Overview
An ablative absolute is a phrase of a noun (or pronoun) and a verb participle both in the ablative, grammatically independent from the rest of the sentence. It gives background information about time, cause, or concession.
Tip: if you can remove the phrase and the sentence still works, there's a good chance you're looking at an ablative absolute.

Literal Translation
[ablative noun/pronoun] + [perfect passive ablative participle] → "with [noun] having been [verbed]"
- Ex.: verbīs dictis → "with the words having been said"
- Note: deponent perfect participles would render a translation of, "with [noun] having [verbed]"

[ablative noun/pronoun] + [present active ablative participle] → "with [noun] [verbing]"
- Ex.: homine audiente → "with the man listening"

Textual Functions
The ablative absolute usually expresses one of three relationships, which the reader must decide from context, as these meanings appear the exact same in Latin form.
1. Temporal. Answers "when?", and can begin with words such as when, while, and after.
   Ex.: verbīs dictis → "after the words were heard"

2. Causal. Answers: why? because of what?
   Ex.: hoste victō → "because the enemy was defeated"

3. Concessive. Answers: despite what? although what?
   Ex.: Caesare invītō → "although Caesar was unwilling"

Cum Clauses

Overview
A cum clause is a subordinate clause introduced by cum ("when / since / although"). In Caesar, cum clauses usually give background circumstances for the main action.

Literal Translation and Textual Function
cum + verb → "when / since / although … verb"

Form depends on the verb and the context, and in Caesar, cum clauses most often signal one of four relationships:

cum + indicative verb → 1 use: Temporal. Straightforward, answers, "when?" Often best translated as when or after.
Ex.: cum haec verba audivit → "when/after he had heard these words"

cum + subjunctive → 3 uses:
1. Circumstantial: Gives background conditions rather than a precise time. Often translated as when or while.
   Ex.: cum haec verba audivisset → "when/while he had heard these words"

2. Causal: answers, "why?" Often translated as since or because.
   Ex.: cum haec verba audivisset → "since/because he had heard these words"

3. Concessive: answers, "despite what?" Often translated as although.
   Ex.: cum haec verba audivisset → "although he had heard these words"

Indirect Statement (Accusative + Infinitive)
Overview
An indirect statement reports what someone says, thinks, knows, or perceives. In Latin, indirect statement is formed with an accusative subject and an infinitive, not with a word like "that."

Literal Translation and Textual Function
[accusative subject] + [infinitive] → "that [subject] [verb] …"

The tense of the infinitive shows time relative to the main verb, not absolute time. The first example for each infinitive is in primary sequence (head verb is present/future/future perfect), and the second example is in secondary sequence (head verb is imperfect/perfect/pluperfect).

Present Infinitive → same time as main verb
Ex.: Caesarem mīlitēs mittere
→ "(he says) that Caesar is sending soldiers"
→ "(he said) that Caesar was sending soldiers"

Perfect Infinitive → earlier than main verb
Ex.: Caesarem mīlitēs mīsisse
→ "(he says) that Caesar has sent soldiers"
→ "(he said) that Caesar had sent soldiers"

Future Infinitive → later than main verb
Ex.: Caesarem mīlitēs missūrum esse
→ "(he says) that Caesar will send soldiers"
→ "(he said) that Caesar would send soldiers"

In Caesar, indirect statement is a primary way he reports intentions, information, and justification without interrupting narrative flow.

Purpose clauses
Overview
Purpose and result clauses take similar forms, but they answer different questions.
- Purpose clauses explain an intended outcome: why something was done.
- Result clauses explain an actual outcome: what ended up happening.

Tip: purpose looks forward (intention), result looks backward (consequence).

