**Dative of Purpose, Double Dative, and Dative with Certain Adjectives**

A dative, called the **dative of purpose,** can be used to succinctly express a goal or aim of an action. This dative is generally translated into English using the prepositions “as” or “for”.

Caesar omnem equitātum auxiliō mīsit. “Caesar sent his entire cavalry as aid.”

The dative of purpose may also accompany a noun.

Sīgnum receptuī iam dedit. “He gave the signal for retreat.”

Sometimes the meaning of a word expressing a dative of purpose is idiomatic, and additional words must be added in English to express the same idea. In such instances, the dative of purpose can often be conveyed in English with the addition of the phrase “a cause for” or “a source of”.

Mors ob rem pūblicam obita honōrī fuit.

“Death, which has been met on behalf of the Republic, was a cause for honor.”

Mors timōrī nōn erit. “Death will not be a source of fear.”

While the dative of purpose is occasionally found on its own, it is more frequently found as part of a **double dative** construction. In this construction, a dative of purpose is paired with a dative of reference. The dative of reference in this construction generally indicates the thing or person who is meant to be affected. The double dative construction usually accompanies a form of sum.

When translating into English, if the accompanying verb is a form of sum, the dative of purpose is translated as if it were the predicate of the linking verb and the dative of reference is translated with “to” or “for”.

Cupiditātēs cēterōrum hominum mihi impedīmentō fuērunt.

“Their desires were a hinderance to me.”

Id vōtum vōbīs nōn cordī fuit. “This prayer was not a care for you.”

If the double dative does not accompany a linking verb, the dative of purpose is translated with “as”.

Ille cum equitibus peditibusque Carthāginiensibus auxiliō vēnit.

“He arrived with cavalry and infantry as aid for the Cartheginians.”

Odiō may be used in a double dative construction in place of the absent passive form of the defective verb ōdī.

Celebritās mihi odiō est.

“I hate the crowd.” (literally, “The crowd is a source of hatred for me.”)

A dative, called the **dative with certain adjectives**, may be found accompanying adjectives expressing suitability, inclination, pleasantness, similarity, proximity, and obligation. This dative is usually translated using the prepositions “to” or “for”.

Explōrātōrēs locum castrīs idōneum dēlēgērunt.

“The scouts chose a suitable place for the camps.”

Ille habet eōs esse sibi amīcōs. “He considers them to be friendly to him.”

Fac tōtam vītam iūcundam tibi. “Make your whole life pleasing to yourself.”

Aenēās similis deō in lūce refulsit. “Aeneas shone in the light like a god.”

Cupiō esse semper proximus tibi. “I desire to be always closest to you.”

Dēiotarus fidēlissimus rēx reī pūblicae nostrae erat.

“Deiotarus was the most faithful king to our Republic.”

Likewise, the dative is frequently found with adjectives expressing the inverse of many of the same notions, including: unsuitability, dislike, difference, etc.

Caesar esse inimīcissimus meae salūtī dīcēbātur.

“Caesar was said to be the worst enemy with regards to my safety.”

Dīcimus omnem voluptātem esse contrāriam honestātī.

“We say that all pleasure is contrary to honorable character.”

**Some additional notes**

Sometimes a gerundive phrase will be set into the dative to express purpose (where one usually finds ad + accusative gerundive). This construction is most common in phrases of legal procedure.

Comitia collēgae subrogandō habuit. “He held elections for selecting a colleague.”

The dative of reference in the double dative construction is sometimes better understood as a dative indirect object, in particular when the dative of purpose is expressed by dōnō (“as a gift”).

Patrēs Mūciō agrum dōnō dedērunt. “The Senators gave the field as a gift to Mucius.”

For a list of common nouns appearing as the dative of purpose in a double dative construction, see Woodcock §68 note i (called the predicative dative there).

**Activity 1 – Indicate which of the following datives is expressed by the underlined word(s): Dative of Purpose, Double Dative, Indirect Object or Dative of Agent.**

Sample: Aenēās manum bellō glomerat. Answer: Dative of Purpose

Sample: Quod scrībis mihi cūrae erit. Answer: Double Dative

Sample: Auxilium sociīs labōrantibus missum est. Answer: Indirect Object

Sample: Quid nōbīs faciendum est? Answer: Dative of Agent

Haec rēs nēminī umquam fraudī fuit.

