

Lower 4 study new tenses in Latin

SW 10/06/24

Pugna

- 1) Clemens in foro ambulabat.
Clemens was walking in the forum.
- 2) turba maxima erat in foro.
A very large crowd was in the forum.
- 3) servi et ancillae cibum emebant.
Slaves and slave-girls were buying food.
- 4) multi pistorum panem vendebant.
Many bakers were selling bread.
- 5) poeta recitabat.
A poet was reciting.
- 6) mercator Graecus contentionem cum agricolâ habebat.
A Greek merchant was having an argument with a farmer.
- 7) mercator iratus pecuniam postulat.
The angry merchant was demanding money.
- 8) subito agricola Graecum pulsavit, quod Graecus agricolam vitu perabat.
Suddenly, the farmer hit the Greek, because the Greek cursed the farmer.
- 9) Pompeiani ridebant, et agricolam incitabant.
The Pompeians were laughing, and were encouraging the farmer.
- 10) Clemens, postquam clamorem audivit, ad pugnam festinavit.
Clemens, when he heard the uproar, hurried to the fight.
- 11) tandem agricola mercatorem superavit et e foro agitavit.
At last, the farmer overpowered the merchant and chased him out of the forum.
- 12) Pompeiani agricolam fortem laudabant.
The Pompeians praised the brave farmer.

As Lower 4 pupils near the end of their Latin course this year, they have been introduced to some of the most important tenses in the Latin language. Tenses are taken by verbs and are used to express time. For example, in English 'I ran' indicates a completed action in the past whereas 'I will run' indicates an action that has yet to be completed in the future. In Latin, two of the most important tenses are called the perfect and imperfect tenses. These express completed and ongoing actions in the past respectively. Examples of both can be seen in the pupil's work pictured above.

It is crucial that pupils master these two tenses and can recognise them in Latin texts. This is because the perfect and imperfect appear frequently in Latin historical texts as well as myths and other stories. The pupil whose work is featured above has clearly been able to recognise both tenses and has accurately translated a short story about a scuffle in the forum of Pompeii.

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