

Necessary Things for Building Solid Reading Skills for Latin:

- using good, consistent pronunciation
- building vocabulary in context (via repetition, varied forms, etc)
- reading copious (high interest) material
- incorporating morphological disambiguation strategies¹
- developing strategies to understand word order**
- learning/ practicing/modeling good reading techniques**

The following are helpful in training the brain to accept Latin word order.

Metaphrasing – Practical Applications²

“Someone verbed something to someone.”—where there are words holding the place for a nominative, an accusative, and a dative (disregarding, momentarily, the possibilities of ablative and genitive).

LEVEL 1

- **multōs servōs** > Someone verbed **many slaves** to someone.
- **mercātor** > **The merchant** verbed something to someone.
- **latrōnibus** > Someone verbed something **to the robbers**.
- **ālāe** > **The wings** verbed something to someone; someone verbed something **to the wing** (unlikely).

Passage: **mercātor** ōlim cum merce pretiōsā Arabiam trānsībat... **multōs servōs** quoque habēbat, quī mercem custōdiēbant...mercātor servīque **latrōnibus** ācritter resistēbant, sed latrōnēs tandem servōs superāvērunt... subitō mōnstrum terribile in caelō appāruit; **ālāe** longiōrēs erant quam rēmī, unguēs maiōrēs quam hastae. (“mercātor Arabs” CLC Unit 2 100).

LEVEL 2

targetting types of participial phrases (present active, perfect passive, present passive):

- **militēs, gladiīs hastisque armātī,** > **The soldiers, armed with swords and spears,** verbed someone.
- **arcam, pecūniā complētā,** > Someone verbed **the chest, filled with money,** to someone.

¹ see the articles by Daniel McCaffrey: “Resolving Ambiguous Forms in Latin,” *Texas Classics in Action*, Summer 2002; “Reading Latin Efficiently and the Need for Cognitive Strategies,” *When Dead Tongues Speak*. Oxford University Text, 2006 pp 113-133.

² The reading cards developed to use with metaphrasing are based on the teachings of Deborah Ross and Glen Knudsvig† of the University of Michigan.

- **Belimicus, spē praemiū adductus**, > Belimicus, led on by the hope of a reward, verbed something to someone.
- **statuam meam, ā fabrō Britannicō factam**, > Someone verbed **my statue, made by a British craftsman**, to someone.
- **senex, amulētum aureum tenēns**, > **The old man, holding the golden amulet**, verbed something to someone.
- **fūr, senem cōspicātus**, > **The thief, having caught sight of the old man**, verbed something to someone.

Thus developing a sense of recognizing whole chunks, not just one word at a time.

AP VERGIL (Book 2.212ff):

diffugimus vīsū exsanguēs. illī agmine certō
 Lāocoonta petunt; et prīmum parva duōrum
 corpora nātōrum serpēns amplexus uterque
 implicat et miserōs morsū dēpascitur artūs;
post ipsum auxiliō subeuntem ac tēla ferentem
corripiunt spīrīsque ligant ingentibus;

- **post** > afterward/behind
- **post ipsum** > afterward someone verbed [Laocoon] himself
- **post ipsum auxiliō** > afterward someone verbed [Laocoon] himself with help (or to/for help)
- **post ipsum auxiliō subeuntem** > afterward someone verbed [Laocoon] himself coming to help (dative of purpose)
- **post ipsum auxiliō subeuntem ac** > afterward someone verbed [Laocoon] himself coming to help and (possibly connecting to another participle since this falls after one)
- **post ipsum auxiliō subeuntem ac tēla** > afterward someone verbed [Laocoon] himself coming to help and verbing weapons (or weapons verbed something, but a nominative makes no sense here)
- **post ipsum auxiliō subeuntem ac tēla ferentem** > afterward someone verbed [Laocoon] himself coming to help and bearing weapons
- **post ipsum auxiliō subeuntem ac tēla ferentem corripiunt** > afterward they [the serpents] snatch [Laocoon] himself coming to help and bearing weapons....

Here is the real goal—getting students to see this passage and metaphorize it in chunks:

- **ipsum auxiliō subeuntem** > someone verbed [Laocoon] himself coming to help
- **ac** > and (expectation of parallel construction)
- **[ipsum] tēla ferentem** > someone verbed [Laocoon] himself bearing weapons
- **corripiunt.**> they snatch

If you can get students to see the chunks, then you can discuss the picture created by the word order with the focus on Laocoon running up to help slightly before (certainly from

a cinematic view) but technically at the same time (with present participles) as the serpents attack him.

