



BY THE WAY

When a present participle is in an ablative absolute, it usually ends in *-e*, not in *-ī*.



STUDY TIP

Note that many of the functions of the ablative absolute are equivalents for expressions with *cum*: either temporal, or concessive, or causal. Here is just one example:

Absente maiōre Hispanōrum parte, hī paucī in tantā barbarōrum multitudine relictī in periculō maximō versābuntur.

or

Cum maior Hispanōrum pars aberit/afutūra erit, hī paucī in tantā barbarōrum multitudine relictī in periculō maximō versābuntur.

“If (and/or) when the larger part of the Spaniards is absent, these few left among such a great multitude of barbarians will be situated in very great danger.”

▶ EXERCISE 3

Translate the sentences into English treating the ablative absolute as indicating either **time, cause, concession, or condition**. Consider the ablative absolutes as equivalents to sentences in Latin that begin with the conjunctions *cum*, *postquam*, *quia/quod*, *quamquam*, or *sī*. Sometimes more than one meaning—or combination of meanings—is possible. Give at least one plausible translation.

Examples:

Lūmine cōspectō, nautae intellēxērunt sē novam terram invēnisse.

“When (or “because”) the light had been observed, the sailors understood that they had found a new land.”

Benevolentīā Hispanōrum cōspectā, incolae tamen eōs esse amīcōs negāvērunt.

“Although the good will of the Spaniards had been made clear, the inhabitants nevertheless denied they were friends.”

1. *Verbīs Colōnī audītis, nautae per trēs aliōs diēs expectāre dēcrēvērunt.*

2. *Nūllā terrā multōs per diēs vīsā, nautae iam spērāre nōlēbant.*

3. *Martīnō epistolam Colōnī legente, incolae expectābant.*

4. *Omnibus nautīs in Hispanīam redire cupientibus, Colōnus tamen paucōs Hispanōs in illā insulā manēre dēbere putābat.*

5. *“Multis militibus et nautīs absentibus,” inquit Martinus, “paucī Hispanī in tantā incolārum multitudine relictī in periculō maximō versābuntur.”*