



# ROMAN POETS, GODS, AND HEROIC JOURNEYS

## LESSON XXII

### CERĒS ET PRŌSERPINA



**Tense differences** The following Latin verbs (all second person singular present indicative) are distinguished by their stem vowels. Circle the stem vowel in each verb.

portās

docēs

pōnis

mūnis

**Valeō, valēre**, because it belongs to the same group as **doceō** (*second conjugation*), will use its present stem vowel (long ē) to make the second person singular present indicative form.

Translate.

1. You are strong. \_\_\_\_\_

**Regō, regere**, however, because it is a third conjugation verb like **pōnō**, will change its present stem vowel (short e) to short i.

Translate.

2. You rule. \_\_\_\_\_

As a result, these two forms differ in spelling but express the same tense. They follow the rules for their conjugations.

Similarly, with the future tense, you must learn to recognize more than one tense sign. Verbs of the first and second conjugations follow one rule. However, another rule applies to the verbs of the third and fourth conjugations.

In the verbs **portābis** and **docēbis**, the letters **-bi-** tell you that these two forms express the future tense. The third conjugation is different, the tense signs are the vowels **a** and **e**.

Note that **a** as a sign of the future tense is limited to the first person singular. It is followed by the personal ending **-m** instead of **-ō**. (Think of **sum**).

3. **Pōnēs** means \_\_\_\_\_.

Translate.

4. You will be strong. \_\_\_\_\_

5. You will rule. \_\_\_\_\_

Carefully note the difference between the present and future tense forms of the third conjugation in the following sentence. Then translate the sentence into English.

Nunc regis, sed nōn semper regēs.

6. \_\_\_\_\_

Note also the resemblance between present tense forms of the second conjugation and the future tense forms of the third conjugation in the following sentence. Then translate it into English.

Valēs et regēs.

7. \_\_\_\_\_



**Recognizing future tense forms** It will not always be as hard to distinguish Latin verbs by tense as it was in the previous examples. More often, you will recognize the distinctive forms of stems and/or tense signs, as in the following examples. Determine the tense and conjugation of each verb form and then translate.

VERB	TENSE	CONJUGATION	TRANSLATION
1. dēbēbis	_____	_____	_____
2. excēditis	_____	_____	_____
3. migrābimus	_____	_____	_____
4. regam	_____	_____	_____
5. maneō	_____	_____	_____
6. dūcit	_____	_____	_____
7. dēfendunt	_____	_____	_____
8. exspectābunt	_____	_____	_____
9. mātūrāmus	_____	_____	_____
10. mittō	_____	_____	_____

The following verbs all have an **-e** before the personal ending, but differ in tense because they belong to different conjugations. Determine the tense and conjugation of each verb.



To find whether the **-e** signals future or present tense, ask yourself: does the first principal part of the verb end in **-eō**? If it does, the **e** signals present tense because the verb is second conjugation. (e.g., **valēs <valeō** = you *are* well). If the first principal part ends in **-ō**, the verb having an **e** is future. (e.g. **regēs <regō** = you *will* rule).

VERB	CONJUGATION	TENSE	TRANSLATION
11. accēdes	_____	_____	_____
12. dēbēs	_____	_____	_____
13. habet	_____	_____	_____
14. aget	_____	_____	_____
15. dēfendēmus	_____	_____	_____
16. merēmus	_____	_____	_____





**Third declension nouns** On pages 160–161, you will find a number of nouns that have unusual endings. These nouns belong to the third declension. You have already seen a number of them. The following names, for example, are both third declension nominative nouns.

Aristotelēs Caesar

**Plūtō, Herculēs and Iūnō** are names that belong to the third declension. The nominative forms of third declension nouns, as you can see, can differ considerably. Despite this variation, the endings for all other cases are the same. It will prove useful for you to recognize them in your reading well in advance of learning the third declension endings in lesson XL.

Let's begin with the accusative singular ending. For both masculine and feminine forms, **-em** is used. Compare.

fōrmam terminum partem (line 19, page 161)

The ablative singular of a third declension noun is also fairly easy to recognize, especially when it identifies the object of a preposition or when it is modified by an adjective with a case ending that is clearly ablative. Compare.

hōrā annō nocte (line 7, page 160)

Translate.

1. Ā Caesare fūgērunt.

2. In planā parte agrī castra sunt.

A third important ending is **-ēs**, the case ending for both nominative and accusative plural. Like **-em** and **-e**, it is used with both masculine and feminine words of the third declension.

#### EXEMPLĪ GRĀTIĀ

**Multōs flōrēs vidēmus.**

**Flōrēs variī nōn sunt.** (lines 22–23, page 161)

Notice that in each of these examples you can tell the gender and case of the noun from its modifying adjective.

Translate.

3. Noctēs Iūnī et Iūli\* longae sunt.

\*Iūnius and Iūlius, of course, are the names of the months that the Romans used to call **Quinctilis** and **Sextilis**.

4. In multis pictūrīs, Cerēs sacrum flōrem\* tenet.

\*Est papāver (*a poppy*)