AP CAESAR

Quod ubi Caesar animadvertit, **naves longas**, quarum et species erat barbaris inusitator et motus ad usum expeditior, **paulum removeri ab onerariis navibus et remis incitari et ad latus apertum hostium constitui atque inde fundis, sagittis, tormentis hostes propelli ac submoveri iussit**; quae res magno usui nostris fuit. (DBG 4.25.1) (*admittedly momentarily dropping the relative clauses....*)

- **nāvēs longās** > Someone verbed the warships (long ships).
- **nāvēs longās ... paulum removērī** > Someone verbed the warships to be moved back a little
- **nāvēs longās...paulum removērī ab onerārīīs nāvibus** > Someone verbed the warships to be moved back a little from the cargo ships.
- **nāvēs longās... et rēmīs incitārī** > Someone verbed the warships to be spurred on with oars.[*the et's indicate parallel constructions*]
- **nāvēs longās... et ad latus apertum hostium constituī** > Someone verbed the warships to be deployed at the enemy's open flanked.
- **atque inde** > and from there [*different conjunction signals something NOT parallel to what came before*]
- **atque inde fundīs, sagittīs, tormentīs** > and from there with slingshots, arrows, and catapults...
- **atque inde fundīs, sagittīs, tormentīs hostēs propelli** > and from there the enemy to be driven back with slingshots, arrows, and catapults...
- **atque inde fundīs, sagittīs, tormentīs hostēs propelli ac submoveri iussit.** > and from there HE ORDERED the enemy to be driven back with slingshots, arrows, and catapults and (to be) moved away.

But is this the most *efficient* way to read this sentence (especially since the relative clauses were dropped for simplicity's sake)?

The following helps one develop fluent reading skills:

Dexter Hoyos' Rules for Reading Latin³ (*original*)

Rule 1 A new sentence or passage should be read through completely, several times if necessary, so as to see all its words in context.

Rule 2 As you read, register mentally the ending of every word so as to recognise how the words in the sentence relate to one another.

Tips for Reading Latin (*my modifications*)

Rule 1 Read the sentence or passage completely. In order to see all the words in context, *reread as needed.*

Rule 2 While reading, register the word endings and their

³ Hoyos, B. Dexter. *Latin: How to Read it Fluently*. CANE Press, 1998. www.caneppress.org.

Rule 3 Recognise the way in which the sentence is structured (its Main Clause(s), subordinate clauses and phrases). Read them in sequence to achieve this recognition and re-read the sentence as often as necessary, without translating it.

Rule 4 Now look up unfamiliar words in the dictionary; and once you know what all the words can mean, re-read the Latin to improve your grasp of the context and so clarify what the words in this sentence do mean.

Rule 5 If translating, translate only when you have seen exactly how the sentence works and what it means. **SUB-RULE** Do not translate in order to find out what the sentence means. Understand first, then translate.

Rule 6 a. Once a subordinate clause or phrase is begun, it must be completed syntactically before the rest of the sentence can proceed.

b. When one subordinate construction embraces another, the embraced one must be completed before the embracing one can proceed.

c. A Main Clause must be completed before another Main Clause can start.

Rule 7 Normally the words most emphasised by the author are placed at the beginning and end, and all the words in between contribute to the overall sense, including those forming an embraced or dependent word-group. A word-group can be shown by linking its first and last words by an “arch” line.

Rule 8 The words within two or more word-groups are never mixed up together: “arches” do not cut across one another. But an “arch” structure can contain one or more interior “arches”; that is, embraced word-groups.

Rule 9 All the actions in a sentence are narrated in the order in which they occurred.

Rule 10 Analytical sentences are written with phrases and clauses in the order that is most logical to the author. The sequence of thought is signposted by the placing of word-groups and key words.

relationship to one another.

Rule 3 Now look up unfamiliar words. *Reread as needed.*

Rule 4 Recognize word groups and read them in sequence. *Reread as needed.*

Rule 5 Once a subordinate clause or phrase has begun, it must be completed before the rest of the sentence can proceed. *Reread as needed.*

Rule 6 Translate only when you know how a sentence works and what it means.

