

QUICK REFERENCE SHEET FOR TENSE TRANSLATION

PRESENT

You will see these endings:

-ō -mus
-s -tis
-t -nt

except for sum

sum sumus
es estis
es sunt

(also possum, absum, adsum)

You will translate as follows:

verb, verbS
AM (IS, ARE) verbING
DO (DOES) verb

IMPERFECT

This tense should be the easiest tense to recognize. Why not start with it?

You will see these endings:

-bam -bāmus
-bās -bātis
-bat -bāmus

except for sum

eram erāmus
erās erātis
erat erant

(also possum, absum, adsum)

You will translate as follows:

WAS (WERE) verbING
STARTED (BEGAN) TO verb
KEPT verbING
USED TO verb
WOULD [routinely] verb
TRIED (WAS TRYING) TO verb
verbED, ATE, WENT

PERFECT

You will see these unique endings:

-ī -imus
-istī -istis
-it -ērunt

You will translate as follows:

verbED, ATE, WENT
HAS (HAVE) verbED, EATEN, GONE
DID verb

Note: -it can also occur in 3rd, 3rd-iō, 4th in present: currit, arripit, audit.

Note: -imus can also occur in 3rd and 3rd-iō in present: currimus, arripimus, BUT audīmus (also ferimus)

Indicators of Perfect Tense	Examples
1. perfect tense adds long mark	veniō→vēnī
2. reduplication of initial sound	currō→cūcurrī
3. addition of "s" or s-sound	mittō→mīssī, dūcō→dūxī
4. addition of -v- to stem	amō, amāre→amāvī
5. addition of -u- to stem	teneō, tenēre→tenūī
6. shortening of stem	relinquō→reliquī
7. short vowel to different long vowel	faciō→fēcī
8. anybody's guess	sum→fuī, ferō→tulī

SOME PERFECT TENSE FORMS HAVE UNIQUE ENDINGS, SO LEARN THOSE ENDINGS:

occurrō = present
occurris = present
occurritis = present
occurrunt = present

occurrī = perfect (unique ending)
occurristī = perfect (unique ending)
occurristis = perfect (unique ending)
occurrērunt = perfect (unique ending)

SOME PERFECT TENSE FORMS SHOULD BE FAIRLY EASY TO RECOGNIZE:

amat = present (1st conjugation -a-)
mittimus = present (3rd conjugation: -imus)

amāvit = perfect tense (no -a-, -v-, ending -it)
mīsimus = perfect tense (-imus, but long -ī-, added -s-)

READ CAREFULLY!

venit = present tense
currimus = present tense
volumus = present tense
vēnit = perfect tense
cucurrimus = perfect tense
voluimus = perfect tense

MEMORIZE THESE PERFECT STEMS:

sum→fuī
ferō→tulī