

CHAPTER 32

Adverbs: Formation and Comparison; Volo

ADVERBS

Adverbs, of course, are words which modify verbs; that is, they tell you something about the way in which, or the conditions under which, the action of the verb is undertaken : "quickly", "stupidly", "easily", "suddenly" and so forth. And because they don't agree with their verb in any way, adverbs don't decline or take on a variety of endings to match them with their verbs.

The adverbs you've been working with up to now are, shall we say, "obvious" adverbs.

Adverbs like "*tamen*" or "*tum*" aren't morphologically related at all to any other words in any way.

They aren't derived from adjectives or nouns; they are only adverbs.

But if you look at an English adverb like "quickly", you can clearly see how this is a form derived from the adjective "quick". To turn it into an adverb, English simply attaches the ending "-ly".

This may not seem like a monumental discovery, but it does have an important consequence.

Since "quickly" is a form which is derivable from "quick" according to a rather straight-forward rule of English grammar, an English dictionary will not list "quickly" as a separate word. You'll find it mentioned in passing only under the entry for "quick", which is its ancestor, so to speak.

Latin also has a set of rules for deriving adverbs from adjectives, and it is important that you know them - for the same reason it's important to know the English rules of creating adverbs from adjectives : because an adverb which is a derived form from an adjective will not be given a separate dictionary listing.

To look up a derived adverb, you'll first have deconstruct it, by undoing the rules that made it an adverb in the first place. You have to reduce the adverb to the original adjective; then you can look the adjective up. Once you have the meaning of the adjective, then you can go back to your sentence and "adverbize" the meaning of the adjective. Let's get started.

Just as there are three degrees of adjectives, so also there are three degrees of adverbs.

An adverb in the positive degree is formed off the positive degree stem of the adjective;

the comparative degree of the adverb is formed from the comparative degree stem of the adjective;

and the superlative degree of the adverb is formed from the superlative degree stem of the adjective.

As a brief refresher, here are the rules for forming the degrees of adjectives.

COMPARATIVE DEGREE OF ADJECTIVES

ADJECTIVE	STEM	+	COMPARATIVE DEGREE
<i>longus, -a, -um</i>	<i>long-</i>		<i>longior, -ius</i>
<i>miser, -a, -um</i>	<i>miser-</i>		<i>miserior, -ius</i>
<i>pulcher, -chra, -chrum</i>	<i>pulchr-</i>		<i>pulchrior, -ior</i>
<i>acer, acris, acre</i>	<i>acr-</i>		<i>acrior, -ius</i>
<i>fortis, -e</i>	<i>fort-</i>		<i>fortior, -ius</i>

SUPERLATIVE DEGREE OF ADJECTIVES

A. For adjectives whose stem does not end in "-r"

ADJECTIVE	STEM	+	SUPERLATIVE DEGREE
<i>longus, -a, -um</i>	<i>long-</i>		<i>longissimus, -a, -um</i>
<i>fortis, -e</i>	<i>fort-</i>		<i>fortissimus, -a, -um</i>
<i>potens, -ntis</i>	<i>potent-</i>		<i>potentissimus, -a, um</i>

B. For adjectives whose stem ends in "-r"

	stem	+	<i>-rimus, -a, -um</i>
ADJECTIVE	STEM		SUPERLATIVE FORM
<i>miser, -a, -um</i>	<i>miser-</i>		<i>miserrimus, -a, -um</i>
<i>pulcher, -chra, -chrum</i>	<i>pulcher-</i>		<i>pulcherrimus, -a, um</i>
<i>acer, acris, acre</i>	<i>acer-</i>		<i>acerrimus, -a, -um</i>

C. For the six exceptions whose stem ends in "-l" :

similis, -e; dissimilis, -e; facilis, -e; difficilis, -e; gracilis, -e; humilis, -e.

	stem	+	<i>-limus, -a, -um</i>
ADJECTIVE	STEM		SUPERLATIVE FORM
<i>facilis, -e</i>	<i>facil-</i>		<i>facillimus, -a, -um</i>
<i>similis, -e</i>	<i>simil-</i>		<i>simillimus, -a, -um</i>

Of course, you mustn't forget the adjectives, most of them very common, which form their degrees irregularly.

POSITIVE	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE
<i>bonus, -a, -um</i>	<i>melior, -ius</i>	<i>optimus, -a, -um</i>
<i>magnus, -a, -um</i>	<i>maior, -ius</i>	<i>maximus, -a, -um</i>
<i>malus, -a, -um</i>	<i>peior, -ius</i>	<i>pessimus, -a, -um</i>
<i>multus, -a, -um</i>	-----, <i>plus</i>	<i>plurimus, -a, -um</i>
<i>parvus, -a, -um</i>	<i>minor, minus</i>	<i>minimus, -a, -um</i>
-----	<i>prior, -ius</i>	<i>primus, -a, -um</i>
<i>superus, -a, -um</i>	<i>superior, -ius</i>	<i>summus, -a, -um</i>
		<i>supremus, -a, -um</i>

ADVERBS IN THE POSITIVE DEGREE

Now let's have a look at how Latin "adverbized" an adjective.