Purpose Clauses:
ut / nē + subjunctive → "in order to / so that (not) …". Negation: nē

They often follow verbs of: motion (mittit, venit), effort (conatur, studet), or planning (parat, constituit).
Ex.:
legātōs mittit ut pācem petant → "he sends envoys to seek peace"

Other types of purposes clauses, which do not look like result clauses, include:
1. Relative clause of purpose: qui + subjunctive → "who should [verb]…". Note that not all uses of qui + subjunctive are purpose.
2. ad + gerund → "for [verb]ing".
3. ad + noun + gerundive → "to [verb] [noun]"

Result Clauses:
ut / ut nōn / ut nē + subjunctive → "with the result that …". Negation: ut nōn or ut nē

They are signaled by a modifier in the main clause, such as tālis, tantus, tam, ita, or sīc.
Ex.:
tanta fuit multitūdō ut flūmen explērēt → "the crowd was so great that it filled the river"

How to Tell Them Apart While Reading
Ask: Why was this done? → Purpose. What happened because of this? → Result
Check: is an intensifier present? (tam / tantus / ita) → probably result. Is nē alone as negation? → purpose.

Gerunds and Gerundives
Overview
A gerund and a gerundive are closely related verb forms used to express purpose or activity. In Caesar, these constructions often demonstrate purpose and allow him to compress action efficiently.
- A gerund is a verbal noun ("bering").
- A gerundive, or a future passive participle, is a verbal adjective ("needing to be verbed") that agrees with a noun.

Formation:
Gerund: verb stem + -nd- + singular neuter endings. (gen. -ndī, dat. -ndō, acc. -ndum, abl. -ndō)
Gerundive: verb stem + -nd- + 1st/2nd declension adjective endings (-ndus, -nda, -ndum).

Literal Translation and Textual Function
Gerund: Used like a noun; often expresses purpose. Gerunds literally translate as "verbing," and often are used in the following ways:
- Genitive (often with causā): bellī inferendī causā → "for the sake of waging war"
- Accusative (with ad): ad haec audiendum → "for hearing these things"
- Ablative: in petendā pāce → "in seeking peace"

Gerundive: A future passive participle that agrees with a noun in case, number, and gender. Literal translations ("needing to be verbed") are usually awkward, but readers can often identify and use the gerund-gerundive flip or the passive periphrastic.

Gerund-Gerundive Flip: When a gerund would take a direct object, Latin often replaces it with a gerundive agreeing with that object.
How to flip:
- Identify the gerundive (-nd- adjective)
- Turn it into a gerund ("softening")
- Make the noun it modifies the object of that gerund
Ex.: ad animōs effēminandōs → "for courage needing to be softened" → "for softening courage"

Passive Periphrastic (Gerundive + sum): When a gerundive is combined with sum, it expresses obligation or necessity. Translate with must / had to / ought to.
Ex.: faciendum est → "it must be done." sibi iter faciendum esse → "that a journey must be made by him." As seen in the second example, the agent takes the dative case.

Relative Clauses:
Overview
A relative clause is introduced by forms of quī, quae, quod ("who/which/that") and describes an antecedent (a noun or pronoun). Most relative clauses in Caesar are straightforward description, but the subjunctive shows up for two important reading uses: characteristic and purpose.

Literal Translation and Textual Function
Gender + number of the pronoun come from the antecedent. Case comes from the pronoun's
job inside its own clause (subject, direct object, object of a preposition, etc.).

Indicative Relative Clauses (most common)
quī/quae/quod + indicative → "who/which/that …" (describing a definite person/thing)
Ex.: virōs quī ā nāvibus veniēbant → "the men who were coming from the ships"

Subjunctive Relative Clauses (two important uses)
1. Relative Clause of Characteristic: quī/quae/quod + subjunctive when the antecedent is
   general / indefinite / negative / interrogative: "the kind of person who would…". Translate
   with "would", or add "the sort of."
   Ex.: nēmō est quī hostem petere possit → "there is no one who can / would be able to
   attack the enemy"

2. Relative Clause of Purpose: A purpose clause where ut/nē is replaced by a relative
   word. quī/quae/quod (or relative adverb) + subjunctive → "to / in order to …" or "who was
   [verbed] to …". Ex.: mīlitēs venērunt quī urbem peterent → "the soldiers came to attack
   the city" (lit. "the soldiers, who were to attack the city, came")

Tip: if it feels like "the ___ who would do X," it's characteristic; if it feels like "the ___ sent/chosen
to do X," it's purpose.

