

Grammar: Irregular verbs

Overview

There are a small number of irregular verbs in Latin that must be learned separately. The most frequently encountered of these are:

esse	to be	volo	want
nolo	not want	malo	prefer
fero	bring, bear, carry	possum	be able
eo	go		

Volo

Indicative

	Present	Imperfect	Perfect	Pluperfect	Future	Future Perfect
I	volo	volebam	volui	volueram	volam	voluero
You	vis	volebas	voluisti	volueras	voles	volueris
He	vult	volebat	voluit	voluerat	volet	voluerit
We	volumus	volebamus	voluimus	volueramus	volemus	volerimus
You	vultis	volebatis	voluistis	volueratis	voletis	volueritis
They	volunt	volebant	voluerunt	voluerant	volent	voluerint

Subjunctive

	Present	Imperfect	Perfect	Pluperfect
I	velim	vellem	voluerim	voluisssem
You	veils	velles	volueris	voluisses
He	velit	vellet	voluerit	voluisset
We	velimus	vellemus	voluerimus	voluisssemus
You	velitis	velletis	volueritis	voluissetis
They	velint	vellent	voluerint	voluissent

Infinitives	Present	velle	to want
	Perfect	voluisse	to have wanted
Participles	Present	volens	wanting

Nolo

This is a compound of *non* + *volo*. In the present tense, the two-word division is maintained in some places.

Indicative

	Present	Imperfect	Perfect	Pluperfect	Future	Future Perfect
I	non volo	nolebam	nolui	nolueram	nolam	noluoero
You	non vis	nolebas	noluisti	nolueras	noles	nolueris
He	non vult	nolebat	noluit	noluerat	nolet	noluerit
We	nolumus	nolebamus	noluimus	nolueramus	nolemus	noluerimus
You	non vultis	nolebatis	noluistis	nolueratis	noletis	nolueritis
They	nolunt	nolebant	noluerunt	noluerant	nolent	noluerint

Subjunctive

	Present	Imperfect	Perfect	Pluperfect
I	nolim	nollem	noluerim	noluissem
You	nolis	nolles	nolueris	noluissetis
He	nolit	nollet	noluerit	noluisset
We	nolimus	nollemus	noluerimus	noluissemus
You	nolitis	nolletis	nolueritis	noluissetis
They	nolint	nollent	noluerint	noluisset

Infinitives	Present	nolle	to not want
	Perfect	noluisse	to have not wanted
Participles	Present	nolens	not wanting
Imperatives	Present	noli, nolite	don't want!

Malo

This is a compound of *magis* + *volo*.

Indicative

	Present	Imperfect	Perfect	Pluperfect	Future	Future Perfect
I	malo	malebam	malui	malueram	malam	maluero
You	mavis	malebas	maluisti	malueras	males	malueris
He	mavult	malebat	maluit	maluerat	malet	maluerit
We	malumus	malebamus	maluimus	malueramus	malemus	maluerimus
You	mavultis	malebatis	maluitis	malueratis	maletis	malueritis
They	mavult	malebant	maluerunt	maluerant	malent	maluerint

Subjunctive

	Present	Imperfect	Perfect	Pluperfect
I	malim	mallem	maluerim	maluissem
You	malis	malles	malueris	maluisses
He	malit	mallet	maluerit	maluisset
We	malimus	mallemus	maluerimus	maluissemus
You	malitis	malletis	malueritis	maluissetis
They	malint	mallent	maluerint	maluissent

Infinitives	Present	malle	to prefer
	Perfect	maluisse	to have preferred

Fero

Active

Indicative

	Present	Imperfect	Perfect	Pluperfect	Future	Future Perfect
I	fero	fereram	tuli	tuleram	feram	tulero
You	fers	ferebas	tulisti	tuleras	feres	tuleris
He	fert	fererat	tulit	tulerat	feret	tulerit
We	ferimus	fereramus	tulimus	tuleramus	feremus	tulerimus

You	fertis	ferebatis	tulistis	tuleratis	feretis	tuleritis
They	ferunt	ferebant	tulerunt	tolerant	ferent	tulerint

Subjunctive

	Present	Imperfect	Perfect	Pluperfect
I	feram	ferrem	tulerim	tulissem
You	feras	ferres	tuleris	tulisses
He	ferat	ferret	tulerit	tulisset
We	feramus	ferremus	tulerimus	tulissemus
You	feratis	ferretis	tuleritis	tulissetis
They	ferant	ferrent	tulerunt	tulissent

Infinitives	Present	ferre	to carry
	Perfect	tulisse	to have carried
	Future	laturus esse	to be about to carry
Participles	Present	ferens	carrying
	Future	laturus	about to carry
Imperatives	Present	fer, ferte	carry!