In English, as you know, we can easily turn most adjectives into adverbs simply by added "-ly" to the stem: "quickly", "speedily", "ferociously", et cetera.

In Latin, to form an adverb in the positive degree, you start with the stem of the positive degree of the adjective.

For adverbs derived from adjectives of the first and second declension, the rule is simple :

stem + *-e*

For adverbs derived from third declension adjectives :

stem + *-iter*

For adverbs derived from third declension adjectives whose stem ends in "-nt-" :

stem + *-er*

This is fairly easy, but let's try a few exercises :

Form the positive degree of the following adverbs.

ADJECTIVE	STEM	POSITIVE ADVERB
<i>acer, -cris, -re</i>	_____	_____
<i>sapiens, -ntis</i>	_____	_____
<i>fortis, -e</i>	_____	_____
<i>iucundus, -a, -um</i>	_____	_____
<i>liber, -a, -um</i>	_____	_____
<i>clarus, -a, -um</i>	_____	_____
<i>celer, -is, -e</i>	_____	_____

COMPARATIVE DEGREE OF ADVERBS

In English, we compare adverbs by using the word "more" placed in front of the adverb in the positive degree : "more quickly".

Latin forms a comparative adverb simply by using the comparative adjective in the neuter accusative singular form.

So to say "more beautifully", or "rather beautifully", or "too beautifully", Romans said "*pulchrius*".
Let's try a few out.

ADJECTIVE	STEM	COMPARATIVE ADVERB
<i>acer, -cris, -re</i>	_____	_____
<i>sapiens, -ntis</i>	_____	_____
<i>fortis, -e</i>	_____	_____
<i>iucundus, -a, -um</i>	_____	_____
<i>liber, -a, -um</i>	_____	_____
<i>clarus, -a, -um</i>	_____	_____
<i>celer, -is, -e</i>	_____	_____

SUPERLATIVE DEGREE OF ADVERBS

The English superlative adverb is "most" plus the adverb in the positive degree.

To form the superlative degree of an adverb, you simply use the stem of the superlative degree of the adjective and add a "-e".

To say "most beautifully", or "very beautifully", Romans said "*pulcherrime*".

Let's have a look.

ADJECTIVE	STEM	SUPERLATIVE ADVERB
<i>acer, -cris, -re</i>	_____	_____
<i>sapiens, -ntis</i>	_____	_____
<i>fortis, -e</i>	_____	_____
<i>iucundus, -a, -um</i>	_____	_____
<i>liber, -a, -um</i>	_____	_____
<i>clarus, -a, -um</i>	_____	_____
<i>celer, -is, -e</i>	_____	_____

DRILLS

Write out the positive, comparative and superlative degree adverbs derived from the following adjectives.

ADJECTIVE	POSITIVE	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE
<i>longus, -a, -um</i>	_____	_____	_____
<i>miser, -a, -um</i>	_____	_____	_____
<i>pulcher, -chra, -chrum</i>	_____	_____	_____
<i>felix, -icis</i>	_____	_____	_____
<i>potens, -ntis</i>	_____	_____	_____
<i>facilis, -e</i>	_____	_____	_____

DEGREES OF ADVERBS FROM IRREGULAR ADJECTIVES

As you know, there are some common adjectives which form their degrees irregularly. We would hope that the adverbs would just use the irregular stems to form their degrees. And sometimes that's what happens. But sometimes other irregularities start to creep in. Let's look at them.

Here are some of irregular adjectives in their three degrees. Try to write them out first on your own.

IRREGULAR ADJECTIVES

ADJECTIVE	POSITIVE	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE
<i>bonus, -a, -um</i>	_____	_____	_____
<i>malus, -a, -um</i>	_____	_____	_____
<i>magnus, -a, -um</i>	_____	_____	_____
<i>multus, -a, -um</i>	_____	_____	_____
<i>parvus, -a, -um</i>	_____	_____	_____
<i>(prae, pro)</i>	_____	_____	_____

1. From *bonus, -a, -um*

Starting with "*bonus, -a, -um*", if we were to follow the rules for deriving the positive degree adverb, we'd get a form like this : "bone". And that's pretty close to the actual form "*ben*".

The comparative degree of the adjective is "*melior, -ius*", so, following the standard rules, what would be the comparative adverb?

The rule says to use the neuter, accusative singular of the comparative adjective for the comparative adverb, so the form would be "*melius*". And that is in fact the real form.

