

Summary of -ne, Nōnne and Num

1. Origin of **-ne**
 - 1.1. **-ne** began with the force of **nōnne** (v.i.), expecting a yes response, but later “the negative force was lost and **-ne** was used merely to express a question” (AG, 332c N1)
2. Summary of Use
 - 2.1. The enclitic **-ne** is attached to the **emphatic** word of a question, making the question a **yes-no** proposition.
 - 2.2. When **nōnne** appears (viz. **nōn ne**), the force of the question expects a **yes** response
 - 2.3. When the particle **num** appears, the force of the question expects a **no** response
3. Basic Uses
 - 3.1. **-ne**
 - 3.1.1. Did she fear that: **eane id veritus est?**
 - 3.1.2. Does she seem to fear death or pain: **ea mortemne vedētur aut dolōrem timēre?**
 - 3.2. **Nōnne**
 - 3.2.1. Do you no observe: **nōnne anamadvertis?**
 - 3.3. **Num**
 - 3.3.1. Is there any doubt: **nōnne dubium est?**
4. Advanced Notes on **-ne**
 - 4.1. Occasionally, yes-no propositions are given without **-ne**
 - 4.1.1. These are often ironic questions
 - 4.1.2. Do you not feel that your schemes are revealed: **patēre tua cōnsilia nōn sentīs?**
 - 4.2. Often, when **-ne** is attached directed to the verb, it shares the expectation of **nōnne**, a yes response
 - 4.2.1. Do you not recall [what] I said in the Senate: **meministīne mē in sentātū dicere?**
 - 4.3. **-ne** may participate in double questions, where **-ne...an** should be translated as **or**
 - 4.3.1. I ask whether slaves or free: **quaerō servōsne an liberōs.**
 - 4.4. In poetry, **-ne...-ne** sometimes occurs, and should be translated **whether...or.**
 - 4.5. The compounds **anne...an** and **necne** are rare alternatives
 - 4.5.1. Shall I talk to Gabinius, or Pompey, or both: **Gabīniō dīcam anne Pompeiō an utrīque?**
 - 4.5.2. Are these your words or not: **sunt haec tua verba necne?**
 - 4.6. The enclitic **-ne** is scanned **short** in Latin poetry

The Essential AG: 332a-b

Famous Phrase: **Num negāre audēs? Quid tacēs?** (Do you dare deny it? Why are you silent?)
[Cicero, *In Catilinam*, 1.4]