

Ablative of Manner, Means and Instrument (p3/3)

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 with Deponent Verbs

- 2.1. The verbs **ūtor, fruor, fungor, potior, vescor** and their compounds use the ablative of means or instrument
- 2.2. I will make use of your kindness: **ūtar vestrā benignitāte**.
- 2.3. The hero takes the gold: **aurō hērōs potitur**.
- 2.4. They fed on milk and game: **lacte et ferīnā carne vescēbantur**.
- 2.5. She enjoyed the songs: **cārmēnibus frūctus est**.
- 2.6. He performs the sacrifice carefully: **hostiā religiōse fungitur**.
- 2.7. I could use your sharp eyes here: **hīc acerbīs oculīs utār**.

3. With **Opus** and **Ūsus**

- 3.1. The impersonal constructions **opus est** and **ūsus est** take the ablative of instrument, with **ūsus est** the rare variant of the two
- 3.2. These constructions favor an **ablative participle** over an ablative noun
 - 3.2.1. There was need of haste: **properātō opus erat**.
 - 3.2.2. I must have your best cunning and cleverness: **opus est tuā exprōmptā malitiā atque astūtiā**.
 - 3.2.3. There is need of magistrates: **magistrātibus opus est**.
 - 3.2.4. Now there is need of arms: **nun vīribus ūsus est**.
- 3.3. **Opus est** may also appear as a predicate, with the corresponding noun as **nominative subject**
 - 3.3.1. We need a chief and authority: **dux nōbis et auctor opus est**.
 - 3.3.2. Here are the things which are required: **hīc sunt quae opus sunt**.

Famous Phrase: **quod nōn opus est, asse carum est**.

(what you don't need is pricey at a penny)

[motto for frugality]

- Seneca, *Epistulae Morales*, 94 (quoting Cato the Elder)