For the superlative, the form of the adverb would be "*optime*", and that's what the real form is.

Now fill in the spaces in the table above with the degree of the adverb derived from "*bonus*".

2. From *malus, -a, -um*

The adverbs derived from "*malus*" are entirely regular - once you remember the irregular degrees of the adjective itself. Fill in the next row of blanks.

3. From *magnus, -a, -um*

The adverbs in the positive and comparative degrees from "*magnus*" are very odd: "*magnopere*" for the positive degree (not "magne") and "*magis*" for the comparative degree (not "maius").

But the superlative degree follows the rules. Fill them in.

4. From *multus, -a, -um*

The adverbs from "*multus*" are odd, too.

Just "*multum*" for the adverb in the positive degree, "*plus*" for the comparative degree, and "*plurimum*" (not the expected "plurime") in the superlative degree.

5. From *parvus, -a, -um*

The adverbs from "*parvus*" follow the rule, except for the positive degree, where we have "*parum*", instead of "parve".

6. From *prior, -ius*

As you might expect, there is no adverb for "before";

Latin instead uses a subordinating conjunction and a subordinate clause for that.

The comparative degree of the adverb is regular; the superlative degree is either "*primum*" or "*primo*", (not "prime").

7. "For a long (longer) (longest) time"

Wheelock also shows you degree of an adverbs which means "for a long time", "for rather long time", and "for a very long time". This adverb is not derived from an adjective, but it does show degrees as if it were. Besides, it's a very common adverb, so you need to recognize it :

diu diutius diutissime

8. *Magnopere, magis, maxime*

Wheelock gives you another set of adverbs which are also derived from the adjective "*multus, -a, -um*". The meanings are straight-forward enough - "greatly, more, and most" - but there is a fine distinction in usage of these forms from the other adverbs derived from "*multus*", "*multum, plus*, and "*plurimum*". In the comparative, "*plus*" is used to compare amounts of action undertaken : "*Video plus quam tu*" (I see more than you).

"*Magis*", however, is used to compare certain adjectives : "*Hoc idoneum est quam illud*" (This is more suitable than that.)

This may seem odd, because you learned in Chapter 26 that comparative adjectives are formed by adding the suffixes "*-ior, -ius*" to the stem. This rule holds except for adjectives whose stem ends in "*-e*", as "*idoneus, -a, -um*" does. These adjectives use the comparative adverb "*magis*" to form their comparative degree. Similarly, the superlative degree of these adjectives is "*maxime*" plus the positive degree. (You won't see "*magis*" or "*maxime*" much in this book.)

THE IRREGULAR VERB *Volo, velle, volui, -----*

The verb "to wish" has some irregularities in the present system of tenses, it has no passive voice in either the present or the perfect system. (Hence no fourth principal part.) The perfect system active, however, is entirely regular. Unfortunately, there isn't any way to predict or explain many of these oddities, so you simply must memorize them.

Basically "*volo*" is a third conjugation verb, so you should be noting how it differs from a regular third conjugation verb. That will give you some standard against which to compare it.

In the following tables, I'll fill in the irregular forms; you fill in the rest.

I. THE PRESENT SYSTEM

(a) Indicative	PRESENT	FUTURE	IMPERFECT
1st	_____	_____	_____
2nd	<i>vis</i>	_____	_____
3rd	<i>vult</i>	_____	_____
1st	<i>volumus</i>	_____	_____
2nd	<i>vultis</i>	_____	_____
3rd	_____	_____	_____
(b) Subjunctive	PRESENT	FUTURE (none)	IMPERFECT
1st	<i>velim</i>		<i>vellem</i>
2nd	_____		_____
3rd	_____		_____
1st	_____		_____
2nd	_____		_____
3rd	_____		_____

II. PERFECT SYSTEM

(a) Indicative	PERFECT	FUTURE PERFECT	PLUPERFECT
1st	_____	_____	_____
2nd	_____	_____	_____
3rd	_____	_____	_____
1st	_____	_____	_____
2nd	_____	_____	_____
3rd	_____	_____	_____

(b) Subjunctive	PERFECT	FUTURE PERFECT (none)	PLUPERFECT
1st	_____		_____
2nd	_____		_____
3rd	_____		_____
1st	_____		_____
2nd	_____		_____
3rd	_____		_____

III. INFINITIVES	ACTIVE	PASSIVE (none)
PRESENT	_____	
PERFECT	_____	
FUTURE (none)		

IV. PARTICIPLES	ACTIVE	PASSIVE (none)
PRESENT	_____	
PERFECT (none)		
FUTURE (none)		

V. IMPERATIVES (No imperative forms)

THE RELATED IRREGULAR VERBS *Nolo* AND *Malo*

The two irregular verbs "*nolo*" (not to want) and "*malo*" (to prefer) are derivatives of "*volo*". "*Nolo*" is a kind of contraction of "*ne + volo*", meaning literally "I don't want", and "*malo*" comes from "*magis + volo*", meaning literally "I wish more". Because these verbs are so closely related, therefore, to the irregular verb "*volo*", Wheelock thinks it right to put them together in the same chapter. Why not?