Heightening Expectations & Recognizing Style to Increase Fluency

- parallel construction / What is *et/-que/ac* connecting? (or any coordinating conjunction)
 - like words
 - like phrases/clauses
- Why do you have an infinitive?
 - governed by: *potest, vult, dēbet, cōstituit, coepit, cōgit, iubet*
 - in indirect statement with “verb of the head,” etc
- Why do you have a subjunctive?
 - in an *ut* or *cum* clause
 - in an indirect question or an indirect command
 - independent thus hortatory, iussive, deliberative, etc
 - in a conditional clause, etc.
- What are participles modifying, if anything?
- forms of *ille* (and other demonstratives with different authors) at the beginning of a sentence indicating a change of subject, often what was just the last object
- in conversations, datives beginning paragraphs that indicate the natural reply to what came before
- *id quod / ea quae / (is) quī / (eī) quī*
- correlatives (forms of *quī* beginning a sentence)
- any particular structure particular to an author (Caesar: *ad* + gerunds/gerundives, etc)

Anything else? Yes!

- **Recognize and break your own *bad* habits.**
 - Stop looking up every word immediately (allowing vocabulary and not phrasing and structure to drive understanding).
 - Stop parsing everything.
 - Stop writing English translations to understand the Latin.
 - Stop relying on published English translations when you get stuck.
- **REREAD, REREAD, REREAD** — yesterday’s passage before beginning the current passage, the current passage multiple times, etc.
 - When rereading yesterday’s passage, read aloud to try to stay “in Latin.” (Suppress your English inclinations!)
 - With troublesome phrasing, start looking for patterns for *why* this author wrote that way. Finding patterns leads to developing more *expectations*.
- **Learn to be patient with yourself and the Latin; let the Latin unfold instead of forcing immediate understanding!**
 - Yes, you can momentarily SKIP a problem area and continue reading! It is not a sin. Don’t let a problem sentence ruin your pacing or your confidence, because...
 - When you reread the whole passage a 2nd or 3rd time, often you will suddenly understand problem sentences or see phrasing or understand the context.

TARGETTED PASSAGES – FOR PRACTICE: Ask yourself—what are the key things that help you read each passage? (*Metaphrasing, parallel construction, infinitive awareness, what -que/et is connecting, etc*)

A. dē Bellō Gallicō: liber prīmus 1-2

Gallia est omnis dīvīsa in partēs trēs, quārum ūnam incolunt Belgae, aliam Aquitānī, tertiam quī ipsōrum linguā Celtae, nostrā Gallī appellantur. Hī omnēs linguā, institūtīs, lēgibus inter sē differunt. Gallōs ab Aquitānīs Garumna flūmen, ā Belgīs Mātrōna et Sēquana dīvidit. (1.1)

B. dē Bellō Gallicō: liber prīmus 3-4

Hīs rēbus adductī et auctōritāte Orgetorīgis permōtī cōstituērunt ea quae ad proficiscendum pertinērent comparāre, iūmentōrum et carrōrum quam maximum numerum coemere, sēmentēs quam maximās facere, ut in itinere cōpia frūmentī suppeteret, cum proximīs cīvitātibus pācem et amīcitiā cōfirmāre. (1.3)

C. dē Bellō Gallicō: liber prīmus 5-7

Caesarī cum id nūntiātum esset, eōs per prōvinciam nostram iter facere cōnārī, mātūrat ab urbe proficiscī et quam maximīs potest itineribus in Galliam ulteriōrem contendit et ad Genāvam pervenit. Prōvinciae tōtī quam maximum potest mīlitum numerum imperat (erat omnīnō in Galliā ulteriōre legiō ūnā), pontem, quī erat ad Genāvam, iubet rescindī. (1.7)

D. dē Bellō Gallicō: liber quartus 24-28

Atque nostrīs mīlitibus cūctantibus, maximē propter altitudinem maris, quī decimae legiōnis aquilam gerēbat, obtestātus deōs, ut ea rēs legiōnī fēliciter ēvenīret, “dēsilīte,” inquit, “mīlitēs, nisi vultis aquilam hostibus prōdere; ego certē meum reī pūblīcae atque imperātōrī officium praestiterō.” (4.25)

E. dē Bellō Gallicō: liber quartus 29-36

Caesar id quod erat suspiciātus aliquid novī ā barbarīs initum cōnsiliī, cohortēs quae in statiōne erant sēcum in eam partem proficiscī, ex reliquīs duās in statiōnem succēdere, reliquās armārī et cōnfestim sēsē subsequī iussit. Cum paulō longius ā castrīs prōcessisset, suōs ab hostibus premī atque aegrē sustinēre et cōnfertā legiōne ex omnibus partibus tēla coicī animadvertit. (4.32)

