

CHAPTER 34

Deponent Verbs; Ablative with Special Deponents

DEPONENT VERBS

There are many verbs in Latin which have almost no active forms but which nevertheless must be translated as if they were active.

These verbs are called deponent, from "*de + pono*," because they have "set aside" their active forms. In short, a deponent verb is a verb which is passive in form but active in meaning.

There is a tendency for beginning students of Latin to assume that a deponent verb is so thoroughly exceptional that nothing they have learned about Latin verbs applies. This is a mistake.

Deponent verbs are unusual only in this respect : they drop most of their active forms, and their passive forms must be translated as if they were active.

Aside from this, deponent verbs follow the rules of inflection and conjugation to the letter.

Imagine that the verb "*laudo*" had only passive forms. What would the dictionary entry look like?

The first dictionary entry of any verb is always the first person singular, present indicative. If "*laudo*" had no active forms, then the first entry would be passive instead of active : "*laudor*" instead of "*laudo*."

The second entry of any verb is the present infinitive from which you deduce the conjugation of the verb by dropping the infinitive ending. If "*laudo*" had no active forms, the present infinitive would be passive: "*laudari*" instead of "*laudare*." Although you're working only with passive forms, by dropping the ending infinitive ending "*-ri*," you could still tell that verb belongs to the first conjugation.

The third entry of any verb is the third principal part, from which is derived the perfect system active.

But because we're imagining that "*laudo*" has only passive forms, there would be no third principal part listed. The third principal part is used to produce the perfect system active, and there is no active voice for "*laudor*."

The fourth entry of any verb is the fourth principal part, the perfect passive participle, which is used with the verb "*sum*" to form the perfect system passive.

Hence the fourth entry of the "*laudo*," if it had no active forms, would still be "*laudatus*."

Taken together, then, the dictionary entry of "*laudo*" with its active forms removed would look like this :

laudor, laudari, ----, laudatus

Write out the dictionary entries for the paradigm verbs of the other conjugation without their active forms.

2. *moneo* _____

3. *duco* _____

3i. *capio* _____

4. *audio* _____

In each of these cases, you can still see to which conjugations each of these verbs belong even if they had no active forms.

A deponent verb is a verb which in fact lacks most of its active forms, so the dictionary entry for it will have to rely only on its passive forms.

Here is the dictionary entry for the deponent verb "to urge." :

"hortor, -ari, hortatus sum"

From the first entry you can tell the verb is deponent because the dictionary is giving you the passive first person singular instead of the active. The verb has no active voice.

Looking at the second entry, you can tell that the verb belongs to the first conjugation, because "-ari" is what the passive infinitive of a first conjugation looks like. Therefore, the stem from which you'll build the present system of tenses is "horta-."

The third entry is the perfect passive participle with a conjugated form of the verb "sum." Instead of listing a blank where the perfect active is normally listed in a non-deponent verb, the entry for a deponent verb skips over it and goes directly to the participle and adds "sum" to show that this is the perfect system. But the participle "hortatus" is entirely predictable, since first conjugation verbs form their perfect passive participle by adding "-tus" to the stem of the first principal part - in this case "horta-."

There are deponent verbs belonging to all four conjugations. Examine this list of deponent verbs and write down their conjugation.

1. *egredior, -i, egressus sum* _____
2. *sequor, -i, secutus sum* _____
3. *patior, -i, passus sum* _____
4. *experior, -iri, expertus sum* _____
5. *fateor, -eri, fassus sum* _____
6. *loquor, -i, locutus sum* _____
7. *utor, -i, usus sum* _____
8. *nascor, -i, natus sum* _____
9. *morior, -i, mortuus sum* _____
10. *proficiscor, -i, profectus sum* _____
11. *conor, -ari, conatus sum* _____
12. *arbitror, -ari, arbitratus sum* _____

It is important not to forget that deponent verbs conjugate in ways that are entirely consistent with other verbs of their conjugation. The only difference is that deponent verbs have "set aside" their active finite forms and the remaining passive forms are translated as if they are active. Just to give you more confidence about this, let's spend some time conjugating deponent verbs.

I. FIRST CONJUGATION DEPONENT VERB : *arbitror, -ari, abitratus sum* (to think)

A. PRESENT SYSTEM INDICATIVE PASSIVE			
	PRESENT	FUTURE	IMPERFECT
1st	_____	_____	_____
2nd	<i>aribtraris</i>	_____	_____
3rd	_____	_____	_____
1st	_____	<i>aribtrabimur</i>	_____
2nd	_____	_____	<i>aribtrabamini</i>
3rd	_____	_____	_____

B.	PRESENT SYSTEM SUBJUNCTIVE PASSIVE		
	PRESENT	FUTURE	IMPERFECT
	1st	<i>arbitrer</i>	_____
	2nd	_____	_____
	3rd	_____	<i>arbitaretur</i>
	1st	_____	_____
	2nd	_____	_____
	3rd	_____	_____

