

# Chapter 7

Anno Domini

## Prepositions; Prefixes; Accusative of Place to Which Ablative of Place from Which

### I. Grammar

A preposition is a word that shows how a noun or a pronoun is related to another word in the sentence.

#### A. Prepositions and Adverbs

This chart should be put under Prepositions in the section titled "Grammar."

The word "preposition" comes from the Latin word **praepositus** which means *placed in front*. Originally the case endings alone were enough to show the meaning of nouns in a sentence. But the accusative and ablative cases came to be used in so many ways that certain adverbs began to be used to make the relationship of the words clearer. These adverbs came to be called prepositions because they were placed in front of the nouns and formed prepositional phrases.

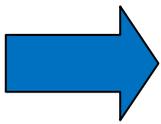
The bird sat *on* the house.  
The bird was *above* the house.  
The bird flew *under* the house.  
The bird stepped *off* the perch.  
The bird stood *between* the trees.

The prepositions *on*, *above*, *under*, *off*, and *between* show how *the bird* is related to the nouns *house*, *perch*, *trees*. Each preposition has an object that makes up a **prepositional phrase**: *on the house*, *above the house*, etc. A preposition which has no object in English is an adverb. Thus, in the sentence, "The sky is above," *above* has no object, so in that instance it is an adverb.



Write this list of commonly used English prepositions in your notebook on the page titled Prepositions in the Grammar section of your notebook. Memorize them all.

aboard	at	concerning	into	past	until
about	atop	despite	like	regarding	unto
above	before	down	near	round	up
across	behind	during	of	since	upon
after	below	except	off	through	with
against	beneath	excepting	on	throughout	within
along	beside	for	onto	to	without
amid	between	from	out	toward	
among	beyond	in	outside	under	
around	by	inside	over	underneath	



## B. Accusative of Place to Which and Ablative of Place from Which

The first chart should be copied and placed on the page titled Accusative Case in the “Cases/Declensions” section of your notebook and the second one on the page titled Ablative Case.

### Accusative of Place to Which

Generally, prepositions are followed by a noun or pronoun in the **accusative** case when the phrase shows motion.

The **Accusative of Place to Which** uses the prepositions **ad** (*to*), **in** (*into*, *against*), **per** (*through*), and **sub** (when it means ‘*up to*’), to show motion. When using the names of cities, towns or small islands, you may omit the **ad**.

**Pueri in silvam ambulat.** *The boys are walking into the forest.*

**Aquam (ad) Romam portamus.** *We carry water to Rome.*

**NOTA BENE:** Prepositions **in** (*in, on*) and **sub** (*under, beneath*) are followed by a noun or pronoun in the **ablative** case to show location or position.

**Ablative of Place from Which** The prepositions **a** or **ab** (*away from*), **de** (*down from*), **e** or **ex** (*from, out of*) to show position from which motion begins. While all three prepositions can mean *from*, **ab** means away from the outside; **de** means down from the inside; **ex** means out from the inside. All can mean *from* when it is not important to distinguish. Again, you may omit the preposition with names of cities, etc.

### PLACE WHERE:

**Puella est in silvā.** *The girl is in the forest.*

**Gladius est sub equo.** *The sword is beneath the horse.*

### PLACE FROM WHICH:

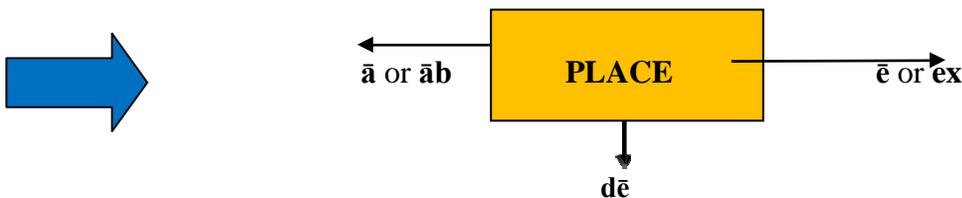
**Ambulat ex ludo.**

*He is walking from school.*

**Ambulat a ludo.** *He is walking away from school.*

**Ambulat de ludo.** *He is walking down from school.*

**A** (or **ab**) denotes *away from* a place; **e** or **ex**, *out from* it; and **dē**, *down from* it. This may be represented graphically as follows:



## II. Vocabulary

## English Derivatives

Write the prepositions on white cards with red ink for accusative, and write ablative prepositions on white cards with green ink (22).

**NOTA  
BENE:**

Be sure to learn which case follows each preposition.

<b>ād</b> + accusative	<i>to, toward, near, beside, at</i>	(advent)
<b>ān'tē</b> + accusative	<i>before, in front of</i>	(antecedent)
<b>cīr'cūm</b> + accusative	<i>around, about (location)</i>	(circle)
<b>con'tra</b> + accusative	<i>against</i>	(contradict)
<b>īn</b> + accusative	<i>into, against</i>	
<b>īn'ter</b> + accusative	<i>between, among</i>	(intercept)
<b>ob</b> + accusative	<i>because of, on account of</i>	
<b>per</b> + accusative	<i>through, along, by (location)</i>	(perspire)
<b>pōst</b> + accusative	<i>after, behind</i>	(postpone)
<b>prō'pē</b> + accusative	<i>near, nearby</i>	(propinquity)
<b>prop'ter</b> + accusative	<i>because of, on account of</i>	
<b>sub</b> + accusative, after verbs of motion,	<i>up to, up to the foot of, close to, under</i>	
<b>sū'per</b> + accusative,	<i>above</i>	
<b>trāns</b> + accusative	<i>across, over</i>	(transport)
<b>ā, āb*</b> + ablative	<i>from, away from, by</i>	(absent)
<b>cūm</b> + ablative	<i>with</i>	
<b>dē</b> + ablative	<i>concerning, about, from, down from</i>	(depart)
<b>ē, ēx*</b> + ablative	<i>from, out of</i>	(export)
<b>īn</b> + ablative	<i>in, on</i>	(invoke)
<b>prō</b> + ablative	<i>in front of, on behalf of, for</i>	(professor)
<b>sī'nē</b> + ablative	<i>without</i>	(sinecure)
<b>sūb</b> + ablative	<i>at the foot of, under, beneath</i>	(subway)

**HINT:** Before vowels or 'h', **ab** or **ex** must be used in order to speak more smoothly. Before consonants usually just the **a** or **e** are used. This is like the rule in English regarding *a* or *an*.