Caesar oppidum incendit et praedam mīlitibus dōnāvit.

Illa mihi canenda est.

Hoc nōbīs exemplō sit.

Haec rēs salūtī fuit.

Illō annō pāx petentibus data est.

Idem tibi faciendum est.

Saepe iniūria locum māiōrī fortūnae fēcit.

Illa diēs fātum miserae mihi dīxit.

Caesar sex cohortēs pontī praesidiō relīquit.

Pompēius exīstimāvit novum cōnsilium sibi capiendum esse.

Dīdō vīgintī taurōs sociīs ad lītora mīsit.

Vulnera et sanguis spectāculō erant.

Aequō animō sibi ferendum est.

Teucer locum rēgnō optāvit.

Nārrābō tibi cum aliquid novī habēbō.

Ille cum omnibus cōpiīs auxiliō hostibus advēnit.

Fōrma quoque est onerī.

Tellūs limite certō aliīs gentibus data est.

Mea carmina Iovī cūrae sint!

**Activity 2 -** **Translate the underlined phrases including datives with certain adjectives.**

Sample: Fuit haec ōrātiō nōn ingrāta Gallīs. Answer: “displeasing to the Gauls”

Sample: Scient nōs dissimilēs vulgō esse. Answer: “different from the crowd”

Sample: Phaethōn Epaphō aequālis animīs et annīs fuit. Answer: “equal to Epaphus”

Hoc nōmen invīsum cīvitātī fuit.

Ille poēta inimīcus amōrī nōn est.

Deī fortūnam tibi dissimilem meae fortūnae praestent.

Turba mihi fidēlis erat.

Bona valitūdo est iūcundior eīs quī ē gravī morbō recreātī sunt.

Quiēs alta et simillima mortī mē iacentem pressit.

Prūdentia grāta hominibus est.

Troiānī lītora proxima terrae Circēs rāduntur.

Salvē, ō tellūs fātīs dēbita mihi!

Nātūra tua contemplātiōnī apta est.

Tibi idōneus fuit nēmō quem imitārēre.

Duae legiōnēs ponte propiōre praesidiō trānseunt.

Pūblius Āfricānus nostrae cīvitātī cārus fuit.

Propter Caesarem tū meritō difficilis precibus meīs erat.

Lapis exiguus carmen pār sibi habet.

**Simple Sentences – Translate the following sentences using grammar from this lesson.**

Meus frāter mihi est cārissimus.

Sapiēns sōlus scit sibi vīvere.

Studia mea mihi salūtī fuērunt.

Eīs dolōrī fuit meus dolor.

Caesar hās cōpiās praesidiō nāvibus relīquit.

Ille hominēs huic reī idōneōs dēligēbat.

Ē castrīs sīgnum pugnae accēpērunt.

Scīs mihi magnae cūrae tuam vītam esse.

Ūllī remediō locus nōn appārēbat.

Quī sē futūrō bellō ante bellum parāvērunt, prīmum ictum facile excipiunt.

**Examples in Context - Translate the following modified examples.**

n) Context for the sentence(s)

original Latin text (citation)

Modified example sentence(s)

[grammatical and contextual notes, if any]

1) Ovid advises his reader to avoid lonely places when attempting to get over a lover.

auxilio turba futura tibi est. (Remedia Amoris 582)

Turba tibi auxiliō erit.

2) Seneca complains about useless forms of study.

non vitae sed scholae discimus (Epistulae Morales 106.11)

Nōn vītae sed scholae discimus.

3) Hannibal looks to force battle with the Romans.

locum insidiis circumspectare Poenus coepit (ab Urbe Condita 21.53)

Hannibal locum īnsidiīs circumspectāre coepit.

[īnsidiīs, always plural “an ambush”]

4) Livy asserts that the flourishing of Servius Tullius as a boy was due to divine will.

Evenit facile quod dis cordi esset (ab Urbe Condita 1.39)

Hoc ēvēnit facile quod deīs cordī esset.

[cordī, here “pleasing” or “dear”]

5) Cicero passes along word about Atticus’ mother to Atticus while he is away in Athens.