Overview
A conditional has two parts:
- Protasis = the "if" clause (sī / nisi / sin)
- Apodosis = the "then" clause (the result)

You classify conditionals by the mood + tense of the main verb in each half.
Two frequent confusions:
1. In indirect discourse, the apodosis becomes an infinitive (as part of indirect statement: tē
   errare / errāvisse / errātūrum esse…).
2. In indirect discourse, the protasis is usually treated as subordinate, so it tends to show
   up in the subjunctive, and sequence affects its tense.

Indirect statement in sequences:
- Primary sequence reporting verbs: present/future (e.g. dīcō = "I say").
- Secondary sequence reporting verbs: perfect/imperfect/pluperfect (e.g. dīxī = "I said")

Your reading job is: bracket the sī-clause, find the main verb(s) in each half, then match the pattern.

Quick notes:
- Negation in conditionals is non, not nē.
- nisi = "unless / if not"; sin = "but if."
- Order can flip: apodosis can come first.

I. Factual Conditions
1) Simple Present
Direct form: sī + pres. indicative, pres. indicative. Example: sī crēdis, errās → If you believe, you are wrong.

Indirect (primary): sī + pres. subjunctive, acc. + present infinitive. Example: dīcō sī haec crēdās, tē errāre → I say that, if you believe this, you are wrong.

Indirect (secondary):
- sī + impf. subjunctive, acc. + present infinitive. Example: dīxī sī haec crēderēs, tē errāre → I said that, if you believed this, you were wrong.

2) Future More Vivid
Direct form: sī + fut. (or fut. perf.) indicative, fut. indicative. Example: sī crēdēs, errābis → If you believe, you will be wrong.

Indirect (primary): sī + pres. subjunctive, acc. + future infinitive. Example: dīcō sī haec crēdās, tē errātūrum esse → I say that, if you believe this, you will be wrong.

Indirect (secondary): sī + impf. subjunctive, acc. + future infinitive. Example: dīxī sī haec crēderēs, tē errātūrum esse → I said that, if you believed this, you would be wrong.

3) Simple Past
Direct Latin can use imperfect (ongoing past) or perfect (completed past).
Direct forms: sī + impf./perf. indicative, impf./perf. indicative. Example: sī crēdēbās / crēdidistī, errabas / errāvistī → If you were believing (/believed), you were wrong.

Indirect (primary): sī + perf. subjunctive, acc. + perfect infinitive. Example: dīcō sī haec crēderīs, tē errāvisse. I say that, if you believed this, you were wrong.

Indirect (secondary): sī + plup. subjunctive, acc. + perfect infinitive. Example: dīxī sī haec crēdidissēs, tē errāvisse → I said that, if you had believed this, you had been wrong.

II. Non-Factual Conditions
4) Future Less Vivid (hypothetical future)
Direct form: sī + pres. subjunctive, pres. subjunctive. Example: sī crēdās, errēs → If you should believe, you would be wrong.

Indirect (primary): sī + pres. subjunctive, acc. + future infinitive. Example: dīcō sī haec crēdās, tē errātūrum esse → I say that, if you should believe this, you would be wrong.

Indirect (secondary): sī + impf. subjunctive, acc. + future infinitive. Example: dīxī sī haec crēderēs, tē errātūrum esse → I said that, if you were to believe this, you would be wrong.

5) Present Contrary-to-Fact
Direct form: sī + impf. subjunctive, impf. subjunctive. Example: sī crēderēs, errārēs → If you were believing, you would be wrong.

Indirect (primary or secondary):
- protasis stays impf. subjunctive, acc. + future infinitive. Example: dīcō / dīxī sī haec crēderēs, tē errātūrum esse. I say/said that, if you were believing this, you would be wrong.

Note: in indirect discourse, future less vivid and present contrary-to-fact can look extremely similar, so you often decide the label after you translate and read the context.

6) Past Contrary-to-Fact (unreal past)
Direct form: sī + plup. subjunctive, plup. subjunctive. Example: sī crēdidissēs, errāvissēs → If you had believed, you would have been wrong.

Indirect (primary or secondary): protasis stays plup. subjunctive, acc. + future perfect infinitive
 Example: dīcō / dīxī sī haec crēdidissēs, tē errātūrum fuisse. I say/said that, if you had believed this, you would have been wrong.

III. Mixed Conditions
If the verb patterns don't fit a clean template, call it mixed and translate each half as best you can based on the examples.