

LESSON VIII

GALLIA



Ablative case: place where This lesson introduces an important use of the *ablative* case. You may already be familiar with the *ablative of place where* construction, which frequently appears with the preposition *in*.

Rōma est in Italiā.

The phrase **in Italiā** answers the question *where?* in this sentence. How does its case ending differ in spelling from that of **Rōma**?

Your textbook explains that the ablative case is used to distinguish the objects of certain prepositions (such as *in*). You will learn more about this preposition later. At this point, however, to practice with the new case endings, translate the following phrases.

1. in Libya _____
2. in Damascus _____
3. in the waves _____
4. in the wagons _____



Ablative case: means by which This use of the ablative case with the preposition *in* is only one of many uses of the ablative. You will often encounter a word or a phrase in the ablative case which is not the object of any preposition. In such a construction, the ablative endings themselves, like those of the dative and genitive cases, supply the prepositions required for English translation. The ablative case is often used, for example, to indicate *means*. Whenever you identify this type of ablative, translate it with the English words *by* or *with*.

Translate each noun in the ablative case.

1. aquā _____
2. cibō _____
3. pecūniā _____
4. carrō _____
5. fortūnā _____

Use the five preceding Latin words to answer each question.

6. How do you fill a cornucopia (*horn of plenty*)? _____
7. How do you pay for a football ticket? _____
8. How do you take a hayride? _____
9. How do you resuscitate a drooping flower? _____
10. How do you win the flip of a coin for a kickoff? _____

How would you translate each ablative phrase?

11. undīs magnīs _____
12. memoriīs bonīs _____
13. multis victōriīs _____
14. parvīs litterīs _____
15. quattuor equīs* _____

***Quattuor** means *four*. Like most Latin numbers, it cannot be declined. It agrees with any plural form of a Latin noun, regardless of the noun's case ending.

Use the Latin phrases from questions 11–15 to answer each of the following questions.

16. How does a team become qualified for the playoffs? _____
17. How are special moments preserved? _____
18. How were Roman chariots pulled? _____
19. How is a wedding ring engraved? _____
20. How is a surfboard propelled? _____



English to Latin translation: ablatives In the following story, certain words are used to express *means*. Others are used as objects of the preposition *in*. The correct Latin form of the nouns in each instance will be ablative. Translate the italicized phrases.

Remember: the *ablative of means* never uses a Latin preposition. When the word *in* refers to a place, however, it must be expressed with its Latin cognate, **in**.

- 1–2. Many years ago *in Italy*, King Numitor was driven from the throne of Alba Longa *by the great injustice* of his brother Amulius.

3. Numitor's only daughter, the princess Rhea Silvia, was forced to live *in the household** of the Vestal Virgins.

*Use the noun **familia** here. This word refers not only to biological families, but to all the people living under one roof.



4. One day, as she was drawing water *in the forest*, the god Mars was attracted to her and made her the mother of twins named Romulus and Remus.

5. The outraged Amulius murdered his niece and afflicted her sons *with harsh penalties*.

6-7. He instructed a loyal slave of the princess to bring the two infants to the river Tiber *by horse or wagon* and drown them.

8. He set both boys in a watertight basket and put it *in the waters* of the Tiber River.

9-10. *With (its) small waves* the river cast the twins ashore *on land* that would later be known as the Roman Forum.

11. Today a famous fig tree stands on that spot and commemorates the story of Romulus and Remus *with (its) pleasing shape*.
