

LESSON XLII

PLĪNIUS ET PUER

A **Words used as nouns** What is the name for an adjective or verbal form used as a noun?

B **Perfect passive participle: use as noun** Look at these forms which are good examples of what you have named above. Match each word to its meaning.

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. _____ actum | a. something charged or commissioned |
| 2. _____ datum | b. something advised |
| 3. _____ dēbitum | c. something ordered or appointed |
| 4. _____ iussum | d. something given |
| 5. _____ mandātum | e. something done |
| 6. _____ meritum | f. something guided or set right |
| 7. _____ monitum | g. something owed |
| 8. _____ rēctum | h. something seen |
| 9. _____ scriptum | i. something deserved |
| 10. _____ vīsum | j. something written |

C **Compounds of sum** You have learned that **sum**, like other verbs, has compounds, e.g. **absum** (*be absent*) and **adsum** (*be present*). A third compound is introduced in this lesson. It uses the root **pos-**, **pot-** and means *to be able*. There are no passive forms for any of these compounds. **Possum** is often translated with the English auxiliaries *can* or *could*. However, since Latin does not often use auxiliary verbs, **possum** will function as a main verb. As such, it almost always requires a complementary infinitive. I can swim = I am able to swim.

Have you read page 290?

You now know three compounds of the linking verb **sum**. There are others that are also created from prepositions used as prefixes. These are the most common compounds.

dēsum	<i>fall short, fail (be missing from)</i>
intersum	<i>take part in (be among)</i>
praesum	<i>be in charge (be at the head of)</i>
prōsum	<i>be of use (be for)</i>
supersum	<i>survive (be left over)</i>

Choose the correct answer to each question, and then translate the four verbs.

1. Which of the following is present?

- | | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| a. sumus | b. aberit | c. adfuit | d. poterant |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |

2. Which of the following is perfect?

- | | | | |
|-----------|-------------|---------|---------------|
| a. fueris | b. āfuērunt | c. ades | d. potuerātis |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |

3. Which of the following is future?

- | | | | |
|-----------|-------------|-----------|-----------|
| a. erātis | b. adfueram | c. aderam | d. poterō |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |

4. Which of the following is imperfect?

- | | | | |
|-------------|---------|-------------|-----------|
| a. dēfuerat | b. eram | c. potuistī | d. adsunt |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |

5. Which of the following is future perfect?

- | | | | |
|-----------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|
| a. eritis | b. aberimus | c. interfuērunt | d. potuerit |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |



Irregular verb possum Translate the following, paying careful attention to tense.

1. I was able _____
2. you (*pl.*) could _____
3. you (*sing.*) will have been able _____
4. she will be able _____
5. he had been able _____
6. he was able _____
7. they can _____
8. we could _____
9. I am able _____
10. they have been able _____



Forms of sum and possum The following fictional memoir pertains to Roman politics. You will create synopses of **sum** and **possum** as you translate the italicized words.

1. *I am* a **consul**, one of the Roman states' two chief officers. As such, *I can* call meetings of the Roman senate and carry out its decisions. My very title is derived from my obtaining the counsel of the senate and carrying out its decrees.

2. *I have been* a public official since I was 31, the earliest age to be elected **quaestor**. Each consul, provincial governor, and general has a **quaestor** who handles his financial affairs, but, more importantly, since that point in my life *I have been* able to pursue the **cursus honorum**.

3. During my quaestorship, I thought: "With luck, I will be elected at 37 to the office of **aedile**, and *I will be* very much in the public eye since *I will be able* to present athletic games for the people to enjoy." I knew, of course, that my other duties would include caring for the streets, markets, and food supply, all of which are also matters of great importance to the Roman people.

4. For many years *I was* hopeful that one day I would become **praetor**, and at 40—the earliest possible year—I became one! In that position, *I was able* to make judicial decisions. The law, which is the strong foundation of our Republic, has always attracted me.

5. Even before my election to the consulship which I now hold, as **praetor** *I had been*, so to speak, a **consul** from time to time, for in the absence of the men who were then **consuls** *I had been able* to act for the senate.

6. Rumor has it that my next appointment will be that of governor (**prōconsul**) to Spain. In a little more than a year's time, therefore, *I will have been* in government service for more than a decade. By the end of my career in politics, therefore, *I will have been able* to serve my country in many ways.