F. dē Bellō Gallicō: 5.24-30

Contrā ea Titūrius sērō factūrōs clāmitābat, cum maiōrēs manūs hostium adiūctīs Germānīs convēnissent aut cum aliquid calamitātis in proximīs hibernīs esset acceptum. Brevem cōnsulendī esse occāsionem. Caesarem arbitrārī profectum in Italiam; neque aliter Carnūtēs interficiendī Tasgetī cōnsilium fuisse captūrōs, neque Eburōnōs, sī ille adesset, tantā contemptiōne nostrī ad castra ventūrōs esse. (5.29)

G. dē Bellō Gallicō: 5.31-38

Tandem dat Cotta permōtus manūs: superat sententia Sabīnī. Prōnūntiātur primā lūce itūrōs. Cōnsūmitur vigiliīs reliqua pars noctis, cum sua quisque mīles circumspiceret, quid sēcum portāre posset, quid ex īnstrumentō hibernōrum relinquere cōgerētur. Omnia excōgitantur, quārē nec sine periculō maneātur, et languōre mīlitum et vigiliīs perīculum augeātur. (5.31.3-5)

H. dē Bellō Gallicō: 5.39-44

Tunc ducēs principēsque Nerviorum quī aliquem sermōnis aditum causamque amīcitiāe cum Cicerōne habēbant colloquī sēsē velle dicunt. Factā potestāte eadem quae Ambiorix cum Tituriō ēgerat commemorant: omnem esse in armīs Galliam; Germānōs Rhēnum trānsisse; Caesaris reliquōrumque hiberna oppugnārī. Addunt etiam dē Sabīnī morte: Ambiorīgem ostentant fideī faciendae causā. (41.1-4)

I. dē Bellō Gallicō: 5.45-48; 6.13-14

Quantō erat in diēs gravior atque asperior oppugnatiō, et maximē quod, magnā parte mīlitum confectā vulneribus rēs ad paucitātem dēfēnsōrum pervēnerat, tantō crēbriōrēs litterae nuntiūque ad Caesarem mittēbantur; quōrum pars deprehēnsa in cōspectū nostrōrum mīlitum cum cruciātū necābātur. (5.45.1)

J. dē Bellō Gallicō: 6.15-20

Nātiō est omnis Gallōrum admodum dēdita religiōnibus, atque ob eam causam, quī sunt adfectī graviōribus morbīs quīque in proeliīs periculīsque versantur, aut prō victimīs hominēs immolant aut sē immolātūrōs vovent administrīsque ad ea sacrificia druidibus ūtuntur, quod, prō vītā hominis nisi hominis vīta reddātur, nōn posse deōrum immortalium nūmen placārī arbitrantur, pūblicēque eiusdem generis habent īnstitutā sacrificia. (6.16.1)

K. Aeneid 1.1-49

Arma virumque canō, Trōiae quī primus ab ōrīs
Italiam, fātō profugus, Lāvīniaque vēnit
lītora, multum ille et terrīs iactātus et altō
vī superum saevae memorem Iūnōnis ob īram;
multa quoque et bellō passus, dum conderet urbem,
īnferretque deōs Latiō, genus unde Latīnum,
Albānīque patrēs, atque altae moenia Rōmae. (1.1-7)

L. Aeneid 1.50-123

Haec ubi dicta, cavum conversā cuspidē montem
impulit in latus: ac ventī, velut agmine factō,
quā data porta, ruunt et terrās turbine perflant.
Incubūere marī, tōtumque ā sēdibus īmīs
ūnā Eurusque Notusque ruunt crēberque procellīs
Āfricus, et vāstōs volvunt ad lītora flūctūs.
Īnsequitur clāmorque virum strīdorque rudentum.
Ēripiunt subitō nūbēs caelumque diemque
Teucrōrum ex oculīs; pontō nox incubat ātra. (1.81-89)

M. Aeneid 1.124-209; 418-440

Cōnstitit hīc, arcumque manū celerēsque sagittās
corripuit, fīdus quae tēla gerēbat Achātēs;
ductōrēsque ipsōs prīmum, capita alta ferentēs
cornibus arboreīs, sternit, tum vulgus, et omnem
miscet agēns tēlīs nemora inter frondea turbam;
nec prius absistit, quam septem ingentia victor
corpora fundat humī, et numerum cum navibus aequet. (1.187-193)

