

Ablative of Manner, Means and Instrument (p2/3)

1. Summary of Use

- 1.1. Allen and Greenough identify three major categories of case usage with the ablative: (1) the ablative proper, (2) the instrumental ablative and (3) the locative ablative
- 1.2. The **ablative of means, manner and instrument** are a collected heading under the (2) instrumental ablative
- 1.3. These uses of the ablative are part of what was once the **instrumental case**, so “no sharp line can be drawn between them, and indeed the Romans themselves can hardly have thought of any distinction” (AG 408)
 - 1.3.1. The ablative of **manner** is often distinguished by the use of **cum** as an initiating preposition

2. Ablative of Means and Instrument

- 2.1. These will typically appear without a preposition, and qualify an action, not an object
- 2.2. There is no fine line between means and instrument
 - 2.2.1. They fought with fists, heels, nails and even teeth: **pūgnīs calcibus, unguibus, morsū dēnique certābant.**
 - 2.2.2. I have resisted with virtue: **virtūte passus sum.**
 - 2.2.3. I have resisted with force: **vī passus sum.**
 - 2.2.4. I have resisted with the sword: **ense passus sum.**
 - 2.2.5. There is no nation he could not conquer with his authority: **nullā gēns est, quam nōn auctoritāte convincat.**

3. With Verbs and Participles of Filling

- 3.1. Verbs such as **plēō, compleō, expleō, referō, and differō** take the ablative of means
 - 3.1.1. God has filled the world with all good things: **Deus donīs omnibus explēvit mundum.**
 - 3.1.2. Her life was filled and crowded with delights: **vīta sua plēna et cōnferta voluptātibus fuit.**
 - 3.1.3. The Appian forum was crowded with sailors: **Forum Appī differtum nauītis erat.**
- 3.2. In poetry, may take the genitive instead of the ablative
 - 3.2.1. I fill up the banquet with my neighbors: **convīvum vīncōrum compleō.**

Famous Phrase: **manibus dāte lilia plēnīs** (give lilies with full hands)

-Virgil, *Aeneid*, 6.883

echoed in Dante, *Purgatory*, 30.21 and Walt Whitman, *Leaves of Grass*, 3.6