## III. Word Study: Prefixes

Many of the prepositions in Latin are used as *prefixes* joined to root words. Some of the adverbs which later became prepositions were used before verbs, and eventually became part of the verb itself. They are called prefixes from the Latin words, **prae** + **fixus**, *attached in front*. When you read a Latin sentence sometimes the prefix is attached to the verb, and is repeated in the other part of the sentence as a preposition with an object.

**Puellas a pueris avocāt.** *She calls the girls away from the boys.*

Normally prefixes have the same meanings as their corresponding prepositions, but sometimes they have additional meanings.



## PREFIXES

**a-, ab-, abs-:** *away, off*

**e-, ex-:** *out, throughout*

**ad-:** *to, towards, near*

**de-:** *down, upon*

**in-, im-:** *in, on, against, not*

**sub-, sup-:** *under, up from under, secretly, somewhat*

When these prefixes are added to some of the verbs you have learned, you can see the meanings change just a little:

**a-, ab-, abs-:** *asporto, I carry away, I carry off*

*absum, I am away, I am absent*

*avoco, I call away (abl.)*

**ad-:** *aspecto, I look towards (acc.)*

*adsum, I am here (acc.)*

**de-:** *deporto, I carry down, I carry away (abl.)*

*despecto, I look down upon (abl.)*

**e-, ex-:** *exporto, I carry out (abl.)*

*expugno, I conquer, I take by assault (abl.)*

*expecto, I look out for, I await (abl.)*

*evoco, I call out (abl.)*

**in-:** *importo, I carry in, I bring in (acc.)*

*invoco, I call upon, I invoke (abl.)*

**sub-:** *supporto, I carry up, I support (acc.)*

*subsum, I am under, I am concealed (abl.)*

Sometimes the prefixes may change or leave off a letter before combining with the verb to make it easier to pronounce.

## IV. Exercises

### A. Pronounce and translate.

1. cum feminis

2. a villis

3. a pueris

4. e familiā

5. in Galliā

6. sine amicis

7. pro silvis Italiae

8. ab insulā

9. de ludis poetarum

10. ad aquam

### B. Remember to use the correct case following each preposition.

1. with the messenger

2. through the forests of Italy

3. before the game

4. across the provinces

5. among friends

6. concerning the letter

7. through the fields

8. toward the horses

9. against Rome

10. because of the teacher



**C. Sentences. Note the case and number before you translate.**

1. Propheta populo amicitiam dat.
2. Deus iustitiam et vitam amat.
3. Est magister ludi etiam villae.
4. Petrus est servus Dei.
5. Salutatis Petrum et est vester (*your*) amicus.
6. Angeli sunt nuntii Domini et gloriam Deo dant.
7. Discipuli familiis Italiae amicitiam dant.
8. Rogant feminas et filias libros et libros ad villam portant.
9. Neque magistri neque feminae libros ad villam portant, sed servi.
10. Christus animos virorum sanat et est cumviris.

**D. Mark every word as you have been taught.**

When you mark an English sentence for translation, put parentheses around any prepositional phrases before you mark the rest of the sentence.

1. We are calling the men from the provinces.
2. They do attack the men in Italy.
3. God blesses the nations.
4. The men set the servants free and they walk away from the fields.
5. I try to honor the prophets.
6. The common crowd is singing and also praising God.
7. James does greet the apostles.
8. The family of Peter lives in Gaul away from towns.
9. The women and girls and handmaidens are preparing to sing.
10. We cry on behalf of the world, but we praise God.

**NOTA BENE:**

The translation of a preposition which is followed by the **accusative** case indicates *motion*, and one followed by the **ablative** case usually indicates *position* or *location*.

## V. Reading Lesson

### Nuntius <sup>1</sup>e Romā

Pueri ante villam ambulant. Viros in agris spectant. Subito (*suddenly*) est nuntius in equo. Nuntius pueros salutat.

“Quis (*Who*) es?” Davus rogat.

“Nuntius e Romā sum,” vocat. Nuntium spectant.

“Porto nuntium (*message*) ad Romulum Fidelium.”

“Filiis Romuli Fideli sumus. In villā est,” vocat Davus.

Titus vocat Fidelium, “Nuntius hic (*here*) e Romā est.” Fidelius salutat nuntium. Nuntius epistolam Fidelio dat. Epistula a <sup>2</sup>Tiberio, domino Romae est, qui (*who*) Fidelium et familiam (ad) Romam revocat (*calls back*). Fidelius familiae de epistolā narrat.

**Responde Latine. Answer in a complete sentence.**

1. Quem (*Whom*) pueri spectant?
2. Ubi nuntius habitat?
3. Quem (*What*) nuntius Fidelio dat?

<sup>1</sup>We are using the “e”, or in some cases “ex”, before Roma to help with translation, but it is not necessary to use it. Names of cities in the locative case do not require a preposition, but *may* use a prep. + abl.

<sup>2</sup>Tiberius, the emperor of Rome, reigned from AD 14 until AD 37.



**Nuntius (e) Romā  
Salutans Matrem**



*Capitolium*