Apud matrem recte est, eaque nobis curae est. (Epistulae ad Atticum 1.7)

Apud mātrem rēctē est, eaque mihi cūrae est.

[sum + adverb, to indicate a state of affairs, here perhaps “All is right”]

6) Domitius falsely claims Pompey is coming to relieve the siege.

Litteris perlectis Domitius dissimulans in consilio pronuntiat Pompeium celeriter subsidio venturum hortaturque eos, ne animo deficiant quaeque usui ad defendendum oppidum sint parent. (Commentarii de Bello Civili 1.19)

Domitius dissimulāns prōnūntiat Pompēium celeriter subsidiō ventūrum esse.

7) Phineus sees all of his companions turned to stone by his enemy Perseus.

simulacra videt diversa figuris adgnoscitque suos et nomine quemque vocatum poscit opem credensque parum sibi proxima tangit corpora: marmor erant (Metamorphoses 5.211-4)

Phīneus crēdēns parum corpora sibi proxima tangit. Marmor erant.

[marmor, predicate nominative; erant, supply the subject corpora]

8) Seneca explains how we fear many things due of lack of understanding.

multa per noctem habita terrori dies vertit ad risum. (Epistulae Morales 104.24)

Diēs multa per noctem habita terrōrī vertit ad rīsum.

[Diēs, subject of vertit; habita, “considered”]

9) Caesar and his bodyguard come to the aid of his legate G. Fabius.

Eo biduo Caesar cum equitibus DCCCC, quos sibi praesidio reliquerat, in castra pervenit. (Commentarii de Bello Civili 1.41)

Caesar cum equitibus, quōs sibi praesidiō relīquerat, in castra pervēnit.

10) After addressing Aeneas, the ghost of Creusa departs.

ter frustra comprensa manus effugit imago, par levibus ventis volucrique simillima somno. (Aeneid 2.793-4)

Imāgō effūgit, pār levibus ventīs et simillima volucrī somnō.

[volucrī, here “swift”]

11) Ovid reflects on the obedience of the Olympian gods to Jupiter in comparison to the obedience experienced by Augustus.

nec tibi grata minus pietas, Auguste, tuorum quam fuit illa Iovi. (Metamorphoses 1.204-5)

Nec tibi grāta minus pietās tuōrum est, Auguste, quam illa Iovī fuit.

[tuōrum, substantive, perhaps “your subjects”; illa, refers to pietās]

12) Spurius Oppius attempts to aid his fellow decemvir, Appius Crassus, who has been imperiled by his own misdeeds.

Sp. Oppius, ut auxilio collegae esset, in forum ex altera parte inrumpit. (Ab urbe condita 3.49)

Spurius Oppius, ut auxiliō collēgae esset, in forum ex alterā parte inrumpit.

13) Dido pleads with Aeneas to stay.

si bene quid de te merui, fuit aut tibi quicquam dulce meum, miserere domus labentis (Aeneid 4.317-8)

Sī quicquam meum tibi dulce fuit, miserēre domūs lābentis.

[quicquam meum, we would say “anything of mine”; miserēre, 2nd singular imperative, takes a genitive object (Lesson 11, additional notes); lābentis, here “perishing”]

14) Cicero, in one of his earliest extant speeches, lists three obstacles to his present oration.

Nam commoditati ingenium, gravitati aetas, libertati tempora sunt impedimento. (Pro Roscio Amerino 9)

Commoditātī meum ingenium, gravitātī mea aetās, et lībertātī haec tempora impedīmentō sunt.

[Commoditātī, “suitable expression”; meum ingenium... mea aetās... haec tempora, all nominative; impedimentō est should be supplied in the first two clauses]

15) While mocking Achilles, the invulnerable Cycnus claims his armor is just for show.

‘non haec, quam cernis, equinis fulva iubis cassis neque onus, cava parma, sinistrae auxilio mihi sunt: decor est quaesitus ab istis; Mars quoque ob hoc capere arma solet!’ (Metamorphoses 12.88-91)

Haec arma auxiliō mihi nōn sunt. Decor est quaesītus ab istīs; Mārs quoque ob hoc arma capere solet!

[ob hoc, “for this reason”]