Passive

Indicative

	Present	Imperfect	Perfect	Pluperfect	Future	Future Perfect
I	feror	ferebar	latus sum	latus eram	ferar	latus ero
You	ferris	ferebaris	latus es	latus eras	fereris	latue eris
He	fertur	ferebatur	latus est	latus erat	feretur	latus erit
We	ferimur	ferebamur	lati eramus	lati eramus	feremur	lati erimus
You	ferimini	ferebamini	lati eratis	lati eratis	feremini	lati eritis
They	feruntur	ferebantur	lati erant	lati erant	ferentur	lati erint

Subjunctive

	Present	Imperfect	Perfect	Pluperfect
I	ferar	ferrer	latus sim	latus essem
You	feraris	ferreris	latus sis	latus esses

He	feratur	ferretur	latus sit	latus esset
We	feramur	ferremur	lati simus	lati essemus
You	feramini	ferremini	lati sitis	lati essetis
They	ferantur	ferrentur	lati sint	lati essent

	Present	ferri	to be carried
Infinitives	Perfect	latus esse	to have been carried
	Future	latum iri	to be about to be carried
Participles	Perfect	latus	having been carried
Imperatives	Present	ferre, ferimini	be carried!

Possum

This is a compound of the verb *esse* and the prefix *potis* ('able', 'capable').

Indicative

	Present	Imperfect	Perfect	Pluperfect	Future	Future Perfect
I	possum	poteram	potui	potueram	potero	potuero
You	potes	poteras	potuisti	potueras	poteris	potueris
He	potest	poterat	potuit	potuerat	poterit	potuerit
We	possumus	poteramus	potuimus	potueramus	poterimus	potuerimus
You	potestis	poteratis	potuistis	potueratis	poteritis	potueritis
They	possunt	poterant	potuerunt	potuerant	poterint	potuerint

Subjunctive

	Present	Imperfect	Perfect	Pluperfect
I	possim	possem	potuerim	potuissem
You	possis	posses	potueris	potuisses
He	posit	posset	potuerit	potuisset
We	possimus	possemus	potuerimus	potuissemus
You	possitis	possetis	potueritis	potuissetis
They	possint	possent	potuerint	potuissent

Infinitives	Present	posse	to be able
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	Perfect	potuisse	to have been able
Participles	Present	potens	being able

Eo

Indicative

	Present	Imperfect	Perfect	Pluperfect	Future	Future Perfect
I	eo	ibam	ii	ieram	ibo	iero
You	is	ibas	isti	ieras	ibis	ieris
He	it	ibat	iit	ierat	ibit	ierit
We	imus	ibamus	iimus	ieramus	ibimus	ierimus
You	itis	ibatis	istis	ieratis	ibitis	ieritis
They	eunt	ibant	ierunt	ierant	ibunt	ierint

Subjunctive

	Present	Imperfect	Perfect	Pluperfect
I	eam	irem	ierim	issem
You	eas	ires	ieris	isses
He	eat	iret	ierit	isset
We	eamus	iremus	ierimus	issemus
You	eatis	iretis	ieritis	issetis
They	eant	irent	ierint	issent

	Present	ire	to go
Infinitives	Perfect	ivisse	to have gone
	Future	iturus esse	to be about to go
Participles	Present	iens	going
	Future	iturus	being about to go
Imperatives	Present	i, ite	go!

Examples drawn from the exercises

The number after each question indicates the exercise from which it has been drawn, so that you can look at the example in context.

1. unam Septimios misellus Acmen mauult quam Syrias Britanniasque

Exercise 8

Examples drawn from Cicero

1. Nobiscum versari iam diutius non potes; non feram, non patiar, non sinam.
In Catilinam 1.V.10
2. tamen ea carere diutius non potes *In Catilinam 1.VI.16*
3. Cum proximis comitiis consularibus me consulem in campo et competitores tuos interficere voluisti ... *In Catilinam 1.V.11*
4. Cum a me quoque id responsum tulisses ... *In Catilinam 1.VIII.19*
5. Hos ego video consul et de re publica sententiam rogo et, quos ferro trucidari oportebat, eos nondum voce volnero! *In Catilinam 1.IV.9*
6. Superiora illa, quamquam ferenda non fuerunt, tamen, ut potui, tuli;
In Catilinam 1.VII.18
7. vix feram sermones hominum, si id feceris, vix molem istius invidiae, si in exilium iussu consulis ieris, sustinebo. *In Catilinam 1.IX.23*
8. Tu ut illa carere diutius possis, quam venerari ad caedem proficiscens solebas, a cuius altaribus saepe istam impiam dexteram ad necem civium transtulisti?
In Catilinam 1.IX.24
9. Quid est enim, Catilina, quod te iam in hac urbe delectare possit?
In Catilinam 1.VI.13
10. Exire ex urbe iubet consul hostem. *In Catilinam 1.V.13*