C.	PERFECT SYSTEM INDICATIVE PASSIVE		
	PERFECT	FUTURE PERFECT	PLUPERFECT
	1st	_____	_____
	2nd	_____	<i>arbitratus eris</i>
	3rd	_____	_____
	1st	<i>arbitrati sumus</i>	_____
	2nd	_____	_____
	3rd	_____	<i>arbitrati erant</i>

D.	PERFECT SYSTEM SUBJUNCTIVE PASSIVE		
	PERFECT	FUTURE PERFECT	PLUPERFECT
	1st	_____	_____
	2nd	_____	_____
	3rd	_____	_____
	1st	<i>arbitrati simus</i>	_____
	2nd	_____	_____
	3rd	_____	<i>arbitrati essent</i>

E.	PARTICIPLES	ACTIVE	PASSIVE
	PRESENT	_____	_____
	PERFECT	_____	_____
	FUTURE	_____	_____

F.	INFINITIVES	ACTIVE	PASSIVE
	PRESENT	_____	_____
	PERFECT	_____	_____
	FUTURE	_____	_____

G. IMPERATIVES

SING. _____

PLUR. _____

II. SECOND CONJUGATION DEPONENT VERB : *fateor, -eri, fassus sum* (to confess)

A. PRESENT SYSTEM INDICATIVE PASSIVE

	PRESENT	FUTURE	IMPERFECT
1st	_____	_____	_____
2nd	<i>fateris</i>	_____	_____
3rd	_____	_____	_____
1st	_____	<i>fatebimur</i>	_____
2nd	_____	_____	<i>fatebamini</i>
3rd	_____	_____	_____

B. PRESENT SYSTEM SUBJUNCTIVE PASSIVE

	PRESENT	FUTURE	IMPERFECT
1st	<i>fatear</i>	_____	_____
2nd	_____	_____	_____
3rd	_____	_____	<i>fateretur</i>
1st	_____	_____	_____
2nd	_____	_____	_____
3rd	_____	_____	_____

C. PERFECT SYSTEM INDICATIVE PASSIVE

	PERFECT	FUTURE PERFECT	PLUPERFECT
1st	_____	_____	_____
2nd	_____	<i>fassus eris</i>	_____
3rd	_____	_____	_____
1st	<i>fassi sumus</i>	_____	_____
2nd	_____	_____	_____
3rd	_____	_____	<i>fassi erant</i>

D.	PERFECT SYSTEM SUBJUNCTIVE PASSIVE		
	PERFECT	FUTURE PERFECT	PLUPERFECT
	1st	_____	_____
	2nd	_____	_____
	3rd	_____	_____
	1st	<i>fassi simus</i>	_____
	2nd	_____	_____
	3rd	_____	<i>fassi essent</i>

E.	PARTICIPLES	ACTIVE	PASSIVE
	PRESENT	_____	_____
	PERFECT	_____	_____
	FUTURE	_____	_____

F.	INFINITIVES	ACTIVE	PASSIVE
	PRESENT	_____	_____
	PERFECT	_____	_____
	FUTURE	_____	_____

G.	IMPERATIVES
	SING. _____
	PLUR. _____

III. THIRD CONJUGATION DEPONENT VERB : *utor, uti, usus sum* (to use)

A.	PRESENT SYSTEM INDICATIVE PASSIVE		
	PRESENT	FUTURE	IMPERFECT
	1st	_____	_____
	2nd	<i>uteris</i>	<i>uteris</i>
	3rd	_____	_____
	1st	_____	<i>utemur</i>
	2nd	<i>utimini</i>	_____
	3rd	_____	<i>utebamini</i>

B. PRESENT SYSTEM SUBJUNCTIVE PASSIVE

	PRESENT	FUTURE	IMPERFECT
1st	<i>utar</i>		_____
2nd	_____		_____
3rd	_____		<i>uteretur</i>
1st	_____		_____
2nd	_____		_____
3rd	_____		_____

C. PERFECT SYSTEM INDICATIVE PASSIVE

	PERFECT	FUTURE PERFECT	PLUPERFECT
1st	_____	_____	_____
2nd	_____	<i>usus eris</i>	_____
3rd	_____	_____	_____
1st	<i>usi sumus</i>	_____	_____
2nd	_____	_____	_____
3rd	_____	_____	<i>usi erant</i>

D. PERFECT SYSTEM SUBJUNCTIVE PASSIVE

	PERFECT	FUTURE PERFECT	PLUPERFECT
1st	_____		_____
2nd	_____		_____
3rd	_____		_____
1st	<i>usi simus</i>		_____
2nd	_____		_____
3rd	_____		<i>usi essent</i>

