

► EXERCISE 3

Translate each sentence with special attention to the previously discussed meanings of the perfect tense verb in parentheses.

Example: “Perīculum nōn intellēxī (first person singular), sed nunc intellegō,” inquit avunculus. “Tam igitur dēcrēvī (first person singular) ad hominēs, quī prope montem habitant, nāvigāre.”
“I did not understand the danger, but now I understand <it>,” said uncle. “Therefore I have already decided to sail to the people who live near the mountain.”

1. Nautae prope lītus manēbant. Caelum semper cōspiciēbant. Deinde cōsiliū cēpērunt (third person plural). Nāvem parāre dēcrēvērunt (third person plural).
2. Epistulam ad hominēs, quī in viā exspectābant, statim mīsimus (first person plural), et eōs ad nōs venīre iussimus (first person plural).
3. Nautās exspectābāmus. Nunc eōrum nāvēs vidēre possumus. “Nautae,” inquit amīcus meus, “vērunt (third person plural)! ”

LANGUAGE FACT II

PERFECT STEM, PERFECT TENSE ACTIVE OF ALL CONJUGATIONS

The perfect is not only distinctive in its meaning; it has a series of forms that are very distinctive too.

You have already learned that **the principal parts** of a verb are used to make different verb forms. Most verbs have four principal parts. The first and second principal parts are important for the present, imperfect, and future tenses discussed in previous chapters. But the forms of the perfect active tense are derived from the **third** principal part of any verb.

Below are the principal parts of a verb from each conjugation. Note carefully the third principal part: this principal part is the form of the first person singular of the perfect active indicative.

First conjugation:	parō, parāre, parāvī , parātum – I prepare
Second conjugation:	teneō, tenēre, tenuī , tentum – I hold
Third conjugation:	dīcō, dīcere, dīxī , dictum – I say
Fourth conjugation:	audiō, audīre, audīvī , auditum – I hear
Third conjugation (–iō):	capiō, capere, cēpī , captum – I take

Learning the perfect forms is much easier than it might at first appear, because the perfect active endings are the same for **all** four conjugations. These endings are added to the perfect stem, which is found by dropping the **–ī** found in the third principal part.

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