N. Aeneid 1.494-578

Tum foribus dīvae, mediā testūdine templī,
saepta armīs, solīōque altē subnīxa resēdit.
Iūra dabat lēgēsque virīs, operumque labōrem
partibus aequābat iūstīs, aut sorte trahēbat:
cum subitō Aenēās concursū accēdere magnō
Anthea Sergestumque videt fortemque Cloanthum,
Teucrōrumque aliōs, āter quōs aequare turbō
dispulerat penitusque aliās āvexerat ōrās. (1.505-512)

O. Aeneid 2.40-56; 201-234

Lāocoōn, ductus Neptūnō sorte sacerdos,
sollemnēs taurum ingentem mactābat ad ārās.
ecce autem geminī ā Tenedō tranquilla per alta

(horrēscō referēns) immēnsīs orbibus anguēs
incumbunt pelagō pariterque ad lītora tendunt;
pectora quōrum inter flūctūs arrēcta iubaeque
sanguineae superant undās, pars cētera pontum
pōne legit sinuatque immēnsa volūmine terga. (2.201-208)

P. Aeneid 2.235-249; 268-297; 559-620

“heu fuge, nāte deā, tēque hīs” ait “ēripe flammīs.
hostis habet mūrōs; ruit altō ā culmine Trōia.
sat patriae Priamōque datum: sī Pergama dextrā
dēfendī possent, etiam hāc dēfēnsa fuissent.
sacra suōsque tibi commendat Trōia Penātēs;
hōs cape fātōrum comitēs, hīs moenia quaere
magna pererrātō statuēs quae dēnique pontō.” (2.289-295)

Q. Aeneid 4.160-218; 259-295

illam Terra parēns īrā inrītāta deōrum
extrēmam, ut perhibent, Coeō Enceladōque sorōrem
prōgenuit pedibus celerem et pernīcibus ālīs,
mōnstrum horrendum, ingēns, cui quot sunt corpore plūmae,
tot vigilēs oculī subter (mīrābile dictū),
tot linguae, totidem ōra sonant, tot subrigit aurēs. (4.178-183)

R. Aeneid 4.296-332

“mēne fugis? per ego hās lacrimās dextramque tuam tē
(quandō aliud mihi iam miserae nihil ipsa relīquī),
per cōnūbia nostra, per inceptōs hymenaeōs,
sī bene quid dē tē meruī, fuit aut tibi quicquam
dulce meum, miserēre domūs lābentis et istam,
ōrō, sī quis adhūc precibus locus, exue mentem.” (4.314-319)

S. Aeneid 4.331-361; 659-705

dīxit, et ōs impressa torō “moriēmur inultae,
sed moriāmur” ait. “sīc, sīc iuvat ire sub umbrās.

hauriat hunc oculīs ignem crudēlis ab altō
Dardanus, et nostrae sēcum ferat ōmina mortis.”
dīxerat, atque illam media inter tālia ferrō
conlāpsam aspiciunt comitēs, ēnsemque cruōre
spūmantem sparsāsque manūs. (4.659-665)

T. Aeneid 6.295-332

“haec omnis, quam cernis, inops inhumātaque turba est;
portitor ille Charōn; hī, quōs vehit unda, sepultī.
nec rīpās datur horrendās et rauca fluenta
trānsportāre prius quam sēdibus ossa quiērunť.
centum errant annōs volitantque haec lītora circum;
tum dēmum admissī stagna exoptāta revīsunt.” (6.325-330)

U. Aeneid 6.384-425

Cerberus haec ingēns lātrātū rēgna trifaucī
personat adversō recubāns immānis in antrō.
cui vātēs horrēre vidēns iam colla colubrīs
melle sopōrātam et medicātīs frūgibus offam
obicit. ille famē rabidā tria guttura pandēns
corripit obiectam, atque immānia terga resolvit
fūsus humī tōtōque ingēns extenditur antrō. (6.417-423)

V. Aeneid 6.450-476; 847-899

“excūdent aliī spīrantia mollius aera
(crēdō equidem), vīvōs dūcent dē marmore vultūs,
ōrābunt causās melius, caelīque meātūs
dēscrībent radiō et surgentia sīdera dīcent:
tū regere imperiō populōs, Rōmāne, mementō
(hae tibi erunt artēs), pācīque impōnere mōrem,
parcere subiectīs et dēbellāre superbōs.” (6.847-853)