E. PARTICIPLES ACTIVE

	ACTIVE	PASSIVE
PRESENT	_____	
PERFECT		_____
FUTURE	_____	_____

F. INFINITIVES ACTIVE

	ACTIVE	PASSIVE
PRESENT		_____
PERFECT		_____
FUTURE	_____	

G. IMPERATIVES

SING. _____

PLUR. _____

III. THIRD CONJUGATION I-STEM DEPONENT VERB : *patior, pati, passus sum* (to endure, permit)

A. PRESENT SYSTEM INDICATIVE PASSIVE

	PRESENT	FUTURE	IMPERFECT
1st	_____	_____	_____
2nd	<i>pateris</i>	_____	_____
3rd	_____	_____	_____
1st	_____	<i>patiemur</i>	_____
2nd	_____	_____	<i>patiebamini</i>
3rd	_____	_____	_____

B. PRESENT SYSTEM SUBJUNCTIVE PASSIVE

	PRESENT	FUTURE	IMPERFECT
1st	<i>patiar</i>		_____
2nd	_____		_____
3rd	_____		<i>pateretur</i>
1st	_____		_____
2nd	_____		_____
3rd	_____		_____

C. PERFECT SYSTEM INDICATIVE PASSIVE

	PERFECT	FUTURE PERFECT	PLUPERFECT
1st	_____	_____	_____
2nd	_____	<i>passus eris</i>	_____
3rd	_____	_____	_____
1st	<i>passi sumus</i>	_____	_____
2nd	_____	_____	_____
3rd	_____	_____	<i>passi erant</i>

D. PERFECT SYSTEM SUBJUNCTIVE PASSIVE

	PERFECT	FUTURE PERFECT	PLUPERFECT
1st	_____		_____
2nd	_____		_____
3rd	_____		_____
1st	<i>passi simus</i>		_____
2nd	_____		_____
3rd	_____		<i>passi essent</i>

E. PARTICIPLES

ACTIVE

PASSIVE

PRESENT	_____	
PERFECT		_____
FUTURE	_____	_____

F. INFINITIVES

ACTIVE

PASSIVE

PRESENT		_____
PERFECT		_____
FUTURE	_____	

G. IMPERATIVES

SING.	_____
PLUR.	_____

IV. FOURTH CONJUGATION DEPONENT VERB : *experior, -iri, expertus* (to try)

A. PRESENT SYSTEM INDICATIVE PASSIVE

	PRESENT	FUTURE	IMPERFECT
1st	_____	_____	_____
2nd	<i>experiris</i>	_____	_____
3rd	_____	_____	_____
1st	_____	<i>experiemur</i>	_____
2nd	_____	_____	<i>experiebamini</i>
3rd	_____	_____	_____

B. PRESENT SYSTEM SUBJUNCTIVE PASSIVE

	PRESENT	FUTURE	IMPERFECT
1st	<i>experiar</i>		_____
2nd	_____		_____
3rd	_____		<i>experiretur</i>
1st	_____		_____
2nd	_____		_____
3rd	_____		_____

C. PERFECT SYSTEM INDICATIVE PASSIVE

	PERFECT	FUTURE PERFECT	PLUPERFECT
1st	_____	_____	_____
2nd	_____	<i>expertus eris</i>	_____
3rd	_____	_____	_____
1st	<i>experti sumus</i>	_____	_____
2nd	_____	_____	_____
3rd	_____	_____	<i>experti erant</i>

D. PERFECT SYSTEM SUBJUNCTIVE PASSIVE

	PERFECT	FUTURE PERFECT	PLUPERFECT
1st	_____		_____
2nd	_____		_____
3rd	_____		_____
1st	<i>experti simus</i>		_____
2nd	_____		_____
3rd	_____		<i>experti essent</i>

E. PARTICIPLES

	ACTIVE	PASSIVE
PRESENT	_____	_____
PERFECT		_____
FUTURE	_____	_____

F.	INFINITIVES	ACTIVE	PASSIVE
	PRESENT		_____
	PERFECT		_____
	FUTURE	_____	
G.	IMPERATIVES		
	SING.	_____	
	PLUR.	_____	

VOCABULARY PUZZLES

utor, uti, usus sum The verb takes the ablative case to complete its meaning.
"Usus sum multis libris" (I used many books.)
 Wheelocks remark that the ablative is really an ablative of means is pure speculation.

audeo, -ere, ausus sum A handful of verbs are regular in the present system, but become deponent in the perfect system. As you can see by this dictionary entry, the verb *"audeo"* skips over the perfect system active entirely and goes directly to the participle *"ausus."* This is telling you that in the perfect system this verb is deponent, hence *"ausus sum"* means "I dared."
 These verbs are called semi-deponent.

DRILLS

Try a few easy drills before you turn to Wheelock's self-help tutorial. Translate the following.

1. *loquitur* _____
2. *sequemini* _____
3. *secuti eramus* _____
4. *usus ero* _____
5. *naturus* _____
6. *conabimini* _____
7. *patitur* _____
8. *secuturum esse* _____
9. *moreris* _____
10. *moreris* _____