

Prepositions

Prepositions are words placed before a noun (*pre-positioned*) which give information about that noun. E.g. *under* the table, *on* the table, *around* the table.

In Latin the preposition 'governs' (i.e. is followed by) a particular case, either the accusative or the ablative. Some prepositions govern the accusative, some govern the ablative. When you learn the preposition, you have to learn which case it governs.

Here are two Latin prepositions:

ad + accusative = towards; sub + ablative = under.

Using these two prepositions, we can write:

Towards the table = ad mēnsam.

Under the tables = sub mēnsis.

Particular care needs to be taken with the Latin preposition *in*. When it is followed by the accusative it means *into* or *on to*, but when it is followed by the ablative it means *in* or *on*.
E.g. *in mēnsam* = on to the table.
E.g. *in mēnsā* = on the table.

Vocabulary 3

Verbs	inter + acc.	among
ambulō, -āre, -āvī, -ātum	per + acc.	through, along
habitō, -āre, -āvī, -ātum	post + acc.	after
nārō, -āre, -āvī, -ātum	prope + acc.	near
portō, -āre, -āvī, -ātum	Prepositions + abl.	
vulnerō, -āre, -āvī, -ātum	ā / ab 2 + abl.	by, from
Prepositions + acc.	cum + abl.	with 3
ad + acc.	dē + abl.	down from, concerning
ante + acc.	ē, ex 4 + abl.	out of
circum + acc.	in + abl.	in, on
contrā + acc.	sine + abl.	without
in + acc.	sub + abl.	under

1. ad = 'to', in the sense of 'towards' (e.g. he sails to the island, i.e. *towards* the island). This should not be confused with the normal use of the dative case (meaning 'to').
2. The preposition ā becomes ab if the next word begins with a vowel or h.
E.g. ā Graeciā, but ab Italiā.
3. The preposition cum = 'with', in the sense of 'together with' (e.g. he walks with the woman, i.e. *together with* the woman). This should not be confused with the normal use of the ablative for 'with' meaning 'by means of' (e.g. he killed the farmer *with* an arrow, i.e. *by means of* an arrow).
4. The preposition ē becomes ex before a vowel or h.
E.g. ē Graeciā but ex Italiā.

So you really want to learn Latin...

Exercise 3. 6

Examine the information on the left-hand page about prepositions. Translate into Latin, using the prepositions from Vocabulary 3.

1. Towards the island
2. Through the streets
3. Into the water
4. Against the inhabitants
5. In the water
6. With the women
7. Near the table
8. Concerning Troy
9. Out of the country
10. After the story

Exercise 3. 7

Translate into English:

1. in viā
2. contrā agricolās
3. in viam
4. ā patriā
5. cum agricolā
6. in pugnam
7. dē mēnsā
8. per viās
9. sub aquā
10. circum Rōmam

Exercise 3. 8

When translating sentences containing prepositions, it is a good idea when analysing to bracket prepositions together with the nouns they govern, as in the first few shown below. A sentence may contain more than one preposition. Translate into English:

1. Aenēās [ā patriā] nāvigāvit.
2. [ad Italiām] festinābat.
3. Aenēās [cum incolis] Italiāe pugnāt.
4. agricolae Italiāe circum nautās ambulābant.
5. ad aquam festinābant.
6. nautae cum agricolis pugnābant.
7. per viās patriāe ambulābant.
8. prope aquam mēnsās parāvērunt.
9. aquam ad mēnsam portābant.
10. fābulās incolis nārrābant.

Using Latin

Sub aquā
sub aquā = under water.