

# Grammar: Deponent verbs

## Overview

There are a small number of verbs in Latin that have *active* meanings but take *passive* endings.

An example would be the verb *arbitror* - I think.

### Indicative

	<b>Present</b>	<b>Imperfect</b>	<b>Perfect</b>	<b>Pluperfect</b>	<b>Future</b>	<b>Future Perfect</b>
I	arbitror	arbitrabar	arbitratus sum	arbitratus eram	arbitrabor	arbitratus ero
You	arbitraris	arbitrabaris	arbitratus es	arbitratus eras	arbitraberis	arbitratus eris
He, she, it	arbitratur	arbitrabatur	arbitratus est	arbitratus erat	arbitrabitur	arbitratus erit
We	arbitramur	arbitrabamur	arbitrati sumus	arbitrati eramus	arbitrabitur	arbitrati erimus
You	arbitramini	arbitrabamini	arbitrati estis	arbitrati eratis	arbitrabitur	arbitrati eritis
They	arbitrantur	arbitrabantur	arbitrati sunt	arbitrati errant	arbitrabuntur	arbitrati erint

### Subjunctive

	<b>Present</b>	<b>Imperfect</b>	<b>Perfect</b>	<b>Pluperfect</b>
I	arbitrer	arbitrarer	arbitratus erim	arbitratus essem
You	arbitreris	arbitrareris	arbitratus eris	arbitratus esses
He, she, it	arbitretur	arbitraretur	arbitratus erit	arbitratus esset
We	arbitremur	arbitraremur	arbitrati erimus	arbitrati essemus
You	arbitremini	arbitraremmini	arbitrati eritis	arbitrati essetis
They	arbitrentur	arbitrarentur	arbitrati erint	arbitrati essent

Deponents are categorised into conjugations, just like other verb forms.

## *Common deponent verbs*

### **1st conjugation**

conor	conari	conatus sum	I try
hortor	hortari	hortatus sum	I urge, encourage
arbitror	arbitrari	arbitratus sum	I think, reckon
moror	morari	moratus sum	I delay
minor	minari	minatus sum	I threaten
precor	precari	precatus sum	I pray
comitor	comitari	comitatus sum	I accompany

### **2nd conjugation**

videor	videri	visus sum	I seem ('I am seen' - passive of v)
fateor	fateri	fassus sum	I say, speak
reor	rerī	ratus sum	I think
mereor	mereri	meritus sum	I deserve
vereor	vereri	veritus sum	I fear
confiteor	confiteri	confessus sum	I admit, confess
polliceor	polliceri	pollicitus sum	I promise

### **3rd conjugation**

utor	uti	usus sum	I use (+ abl.)
sequor	sequi	secutus sum	I follow
loquor	loqui	locutus sum	I speak, say
fruor	frui	fructus sum	I enjoy (+ abl.)
fungor	fungi	functus sum	I perform, carry out (+ abl.)
nascor	nasci	natus sum	I am born
queror	queri	questus sum	I complain
labor	labi	lapsus sum	I slip, fall
irascor	irasci	iratus sum	I get angry
proficiscor	proficisci	profectus sum	I set out
adipiscor	adipisci	adeptus sum	I get, obtain
nanciscor	nancisci	nactus/nanctus sum	I get by luck, stumble upon
ulciscor	ulcisci	ultus sum	I take vengeance
obliviscor	oblivisci	oblitus sum	I forget

patior	pati	passus sum	I suffer, allow
mori	mori	mortuus sum	I die
-gredior	-gredi	-gressus sum	I go
aggredior	aggredi	aggressus sum	I attack
progredior	progredi	progressus sum	I advance
egredior	egredi	egressus sum	I go out, leave
regredior	regredi	regressus sum	I go back, return
ingredior	ingredi	ingressus sum	I go in, enter

#### 4th conjugation

potior	potiri	potitus sum	I get possession of (+abl.)
partior	partiri	partitus sum	I have a share in
mentior	mentiri	mentitus sum	I lie
experior	experiri	expertus sum	I try, attempt
orior	oriri	ortus sum	I rise
adorior	adoriri	adortus sum	I attack
blandior	blandiri	blanditus sum	I flatter
molior	moliri	molitus sum	I struggle, make an effort

## *Infinitives*

All infinitives have active meanings.

Present	arbitrari	to think
Perfect	arbitratus esse	to have thought
Future	arbitraturus esse	to be about to think

## *Imperatives*

	<b>Singular</b>	<b>Plural</b>
Present	arbitrare	arbitramini

## *Participles*

Note that the perfect participle has an *active* meaning.

Present: arbitrans

Perfect: arbitratus

Future: arbitraturus

## *Semi-deponent verbs*

There is an even smaller class of **semi-deponent** verbs. These take active meanings. In the perfect system they taken passive endings, and in the present system they take active endings. e.g.

gaudeo	gaudere	gavisus sum	I rejoice
audeo	audere	ausus sum	I dare, am bold
soleo	solere	solitus sum	I am accustomed
fido	fidere	fishus sum	I trust (+ dat.)
confido	confidere	confisus sum	I confide in (+ dat.)
diffido	diffidere	diffisus sum	I distrust

## *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. ... credo quia tutius visum est pluribus locis spargi. *Exercise 10*

## *Other examples drawn from Cicero*

1. nec diutius vixit quam locuta est. *Pro Cluentio X.29*
2. tu mihi ex tota causa Bulbi quod tibi commodum est eligis, ut id esse secutos iudices dicas. *Pro Cluentio XXXV.97*
3. adgrediar ad crimen cum illa deprecatione, iudices, qua mihi saepius utendum esse intellego, *Pro Cluentio III.8*
4. oratio mea deprecata est. *Pro Cluentio XXX.81*

5. Post fratrem adgressus est: *Pro Cluentio XI.32*
6. Cur non Habiti exemplo usus es, ut per illum qui attulisset venenum de hoc praeiudicaretur? *Pro Cluentio LXII.172*
7. Post illam autem fugam, sceleris et conscientiae testem, numquam se iudiciis, numquam legibus, numquam inermum inimicis committere ausus est, *Pro Cluentio VIII.25*
8. Quo tandem igitur Habitus metu adductus tantum in se facinus suscipere conatus est? *Pro Cluentio LXI.170*
9. sive, ut homines tum loquebantur, a P. Cethego admonitus, istam dedit 'conciliationis' et 'gratiae' fabulam. *Pro Cluentio XXXI.85*
10. ipse e publico iudicio ad privatum Staieni iudicium profectus est et illud pro potestate dimitti iussit *Pro Cluentio XXVIII.74*