Write out the conjugations of these two verbs.

Again, I'll put in the irregular forms; you should be able to produce the forms that aren't irregular on your own.

Nolo, nolle, nolui, -----

I. THE PRESENT SYSTEM

(a) Indicative	PRESENT	FUTURE	IMPERFECT
1st	_____	_____	_____
2nd	<i>non vis</i>	_____	_____
3rd	<i>non vult</i>	_____	_____
1st	<i>nolumus</i>	_____	_____
2nd	<i>non vultis</i>	_____	_____
3rd	_____	_____	_____
(b) Subjunctive	PRESENT	FUTURE (none)	IMPERFECT
1st	<i>nolim</i>		<i>nollem</i>
2nd	_____		_____
3rd	_____		_____
1st	_____		_____
2nd	_____		_____
3rd	_____		_____

II. PERFECT SYSTEM

(a) Indicative	PERFECT	FUTURE PERFECT	PLUPERFECT
1st	_____	_____	_____
2nd	_____	_____	_____
3rd	_____	_____	_____
1st	_____	_____	_____
2nd	_____	_____	_____
3rd	_____	_____	_____
(b) Subjunctive	PERFECT	FUTURE PERFECT (none)	PLUPERFECT
1st	_____		_____
2nd	_____		_____
3rd	_____		_____
1st	_____		_____
2nd	_____		_____
3rd	_____		_____

III. INFINITIVES ACTIVE PASSIVE (none)
PRESENT _____
PERFECT _____
FUTURE (none)

IV. PARTICIPLES ACTIVE PASSIVE (none)
PRESENT _____
PERFECT (none)
FUTURE (none)

V. IMPERATIVES
SINGULAR *noli*
PLURAL *nolite*

Malo, malle, malui, -----

I. THE PRESENT SYSTEM

(a) Indicative	PRESENT	FUTURE	IMPERFECT
1st	_____	_____	_____
2nd	<i>mavis</i>	_____	_____
3rd	<i>mavult</i>	_____	_____
1st	<i>malumus</i>	_____	_____
2nd	<i>mavultis</i>	_____	_____
3rd	_____	_____	_____

(b) Subjunctive	PRESENT	FUTURE (none)	IMPERFECT
1st	<i>malim</i>		<i>mallem</i>
2nd	_____		_____
3rd	_____		_____
1st	_____		_____
2nd	_____		_____
3rd	_____		_____

II. PERFECT SYSTEM

(a) Indicative	PERFECT	FUTURE PERFECT	PLUPERFECT
1st	_____	_____	_____
2nd	_____	_____	_____
3rd	_____	_____	_____
1st	_____	_____	_____
2nd	_____	_____	_____
3rd	_____	_____	_____

(b) Subjunctive	PERFECT	FUTURE PERFECT (none)	PLUPERFECT
1st	_____		_____
2nd	_____		_____
3rd	_____		_____
1st	_____		_____
2nd	_____		_____
3rd	_____		_____

III. INFINITIVES	ACTIVE	PASSIVE (none)
PRESENT	_____	
PERFECT	_____	
FUTURE (none)		

IV. PARTICIPLES (No participles)

V. IMPERATIVES (No imperative forms)

VOCABULARY PUZZLES

- divitiae, -arum* (f) The noun has no singular forms, and students often confuse this noun with adjective "*dives, divitis (ditis)*" meaning "wealthy, rich".
- dives, divitis (ditis)* This is a third declension adjective of one termination, which also has two possible stems : "*divit-*" or "*dit-*".
You must work hard to keep the form derived from the stem "*divit-*" and the noun for "riches" ("*divitiae, -arum* (f)") distinct.
- pauper, pauperis* Another third declension adjective of one termination.
It is very often used to mean "a poor person", or "the poor".
- par, paris* Once again, a third declension adjective of one termination.
Don't confuse this with the noun "*pars, partis* (f)".
"*Par*" means "equal" and takes the dative case : "equal to".
(Remember the parisyllabic (equal syllable) rule?)

honor, -oris (m)

It very often means "public office"; a position with the government.

lex, legis (f)

Wheelock reminds you to contrast (c.p.) "*lex*", which means a written law, with "*ius*" which means "right, justice".

Not all rights become written law, and justice is often not entirely recognized in law. "*Leges*" attempt to codify "*iura*", but they don't always succeed.

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