**Composing Questions in Latin**

Follow these steps to guide your Latin question composition:

1. Write the sentence in English first, using simple grammar.
2. Follow the instructions according to which question word you are using.

**The Enclitic – ne:**

When -ne is attached to a word, it turns the statement into a yes-no question. Note how the examples below are translated. There isn’t a direct way to translate a “ne” question from Latin into English  
  
Examples:  
*Vidisti****ne*** *illam avem?* Did you see that bird?  
*Pugnabit****ne*** *vir in Romanos?* Will the man fight against the Romans?  
*Audiunt****ne*** *magistram?* Are they listening to the teacher?

**How to compose in Latin?**

1. Make the question a sentence first.

Example: "Does the man love the woman?" becomes "The man does love the woman."

1. Follow your normal “composing a Latin sentence” rules.
   1. Example: The man does love the woman = Vir feminam amat.
2. Now, attach the enclitic -ne to the verb in the sentence and make the verb the first word in the sentence:
   1. Vir feminam amat. = Amat**ne** vir feminam?  = The man does love the woman?

**"Num"**

When a Latin sentence begins with the word “num,” it creates a question that expect a negative (no) answer. Note how the examples below are translated. There isn’t a direct way to translate a “num” question from Latin into English….

Examples:  
***Num*** *pugnabis in Romanos?* You will **not** fight against the Romans, **will you?**  
***Num*** *vir fugivit ab oppido?* The man did **not** flee from the down, **did he?**  
***Num*** *laudamus does inimicorum?* We do **not** praise the gods of our enemies, **do we?**

**How to compose in Latin?**

1. Make the question a sentence first.
   * Example: "Marcus is not a farmer, is he?" becomes "Marcus is a farmer."
   * Remember to take out the “not” and “is he” because these words become the “num” in your question.
2. Follow your normal “composing a Latin sentence” rules.
   * Example: Marcus is a farmer. = Marcus agricola est.
3. Now, write “num” at the beginning of the composed sentence to form your question.
   * Example: Num Marcus agricola est? = Marcus is not a farmer, is he?

Nota Bene: You will add your own “is he/ is she/ is is/ are they?” to the sentence to give it the emphasis it needs.  Num does not have a 1:1 translation in English, so it is up to you to figure out how to translate the sentence to expect a NO answer.

**"Nonne"**

When a Latin sentence begins with the word “nonne,” it creates a question that expect a positive (yes) answer.  Note how the examples below are translated. There isn’t a direct way to translate a “nonne” question from Latin into English….

Examples:

***Nonne*** *puella in agris curret?* The girl will run in the fields, **won’t she**?  
***Nonne*** *vincimus hostes?* We are defeating the enemies, **aren’t we**?  
***Nonne*** *discipuli magistram audiverunt?* The students have listened to the teacher, **haven’t they**?

**How to compose in Latin?**

1. Make the question a sentence first.

* Example: "Marcus is a farmer, isn't he?" becomes Marcus is a farmer.
  + Remember to take out the “isn’t he” because these words become the “nonne” in your question.

1. Follow your normal “composing a Latin sentence” rules.
   * Example: Marcus is a farmer. = Marcus agricola est.
2. Now, write “Nonne” at the beginning of the composed sentence to form your question.
   * Example: Nonne Marcus agricola est? = Marcus is a farmer, isn't he?

Nota Bene: You will add your own “isn’t he/ isn’t she/ isn’t is/ aren’t they?” to the sentence to give it the emphasis it needs.  Num does not have a 1:1 translation in English, so it is up to you to figure out how to translate the sentence to where it expects a YES answer.

**Question Words**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **English Question Word** | **Latin Question Word** |
| Who? | Quis? |
| What? | Quid? |
| When? | Quando? Ubi? |
| Why? | Cur? |
| How? | Quomodo? |
| Where? From Where? | Ubi? |

**How to compose in Latin?**

1. Make the question a sentence first.
2. Then, add the Latin question word at the beginning of your sentence.

**Examples:**

Quando = When?

* When will the woman walk to the forum? = Quando femina ad forum ambulabit?

Cur = Why?

* Why does the woman walk to the forum? = Cur femina ad forum ambulat?

Quomodo? = How/ In what way?

* In what way does a student learn about plants and animals in the Latin language?

= Quomodo discipula de plantibus et animalibus in lingua Latina docet?

Quanto? = How much?

Quantus,a,um = How much?  This serves as an adjective and is declined in a sentence.

* How much will you pay me? = Quanto mihi pecuniam dabis?

Ubi? = Where?

De Quo?  = From Where?

* Where are you? = Ubi estis?
* From where do you walk? = De quo ambulas?