

Uses of Vel and -ve

1. The Origin of **Vel**
 - 1.1. “an old imperative of **volō**” (AG, 324e)
2. Summary of Use
 - 2.1. **Vel** is usually a disjunction; it should be translated **or**
 - 2.2. **Vel** often occurs in the pairing **vel...vel**; this may be translated **either...or** or simply **or**
 - 2.3. **Vel** may also appear “as an intensive particle with no alternative force” (324g)
3. Basic Uses
 - 3.1. Disjunctive
 - 3.1.1. He toured three or four towns: **vel tres vel quattuor urbēs ambulāvit.**
 - 3.2. Intensive Particle
 - 3.2.1. He gave the very least: **dedit vel minimus.**
4. **Vel** versus **Aut**
 - 4.1. Formally, **aut** presents *exclusive* choice, **vel** present *inclusive* choice
 - 4.1.1. Give me liberty, or give me death: **dā mihi aut libertātem aut mortem**
 - 4.1.2. She spoke like this of fortune or glory: **tālis loquēbātur vel fortūnā vel glōriā**
 - 4.2. She may have spoken like that of fortune *and* glory, but she could not be given both liberty *and* death
 - 4.3. This distinction isn't strictly followed, so give it minimal concern
5. The Suffix **-ve**
 - 5.1. **Vel** may also appear as the suffix **-ve**, holding the same force as **vel**
 - 5.1.1. He will come within in two or three hours: **duabus tribusve horis veniet.**

The Essential AG: 324e

Famous Phrase: **vel sim** (or the like)

[i.e. **vel similia**, a disjunctive phrase corresponding to the conjunctive **et cetera**]