

► EXERCISE 4

Translate into Latin.

1. May these horsemen (knights) defend our huge city!
2. If only these horsemen (knights) were defending our wooden gate!
3. If only these horsemen had found the wooden bridge!
4. May you not find the wicked guard!
5. If only you were not afraid of the wicked guard!
6. If only you had not received the wicked guard!

LANGUAGE FACT III

INDIRECT QUESTIONS

Look again at these sentences from the chapter reading passage.

Prīmō nec nostrī nec hostēs sciēbant quid hominēs in aliā urbis parte fēcissent.

“At first, neither our men nor the enemy were aware of what people had done in the other part of the city.”

Tunc hostēs intellēxērunt quanta esset clādēs.

“Then the enemy realized how great the disaster was.”

Etiam victōrēs sentīre possunt quam terribilis fuerit haec clādēs.

“Even the victors can feel how terrible this disaster was.”

All three sentences contain an indirect expression depending on a verb of thinking. But these subordinate thoughts are not indirect statements (which, as you have learned in Level 1, are constructed with the accusative and infinitive). These are **indirect questions**.

In classical Latin the verb in an indirect question is always in the subjunctive.

How are indirect questions different from indirect statements? If you ask yourself what the direct expression would have been, it will always appear as a question or an exclamatory statement beginning with an interrogative word. The following would be the direct expression of all the indirect questions above, i.e., if you take away the main verb of thinking.

Quid hominēs in aliā urbis parte fēcērunt?

“What did the people in the other part of the city do?”

Quanta est clādēs!

“How great is the disaster!”

Quam terribilis fuit haec clādēs!

“How terrible was this disaster!”

Indirect questions, like direct questions, begin with an interrogative word, such as the interrogative pronoun or adjective (which you have already learned), or other interrogatives such as *quam* (“how”), *quantus* (“how much”)—as in the sentences above—or the suffix *-ne*.