Capitulum X - Bestiae et Homines

Passive Infinitives

The infinitive form of verbs may be active or passive. The active forms of the four conjugation patterns in the present tense are as follows:

amāre - to love   *vidēre* - to see   *ponere* - to place   *audīre* - to hear

The passive infinitive in the present tense is formed by changing the *e* at the end of the verb to an *ī* . For the 3rd Conjugation, the entire infinitive ending is dropped before adding the *ī*.

amārī - to be loved   *vidērī* - to be seen   *ponī* - to be placed   *audīrī* - to be heard

Types of Infinitives

Infinitives are used in three distinct ways in Latin: as a complementary infinitive, as a gerund, and as an infinitive in indirect speech (*ōrātiō oblīqua*).

1) A complementary infinitive *completes* the meaning of a verb and it used in the same fashion as in English, both in the active and passive voice.

Hominēs ambulāre possunt. Men are able to walk.
Piscēs in aquā natāre possunt. Fish are able to swim in water.
Piscēs numerārī nōn possunt. Fish are not able to be counted.
Nēmō sine cibō vīvere potest. No one can live without food.

2) A gerund (a verbal noun) is used in Latin in the same fashion as in English. The gerund in Latin is a 2nd Declension neuter noun. The nominative form is the infinitive.

Spīrāre necesse est hominī. To breathe is necessary for a man.
Ēsse quoque hominī necesse est. To eat also is necessary for a man.
Ērrāre humānum est. To err is human.

3) Indirect Speech. See the following section.

Indirect Speech (*Ōrātiō oblīqua*)

Any direct statement in English can be turned into an indirect statement by use of an introducing verb and the subordinate conjunction *that:*

The girl is singing. → I hear *that* the girl is singing.
The boy calls. → Julius hears *that* the boy calls.
The boy runs to his father. → Julius sees *that* the boy runs to him.

Classical Latin does *not* use this method of creating a subordinate clause. Instead, it forms indirect speech statements with 1) an main verb (of mental action), 2) a subject accusative, and 3) an infinitive:

Puerī puellas canere audiunt. *The boys hear that the girls are singing.*
Canis avem suprā se volāre videt. *The dog sees that the bird is flying above him.*
Mārcus Quintum ad terram cadere videt. *Marcus sees that Marcus falls to the ground.*
Mārcus eum spirāre not videt. *Marcus does not see that he is breathing.*
Iūlius puerum vocāre audit. *Julius hears that the boy is calling.*
Iūlius eum oculōs aperīre videt. *Julius sees that he opens his eyes.*
Aemilia fīlium suum ā Iūliō portārī videt. *Aemilia sees that her soon is being carried by Julius.*
Aemilia Quīntum ā Iūliō in lectō ponī aspicit. *Aemilia sees that Quintus is being put on the bed by Julius.*

Note that the "introducing" verb of mental action very often comes *after* the indirect speech clause.

Ablative of Manner
    The ablative of manner is used to express the manner in which the action of a verb is done. It generally is used in the case of emotions and other intangibles and is often accompanied by an adjective. The ablative of manner can be used with or without the preposition *cum*, but when *cum* is used with an ablative of manner accompanied by an adjective, the *cum* regularly is placed between them: *summā cum laude*.

Mārcus perterritus ad vīllam currit et *magnā voce* clāmat. *Marcus, terrified, runs to the villa and shouts in a loud voice.*

Third Declension Nouns
    Here are the Third Declension Nouns presented in Chapter 10:

leō, -ōnis *m* lion
homō, -inis *m* person, man
avis, avis *f* bird
piscis, piscis *m* fish
āēr, āēris *m* the air
pēs, pedis *m* foot

mercātor, -ōris *m* merchant
mare, maris *n* sea
flūmen, -inis *n* river
pulmō, -ōnis *m* lung
animal, -ālis *n* animal
vōx, vocis *f* voice

Vocabulary

cum *conj* when
quod *conj* because
possum, posse, to be able
vult, volunt, he wants; they want
nēmō, no one
enim *conj* for, indeed, in fact
ergō *adv* therefore