

5. BE IT EVER SO HUMBLE, THERE IS NO PLACE LIKE HOME

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Standards 1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 3.1, 3.2

TRANSLATION OF BE IT EVER SO HUMBLE, THERE IS NO PLACE LIKE HOME

And this man was considered not less a good father of a family than a citizen. For, although he was rich, nobody was less fond of buying than he, less fond of building (less a builder). However, he did live especially well and enjoyed all the finest things. For he had a house built by Tamphilus on the Quirinal Hill, left to him in an inheritance by his uncle; its pleasantness consisted not in the building, but in the forest. For the building itself, set up in ancient times, had more taste than expense; in which he did not change anything, unless he was forced <to change> because of <its> age.



TEACHING TIP

The teacher may choose to ask the following questions as the students read the Latin passage in order to help the students understand the passage or to assess their progress.

Line 1: What is the case and use of *pater*? Answer: nominative, predicate nominative/complement.

Line 2: What does *quam* mean? Answer: than.

In what type of clause is *esset* the verb? Answer: *cum* concessive clause.

What is the case and use of *illō*? Answer: ablative of comparison.

Line 3: What is the case and use of *aedificātor*? Answer: predicate nominative/complement.

Line 5: What word does *Tamphiliānam* modify? Answer: *domum*.

What grammatical form is *relictam*? Answer: perfect passive participle.

Line 7: What word does *cōstitutum* modify? Answer: *tēctum*.

Line 8: What is the subject of *commūtāvit*? Answer: an implied *ille*, referring to Atticus.

What is the case and use of *vetustāte*? Answer: ablative of means/instrument.

Grammatically identify (i.e., parse) *coāctus est*. Answer: perfect passive indicative, third person singular.

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TEACHER BY THE WAY

Line 2: *pecūniōsus* is another example of a Latin adjective with the *-ōsus* suffix meaning “full of.”

Nēmō . . . minus is an example of litotes.

Line 3: *Neque . . . nōn* is an example of litotes.

Line 4: *omnibus optimis rebus* is ablative with *ūtor*, here *ūsus est*.

Line 5: The *collis Quirīnālis* is located east of the Campus Martius and north of the Palatine. The *Hortī Sallustiānī* were located there. The hill was named after the war god of the Sabines who had settled there before the founding of Rome. This god was eventually absorbed into the state religion and identified with Romulus. Roman citizens were often addressed as *Quirītēs*, e.g., in Cicero’s speeches *In Catilinam* 2.1, 3.1, *passim*.

hērēditāte is an ablative of means; “through (by means of) inheritance.”

Line 6: *tēctum* actually means “roof” but through a figure of speech called synecdoche (a part for the whole), it came to refer to the “house” and was used more often with this meaning than the original one.

Line 7: Both *salis* and *sūmptūs* are partitive genitives with *plūs*. The literal translation is “more of taste than of expense” but the better translation is “more taste than expense.”

Line 8: *nisi sī* means “unless.”



TEACHING TIP

In line 3 the suffix *-tor* on the word *aedificātor* means “one who is, does, or uses.” Thus, an *aedificātor* is one who builds, and a *pastor* is the one who cares for his flock. A *gladiator* is the one who uses a sword and an *inventor* is the one who finds (new) things while the *doctor* is one who teaches. Many other words are formed like this in English (e.g., actor, professor, navigator, etc.) and it is a fun activity for the students to make up lists of such English derivatives.

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Standards 1.1, 1.2, 4.2

TRANSLATION OF CONTINUATION OF BE IT EVER SO HUMBLE, THERE IS NO PLACE LIKE HOME

He enjoyed an excellent family (of slaves), if it is to be judged according to its usefulness, <but> if <it is to be judged> according to appearance, hardly mediocre. For in it there were boys very versed in literature, excellent readers and very many copyists, so that there was not even any manservant, who could not do beautifully either one of these things; in an equal way the remaining artisans, whom the care of the household required, were to a highest degree good. <Atticus was> elegant, not magnificent; splendid, not sumptuous: and all his carefulness was striving after neatness, not extravagance.



TEACHING TIP

The teacher may choose to ask the following questions as the students read the Latin passage in order to help the students understand the passage or to assess their progress.

Line 9: Identify the grammatical construction contained in *iūdicandum est*. What does it express? Answer: passive periphrastic; necessity.

What word does *optimā* modify? Answer: *familiā*.

What word does *mediocrī* modify? Answer: *familiā*.

Line 10: To what does *eā* refer? Answer: *familiā*.

What degree is *litterātissimī* and what word does it modify? Answer: superlative; *puerī*.

What word does *optimī* modify? Answer: *anagnōstae*.

Line 12: What is the case and use of *hōrum*? Answer: partitive genitive.