvation here?
4. If "sitis" is a verb and its ending is "s", then its subject is _____, but if its ending is "TIS", then its subject is _____.
5. Your class notes warn you that on one occasion in Latin, to be learned later, the verb ending: '--STI' has what subject? _____ "Voluisti" reversed is: _____
6. If the first seven words of Cicero here mean: "Concerning brother Quintus in no-way have I accused you", what *two* Latin principles produced that meaning in the mind of Terentia and yours 2044 years later?
7. What *different meaning* for those 7 words would this phrase have: "Te de quinto fratre accusavi ego nihil"??
8. If the second phrase of Cicero: "sed vos.." means: "but you, since especially you are so few, I want to be as joined-together as possible", how will you *keep* his word order, add a few elements and *say* on your own: "but now-(cf. DICT.) you, since there-(cf. DICT.) especially you are always-(cf. DICT.) so few, we have wanted to be as joined-together as possible"
9. The last sentence of Cicero means, as literally as possible: "To whom me you wanted to return thanks, I have returned, and I have written myself to have been informed by you". Where did you find the word: "I have written"? HOW could Cicero begin and end his sentence with the same subject: "i" verbs "egi...scripsi"? Why did he not write: "egi et scripsi..."? Explain

10. Rewrite that last sentence to read like this: "To whom he wanted to return thanks, he returned and wrote myself to have been informed" ==

B) "Si tu et Tullia, lux nostra, valetis, ego et suavissimus Cicero valemus. Pr. Idus Oct. Athenas venimus .../... vellim cures, si auctio ante meum adventum fiet, ut Pomponius aut, si is minus poterit, Camillus nostrum negotium curet" (ad fam. xiv,5,1-2)

1. Point out the verbs in Cicero's first part .../ here and their subjects:
At this early point in your Latin career, you can certainly reverse: "valetis"=
But you could have choices in the reverse of "valeMUS" which are they?
2. If "AthenAS" and "curES" are verbs then their subject is: _____ reversed:
If in your experience: "AthenaS" turns out to be a noun, and "cureS" a verb
then what does the naked ending "S" really tell a stranger-observer?
3. If "vellim" is a verb, then its reversed must be: _____ and the form for
"they" must be _____ and "he-she-it" must be _____, you _____,
ye _____
4. When you spot Latin verbs in a sentence like: "fiet...poterit...curet", what kind
of *possible* subject will you naturally attach to them?
What will the "we" forms be for those three verbs of Cicero?
How will you decide on the *definite* subject in any sentence? Two ways:
5. Here Cicero is writing to his wife Terentia, and mentions Tullia=26 years old,
and Cicero Jr.=15 years old. The following is a literal translation, of which
you can use the *first sentence* on your *next* postcard home!!
"If you and Tullia, our light, are well, I and most sweet Cicero are well. On the
day before the ides of October (Oct. 14) We came to Athens .../... I would like
you take care, if the auction before my arrival will be done, that Pomponius or,
if he less will-be-able, Camillus our business may-care-for".
Now take your pen and rewrite the sentence modifying only the verbs and a
few words to read in your perfect Latin after one class (keep Cicero's word
order!!!): "If Marcus and Tullia are well today-(cf. DICT.), Terentia, you are
certainly-(cf. DICT.) well. When-(cf. DICT.) did you come (use **form) to
Athens? Marcus would-like we take care that [ut] Camillus and Tullia our
business may-care-for."
6. As a general principle, what do the *endings* of Latin words indicate-do?
When will this fact cease to exist-be valid in your Latin life?